Tuesday, October 14, 2025

# Application for NAIA Membership

Application for NAIA Membership 2025-2026

NAIA membership applications are considered two times per year, at the fall and spring meetings of the NAIA Council of Presidents (COP). To be considered, completed applications must be received in the NAIA national office by one of the following deadlines:

**Primary Cycle:** April 15

**Secondary Cycle**: October 15

*Submit to:* NAIA, VP Membership Recruitment and Retention (Nick Davidson) - See instructions on the last page.

*You may save your progress and return to complete the application at any time. Please follow the instructions carefully to ensure all required fields are completed. At the end of the form, three separate signatures are required—one each from the President, Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), and Athletics Director. Each signer will receive an email prompt to review and sign in the correct order. Signatures are collected independently and tracked using designated names and email addresses to ensure proper routing and completion.

**Please Note**: All fields on this form are **REQUIRED** unless otherwise noted if applicable.

**Important Email Guidance:**

1. Add membership@naia.org and noreply@jotform.com to your email contacts or safe sender list to avoid emails being marked as spam.
2. If you experience any issues receiving an email, please contact Nick Davidson (ndavidson@naia.org) or Todd Stutzman(tstutzman@naia.org) at for assistance.

## General Information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Institution:** | United States Sports University |
| **IPED #:** | 102395 |
| **Year of Establishment:** | 1972 |
| **Physical Address:** | 1 Academy Drive<br>Daphne, Alabama, 36526 |
| **Mailing Address:** | 1 Academy Drive<br>Daphne, Alabama, 36526 |

**Main Campus Phone Number:** (251) 626-3303

**Web Address:** https://ussu.edu/

**Type of Institution:** Private

**Application Cycle:** Secondary- October 15

**Calendar System:** Semester

**Link to your institution's academic calendar:** https://ussu.edu/academics/resources/calendar/

**Does your institution have any programs that allow students to take courses at a different/branch location, but compete at your institution? If so explain:**

N/A

**What year did your institution begin sponsoring varsity intercollegiate athletics for four-year, degree-seeking undergraduates?** 2024

**Has your institution continued to sponsor varsity athletics for four-year undergraduates since that time?** Yes

**Under what other circumstances (eg., two-year college) has your institution conducted athletics (include dates)?** Began as club level athletics in 2023

# Athletics Affiliation

**Athletics Affiliation NAIA Membership Category Desired:** Full Membership – Four-year, degree-granting institution that is fully accredited by one of the U.S. accrediting agencies listed in the NAIA Bylaws (for Canadian institutions, commensurate accrediting body).

**Was your institution a member of the NAIA previously?** No

**Current athletic association memberships:** USCAA

**Does your institution have a letter of support from an NAIA athletic conference member?** Yes

**If so, which NAIA conference?** Southern States Athletic Conference

**Please upload your NAIA conference letter of Support if applicable**




SSAC Letter of Conference Reference.pdf

# Athletics Oversight

**To whom does the athletics department report?** Shealynn Miller

**Does your institution have an athletics advisory committee?** No

# Reasons for seeking NAIA membership:

**Please explain why you have chosen to apply for NAIA membership, including how you believe NAIA membership will benefit your school and its athletic program. Please be specific.**

The United States Sports University (USSU), the only standalone sport focused university in the United States, is firmly committed to fostering both academic and athletic excellence as foundational pillars of its mission. Pursuit of membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) represents a strategic initiative that advances this dual commitment by broadening competitive opportunities for student-athletes while further strengthening the quality and integrity of our athletic programs.

Through NAIA affiliation, USSU will secure national recognition and the opportunity to compete for championships, thereby providing meaningful postseason experiences that are not presently available to our athletes. This membership will also reinforce the NAIA's emphasis on character-driven athletics and holistic student development, ensuring that USSU student-athletes are both challenged in athletic competition and supported in their academic pursuits.

USSU's athletic programs are already deeply integrated into the NAIA competitive landscape, regularly engaging in contests with member institutions within our region. Formal membership will solidify these natural rivalries within an official framework, contributing to a higher standard of regional competition and enhancing the NAIA's presence in the Southeast.

Moreover, NAIA membership will align USSU with peer institutions that share a commitment to excellence, integrity, and opportunity. In doing so, it will affirm USSU's identity as an institution where student-athletes are empowered to realize their highest potential both in the classroom and in athletic competition.

**What value will your school bring to the NAIA if it becomes a member? Please explain why (geography, competitiveness, academic excellence, etc.).**

If granted membership in the NAIA, the United States Sports University (USSU) will contribute strong student-athletes, academic integrity, regional alignment, and competitive value to the association. Guided by our core principle that "we're all athletes here," USSU advances the student-athlete experience through holistic development, emphasizing excellence in academics, athletics, and character.

This commitment is demonstrated in measurable outcomes: during the most recent academic term, 51.4% of USSU student-athletes earned distinction on the Dean's or President's List. Such achievement reflects both the discipline of our students and the institution's dedication to ensuring that athletic participation complements, rather than competes with, academic success.

Institutionally, USSU is strategically positioned within the Southern States Athletic Conference region. Our athletic programs already compete frequently against NAIA member institutions, fostering natural rivalries and competitive familiarity. Formal membership would provide a seamless integration into conference play while expanding the NAIA's geographic and competitive presence in the Southeast.

USSU takes pride in developing student-athletes who embody discipline, sportsmanship, and high achievement. We are committed to advancing the mission of the NAIA by contributing to a competitive environment where academic and athletic excellence reinforce one another, and where student-athletes are supported in their pursuit of success both on the field of play and in their academic careers.

# Accreditation

| | |
|---|---|
| **Accrediting agency:** | Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges |
| **Current accreditation status:** | Accredited |
| **Expiration date of current accreditation:** | Friday, December 1, 2028 |

# Student Enrollment Profile (please submit data from the most recent completed academic year):

*Full Time Enrollment - 12 hours or more / ** Full Time Equivalent

| | |
|---|---|
| **Indicate academic year for which the following data is reported:** | 2024-2025 |
| **Total fall term undergraduate FT enrollment* (traditional students):** | 176 |
| **Total fall term undergraduate FTE** (traditional students):** | 194 |
| **Total fall term graduate FT enrollment*:** | 31 |
| **Total fall term graduate FTE**:** | 66 |

# For New Enrollees in Fall Term:

| | |
|---|---|
| **# Freshmen:** | 83 |
| **# Transfer students:** | 52 |
| **# Re-admits:** | 6 |
| **Average SAT:** | N/A |
| **Average ACT:** | N/A |

| | |
|---|---|
| **# National Merit finalists:** | 0 |
| **Percent male:** | 72% |
| **Percent female:** | 28% |
| **Percent ethnic minorities:** | 49% |

## For The Student Body as a Whole:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Average SAT:** | N/A |
| **Average ACT:** | N/A |
| **# National Merit Finalists:** | 0 |
| **Percent male:** | 71% |
| **Percent female:** | 29% |
| **Percent ethnic minorities:** | 55% |

## For Student-Athletes (use estimates for the current academic year):

| | |
|---|---|
| **# Total:** | 154 |
| **# Freshmen:** | 77 |
| **# Transfer:** | 61 |

## Graduation Rate (based on IPED report)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Indicate academic years included in cohort for the following data:** | No data, exempt |
| **Undergraduate student body six-year graduation rate for this cohort:** | No data, exempt |
| **Student-athlete graduation rate for this cohort:** | No data, exempt |

## Retention Rate

A measure of the rate at which students persist in their educational program at an institution, expressed as a percentage. For four-year institutions, this is the percentage of first-time bachelor's (or equivalent)

degree-seeking undergraduates from the previous fall who are again enrolled in the current fall.

**Rate:** 65%

**Indicate academic years:** 2024-2025

## Administration and Faculty

**President/ Chancellor:** Dr. Steve Condon

**President's Phone:** (251) 626-3303

**President's Email:** scondon@ussu.edu

**Years served in current position:** 2.5 years

**Prior Position:** Chancellor at Carolina University

## Senior administrator outside athletics with direct oversight of athletics:

**Name:** Dr. Steve Condon

**Title:** President

**Phone:** (251) 626-3303

**Email:** scondon@ussu.edu

**Years served in current position:** 2.5 years

**Prior Position:** Chancellor at Carolina University

**Athletics Director:** Shealynn Miller

**Athletics Director's Phone:** (251) 626-3303

**Athletics Director's Email:** smiller1@ussu.edu

**Years served in current position:** 3 months

**Prior Position:** Associate Athletic Director at the United States Sports University

**Faculty Athletics Representative:** Stephanie Cameron

**Department Title:** Director of the Center for Sport Psychology

| | |
|---|---|
| **Faculty Athletics Representative's Phone:** | (251) 626-3303 |
| **Faculty Athletics Representative's Email:** | scameron@ussu.edu |
| **Years served in current position:** | 4 months |
| **Prior Position:** | Instructor at Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville |
| **Chief Financial Officer:** | Vicki Dunaway |
| **Phone:** | (251) 626-3303 |
| **Email:** | vdunaway@ussu.edu |
| **Years served in current position:** | 3 months |
| **Title IX Compliance Officer:** | Ashley Barnes |
| **Phone:** | (251) 626-3303 |
| **Email:** | abarnes@ussu.edu |
| **Years served in current position:** | 3 Years |
| **Registrar:** | Ashley Barnes |
| **Phone:** | (251) 626-3303 |
| **Email:** | abarnes@ussu.edu |
| **Years served in current position:** | 4 years |
| **Director of Admissions:** | Brenda Hinson |
| **Phone:** | (251) 626-3303 |
| **Email:** | bhinson1@ussu.edu |
| **Years served in current position:** | 2 years |
| **Sports Information Director:** | Open Position - Search in Process |
| **Email:** | sid@ussu.edu |
| **Years served in current position:** | https://ussu.edu/employment/now-hiring-sports-information-director/ |

# Additional Mandatory Information for Submission with Application

All required materials must now be submitted online as part of the NAIA Membership Application process. Please clearly label each file with the document title. Documents must be submitted digitally through the JotForm application portal below. If you have any technical issues please reach out to the NAIA Membership Sales team for assistance at 816-595-8103 or tstutzman@naia.org. File types accepted include: pdf, doc, docx, xls, xlsx, csv, txt, rtf, html, zip, mp3, wma, mpg, flv, avi, jpg, jpeg, png, gif.

**1. Please submit the following documents below related to the institution's academic profile.**

**One copy of the institution's current mission statement**

Mission Statement.pdf

**One copy of the institution's most recent accreditation review including: Institution's self-study report**

USSA QEP - Aug. 2018_4959.pdf

USSA Reaffirmation Aug. 20218_9083.pdf

USSU Reaffirmation Focused Report F... .pdf

USSU Reponse Monitoring Report Sep... .pdf

**Accreditation team's full response.**

SACSCOC Fifth Year Letter 2024_2266.pdf

SACSCOC Report of the Fifth-Year Inte....pdf

SACSCOC Referral Report Letter 2025.pdf

**Accreditation agency's determination status (including any warnings, corrective actions, conditions and accreditation status.)**

SACSCOC Reaffirmation Letter 2019_... .pdf

USSA Compliance Certification Signat... .pdf

**One copy of the institution's current catalog**

2025-26 USSU Graduate Catalog.pdf

2025-26 USSU Undergraduate Catalog.pdf

**Athletic Policy Handbook**

USSU Student-Athlete Handbook.pdf

**Admissions Viewbook**

2025-2026 Admissions Viewbook.pdf

**Current Sample or Redacted Institution Transcript**

Redacted Example Transcript.pdf

**2. Please submit below the most recent two years' overall line-item revenues and expenditures for athletics**, *including* amounts for personnel, travel, recruiting and athletics grants reported on a *sport-by-sport* basis. Feel free to use this Sample Departmental Financial Report as a guide or template when completing your own.

**If you choose to use the sample report, please download the document from the link, complete and save it, then re-upload it using the Dropbox below.

**Most Recent Year**

USSU Athletics 2024-2025 Financial ... .xlsx

**Second Most Recent Year**

USSU Athletics 2023-2024 Financial ... .xlsx

**3. Please submit independently audited financial statements** including revenues and expenditures and

management letter for the institution as a whole for the *two* most recent fiscal years.

**Most Recent Year**

Audit Report 2023-2024.pdf

**Most Recent Year**

Audit Report 2023-2024.pdf

**Second Most Recent Year**

Audit Report 2022-2023.pdf

**4. Please submit the institution's strategic plan or business plan for intercollegiate athletics —** or other documentation to serve as evidence of institutional planning related to intercollegiate athletics that includes the involvement and support of senior administrators.

**Strategic plan or business plan for intercollegiate athletics**

USSU Eagles Strategic Plan.pdf

**Other supporting document, strategic plan, or business plan for athletics**

USSU Athletics 2025-2026 Financial … .xlsx

USSA Strategic Plan 2024-2027.pdf

**5. Please submit Current Sport Sponsorship:** For each varsity sport currently sponsored, list the sport (list each men's and women's sport separately) and provide the following information: SAMPLE Current Sport Sponsorship

-Number of years the sport has been sponsored at the varsity level

-Number of students participating in the sport

-Location and condition (including age) of practice and game facilities. If facilities are located off campus, describe the location (e.g., high school, private club, usage agreement) and distance from campus

-List each coach for the sport, indicating whether they are head or assistant, full- or part-time, their other responsibilities as outlined in their job description, and the number of years of collegiate coaching experience in the sport

**Current Sport Sponsorship**

Current Sport Sponsorship.pdf

**6. Please submit projected sports sponsorship:** For each additional sport projected for sponsorship in the future, list the sport (list men's and women's sports separately) and describe:

-Planned dates for initial sponsorship

-Number of student-athletes projected to participate

-Location and condition (including age) of planned practice and game facilities. If facilities are located off-campus, describe the location and distance from campus.

-Coaching staff

**Projected Sport Sponsorship**

Projected Sport Sponsorship.pdf

**7. Please submit description/pictures of current campus facilities** (existing, under construction, or planned). If you do not own facilities, please submit copies of your long-term lease agreements of 3 to 5 years.

**Pictures and description of athletic facilities**

USSU Athletic Facilities.pdf

**Long-term lease agreements for any unowned or shared facilities**

Daphne Sports Complex Contract.pdf

Fairhope Sports Complex Women's So... .pdf

Fairhope Sports Complex Men's Socc... .pdf

No Off Season Volleyball Contract.pdf

Spanish Fort High School Track & Fiel... .pdf

# Application Submission, Approval Flow & Signatures

Here's what to expect as your application moves through the NAIA review and approval process. This workflow ensures that all required institutional representatives review and sign the application in the proper sequence:

**1.** Designated School Representative (typically the Athletics Director) completes all sections of the form and submits it to initiate the process.

**2.** The President receives an email prompting them to review and digitally sign the application.

**3.** Once the President signs, the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) is notified via email to review and add their signature.

**4.** Finally, the Athletics Director receives the completed form, conducts a final review, signs, and officially submits it.

**5.** Upon final submission, the NAIA Membership team receives the completed application, and all signers receive a confirmation email with a copy of the finalized form.

**By signing, each individual certifies that all information provided in this application and any accompanying materials is complete and accurate to the best of their knowledge.**

**Digital Submission Required**

All application materials and supplemental documents must be submitted digitally through the official NAIA Membership Application JotForm.

-The JotForm includes a **secure upload feature.**

-Accepted file formats include: **pdf, doc, docx, xls, xlsx, csv, txt, rtf, html, zip, mp3, wma, mpg, flv, avi, jpg, jpeg, png, gif**.

-Signatures are collected digitally within the form, and signatories will receive **email prompts** based on their assigned roles to ensure proper routing and completion.

-Once all signatures are gathered and the form is finalized, click **"Submit"** to send the application to the NAIA Membership team.

-A **confirmation email** will be automatically sent to all signers for their records.

For questions during the submission process, please contact tstutzman@naia.org.

# Application Fee

The application fee is $15,000 and is due at the time of application.

- If your institution is denied a campus visit, $10,000 will be refunded.
- If your institution receives a campus visit, no refund will be issued.

A separate invoice will be sent by our Finance Department. Please make checks payable to “National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics” and indicate on the check that it is for the “Application Fee.”

Mail to:

NAIA
PO Box 410244
Kansas City, Mo. 64141

### Flow Activity History

| Actor | Actions | Date |
|---|---|---|
| scondon@ussu.edu | Approve<br>It will be an honor to return to where I started in 1980 with the NAIA.<br> | Tuesday, October 14, 2025 |
| scameron@ussu.edu | Approve<br> | Tuesday, October 14, 2025 |
| smiller1@ussu.edu | Approve<br> | Tuesday, October 14, 2025 |
| Notification | Email sent. (NAIA Membership Application Form Has Been Submitted & Approved) scondon@ussu.edu,smiller1@ussu.edu,scameron@ussu.edu,tstutzman@naia.org | Tuesday, October 14, 2025 |

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## Application Submission, Approval Flow & Signatures