national prominence and national dominance are what separates the Central Collegiate Hockey Association from the rest of college hockey. CCHA teams have won more NCAA Championships (7) in the last 18 years than any other conference. Bowling Green State began the run in 1984, followed by Michigan State in 1986, Lake Superior State, who own the most titles of a CCHA-member team, captured three in a span of seven years (1988, 1992, 1994), Michigan's pair as a CCHA member (1994, 1998) brings their overall NCAA Championship total to nine, the most in the nation. Northern Michigan won the crown in 1991 as a member of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

The league has featured five Hobey Baker Memorial Award winners – Bowling Green's George McPhee in 1982, Michigan State's Kip Miller in 1986, Bowling Green's Brian Holzinger in 1995, Michigan's Brendan Morrison in 1996 and Michigan State's Ryan Miller in 2001. Membership in the CCHA over the years has fluctuated from just four teams in the early years to 12 this season with Nebraska-Omaha joining the ranks for the 1999-00 season after competing previous two campaigns as an independent.

Alaska Fairbanks joined the CCHA as a full-time member in 1995-96 after being an affiliate member for three seasons. Lake Superior State joined the league for the 1972-73 season. Heading into the 1973-74 season, Ohio University dropped its varsity program and Ohio State became an independent, only to rejoin the league two years later. Western Michigan became a member for the 1975-76 season. The 1976-77 campaign marked a first for the CCHA as Bowling Green State qualified for the NCAA Tournament. Northern Michigan first joined the CCHA for the 1977-78 campaign, while Bowling Green State became the first CCHA team to host a NCAA regional game and advance to the NCAA semifinals. For the 1978-79 season, Ferris State became a probationary member while St. Louis University was in its final season of field a varsity program. A highlight for the CCHA occurred in 1979-80 when Bowling Green State had two players on the gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic team. Miami (Ohio) University was named a probationary member for the 1980-81 season. The CCHA continued to prosper in the 1981-82 campaign with the addition of Michigan, Notre Dame, Michigan State and Michigan Tech. Bowling Green State gave the CCHA its first-ever NCAA title in 1984, winning the NCAA's longest championship game (four overtimes). The CCHA's claim as the premier collegiate hockey conference was no more evident than in April 1992, when three of the four NCAA semifinalists were CCHA teams.

The 1995-96 season saw the first tie for the regular-season title since 1974. Michigan captured a NCAA-record eighth national championship with a 3-2 overtime victory over Colorado College. In 1997-88, Michigan State captured its first CCHA title in eight years with a one-goal win. Despite losing the conference crown, the Wolverines rebounded in the NCAA Tournament and captured their second national championship in three years. In 2001-02, the CCHA will change its tournament format as all 12 teams will make the playoffs. The first round will feature a best two-of-three series at campus sites (March 8-10). The following week, the six remaining teams will travel to Detroit's Joe Louis Arena. The top two remaining seeds will receive byes into the semifinals on Saturday, while the remaining four schools will square off on Friday. The championship will be held on Sunday, with the winner receiving an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships.

Following each regular-season contest, the "Perani Cup Three Stars of the Game," sponsored by Perani's Hockey World of Flint, Mich., are selected by the media. Players accumulate points throughout the season for being named a Star of the Game, and at the end of the year, a winner will be named from each team as well as a league-wide winner, which will receive the Perani Cup at the CCHA Awards Banquet. Complete Perani Cup standings can be found on www.ccha.com.