

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Ellen Hammond

Director of Operations, Catholic Athletic Association

651-321-1013

ellenhammond@stpaulcaa.org

www.stpaulcaa.org

Catholic Athletic Association Names Ellen (Schafer) Hammond as Director of Operations

ST. PAUL, Minn. — July 23, 2026 — The Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ellen (Schafer) Hammond as its new Director of Operations. In this role, Hammond will partner closely with the Board of Directors, Athletic Directors, officials, coaches, and participating schools to ensure the successful execution of league operations, championship events, and organizational initiatives across all sports programs.

Hammond's history with the CAA spans decades, having competed in the league during her youth and later returning to mentor student-athletes as a coach. She brings a strong background in athletic administration, educational athletics, and classroom instruction to the organization. Previously, Hammond served as owner, director, and coach at Northern Heat Volleyball Club in St. Paul. She also worked as a STEM educator and coach at St. Joseph's School in West St. Paul—a CAA participant school—and at Cretin-Derham Hall, where she coached all four levels of volleyball from 2014 to 2024.

"The Catholic Athletic Association has played a defining role in my life as a student-athlete learning teamwork and perseverance, and later as a coach guiding the next generation," said Hammond. "Stepping into the role of Director of Operations is a true full-circle moment for me. I am deeply honored to serve our participating schools, coaches, officials, and families, and I look forward to ensuring every CAA athlete experiences the same transformative impact sports had on me."

As Director of Operations, Hammond will oversee league administration for sports including soccer, volleyball, cross country, basketball, hockey, swimming, baseball, softball, track and field, and golf. She will also work alongside the CAA Board of Directors and school Athletic Directors to drive organizational growth and community engagement.

"We are thrilled to have Ellen as our next Director of Operations for the CAA," said Kevin McCloughan, CAA Board President. "Her operational expertise and shared dedication to our mission make her the ideal leader to guide our day-to-day operations and ensure our organization continues to make an impact for our participating schools."

Hammond holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education (K–6) with 5–8 Science and Math Endorsements, as well as a post-baccalaureate certificate in K–12 Engineering Education from the University of St. Thomas. She also earned a master's degree in K–12 Differentiation in Education from Concordia University, St. Paul. She currently resides in St. Paul with her husband.

About the Catholic Athletic Association (CAA)

Founded in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1948, the Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that provides and promotes faith-filled interscholastic athletic opportunities for students at its participating schools. Through the development and administration of youth sports programs, the CAA fosters the religious, social, and athletic growth of its participants while promoting respect, sportsmanship, and teamwork. For more information, visit www.stpaulcaa.org.