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NCAA AND WALSH UNIVERSITY



WALSH UNIVERSITY

NCAA BOUND

WALSH UNIVERSITY NCAA II TRANSITION

Walsh University's acceptance into the NCAA Membership Process presents an exciting new opportunity for the University to advance its athletic programs to the next level and enrich the prestige of our University. By joining the NCAA Division II program, Walsh University will be able to increase the visibility of our excellent academic and athletic programs on a broader state and national platform.

In addition, membership into the NCAA will provide many new benefits for not only our student-athletes but also our coaches. We anticipate that once we are established in an NCAA II conference, our teams will have to travel fewer miles and at less cost for greater competition, while reducing the amount of time student-athletes will be absent from their academic classes.

WHY MAKE THE MOVE TO NCAA II?



Name Recognition

This move represents a significant marketing opportunity and a major step forward in enhancing the overall image of our University. Walsh University athletic programs will enjoy increased visibility on the local, state and national levels by becoming an NCAA Division II school. The NCAA name and logo are instantly recognizable among collegiate athletic circles. The public recognizes the NCAA as an exceptional organization with exacting standards and stronger competition than the NAIA.

Enhanced Student-Athlete Experiences

The NCAA organization and Walsh University share a strong commitment to the overall education and character development of all student athletes. The NCAA is very much concerned about the student-athlete experience, and to that end, legislation is in place to ensure that student-athletes are provided ample time for their academic work, placing limits on the number of hours they may participate in their individual sports teams each week. Additionally, the NCAA promotes community initiatives to support student-athlete involvement and service in their local communities. This falls directly in line with Walsh's mission of educating students to become leaders in service to others.

Increased Media Coverage

By becoming a NCAA Division II member, Walsh University will extend and increase its media exposure. Most state and national media outlets agree that NCAA II schools are playing to higher competitive standards than NAIA or NCAA III schools. Walsh will benefit from the NCAA's excellent reputation and expects an increase in our national exposure with a greater possibility of ESPN coverage. We anticipate news media outlets outside of Stark and Summit counties will take a more direct interest in our athletic successes as well.

Competitive Edge

Times are changing. In the past, a majority of institutions in the state of Ohio were affiliated with either the NCAA III or the NAIA. Recently, the NAIA affiliations have dropped drastically leaving only two or three schools in the NAIA, while the NCAA II membership within the state has experienced rapid growth. It would have been increasingly difficult to compete with sister institutions for quality student-athletes against those institutions with the NCAA advantage. As a NCAA II member, Walsh University will remain competitive with other Ohio and surrounding state schools. We look forward to joining with other NCAA II high-quality, private higher education institutions in competitive play.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

2010-2011	Walsh remains an active member of the NAIA and American Mideast Conference and will be eligible to compete in conference and NAIA national championship tournaments.
2011-2012	Walsh remains in American Mideast Conference and competes for conference championships and honors. Walsh will not compete in NAIA post-season tournaments.
2012-2013	Walsh becomes a provisional member of the NCAA. We are in the process of applying to the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) and anticipate being a full member of that conference as well, vying for conference championships and student-athlete awards and honors. Walsh will not be eligible to compete for NCAA II national tournaments.
2013-2014	Walsh will become a full member of the NCAA II with all rights and privileges.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE 2011-2012 SEASONS

Walsh is exploring several post-season competitive opportunities for our student athletes during the two seasons we will be ineligible for NAIA or NCAA post-season tournaments. These may include a National Invitational Tournament complete with a National Championship Title and student-athlete honors for universities in a similar transition process. In addition, Walsh is exploring the opportunity to provide our post-season qualifying teams a unique opportunity to travel internationally for competitive play.