

PAC-12 CONFERENCE

Conference History

The roots of the Pac-12 Conference date back nearly a century 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 N. Atherton was commissioner in 1940 and was succeeded by Victor O. 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. Thomas C. 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, and then on June 17, Utah agreeing 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).

At present, the Pac-12 sponsors 11 men's sports and 11 women's sports. Additionally, the conference schools are members of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) in four other men's sports and three women's sports. CU participates in the MPSF in indoor track and will in women's lacrosse come 2014, and already competes in the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association (RMISA) in skiing, which is a coed sport.

The Pac-12 Conference offices are located 25 miles east of San Francisco in Walnut Creek, Calif.



Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott

Conference of Champions

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

The Pac-12 rises above the rest, upholding its tradition as the "Conference of Champions"®, claiming an incredible 180 NCAA team titles over the past two decades, including nine in 2010-11, averaging nearly nine championships per academic year. Even more impressive has been the breadth of the Pac-12's success, with championships coming in 27 different men's and women's sports. The Pac-12 has led the nation in NCAA Championships in 45 of the last 51 years and finished second five times.

Spanning nearly a century of outstanding athletics achievements, the Pac-12 was the first conference to reach 400 championships in 2010-11. With the inclusion of CU and UU, league teams have captured 451 NCAA titles through the 2011-12 season (306 men's, 145 women's), outdistancing the next closest conference by nearly 200.

In each of the last two years (2010-11, 2011-12) the then-Pac-10 and now the Pac-12 has led the country with nine NCAA titles, with men's and women's programs sharing the wealth with five NCAA women's titles and four men's crowns in each of those years.

Including titles previously won by Colorado and Utah, Pac-12 members have won 306 NCAA team championships on the men's side, 89 more than the next closest conference. Men's NCAA crowns have come at a phenomenal rate for the Pac-12: 16 basketball titles by six schools (more than any other conference), 53 tennis titles, 45 outdoor track & field crowns and 27 baseball titles. Pac-12 members have won 25 of 43 NCAA titles in volleyball, 38 of 42 in water polo, 27 in skiing and 23 swimming & diving national championships.

Individually, the conference has produced an impressive number of NCAA men's individual champions, as well, boasting 2,073 individual crowns.

On the women's side, the story is much the same. Since the NCAA began conducting women's championships 30 years ago, Pac-12 members have claimed at least four national titles in a single season on 23 occasions, including 2011-12. Overall, the Pac-12 has captured 145 NCAA women's titles, easily outdistancing the SEC (second with 88). Pac-12 members have dominated a number of sports, winning 23 softball titles, 19 tennis crowns, 14 of the last 22 volleyball titles, 14 of the last 23 trophies in golf, and 13 in swimming and diving.

Pac-12 women student-athletes shine nationally on an individual basis, as well, having captured an unmatched 642 NCAA individual crowns, an average of nearly 21 championships per season.

Colorado and Utah have combined to win 15 coed skiing titles, one of three NCAA sports to score championships based on men's and women's results along with fencing and rifle. Combined, the newest Pac-12 entrants added 27 NCAA ski crowns and 148 individual champions to the league's coffers.

In the 2012 London Summer Olympics, athletes who hailed from Pac-12 schools won 45 medals; had the conference been a country, it would have finished fifth.