## Office of Athletics & Recreational Sports Personnel

www.abac.edu/athletics  
ABAC 41, 2802 Moore Highway  
Tifton, GA 31793-2601

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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I.    ABAC Mission Statement:
      http://www.abac.edu/about-abac/mission-statement

II.   ABAC Athletics at a Glance:

ABAC has a rich tradition of successful intercollegiate athletic programs. Five national championships and a long standing winning tradition serve as highlights for the intercollegiate athletic program at Abraham Baldwin. The Golden Stallions and Fillies are always strong competitors. ABAC teams compete in men’s baseball, men’s golf, men’s tennis, women’s fast pitch softball, women’s soccer and women’s tennis. All full-time students are invited to try out for the intercollegiate athletic teams and are strongly encouraged to contact the head coach PRIOR to the start of the semester. The Golden Stallions have won national championships in men’s tennis in 1984 and 1999. The softball team has claimed national titles in 1991, 1995, and 1996.

ABAC is a member of the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association and Region XVII of the National Junior College Athletic Association. Abraham Baldwin showcases its athletes in some of the finest outdoor venues available among state colleges in Georgia. These include a professionally lighted baseball, softball fields, and 12 lighted tennis courts, varsity soccer field, all-purpose intramural field, intramural softball field, a nine-hole golf course, a pool, a gym, and a walking track.

a.  Statement of Philosophy

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College believes that athletics is an important part of the college experience. ABAC has over the years created a balance between academics and athletics where
the student-athlete has the best possible opportunities for success in the classroom and on the playing field. ABAC is dedicated to meeting the needs of students, promoting academic excellence, and serving the community as a source of knowledge, expertise, and culture. Athletic programs provide an active learning experience in building skills and attitudes such as persistence, teamwork, cooperation, sportsmanship, courtesy, determination, time management, and personal discipline. Athletics develops character and maturity as well as athletic excellence and physical health and is important in gaining community support for the college at local and state levels and fosters pride among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and citizens of Tifton and Georgia.

The ABAC athletic program is committed to providing equal opportunities of participation and accessibility to all students and spectators and raises the bar relative to respect for all associated with the institution and its competition.

b. Statement of Purpose
At ABAC, student-athletes will be given the opportunity and encouragement to complete a college degree which will prepare them for further study or for occupational careers, and which will provide them the opportunity to develop athletic abilities in an environment consistent with high standards of academic scholarship, sportsmanship, and leadership. The primary purpose of the athletic program is to provide those experiences which complement and support student-athletes in their pursuit of a collegiate education.

c. Objectives
The objectives of the athletic program are
1. To encourage academic scholarship and sportsmanship among student-athletes, students, faculty, staff, and spectators at athletic events.
2. To provide academic counseling, advisement, and support for student athletes.
3. To field disciplined, competitive athletes and teams who are recruited, coached, and supported by professionals dedicated to the observation of all applicable rules.
4. To schedule appropriate competition for the athletes and teams.
5. To update and maintain intercollegiate athletics in order to accommodate the athletic and recreational needs of a diverse student, faculty/staff and community.
6. To strive for improvement in the system of intercollegiate athletics by cooperation and promotion of sportsmanship with other institutions.
7. To endeavor to provide financial assistance as needed by student-athletes.
8. To comply with Title IX of the Higher Education Act.
9. To strive for excellence through Regional and National Championships.
10. To foster relationships with our local community and alumni.

d. Athletics Mission Statement
It is ABAC’s mission to offer regionally (GCAA) and nationally (NJCAA) competitive intercollegiate athletic programs. Our focus is on building relationships with local surrounding community while providing a worthwhile experience for our student-athletes, teaching them the meaning of integrity and ethical conduct, the basic principles of amateur competition, sportsmanship, fair play, and the principle of equitable opportunity for all students including
women and minorities. We seek to enhance the academic endeavors of ABAC by helping through our success to attract promising students. Above all, we recognize that the College’s obligation is to provide our students with a level of quality education which leads to recognized academic achievement, contributes to their social development, and prepares them to continue their academic and athletic pursuits.

III. 2014-2015 Catalog: http://www.abac.edu/academics/registrar (click on Catalogs link)

IV. Student Code of Conduct: (see Statement of Mutual Responsibility Form):

http://www.abac.edu/student-life/dean-of-students-resources-services/student-handbook

V. Athletic Addendum to Student Code of Conduct: (see Statement of Mutual Responsibility Form):

Student-athletes are one of the most visible groups in the college community due to their public exposure via the competitive arena and the media. Consequently, their actions are often subject to scrutiny by other members of the campus community. Student-athletes are, therefore, placed in a position which requires exemplary behavior.

Basic courtesy and responsibility as a representative of ABAC Athletics require that all student-athletes:

- Treat instructors and classmates with courtesy and respect.
- Arrive to class on time and not leave early.
- Be prepared for class.
- Be attentive in taking notes and active in participating in class discussions.
- Notify instructors in advance when competition or travel requires missed classes.
- Discuss with instructors in advance the procedure to be followed if competition necessitates missing an examination or assignment deadline.

When student-athletes do group work with other student-athletes, their behavior invites judgments of student-athletes as a group. The behavior of each student-athlete should reflect positively on ABAC Athletics in general and specific sports in particular. Behavior has a definite impact on the reputation of the ABAC Athletics and the attitude the campus community has toward the entire athletics program.

Scholastic Dishonesty/Collusion will ABSOLUTELY not be tolerated. Examples of collusion are:

- Failing to secure your academic work
- Providing a paper or project to another student
- Providing an inappropriate level of assistance
- Communicating answers to a classmate about an exam or any other class assignment
- Removing tests or answers from a test site
Allowing a classmate to copy answers

Similarly, student-athletes’ conduct will be closely scrutinized during campus events, travel, and competition off campus *(see Travel Form)*. Student-athletes are looked upon as role models, particularly by young children, and it is important that personal conduct be above reproach at all times. It is expected that representatives of ABAC, either at the College or on road trips, will:

- Abide by the Student Code of Conduct and Athletic Addendum
- Abide by all team rules, training rules, and travel rules as outlined by the head coach.
  (Student-athletes absolutely must comply with the directions of college officials).
- Dress appropriately.
- Be courteous, patient, and cooperative with fans, officials, community people, and media personnel.
- Refrain from use of inappropriate language, signs or symbols of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Refrain from loud, attention-drawing, or discourteous behavior when traveling, staying in hotels, or visiting other campuses.
- Refrain from the following:
  o Alcohol, tobacco and drug use
  o Conviction of an indictable offense
  o Destroying, stealing, or defacing property
  o Illegal gambling
  o Personal web pages questionable content

With the rising popularity of sites such as Facebook and Twitter, student-athletes should take responsibility for the content of individual pages. Questionable content can present a negative image of student-athlete as an ABAC student-athlete, and therefore a negative image of the ABAC Athletics. You should also be aware that you and your friends are not the only people who view your information. Employers view these pages as part of background checks on possible employees. People who would do you harm also use these pages as means of locating you. If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as the athletics department and the Institutions. Remember always present a positive image and don’t do anything to embarrass yourself, the team, your family or the Institution.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

1. Posting photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, tobacco, eg., no holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.

2. Posting photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material and innuendo.

3. Posting pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.
4. Using inappropriate or offensive language in all comments, videos and other postings. This includes threats of violence and derogatory comments against race and/or gender.

5. Posting information, photos, statements and items that could embarrass or ruin the reputation of you, your team, the athletic department or Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. This includes statements, information, photos and items that may be posted by others on your page.

Student-athletes who do not conform to the stated expected behavior of this code may be subject to discipline. The discipline may range from a warning to dismissal from the team, and/or reduction/withdrawal of athletically related financial aid. (See Social Media Memorandum Form)

Any student-athlete who drops below the 12-hour enrollment will NOT be allowed to compete or practice with the team or participate in sports-related activities. That student-athlete is also jeopardizing future financial aid.

It is the fundamental belief of the NJCAA that athletic participation is a privilege and that those athletes who use illegal performance enhancing and/or recreational drugs substantively violate that privilege. In response to any violations of this nature that occur and are detected in NJCAA-sponsored or sanctioned events, continuation of rights and privileges or participation by the individual or the institution will be reviewed or revoked, as appropriate.

The ABAC Drug Policy is a Suspected Use Policy: ABAC does NOT random drug test, but we reserve the right to test any athlete if there is reasonable suspicion he/she is using illegal substances. Each instance will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The totality of circumstances will be studied. It is the institution’s accepted responsibility to provide a competitive environment that is free from drug and substance use and abuse. A student-athlete who is suspected of using illegal substances may be subject to testing upon approval by the Director of Athletics. If a student-athlete refuses testing, the athlete will be subject to sanctions imposed by the Head Coach and Director of Athletics. In all cases, student-athletes will be afforded full rights of due process, which will include notice of the suspected violation, in writing, and the opportunity to respond, prior to the implementation of any disciplinary action. The results of testing will be made known only to the College’s Director of Student Development, ABAC Chief of Police, the Director of Athletics and Head Coach. (See Substance Abuse Informed Consent Statement Form).

Hazing will not be tolerated. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to
- Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, or striking.
- Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, or confinement in a small space.
- Any activity requiring consumption of food, liquid, or alcoholic beverage.
- Any activity that intimidates or threatens a student with ostracism or subjects them to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation.
- Any activity that includes, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code.
In keeping with the Intercollegiate-Athletics philosophy of “student first, athlete second,” the educational experience for the student-athlete will be emphasized at all times. Coaches will make every effort to minimize student-athlete absences from class and exams in scheduling athletic competitions.

When practice schedules conflict with class schedules, student-athletes are required to attend class. All student-athletes are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings. If a class is missed due to a scheduled road trip or home competition, student-athletes should notify their instructor prior to the absence to make plans to complete all work as assigned.

VI. EEO Statement:

ABAC is an Equal Opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any person with respect to employment or academic standing because of age, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, genetic information, or status as a war veteran.

VII. Discriminatory Harassment and Procedures:

http://www.abac.edu/student-life/dean-of-students-resources-services/student-handbook (see section found in Student Handbook and Discriminatory Harassment Form)

VIII. Sportsmanship:


IX. NJCAA Eligibility Corner:

http://njcaa.org/todaysNJCAA_Eligibility.cfm?category=Eligibility

X. Academic Support:

http://www.abac.edu/academics/academicsupport
XI. Forms:

Mandatory Completion PRIOR to first practice *(must have parent’s signature if under 18)*:

**SECTION A**

________ *Physical Examination Packet*

________ Clearance Form *(fill out top line only) and Acquired Physician

Clearance letter for current injuries/illnesses or medical conditions, which
can delay your sports participation *(omit if it does not apply)*

________ Physical Examination Form *(fill out top lines only)*

________ History Form

________ Concussion History Form

________ Concussion Fact Sheet and Concussion Reporting Agreement Form

________ Medical Insurance and Authorization Form

________ HSR Insurance Form *(first 7 lines) and copy of front & back primary insurance card or verification letter *(must maintain current insurance coverage at all times)*

________ Consent to Treat, Assumption of Risk and Medical Information Release Form

**SECTION B**

________ Release and Waiver of Liability Form

________ GCAA Consent Form *(including front and back copy of current driver’s license or passport)*

________ Substance Abuse Informed Consent Statement

________ Statement of Mutual Responsibility

________ Personal Information Consent/HIPPA/FERPA Form

________ Social Network Memorandum

________ Insurance Coverage of Student-Athletes Form

________ NJCAA Eligibility Affidavit

________ Travel Release Form

________ Student Travel Agreement

**SECTION C**

________ Team Rules *(collected at individual team meeting)*

________ Discriminatory Harassment Form *(collected @ 4:30pm August 14th athletic meeting)*