

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER

For NAIA colleges and universities, ongoing character education for student-athletes and coaches is a priority.

COMMITMENT TO CHARACTER

Since Champions of Character was launched in 2000, NAIA-member colleges and universities have made ongoing character education and professional development for coaches, athletics administrative staff and student-athletes a priority.

The NAIA's successful Character-Driven Coaching course was launched in 2009. All NAIA coaches, including graduate assistants, are required to take the online course within the first two months on the job. More than 18,000 college, high school and youth coaches have also taken the course.



In 2009, NAIA member colleges and universities committed to putting Champions of Character values into play on both the field and in the stands. Hospitality and game management of NAIA athletics events and conduct in competition are guided by Champions of Character principles. Today, every school's progress in pursuing character education is tracked and recognized for achievements in training, promotion and conduct in competition.

The Champions of Character program provides values-based training, so student-athletes know, do and value the right thing, on and off the field.

Champions of Character also reaches high school and youth sports through its outreach activities conducted by member schools and participants at NAIA national championship events.

CHARACTER SCORECARD

The Champions of Character Scorecard measures each institution's commitment to Champions of Character. Institutions are recognized for a demonstrated commitment to Champions of Character and earn points in character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion and few to no ejections during competition throughout the course of the academic year.

LIVE 5 ONLINE TRAINING

The NAIA, the leader in character-driven intercollegiate athletics, offers the only four-year online character curriculum for student-athletes. The introductory course, Learn to Live 5, launched in 2013, was followed in 2014 with Master the Fundamentals for sophomores, Live 5 and Lead for juniors and Live 5 for Life for seniors. The programs focus on modeling, leading and building values-based skills for life after college.

The Champions of Character Live 5 series was developed with specific learning outcomes and research-based curriculum intended to have a measurable impact on student attitudes over time.

The 20-minute interactive programs are centered on the Champions of Character Five Core Values — Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Sportsmanship and Servant Leadership —and how they're applied on and off the field.

A key milestone for Champions of Character Live 5 is the research-driven surveying of student-athletes to gauge the impact of deliberately teaching character over time. The NAIA is partnering with sports ethics and psychology professionals from TrueCompetition.org in conducting the research.

COUNCIL FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

The Council for Student-Athletes is charged with initiating operational policies for the Champions of Character program and conducting research and education that will benefit the health, safety and development of NAIA student-athletes. The council includes representatives from each governing council including the Association of Student-Athletes. Through incorporation of the ideals of Champions of Character, the Council is committed to ensuring NAIA student-athletes train and compete in a safe and healthy environment.

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