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WeCOACH Announces New Conference-Wide Membership with the Southern Conference

October 16, 2023 – WeCOACH is pleased to announce a new conference-wide membership with the Southern Conference (SoCon) for the 2023-24 academic year. The membership is active immediately, allowing each of the league's 10 institutions to enroll an unlimited number of women coaches to benefit from the year-round programs and resources offered by WeCOACH.

Michael Cross, SoCon Commissioner stated, "The Southern Conference's partnership with WeCOACH is an important step in our ongoing commitment to nurturing the growth of our female coaches. We recognize the critical importance of professional development, networking, and education in the realm of intercollegiate athletics. Providing support through WeCOACH was an easy decision that resonates with our vision of fostering an education-centric and values-driven environment. Coaching is an inherently demanding profession that is experiencing rapid evolution. We believe the mentorship, guidance, and strategies offered by WeCOACH will be difference-making for the careers of participating coaches and by extension will meaningfully impact the student-athletes they mentor."

Terri Brne, SoCon Senior Associate Commissioner offered, "Our partnership with WeCOACH represents a bold step toward equity and a full commitment to providing the resources and support necessary for SoCon female coaches, administrators, and staff to thrive. This collaboration is designed to empower and elevate female coaches, administrators, and staff within the conference."

A one-of-a-kind nonprofit organization with the mission to recruit, advance and retain women coaches in all sports and levels, WeCOACH offers year-round professional growth and leadership

programs to help navigate the challenges and obstacles women coaches face to stay in, feel supported, and advance in the coaching profession. SoCon women coaches will have access to premier programs such as the WeCOACH-NCAA Women Coaches Academy & Academy 2.0, Regional Workshops, Mentor Program, Video Chats, WeAMPLIFY (women of color initiative), and the new About Time podcast. This membership also includes access to WeCONNECT Women Coaches, a new coach-led, coach-inspired peer-to-peer learning opportunity that was unveiled on National Coaches Day.

“We are grateful for Commissioner Cross and the leadership at the Southern Conference for their commitment to invest in professional growth opportunities to elevate their women coaches. Now our eleventh Division I conference this year, WeCOACH is committed to growing and expanding our program offerings to meet the needs of our vast expanding membership. Together, we will MOVE the NUMBERS to support and increase women in coaching,” said Vanessa Fuchs, CEO of WeCOACH.

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

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ABOUT THE SOCON

The SoCon is the fifth-oldest NCAA Division I college athletic association. The SoCon contested the first-ever collegiate conference basketball tournament in 1921, tackled freshman eligibility in 1922, became the first conference to adopt the 3-point field goal in basketball in 1980 and developed women’s championships in 1984. For more information click [here](#).

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](#).