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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Alliance of Women Coaches Announces Partnership With LGBT SportSafe**

The Alliance of Women Coaches and LGBT Sport Safe announced a partnership that will assist in creating inclusive athletic communities for coaches, administrators and student-athletes alike.

Launched earlier this year by co-founders Nevin Caple and Dr. Eric Lueshen, the LGBT SportSafe Inclusion Program was developed to create an infrastructure for athletic administrators, coaches, recreational sports leaders and professional sports leagues to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer inclusion.

"The Alliance is proud to take the lead as the first organization to partner with LGBT SportSafe," said Alliance executive director Megan Kahn. "This partnership is another expression and opportunity for us to live out our mission and values in being a diverse and inclusive community. We are stronger together."

LGBT SportSafe utilizes a new benchmarking framework to help athletic leadership champion a culture of respect and inclusion. The "3-Peat Model" addresses the importance of Programming, Policy and Public Awareness at all levels of sport, while offering incentives to institutions, teams and leagues that reach inclusion goals. The program, which launched with Founders Club members, University of Nebraska, University of Oregon, and Northwestern University, offers benefits for member institutions that actively engage in inclusion. These include a Gold, Silver or Bronze medallion for the athletic department website, a listing in the LGBT SportSafe national registry of inclusive athletic and recreational sport communities, and exclusive access to Coaches Corner, a comprehensive online resource for LGBT inclusion in sports which provides everything from webinars and model policies to discussion forums and best practices for athletic professionals.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Alliance of Women Coaches. The Alliance has played an integral role in creating opportunities for women, people of color and LGBT coaches to be valued and respected in their profession," said Caple. "It means a great deal to announce the partnership during LGBT History Month, recognizing the trailblazers who paved the way for this partnership to exist."

The Alliance of Women Coaches is the premier organization dedicated to leading the field of women coaches, at all levels, by providing support, resources, and unparalleled events and programs which address the needs and interests of its members. The NCAA Women Coaches Academy, conducted in partnership between the Alliance and the NCAA, is a unique, transformational in-person learning opportunity for female coaches. LGBT SportSafe practices will continue to be incorporated into the three Academies conducted annually and attendees will learn best practices and policies critical to creating an inclusive environment.

For more information on the Alliance of Women Coaches, visit [www.gocoaches.org](http://www.gocoaches.org)

For more information on the LGBT SportSafe Inclusion Program, visit [www.lgbtsportsafe.com](http://www.lgbtsportsafe.com)

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