NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement, History, & Philosophy

Mission Statement

To keep Christ at the center of intercollegiate athletics.

History & Philosophy

The NCCAA was incorporated to provide a Christian-based organization that functions uniquely as a national and international agency for the promotion of outreach and ministry and for the maintenance, enhancement and promotion of intercollegiate athletic competition with a Christian perspective.

Established in 1968 in Canton, Ohio, the NCCAA, an association of Christ-centered collegiate institutions, held its first men's basketball tournament in Detroit, Michigan. At the initial tournament, the NCCAA adopted a constitution and voted to move the national headquarters to Chattanooga, Tennessee upon the invitation of the Chamber of Commerce. Norm Wilhelmi and E.C. Haskell are considered the founding fathers. Norm chaired the first meeting (15 coaches were present at the meeting) and became the first President and E.C. Haskell was appointed as the first Executive Director. E.C. was given a list of 13 colleges that were interested in membership, and he also set up the first charter, got the NCCAA registered and acquired the first tax exempt number.

In 1973, the NCCAA launched into other sports, developing national competition in cross country, track and field, and men's soccer. Bible colleges, which had competed well against liberal arts colleges, submitted a plan to add a second division. Division II basketball was developed in 1975 for the Bible colleges (non-scholarship), along with national competition in wrestling. Over the years, national championship competition in several other sports began: women's basketball, men's and women's volleyball, softball, men's and women's golf, women's soccer, men's and women's tennis, baseball, football, and indoor track and field.

In 1989, the Board of Directors voted to move the National Office to Marion, Indiana. As the NCCAA grew in membership and national appeal, the Board of Directors examined the need for relocation to a larger corporate community. In May 2000, the NCCAA officially moved the National Office to Greenville, South Carolina.

Four executive directors have led the NCCAA during its existence: E.C. Haskell (1970-88 in Chattanooga, TN); Dr. Barry R. May (1988-97 in Marion, IN); Rob Miller (1997-1999 in Marion, IN); and Dan Wood (2000-present in Greenville, SC). Under their leadership, much growth and change have occurred within the association.

Today, each of the 24 national championships are required to hold a Christian Service Project (CSP) during the championship event. CSPs are opportunities in which NCCAA student-athletes and coaches go out into a championship host's community and serve others. Some CSPs have included visiting children's hospitals, serving the Salvation Army, Boy's and Girl's Clubs, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Samaritan's Feet, Operation Christmas Child, women ministry centers, hunger projects, reading to children in public schools, doing yard work around the community, writing soldiers overseas, working in food projects, visiting the elderly in nursing homes, and much more. Tens of thousands of hours have been given to communities across the nation through the NCCAA.

In athletics, the term #RingChasing is used by athletes to describe their goal of winning a championship. Within the NCCAA, there is a focus on #KingChasing, which helps lay a foundation of seeking Christ first. The #KingChasing Program uses the four values of the Game Plan 4 LIFE – Love, Integrity, Faith, and Excellence – to enhance the purpose of collegiate athletics to be more than winning championships. The mission of the #KingChasing program is to keep Christ at the center of the student-athlete experience.

Since its first tournament in 1968, the NCCAA has grown to encompass approximately 90 Christian colleges nationwide, serving both Christian liberal arts and Bible colleges. The participating schools are dedicated not only to providing the best athletic competition possible, but also to exemplifying Jesus Christ in all they do.

The NCCAA believes:

- That athletics are a means to an end, not an end in themselves.
- That the process is as important as the performance.
- That the person (student-athlete) is more important than the program.

Athletic participation in a Christian liberal arts or Bible college is a unique experience that prepares Christian men and women for a life of meaningful work and service. The athletic experience provides a dynamic growth process for learning discipline, teamwork, leadership, and mutual respect where the student-athlete and his/her preparation for life is more important to the coaches and the athletic administration than win-loss records and championships.