NCAA Efforts to Combat Campus Sexual Violence

Where We’ve Been and What Comes Next

Starting the Conversation

August 2010 — The top-ranking NCAA committee directs national office staff to spearhead a discussion about the Association’s role in preventing campus sexual violence.

Defining Athletics’ Role

October 2012 — The conversation continued at the Violence Prevention Think Tank, where college athletics administrators, university officials, subject-matter experts and sexual violence prevention advocates came together to consider how issues surrounding sexual violence relate to higher education and college sports.

Building Consensus

February 2016 — The NCAA Sexual Assault Task Force was created to build a curriculum to help athletics departments engage in education, collaboration and compliance surrounding sexual violence issues. The task force sought feedback from a broader group, the NCAA Higher Education Summit on Sexual Assault and Interpersonal Violence, to build consensus around a learning guide for member schools.

Tackling Solutions

August 2016 — The NCAA convened a new body, the NCAA Board of Governors Commission to Combat Campus Sexual Violence, charged with considering what legislative or policy changes might be necessary for the college sports community.

Expanding the Conversation

August 2017 — The Board of Governors directed its Commission to Combat Campus Sexual Violence to reach out to other members of the higher education community. The goal is to bring the higher education community together to develop strategies for diminishing the prevalence of sexual violence on college campuses. The Sexual Violence Prevention Think Tank was convened to carry this conversation forward.

OUTCOME: NCAA convened the NCAA Violence Prevention Summit in 2011, which identified a need for more research and a desire to develop best practices for NCAA schools. Participants also encouraged university and athletics administrators to collaborate more on issues surrounding sexual violence.

OUTCOME: The top-ranking NCAA committee adopted a Statement on Sexual Violence Prevention and Complaint Resolution in 2014, which notes athletics must comply with campus protocols on sexual violence investigations and ensure student-athletes are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by special treatment. Meanwhile, think tank representatives developed a booklet, Addressing Sexual Assault and Interpersonal Violence.

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OUTCOME: The NCAA Board of Governors adopted in August 2017 an Association-wide policy requiring annual sexual violence prevention education for athletics administrators, coaches and college athletes.

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