

NAIA FAQ's

Why is La Sierra changing its athletics programs from the NCAA to the NAIA?

1. The NAIA allows the individual Institution to set the number of sports it sponsors. La Sierra can determine how many sports it can afford to sponsor and still be successful. The NCAA mandates schools of our size sponsor 12 sports, two more than we currently sponsor. Our budget, and resources don't allow us to sponsor 10 sports correctly, we couldn't sponsor 12.
2. As an NAIA member we can schedule games that best fit our athletes' academic schedules. We can schedule any schools we choose and we can determine how many games each sport should play. As an NCAA DIII school we have to play other NCAA teams during certain confining periods of time. This has led our teams to playing multiple games during dead weeks, finals and over vacations just to keep up with NCAA regulations.
3. As a member of the NCAA DIII we were not going to be admitted to a conference. As a member of the NAIA we can create our own conference with other NAIA schools in the area.
4. As part of the NCAA we would not be Championship eligible for 4 years. As part of the NAIA we are Championship eligible after 1 year.
5. The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), generally has a lower operating budget for its athletic programs. This will allow La Sierra to fund its' programs better.

What sports will we sponsor next year?

The Athletic Counsel in conjunction with the Athletic Department and Student Life have decided that Women's Volleyball, Men's Soccer, Men's and Women's Basketball, Softball and Baseball will be the six sports sponsored for the 2010-2011 school year.

Why were those sports chosen?

Through much discussion and debate the six sports were selected for various reasons including, but not limited to, budget concerns, matching our sports with the sports offered at the SDA Academies and projected interest.

Will Scholarships now be offered to athletes?

As part of the transition to NAIA, La Sierra has developed an Athletic Scholarship Task Force to determine the best way for the University to begin offering Athletic Aid.

What other changes can we expect?

1. Champions of Character initiative will be introduced, which is a comprehensive character training program with five core values: respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership, and sportsmanship.
2. Recruitment of athletes will become an easier process, which will lead to filling our team rosters.
3. Coaches can develop training programs for their teams in the off season.
4. Athletics Department will now require study hall for its athletes.