



## **Phil Rison, CMAA, NIAAA Executive Director**

Phil Rison, CMAA executive director of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), currently completing his tenth year with the NIAAA serving the past three years as executive director of the NIAAA after a 30-year administrator, teaching, and coaching career.

Rison retired from Montgomery County Schools (Kentucky) in 2015 after 20 years serving various roles in the athletic department – including athletic administrator, assistant principal, director of operations, and assistant superintendent/director of student services. The first 10 years of Rison's career were spent teaching and coaching basketball and baseball. He was honored to be selected as Teacher of

the Year at Montgomery County High School in 1990. He attended Eastern Kentucky University and holds both a Master's and Bachelor's degree in education.

Rison's association with the NIAAA has included the full span of his athletic administration career. He became a Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) in 1998 and earned Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA) status in 2005. He served as National Faculty Chair for Leadership Training Course (LTC) 508 and with the leadership of attorney Lee Green, formulated the faculty for all three legal courses. He was appointed to the NIAAA Board of Directors representing Section 2 in 2010 and in 2013 Rison served as the 34th President of the NIAAA Board of Directors. As president, he appointed a Professional Development Task Force, which led to the first unified meeting of state coordinators for certification and Leadership Training Institute (LTI).

Rison has contributed to several expansive areas. The NIAAA worked with Cognia accreditation in 2025 to renew accredited principles that keep the association data driven and continuously improving. The association's Leadership Training Institute curriculum has expanded by 18 courses to 59 overall. In addition, two levels of international certification were added to the certification program. Rison, working along with NIAAA staff, implemented all core courses in the NIAAA classroom platform in an online format. This has assisted members in earning their NIAAA certification.

Rison was very involved in the Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Association (KHSADA) and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA). He was executive director of the KHSADA for one year and a member of the KHSADA Board of Directors from 1997 to 2008, including a term as president in 2006. He served the KHSAA as 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Region Policy for 16 years, serving as chair for 10 years. Rison also served as President of the Kentucky High School Coaches Association (KHSCA) in 1995.

Rison has received the NIAAA Award of Merit, NIAAA Distinguished Service Award, NIAAA Commendation, and the NIAAA State Award of Merit. He was the KHSADA Athletic Director of the Year in 2003, the Jim Watkins Award of Excellence recipient in 2019, the Bob Miller Outstanding Achievement/Service awarded by the KHSCA in 2017 and selected as 2015 District Level Administrator of the year by the Kentucky School Resources Officers. He was inducted into the 10th Region Coaches Hall of Fame in 2006.

Rison and his wife, Paula, have two adult children and two grandchildren.

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The NIAAA is an accredited organization through Cognia and is the professional organization for interscholastic athletic administrators. Based in Indianapolis, Indiana, the NIAAA's mission is to provide professional development options for directors of athletics, and to enhance the athletic administration profession. Since 1977, the NIAAA has served those who lead education-based athletic programs in the nation's schools. With a current individual membership of over 16,000, the NIAAA consists of member state athletic administrator associations in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, as well as internationally. The NIAAA champions the profession of athletic administration through education opportunities, advocating ethics, developing leaders, and fostering community. For more information, visit the NIAAA website at [www.niaaa.org](http://www.niaaa.org).

