

Liberty University Reclassifies Wrestling Program

March 29, 2011

Question and Answer Document

1. How did the University reach this decision?
 - Although we are currently meeting Title IX through Prong 2 – Historically adding sports to the underrepresented sex, we have chosen to move towards Prong 1 – proportionality. In order to meet federal Title IX requirements, through the measure of proportionality, the University needed to increase the ratio of female to male student-athletes to accurately reflect the composition of the Liberty University student body.
 - Without the reclassification of a men’s program with a large roster, Liberty would have to continue to add NCAA Division I women’s programs to meet Title IX requirements. This would include increasing financial commitments of the institution in the form of scholarships, operating budgets and salaries for coaches, academic, athletic training and other administrative support staff.

2. Why was wrestling selected as the sport to be reclassified?
 - During this academic year, Wrestling has had as many as 39 participants on its roster and this reduction assists in reaching the gender equity requirements of proportionality.
 - Wrestling was Liberty’s only men’s sport not sponsored by the Big South Conference. Since returning to competition for the 2006-07 season, wrestling has competed as an independent program.

3. What other efforts has the University taken to meet Title IX requirements?
 - Since 2009, Liberty has added Women’s Lacrosse (2009), Women’s Swimming (2010), and Field Hockey begins in the fall of 2011. We know of no other NCAA Division 1 institution that has added so many opportunities for women during this same period.

4. Will other sports be reclassified?
 - No. There are no plans to reclassify any other sports.

5. How many student-athletes will be affected?
 - This change affects 34 current student-athletes and two National Letter of Intent signees.

6. Will Liberty honor athletic scholarships to the wrestling team?
 - Current athletic scholarships will be honored through the completion of each student-athlete’s eligibility for those who remain at the University.
 - o For example, a student-athlete who is finishing his sophomore year with two years of eligibility remaining can have his current scholarship renewed for two more years or until the successful completion of his undergraduate education, whichever occurs first.

- All athletics scholarships are limited to one-year awards of financial aid. As with any athletics scholarship, renewal is based on applicable requirements such as academic progress and personal conduct.
 - Incoming wrestling student-athletes who have signed athletic scholarships to attend Liberty are being contacted by the coaching staff. Scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year will be honored for those who wish to attend the University.
7. Can student-athletes transfer to other institutions?
- Per NCAA rules, student-athletes interested in continuing their athletic endeavors elsewhere can be immediately eligible to compete. Liberty will provide assistance to all student-athletes interested in transferring.