AUB ATHLETICS

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

VISION

A world-class center at the American University of Beirut dedicated to excellence in the promotion of health, fitness, and athletics.

MISSION

To foster athletic excellence, student development, and lifelong well-being through inclusive, competitive, and high-quality sports programs. AUB Athletics is committed to empowering student athletes to reach their full potential, promoting integrity, teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship, and cultivating a vibrant sporting culture that strengthens university pride and represents AUB with distinction nationally and internationally.



OVERVIEW

The 2023-2024 academic year marked a pivotal period of transition and strategic transformation for AUB Athletics. This phase laid the foundation for a more structured, performance-driven, and nationally competitive athletics program.

During this year, AUB Athletics introduced a clear vision and mission, supported by defined strategic priorities and measurable objectives. A key milestone was the transition from informal local league participation to formal engagement with the Federation of University Sports in Lebanon (FSUL), expanding our competitive exposure and positioning our teams on a national stage.

In parallel, the program achieved a historic milestone with the awarding of the first two full athletic scholarships, reinforcing AUB's commitment to attracting and supporting high-performing student-athletes. This initiative represents a critical step toward building a sustainable high-performance pathway.

Significant investments were also made in infrastructure and equipment, replacing outdated machinery with professional-grade resources to enhance both athlete preparation and user experience. These upgrades were complemented by the recruitment of specialized staff, including strength and conditioning coaches, contributing to improved performance, injury prevention, and athlete development.

Operationally, new systems and processes were implemented to streamline workflows, improve efficiency, and support long-term growth. Collectively, these developments have positioned AUB Athletics on a clear trajectory toward excellence, sustainability, and increased national competitiveness.

COMPETITIVE OUTCOMES

The 2023-2024 season reflected a year of resilience, adaptation, and steady competitive growth, as AUB Athletics strengthened its presence within national university sports while building the foundations for future high-performance success.

A. NATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Lebanese Federation of University Sport serves as the official governing body for Collegiate sports in Lebanon. 16 universities from the 5 provinces compete in more than 37 sports. A significant number of students in the universities compete in the official Lebanese leagues, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd divisions in their respective clubs, which helps make the league highly competitive.

During the 2023-2024 season, AUB Athletics recorded 522 roster entries across 25 varsity and club sports, reflecting broad student participation and continued athletic development. AUB concluded the year ranked 7th nationally, with 11 teams finishing in the top five, highlighting the program's competitive strength and progress.



RUGBY MEN

RUGBY MEN - TEAM OF THE YEAR

» The rugby team emerged victorious at the FSUL, outclassing the competition to take home the first-place trophy.



SWIMMING

SWIMMING (MEN & WOMEN)

» The swimming team delivered a strong performance at the FSUL Championship, with the women's team ranking 2nd and the men's team 3rd.



VOLLEYBALL MEN

VOLLEYBALL MEN

» The men's volleyball team secured 1st place in the FSUL Silver Bracket with five league wins.



BADMINTON

BADMINTON

» The Badminton team secured 2nd (Women) and 3rd (Men) at the FSUL.



FOOTBALL JV

FOOTBALL MEN (JV)

The JV football team capped off a successful season by clinching the first-place title.



TRACK & FIELD

TRACK & FIELD

The women's track and field team secured 2nd place overall in the 2024 Athletics Championship, highlighted by multiple 1st-place finishes in the 100m, 200m, 400m hurdles, and the 4x100m relay.

COMPETITIVE OUTCOMES



HANDBALL WOMEN

HANDBALL WOMEN

» The women's handball team secured a 3rd-place finish in the 2024 Handball Women's Tournament.



CHEERLEADING

CHEERLEADING

» The cheerleading squad ranked 2nd in the AUB Inter-Universities Championship.

COMPETITIVE OUTCOMES

B. INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL PARTICIPATION

To broaden our international exposure, our teams competed in three prestigious global events:
Serbia's BEST (Belgrade Sport Tournament) : A premier interuniversity event in Belgrade featuring top-tier institutions from Europe and the Middle East.
Turkey's Bogazici International Sports Festival : One of the world's largest and oldest student-led sports festivals, hosted by Boğaziçi University in Istanbul.
Fujairah Arab and International Taekwondo Championships : A high-level, G2-ranked global tournament in the UAE sanctioned by World Taekwondo, drawing competitors from over 70 nations.



FOOTBALL MEN

FOOTBALL MEN

» The team distinguished itself on the international stage by being crowned Champions of the 2024 Boğaziçi Sports Fest in Istanbul



TAEKWONDO

TAEKWONDO

» The Taekwondo team expanded its international footprint through elite competition at the Fujairah Open and the Arab Cup, as well as the Bogazici International tournament, alongside intensive training at the Next Level Summer Camp in Cairo.



SWIMMING

SWIMMING

» The swimming team ranked 2nd (Women) and 3rd (Men) at the FSUL Championship and competed internationally at the 2024 Boğaziçi Sports Fest in Istanbul.

HIGH PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION

AUB Athletics marked a historic milestone with the awarding of the President's Athletic Scholarship to two outstanding student-athletes. This initiative represents a major step in establishing a high-performance pathway and reinforcing AUB's commitment to athletic excellence.



For the first time in its history, AUB introduced three Athletic Scholarships, including two President's Athletic Scholarships and one Distinguished Athletic Scholarship, establishing a structured and merit-based framework to support high-performing student-athletes. While both awards recognize athletic excellence, the President's Scholarship places particular emphasis on character, leadership, and overall impact, reflecting the University's commitment to developing well-rounded individuals.

The inaugural President's Scholarship recipients, Aziza Sbaity and Charbel Farah, embody this vision. Sbaity, Lebanon's national record holder in the 100-meter sprint and an Olympic hopeful, and Farah, an internationally competitive mixed martial artist with aspirations at the highest professional level, demonstrate that academic ambition and elite athletic performance can successfully coexist. Their achievements set the benchmark for future recipients and signal a cultural shift at AUB, positioning athletics as a core pillar of student development and institutional excellence.

AZIZA SBAITY



First awardee of the President's Athletic Scholarship at AUB

Aziza's presence at the CHSC represents the highest tier of performance our facilities support.

In 2023, Aziza solidified her legacy as the "fastest woman in Lebanese history by becoming the first Lebanese athlete to win Gold in the 200m at both the West Asian and Arab Championships."

Her recognition as one of the BBC's 100 Most Influential and Inspirational Women (2023) highlights the reach of her platform. Beyond her records in the 60m, 100m, and 200m, she serves as a vital advocate for inclusivity and anti-racism within the Lebanese sporting community.

By hosting and supporting Aziza, the CHSC provides AUB students with a daily example of professional excellence. Her collaboration with the university to motivate the next generation aligns with our mission to foster character and leadership through sport.

Aziza Sbaity, President's Scholarship Awardee 2023-2024 :

"*I am deeply honored to be the first recipient of this scholarship, and that honor has never left me. Being part of the AUB community as both a student and an athlete has been a source of immense pride, and this scholarship made it possible for me to fully commit to my MBA without having to choose between my education and my sport. It opened doors I genuinely did not believe were available to me and gave me the confidence to pursue academic excellence with the same dedication I bring to the track. And then it took me further than I ever could have imagined. Through AUB, I was fully funded to spend a semester at NYU, a dream I had never dared to hold too tightly. Living and studying in New York, at one of the world's great institutions, opened my eyes to everything education and business could offer me and set a new ceiling for what I believed was possible.*

On the athletic side, the impact has been equally profound. Representing Lebanon on the international stage has always carried a deep sense of pride and responsibility for me, especially as a Black woman, and this scholarship gave that pride a foundation to grow from. Athletes need constant improvement, and without access to high-level training camps such as those in South Africa and Austin, my development at the international level would have stalled. This scholarship made that access possible, allowing me to compete and prepare at the level Lebanon deserves to be represented at. Lastly, the surprise of having my photo placed at the entrance of the track was deeply moving. It made me feel appreciated in a way that went beyond words, and it is a reminder every day of what this scholarship has meant to my journey."

CHARBEL FARAH



The second awardee of the President's Athletic Scholarship at AUB is Charbel Farah

Charbel represents the high ceiling of student-athlete discipline, balancing academics with a rigorous international competition schedule.

He currently holds an 8-2-0 record and is ranked 2nd in Asia Southwest (Amateur Welterweight).

He secured Gold at the 22-23 Asian Championships, Silver at the 2022 World Junior Championships (Serbia), and Bronze at the 2023 World Championships (Thailand). Most recently, won Gold at the 23-24 Abu Dhabi Jiu-Jitsu Pro in Istanbul.

Charbel Farah, President's Scholarship Awardee 2023-2024 :

"*The athletic scholarship has been a key factor in enabling both my training and academic success, allowing me to fully focus on developing as an athlete while maintaining strong academic performance. With the financial burden reduced, I've been able to access better training, stay disciplined, and remain consistent in both my sport and studies"*



The Partial Athletic Scholarship is awarded annually to the top-performing athlete from each varsity team, honoring excellence in athletic performance, commitment, and character. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the scholarship was awarded to 11 student-athletes in recognition of their outstanding contributions to their teams and the university. The recipients were: Ali Rahwanji, Caren Tohme, Elias Ouaiss, Alex El Darzi, Tala Kambris, Lara Chehayeb, Deena Achkar, Ella Abi Farah, Mayssa Mouawad, Mira Agha, and Joe Abou Diwan.

2023–2024

Academic Year	Scholarship / Award	Number of Recipients	Total Amount (USD)
2023–2024	Athletic Scholarships	2	$10,161.00
2023–2024	Distinguished Student Athlete Award	10	$40,000.00
2023–2024	Farid Saab Student Athlete Award	4	$10,000.00
2023–2024	Abdul Kader Sbaiti Spirit Award	1	$1,000.00
2023–2024	The Mercury Prize	2	$5,000.00

CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

KEY LEADERSHIP MOVES



COACH ROBIN HACHACHE
AUB VARSITY RUGBY

Coach Robin Hachache played a central role in the development and competitive performance of AUB Varsity Rugby throughout the season. Through disciplined preparation, strategic leadership, and a strong emphasis on team culture, the program delivered consistent performances across national and regional competitions, reflecting his contribution to the team's cohesion, resilience, and sustained progress.



COACH FAWAZ EL MERHEBY
AUB SQUASH

Mr. Fawaz El Merheby has played an important role in the development of AUB's squash program through his dedication as a coach. His commitment to athlete development, technical progression, and team discipline has contributed to strengthening the squash program and enhancing the competitive experience of student-athletes, reflecting his ongoing support of AUB Athletics both on and off the court.

ATHLETICS FACILITY PROJECTS

COMPLETED IN 2023-24

Greenfield and Track

- Maintained and enhanced the greenfield surface to ensure optimal playing conditions
- Upgraded field quality through brushing and rubber addition
- Installed new team shelters to improve athlete and team experience
- Conducted targeted maintenance of the track to support performance and safety

Fitness areas

- Upgraded fitness facilities with 15 new treadmills, increasing training capacity
- Introduced new fitness machines to enhance user experience and training diversity
- Maintained all existing equipment to ensure operational continuity
- Addressed infrastructure issues including water leakage and ventilation systems
- Improved training environment through replacement of damaged mirrors

Pool

- Improved ventilation systems within the pool area
- Replaced pool water and lighting systems to ensure safety and usability
- Conducted aesthetic and functional upgrades including repainting

Indoor courts

- Enhanced indoor courts through resurfacing and application of a new lacquer layer
- Repaired ventilation systems to improve air quality
- Upgraded equipment including installation of a branded wrestling mat and martial arts flooring

Service Projects

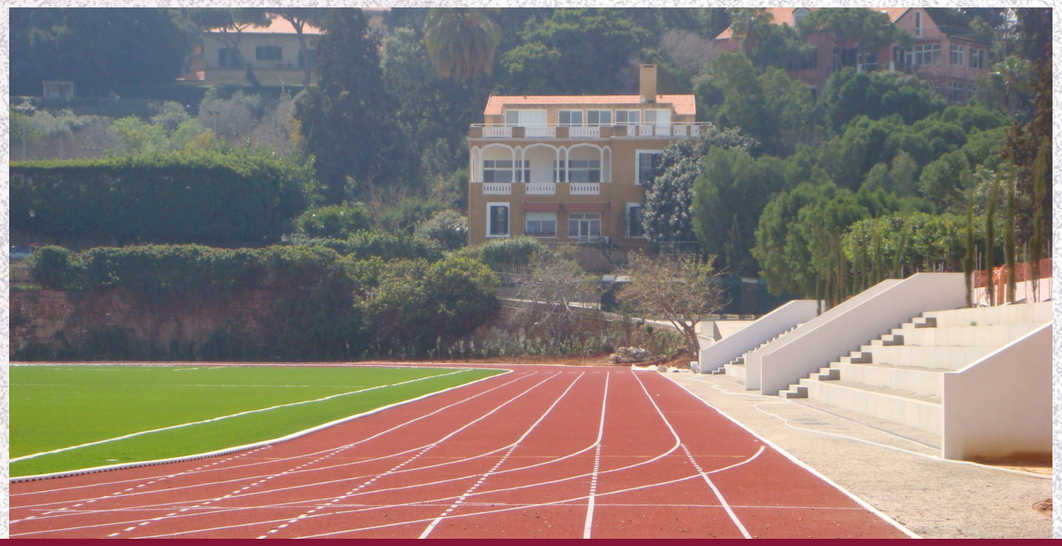
In addition to infrastructure upgrades, several operational and strategic initiatives were implemented to enhance service delivery, user experience, and program development:

- Offered for the first time 2 full athletic scholarships
- Launched the new AUB Athletics brand
- Implemented a new facility management software
- Reactivated online membership application
- Launched a facility reservation branded app
- Increased the number of janitors to 15 per day
- Reopened the AUB beach after a 3 year hiatus
- Hosted the athlete night after a 3 years hiatus
- Applied new staff job descriptions and titles
- Revamped the CHSC webpage content
- Signed a yearly rental agreement with Mini Camp
- Signed yearly rental agreements with IC and ACS
- Developed and implemented a social media strategy, revamping platforms to strengthen brand presence and engagement
- Offered new fitness and recreation classes
- Opened new varsity teams namely wrestling, taekwondo and Jiu-jitsu
- Signed a new maintenance agreement to streamline repair processes
- Signed an agreement with sister universities to compete under an official entity, the FSUL

Reopening of the Diet Clinic

In 2024, the CHSC relaunched a specialized Diet Clinic led by a sports nutritionist dedicated to the AUB community and student-athletes. Beyond tailored nutritional consultations, the clinic serves as a research hub through a strategic partnership with FAFS, integrating evidence-based dietary insights into our athletic programs.





ATHLETE PERFORMANCE & DEVELOPMENT

As part of its commitment to high-performance sport, AUB Athletics continued to strengthen its athlete development framework through structured training support and
performance monitoring.

The introduction of dedicated strength and conditioning support has contributed to improved physical preparation, injury prevention, and overall athletic performance.

Ongoing efforts are focused on establishing a comprehensive performance system that integrates testing, monitoring, and individualized training approaches, ensuring that AUB athletes are prepared to compete at the highest levels.







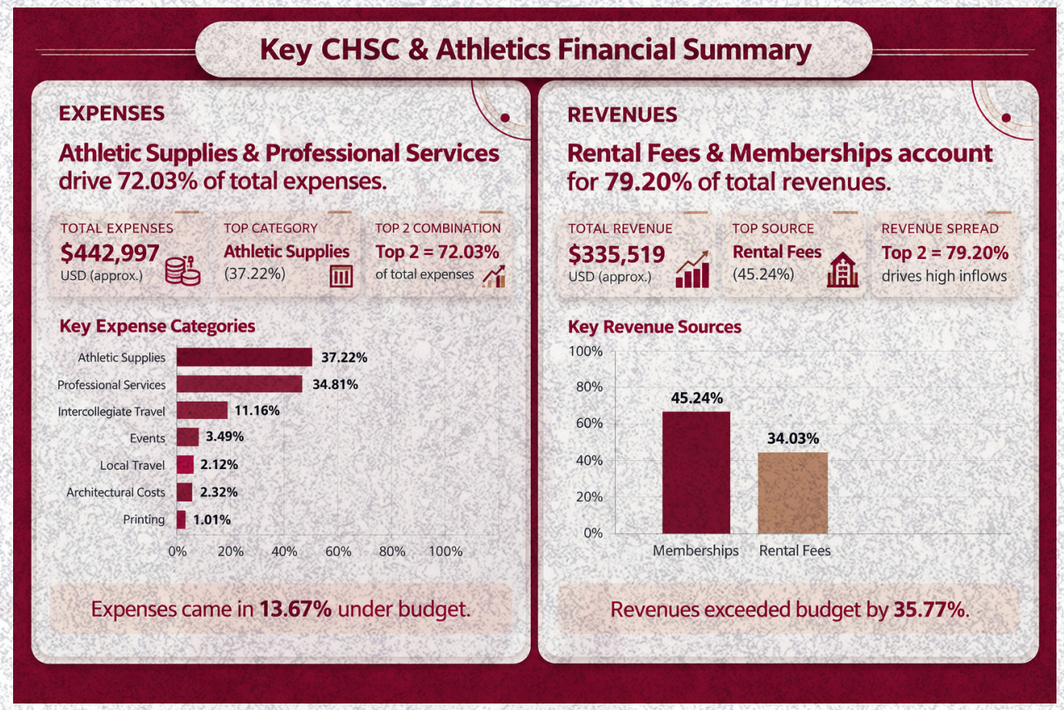
FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: STRATEGIC GROWTH AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The 2023-2024 fiscal year represented a significant transitional period for AUB's financial operations as we successfully navigated the shift from a complex mixture of LBP and USD
accounts an issue inherited from the economic crises to a streamlined, pure USD-based system. Despite the inherent challenges of this transition, the leadership team provided the essential support and flexibility required to prioritize critical upgrades to our facilities and equipment.

Our commitment to fiscal discipline and revenue innovation yielded strong results. We successfully outperformed our financial targets, exceeding forecasted revenue by $85,568.52 and maintaining total expenses under budget by $68,549.28 for the Hostler Centre. These figures reflect a broader strategy of income diversification and operational efficiency.

To achieve this, we optimized our operations by renting facilities to external partners and explored the establishment of specialized sport academies. We further expanded our revenue streams by launching merchandise sales, introducing new fitness classes, and laying out the groundwork to reopen the Diet Center. Additionally, we conducted a strategic review of our memberships. Throughout this process, our primary focus remained on balancing financial sustainability with our mission of service, ensuring that our pricing remains affordable and accessible to the AUB community.



ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUES,
(includes total operating revenues)
FY23-24
» $335,519
ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES,
(includes total operating expenses)
FY23-24
» $442,997

“We are challenging the status quo by setting a new direction for AUB athletics, transitioning from recreational framework into a structured, high-performance athletic system.”

Dr. Tarek Abou Omar, Athletics Director





AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT