UNF’s NCAA Reclassification: A Breakdown

Minimum requirements to be a Division I program:
- A minimum of 14 sports sponsored (Women/Men - 7/7 or 8/6).
(UNF officially sponsors 13 sports - 7 women/6 men, but the program will elevate women's track to its 14th sport prior to the start of the 2005-06 academic year.)
- Minimum scholarship requirement.
(UNF already satisfies requirement.)

Process to begin reclassification from Division II to Division I:
- Declare intent to reclassify by submitting a formal application prior to the Dec. 1, 2004, deadline.
- Pay $15,000 application fee to the NCAA at time of declaration.

Once these steps are complete, UNF will begin an NCAA-mandated EXPLORATORY YEAR, which ends on June 30, 2005.

During the EXPLORATORY YEAR, UNF can study the issue of moving forward without making a final decision. Before the end of the EXPLORATORY YEAR, however, UNF must decide:
- Does it intend to remain a Division II member?
(If UNF chooses to remain Division II, the $15,000 application fee is returned to the University, and the application is terminated with no penalty. UNF also will maintain its membership in the Peach Belt Conference.)
- Does it intend to move forward with the Division I reclassification?
(If UNF chooses to move forward with the reclassification, it must notify the NCAA in writing prior to June 30, 2005. UNF also must notify the Peach Belt Conference of its intent to withdraw from membership.)

If UNF moves forward with the Division I reclassification following the EXPLORATORY YEAR, the following is required:
- UNF must develop a written Strategic Plan for Reclassification, which must be shared with the NCAA.
- UNF must begin a four-year TRANSITION PERIOD.

Once the TRANSITION PERIOD begins (four years), the following must happen annually:
- UNF must submit an annual report to the NCAA demonstrating progress toward achieving full Division I status and a revised Strategic Plan for Reclassification by June 30 each year.
- Each year during the four-year transition, UNF's leadership team (president, faculty athletics representative, athletics director, senior woman administrator and compliance director) must attend the annual NCAA Convention and the scheduled education session for reclassifying institutions.

FINAL STEP: To finalize the TRANSITION PERIOD, UNF must receive full **NCAA Division I athletic certification, which includes:
- Compliance Review by the NCAA.
- Review of sponsored sports.
- Institutional self-study.
- Scholarship Review by the NCAA.
- On-site visit by NCAA officials.

** The certification process is a comparison tool by which the NCAA will measure the UNF Athletics program against the Division I standard. UNF must certify in every area to receive the required certification.

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**UNF’s Reclassification Calendar**

**Exploratory Year (2004-05)**
- UNF remains in Peach Belt Conference.
- UNF remains eligible for all NCAA Division II national championship tournaments.
  Dec. 1, 2004
- Submit formal application and application fee ($15,000) by Dec. 1, 2004.
  Jan. 8-10, 2005
- UNF leadership team (president, faculty athletics representative, athletics director, senior woman administrator, compliance director) must travel to NCAA Convention and attend the education session scheduled for reclassifying institutions.
  June 30, 2005
- Decide intent to continue with reclassification and notify NCAA.
- Submit skeletal Strategic Plan for Reclassification to NCAA.
- Withdraw membership from Peach Belt Conference.

**Transition Year 1 (2005-06)**
- UNF eligible for conference membership in a Division I conference.
- UNF ineligible for NCAA Division II and Division I national championship tournaments.
- UNF must be in full compliance with all Division I rules (including scheduling requirements).
- UNF may count as Division I for its opponent's RPI.
  January 2006
- UNF leadership team must travel to NCAA Convention and attend required education session.
  June 30, 2006
- Deadline for annual report indicating progress; revised Strategic Plan for Reclassification also submitted.

**Transition Year 2 (2006-07)**
- UNF eligible for conference membership in a Division I conference.
- UNF ineligible for NCAA Division I national championship tournaments.
  January 2007
- UNF leadership team must travel to NCAA Convention and attend required education session.
  June 30, 2007
- Deadline for annual report indicating progress; revised Strategic Plan for Reclassification also submitted.

**Transition Year 3 (2007-08)**
- UNF eligible for conference membership in a Division I conference.
- UNF ineligible for NCAA Division I national championship tournaments.
- UNF begins NCAA Certification process with on-campus visits from NCAA.
  January 2008
- UNF leadership team must travel to NCAA Convention and attend required education session.
  June 30, 2008
- Deadline for annual report indicating progress; revised Strategic Plan for Reclassification also submitted.

**Transition Year 4 (2008-09)**
- UNF eligible for conference membership in a Division I conference.
- UNF ineligible for NCAA Division I national championship tournaments.
  January 2009
- UNF leadership team must travel to NCAA Convention and attend required education session.
  June 30, 2009
- Deadline for annual report indicating progress; revised Strategic Plan for Reclassification also submitted.

**Full Division I Member (2009-10)**
- UNF eligible for all NCAA Division I national championship tournaments (and automatic bids).