

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WeCOACH Announces League-Wide Membership with the Patriot League

August 7, 2023 – WeCOACH and the Patriot League are pleased to announce a league-wide, unlimited group membership. This is the first time that the Patriot League is joining as a league-wide member.

"Patriot League coaches are respected as educators and dedicated to the quality of the studentathlete experience. A continual commitment to learning and growth is integral to our mission," Patriot League Commissioner Jennifer Heppel said. "I am excited about the opportunity to partner with WeCOACH in providing professional growth and leadership development for our women's coaches in all sports."

The League-wide membership will be active immediately, allowing each of their 10 member institutions to enroll an unlimited number of women coaches to benefit from the year-round programs and resources offered by WeCOACH.

"As a League that values a well-rounded education, it is evident through this partnership that this includes a strong commitment by the Patriot League's leadership to the continued education and professional development of their women coaches," said WeCOACH CEO Vanessa Fuchs. "We are thrilled to welcome all Patriot League institutions to our WeCOACH Community and look forward to their members engaging in our many year-round programs. Together, we will **MOVE** *the* **NUMBERS** to support and increase women in coaching."

To learn more about WeCOACH membership options, including group memberships, visit wecoachsports.org/memberships/membershipsoptions/, or email memberships@wecoachsports.org.

ABOUT THE PATRIOT LEAGUE

<u>The Patriot League</u> is in its fourth decade of academic and athletic achievement, continually demonstrating that student-athletes can excel at both academics and athletics without sacrificing high standards. The Patriot League's athletic success is achieved while its member institutions

remain committed to its founding principle of admitting and graduating student-athletes that are academically representative of their class. Participation in athletics at Patriot League institutions is viewed as an important component of a well-rounded education.

ABOUT WeCOACH

Founded in 2011, WeCOACH is a one-of-a-kind 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to recruiting, advancing, and retaining women coaches in all sports and levels through year-round professional growth & leadership development programs. Prior to Title IX, over 90% of women's collegiate sports teams were coached by women. Today, over 50 years later, the data indicates that number has decreased to 46% in Division I, 41% across all three NCAA Divisions, with only 6.2% women head coaches of color (Division I). Only 5% women coach men's teams. At the youth level, the data is hard to estimate, approximately less than 20% of teams are coached by women. WeCOACH launched MOVE the NUMBERS in 2022 to help change the landscape for women coaches and the student-athletes they lead. If she can see her, she can be her. For more information visit MOVE the NUMBERS.