WHAT IS THE NCAA?

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is a member-led organization dedicated to providing a pathway for opportunity for college athletes.

Who makes the rules? Member representatives serve on committees that propose rules and policies surrounding college sports. Members ultimately decide which rules to adopt – everything from recruiting and compliance to academics and championships – and implement them on campus.

Whose ranks include:

- College presidents lead their schools and the NCAA
- Athletics directors oversee athletics staff on their campus and guide policy decisions
- Faculty athletics representatives serve as liaisons between academics and athletics
- Compliance officers manage NCAA rules and policies on campus
- Conference staff lead the governing bodies that organize competition among schools

Prioritizing academics, well-being and fairness so college athletes can succeed on the field, in the classroom and for life.

Nearly half a million college athletes make up the 19,886 teams that send more than 57,661 participants to complete each year in the NCAA’s 90 championships in 24 sports across 3 divisions.

Members:
- 1,098 colleges and universities*
- 102 athletics conferences

* Number does not include reclassifying, provisional or exploratory schools.

Learn more at ncaa.org/about.