

Constituent Universities

Appalachian
State University

East Carolina
University

Elizabeth City
State University

Fayetteville State
University

North Carolina
Agricultural and
Technical State
University

North Carolina
Central University

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

University of
North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

University of
North Carolina
at Charlotte

University of
North Carolina
at Greensboro

University of
North Carolina
at Pembroke

University of
North Carolina
at Wilmington

University of
North Carolina
School of the Arts

Western Carolina
University

Winston-Salem
State University

Constituent High School

North Carolina
School of Science
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September 16, 2016

Dr. Mark Emmert
The National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222

Dear Dr. Emmert:

We write to respond to Monday's disappointing decision by the NCAA Board of Governors to relocate seven previously awarded championship events from North Carolina during the 2016-17 academic year.

As leaders of the University of North Carolina system and its 15 NCAA member institutions, we know that this abrupt announcement will have profoundly negative consequences for our communities and our state. Most importantly, NCAA postseason events offer rare opportunities for our student-athletes—who have brief periods in their lives to participate in collegiate athletics—to compete for championships in front of their friends and neighbors in their own home state. The NCAA's decision to remove these events from North Carolina deprives multiple communities of important events and the opportunity to support these students. And most unfairly, the students and our campus communities did nothing to deserve this severe penalty.

Intercollegiate sports are an integral part of North Carolina's heritage, economy and way of life. Our state has a long, rich history of successfully hosting NCAA championships. It has hosted more Division I men's basketball tournament games than any other state and the Women's College Cup has been played in North Carolina for half its history. Our athletic teams and student-athletes are sources of great pride and focal points for communities throughout the state. These events are landmark occasions to showcase our communities, which in some cases have become established parts of the NCAA championship experience. Beyond the negative and measurable economic impact of this decision, the prospect of a year without any NCAA championships in North Carolina is a regrettable departure from one of our state's most storied traditions.

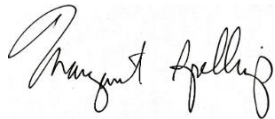
Dr. Mark Emmert
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The University of North Carolina appreciates that the NCAA shares our commitment to creating an inclusive atmosphere for all college athletes, coaches, staffs, and fans. As reflected in long-standing University policy, UNC campuses do not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, and we are fully committed to being open and welcoming to individuals of all backgrounds.

While still caught in the middle of a dispute between state law and federal guidance that it did not create, the UNC system has consistently said that it is not enforcing House Bill 2, a stance confirmed in an order from the court hearing challenges to the law that preliminarily enjoined UNC from enforcing it. The NCAA's decision to remove these championships does not appear to take into account these important factors.

We welcome a speedy resolution of these issues and, we hope, recognition by the NCAA of the sincere efforts by the University and our communities to create open and welcoming environments. In the meantime, we will remain focused on our primary mission of educating students, including supporting and developing our talented student-athletes.

Sincerely,



Margaret Spellings

Johnson O. Akinleye, Acting Chancellor – North Carolina Central University
James A. Anderson, Chancellor – Fayetteville State University
David O. Belcher, Chancellor – Western Carolina University
Thomas E.H. Conway, Chancellor – Elizabeth City State University
Robin Gary Cummings, M.D., Chancellor – University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Philip L. Dubois, Chancellor – University of North Carolina at Charlotte
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Harold L. Martin, Chancellor – North Carolina A&T State University
Elwood L. Robinson, Chancellor – Winston-Salem State University
Jose V. “Zito” Sartarelli, Chancellor – University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Cecil P. Staton, Chancellor – East Carolina University
William R. Woodson, Chancellor – North Carolina State University