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HISTORY OF THE NCBA

The National Club Baseball Association (NCBA) is the first ever, national governing body for collegiate club baseball. Founded in 2000 by former Penn State Baseball Club player and president, Sandy Sanderson, the initial season had 34 club baseball teams from across the country competing in the league. In the years since its commencement, the league has grown tremendously exceeding 170 member baseball teams during the 2009 season. The NCBA annually provides more than 4,500 college students with the chance to continue their competitive baseball careers and contend for a true national championship.

There are a number of former NCBA baseball players who began their careers on the club team at their school before moving on to play for their NCAA Div I programs, while several others have gone on to play professional baseball in the independent leagues. Major League Baseball made full acknowledgement of the league's talent when the Florida Marlins drafted Colorado State pitcher Nathan Nowicki in the 19th round of the 2003 Amateur Player Draft. Nate holds the designation of being the first player drafted out of the NCBA but certainly not the last. Following Nate's 2003 selection, the Anaheim Angels selected RHP Chris Waters in the 16th round of the 2004 Amateur Player Draft. Chris had spent 3 seasons on the Clemson Club team before transferring to the University of North Florida (DII) to finish his senior campaign. Then in 2005, Steve Schmoll formerly of the University of Maryland Club team had the distinguished honor of making his Major League debut for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Upon seeing the success of the baseball league over the years, many collegiate club softball teams began to take notice and wondered why there was no league for them. Thus in 2006, the NCBA started the National Club Softball Association (NCSA). With an initial membership total of 36 teams for the inaugural season and substantial growth during year two, the NCSA appears to be off and running at a similar pace as the NCBA.

In 2007, the NCBA began to realize that an obvious disparity in talent level was developing within the league. Smaller schools and first year programs were struggling to be competitive with some of the club baseball programs from larger schools or those that had been in operation for many years. In an effort to both even the playing field and maximize the club baseball experience for all teams in the league, the NCBA split into two divisions (DI and DII). Division I teams compete for the chance to play in Regional Tournaments at the end of the season with the Regional winners moving on to compete in the DI World Series. Division II teams compete for a District title and thus the chance to play in the DII World Series at the end of the season.