



Conference History

The roots of the Pac-12 Conference date back 102 years to December 2, 1915, when the Pacific Coast Conference (PCC) was founded at a meeting at the Oregon Hotel in Portland. The original membership consisted of four schools — the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Washington, the University of Oregon, and Oregon State College (now Oregon State University). All still are charter members of the Conference.

Pacific Coast Conference play began in 1916 and, one year later, Washington State College (now Washington State University) was accepted into the league, with Stanford University following in 1918.

In 1922, the PCC expanded to eight teams with the admission of the University of Southern California (USC) and the University of Idaho. In 1924, the University of Montana joined the league roster, and in 1928, the PCC grew to 10 members with the addition of UCLA.

The Pacific Coast Conference competed as a 10-member league until 1950, with the exception of 1943-45 when World War II curtailed intercollegiate athletic competition to a minimum. During that time, the league's first commissioner was named. Edwin Atherton was commissioner in 1940 and was succeeded by Victor Schmidt in 1944. In 1950, Montana resigned from the Conference and joined the Mountain States Conference, essentially replacing Colorado, which left for the Big 7 two years earlier. The PCC continued as a nine-team conference through 1958.

In 1959, the PCC was dissolved and the Athletic Association of Western Universities was formed and Thomas J. Hamilton was appointed commissioner of the new league. The original AAWU membership included California, Stanford, Southern California, UCLA and Washington. Washington State joined the membership in 1962, while Oregon and Oregon State joined in 1964. Under Hamilton's watch, the name Pacific-8 Conference was adopted in 1968. In 1971, Wiles Hallock took over as commissioner of the Pac-8.

On July 1, 1978, the University of Arizona and Arizona State University were admitted to the league and the Pacific-10 Conference became a reality. In 1986-87, the league took on a new look, expanding to include 10 women's sports. Tom Hansen was named the commissioner of the Pac-10 in 1983, a role he would hold for 26 years until 2009. Hansen was succeeded by current commissioner Larry Scott, who took on the new role in July 2009.

During the 2010-11 academic year, Scott helped deliver monumental changes that transformed the conference into a modern 12-team league by adding the University of Colorado and the University of Utah. The addition of CU and Utah led to an agreement to equal revenue sharing for the first time in conference history, created two divisions (North and South) for football only, established a football championship game for the first time ever, secured a landmark media rights deal that dramatically increased national exposure and revenue for each school and established the Pac-12 Network and Pac-12 Digital Network that guaranteed enhanced exposure across all sports.

Colorado accepted its invitation to join the Pac-12 on June 11, 2010, as the Buffaloes were the first domino to fall in a change of the national landscape which, in just one week, saw Nebraska also leave the Big 12 and join the Big 10, Boise State depart the WAC for the Mountain West, TCU jump from the MWC for the Big East (before eventually landing in the Big 12). Less than a week later on June 17, Utah agreed to join CU to make it an even dozen in the Pac-12. Big-time rivals for the first half of the last century, the Buffaloes and Utes officially became the 11th and 12th members of the Conference on July 1, 2011, the first additions to the league since 1978. During the 33 years between expansions, Pac-10 teams claimed 258 NCAA titles (130 women's, 128 men's).



Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott

At present, the Pac-12 sponsors 11 men's sports and 13 women's sports, having added women's lacrosse for the first time for the spring of 2018. Additionally, the conference schools are members of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) in four other men's sports and two women's sports. CU participates in the MPSF in indoor track and has competed since 1950 in the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association (RMISA) in skiing, which is a coed sport.

The Pac-12 Conference offices are located in the heart of San Francisco's downtown district and are headquartered in the same building as the Pac-12 Network.

Conference of Champions

Built on a firm foundation of academic excellence and superior athletic performance, the Conference ushered in a new era on July 1, 2011, officially becoming the Pac-12 Conference with the additions of the University of Colorado and University of Utah.

Just 27 days after the Conference officially changed its name, Commissioner Larry Scott announced the creation of the Pac-12 Networks, solidifying a landmark television deal and putting the Conference on the forefront of collegiate athletics. The Networks, including one national network, six regional networks, and a robust digital network marked the first-ever integrated media company owned by a college conference. In addition, the "TV Everywhere" rights allow fans to access Pac-12 Networks outside the home on any digital device, including smartphones and tablet computers.

That same year, the Pac-12 also launched its Globalization Initiative to proactively promote the Conference and member institutions through student-athlete exchanges and sport, as in the first five years, Pac-12 student-athletes have enjoyed unique cultural and athletic experiences in several foreign nations. In the past year, the Pac-12 became the first conference to have all of its schools become members of the Green Sports Alliance.

On the field, courts and in the pools of play, the Pac-12 rises above the rest, upholding its tradition as the "Conference of Champions®," claiming an incredible 175 NCAA team titles since 1999-2000. For the 13th consecutive year, the Pac-12 had the most NCAA titles of any conference in the country, having won at least six every year since 2000-01, including 35 over the last three years. No other conference has ever won 10 or more in a single athletic year, looking up at the record 14 the Pac-12 won in 1996-97 and 13 in 2016-17. Even more impressive has been the breadth of the Pac-12's success, with championships coming in 28 different men's and women's sports. The Pac-12 has led or tied the nation in NCAA Championships in 52 of the last 58 years (and was second four times and third twice).



Spanning over a century of outstanding athletics achievements, the Pac-12 was the first conference to reach 200, 300, 400 and now 500 championships; despite having two fewer members than three of the other four so-called “Power 5” conferences, the Pac-12 outdistances the next conference by over 200 crowns (the Big Ten is a distant second with 298). In all, Pac-12 conference teams have won **513** NCAA Championships (300 men’s, 183 women’s, 30 coed).

Individually, the Conference has produced an impressive number of NCAA individual champions, as through the 2016-17 school year, **2,334** individual crowns have been won by Pac-12 student-athletes over the years (1,370 in men’s championships, 778 in women’s and 186 in coed, e.g. skiing).

And since the NCAA began conducting women’s championships 37 years ago, Pac-12 members have claimed at least four national titles in a single season on 28 occasions, including in each of the last 18 years (2001-2018), with a record 10 during the 2016-17 school year followed by another nine in 2017-18.

2017-18 QUICK REVIEW

In the 2017-18 academic year, the Pac-12’s 12 NCAA titles came in the form of a nine women’s crowns and three men’s titles.

Living up to its well-deserved billing of “Conference of Champions®,” six different league schools claimed NCAA titles including three winning multiple crowns (Stanford four, UCLA three and USC two).

Of the 24 sports sponsored by the Conference, 17 witnessed at least half its teams participating in NCAA or other postseason action. The men sent 63 of a possible 101 teams into the postseason, the women 82 of a possible 130. Stanford’s four titles came in men’s and women’s soccer, women’s swimming and women’s tennis. UCLA claimed titles in men’s water polo, women’s gymnastics and beach volleyball, while USC’s pair came in women’s water polo and outdoor track. Arizona (women’s golf), California (women’s rowing) and Oregon State (baseball) rounded out the league’s victories.

While **Colorado** did not win an NCAA title in 2017-18 and the school’s count remains at 27, the Buffaloes finished second in skiing, third in women’s cross country (eighth in men’s) and 19th in women’s golf. CU has won 20 skiing titles (11 men’s, one AIAW women’s and eight coed) and seven cross country (five men’s, two women’s); the Buffs also were the consensus national champions in football in 1990, but since it is not an NCAA-sanctioned championship, it doesn’t count toward the Pac-12’s total of 513.



CU won back-to-back men’s NCAA cross country titles in 2013 and 2014.



Petra Hyncicova won both the classic and freestyle races at the 2017 NCAA’s.



David Ketterer swept the giant slalom and slalom races at the 2017 NCAA Ski Championships.



Dani Jones was the 2017 national champion in the indoor 3,000-meter run.