



National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) - February 2nd, 2022

When was the first National in Women in Sports Day?

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan, issued a proclamation declaring February 4th, 1987 to be the first annual National Women in Sports Day. The growth of women's athletics had grown tremendously. Fifteen years prior, there were limited amounts of college athletics scholarships for females. On the day the proclamation occurred, there were over 10,000 and this number has only continued to increase.

This will be the 36th celebration of NGWSD to kick off many organizations' celebration of Title IX's 50th Anniversary Celebrations (including the MAC). NGWSD recognizes student-athletes, champion athletes (i.e. World Games, Olympics), coaches, administrators, and lawmakers committed to providing equitable access to sports for all girls and women.

Celebrations across the United States feature community-based events, notable women athletes, awards, and more to highlight the positive influence of sports participation for women, girls, and society.

Fact

The first Women's NCAA Swimming Championship took place in 1982, at the University of Florida. The University of Florida came in first place with 505 points, and Stanford came in second with 383 points.

How Women Began Competing within the NCAA

The Association for the Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) was formed in 1971, formerly the Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (CIAW), worked with the NCAA to expand the implications of Title IX on women's athletics.

Specifically, the AIAW worked with the NCAA to see that university funding should not be so narrowly defined as to not include athletics, meaning that women should not be discriminated against in athletics just because that department does not receive direct government funding. The AIAW's influence in the early 1970s over the Title IX interpretation, pressured the NCAA to address and ultimately permit female sport programs being able to play for NCAA championships in a manner similar to male sport programs.

Ultimately, the AIAW was dissolved because it could not compete with the funding and opportunities the NCAA was able to provide female student-athletes. The NCAA, with its own women focused committee developed a women's championship structure, which was missing from the AIAW.

The MAC hosted its first women's sport championship in 1980 in Women's Cros Country. Today in 2022, the MAC sponsors 12 sports/13 championships that female student-athletes may compete in.

Bonus Fact

The first Women's NCAA Basketball Championship was held in 1982. In Norfolk, VA, Louisiana Tech defeated Cheyney State 76-62.

Takeaways:

February 2nd, 2022 is National Girls and Women in Sports Day!

The first Women's NCAA basketball and swimming championships were held in 1982.

The AIAW was the first collegiate athletics organization to host female sport championships.

The MAC sponsors 13 female sport championships annually.

For questions, contact Kristin Williams, Associate Commissioner for Institutional Services/SWA:
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