

# NAACP NEWS

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Derrick Johnson  
State President



Mississippi State Conference

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## Mississippi NAACP Opposes Ole Miss hosting NCAA Softball Tournament

In 2015, the South Carolina legislature voted to remove and change the state flag because it bore a well-known symbol of the Confederacy. At the time, the NCAA strongly supported the action with NCAA President Mark Emmert specifically stating that, **“As a national association, the NCAA opposes this symbol of racism, and since 2001 we have demonstrated our opposition by not playing selected championships in states where the confederate flag was flown prominently.”** Today, the State of Mississippi’s official state flag continues to display the confederate symbol.

Mississippi NAACP is requesting the NCAA continue its opposition to symbols of racial hatred and expand its ban to all NCAA sanctioned events and relocate the Softball Regional Tournament at the University of Mississippi on Friday, May 19, 2017.

“A ban on ‘NCAA postseason events that are not pre-selected’ is not enough,” says Derrick Johnson, Mississippi State President, “It is not enough to oppose symbols of racism for basketball and golf then conspicuously ignore that same racism for baseball or softball regionals.”

Johnson continues, “If the NCAA truly oppose states where the confederate flag is flown prominently then they must oppose it in all instances where symbols of racism are prevalent.”

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