



What is an NCAA Emerging Sport?

Definition - an **Emerging Sport** is a **sport** recognized by the **NCAA** that is intended to provide additional athletics opportunities to female student athlete

Emerging sports are overseen on the list by the **Committee on Women's Athletics** who are the gatekeepers of sports that are permitted to be added, deleted and supported on the NCAA list. Committee made up of administrators and athletic directors from all divisions and levels in the NCAA



How is Women's Rugby Connected to the ESI?

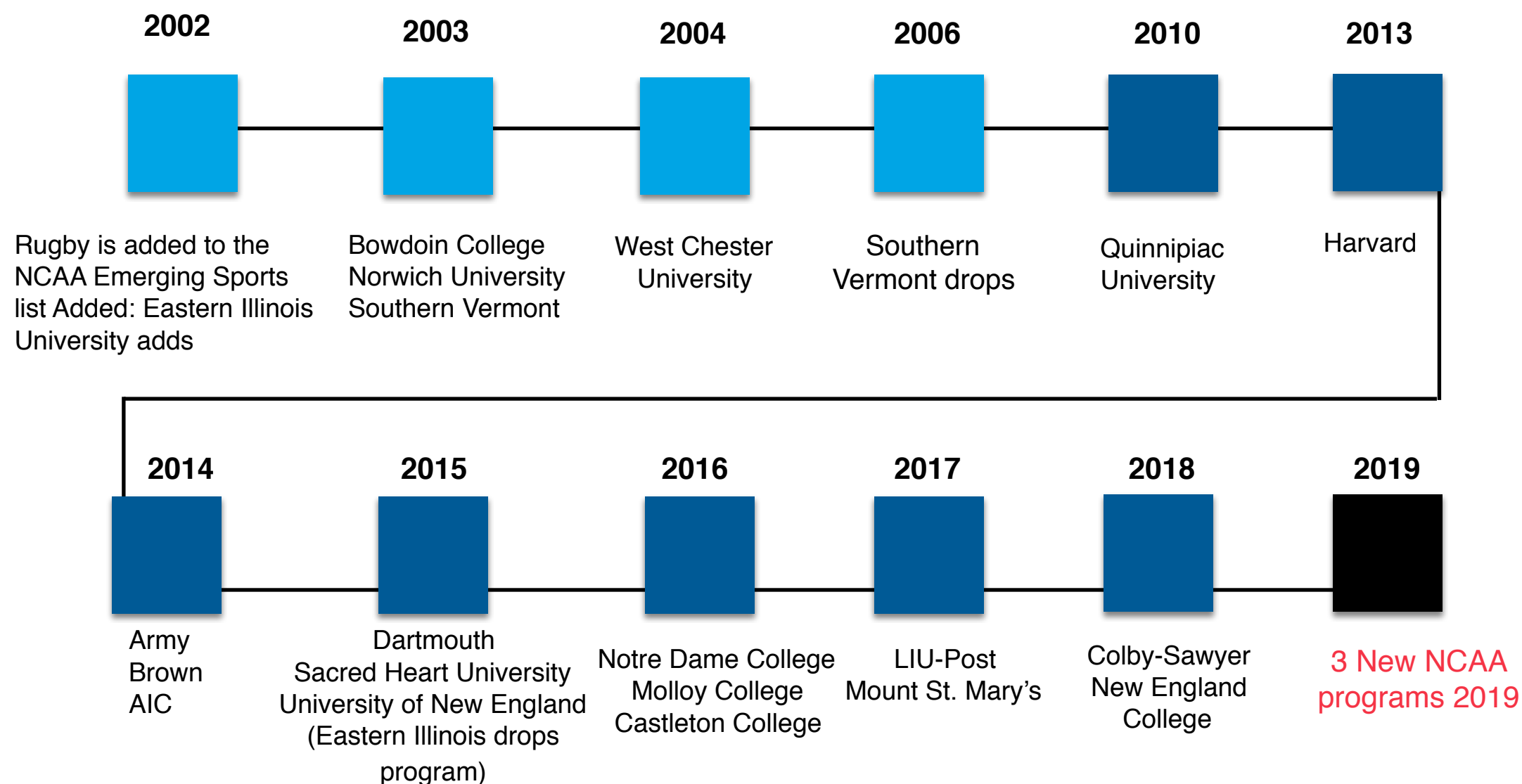
2006-2009 - USAR hosted NCAA Initiative

2015 - NIRA is formed, first national championship

2018 - NIRA becomes spearhead for initiative



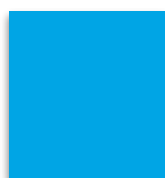
NCAA Rugby Timeline





Emerging Sports Timeline

92-1997



Rowing, Ice Hockey, Water Polo and Bowling all become NCAA Championship sports out of Emerging Sports status

1998



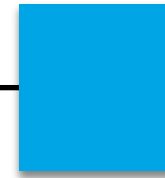
Equestrian, Squash, Archery, Handball, and Synchronized Swimming are declared Emerging Sports

2002



Rugby added to the Emerging Sports List

2008



Squash, Archery, Handball, and Synchronized Swimming are removed as Emerging Sports. Rugby requests an extension on 10 year time window. Granted

2014

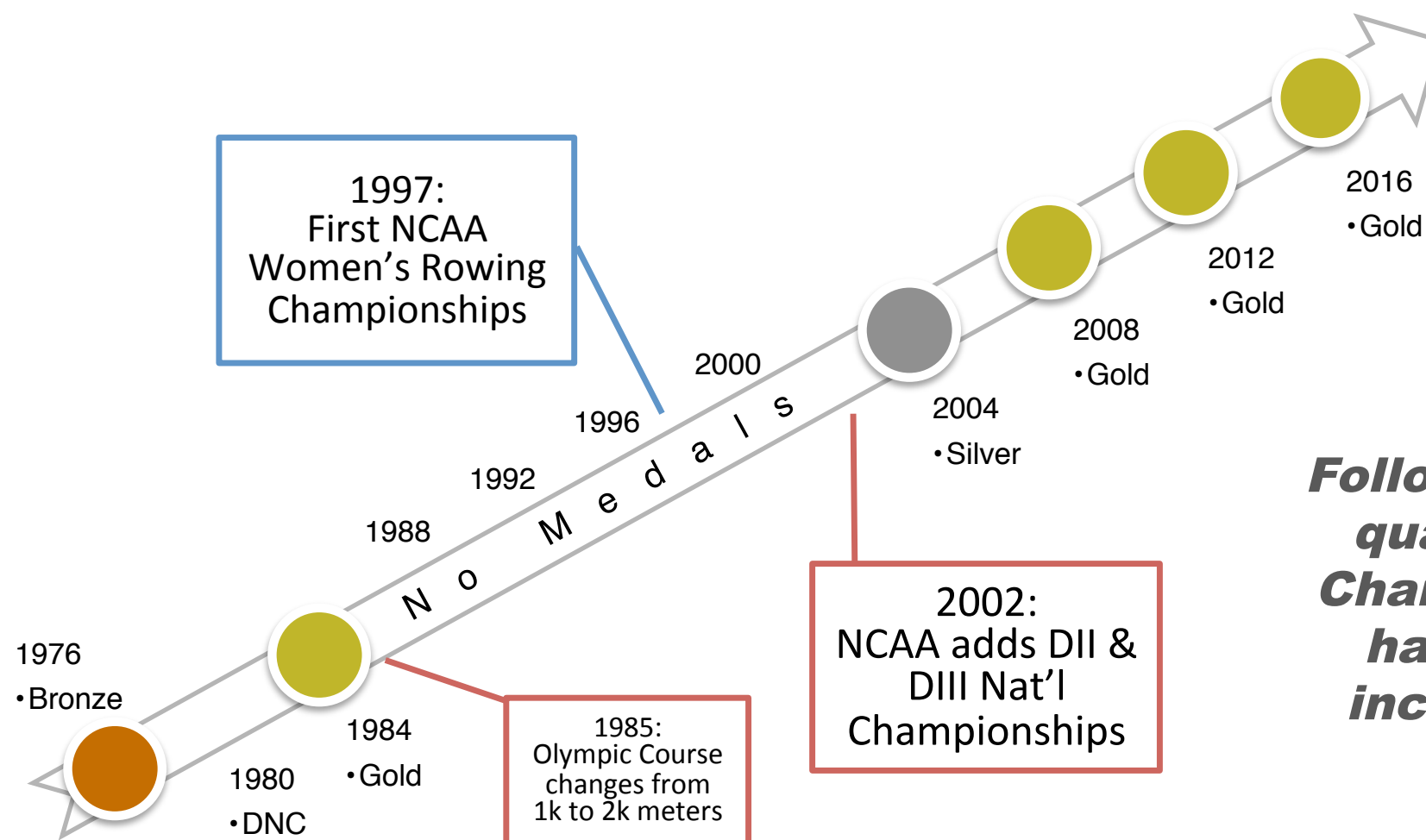


Sand Volleyball and Triathlon added to Emerging Sports list.

*Emerging Sports must achieve membership of 40 institutions to be considered a full championship NCAA sport

US Women's Olympic Rowing History

Pre & Post NCAA Championship



Following first full Olympic quadrennial with NCAA Championship, US Women have medalled 4 of 4 – including 3 consecutive Gold Medals...



2018-19

Emerging Sports Timeline

- Fourth successful NIRA Championship completed
- Commissioner hired August 2018
- International effect, 50% Dubai Women's 7s roster hails from NIRA institutions
- NIRA Membership institutions at 18 with 21 for 2019-20
- NIRA achieves inclusion in the 2019 NCAA Emerging Sports showcase with Equestrian and Triathlon at the NCAA convention
- Over 10+ proposals complete to prospective institutions looking to add #SprintTo40



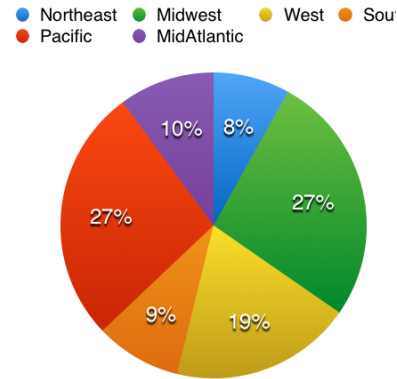
Emerging Sports Timeline

FUTURE

- Advocacy and dialogue amongst athletic directors, administrators and coaches
- Other prospective Emerging Sports are just waiting to take our spot on the list, movement urgent
- Women's Wrestling next Emerging Sport in line, recommendation is in motion

NCAA Recruiting Base Potential by US Regions

There has been almost a 300% growth in the high schools girls game since 2016. The chart shown demonstrates a sharp increase with participation being at its strongest in the Pacific and Midwest Regions. Both are regions home to an abundance of non_NIRA opponents within reasonable traveling distance for USAFA



National Growth and Championship Recruiting Pools

Intercollegiate rugby could provide an additional opportunity for these high school student-athletes at the same time, placing USAFA in an advantageous position to lead the sport nationally. Since 2011, the high school national championships have grown from 1 hosting site with 12 teams to two national sites (single school and multi school) with the top 24 teams hailing from all over the United States. All maintaining prospective student-athletes drawn from pools

International Recruiting Base

A further option for initial recruiting is drawing an abundance of international students from Canada. Especially in the British Columbia Province, the high school pool is outstanding as girls' rugby is an official interscholastic sport with over 350 schools sponsoring a team.

Currently 3.6% of all NCAA women's rugby programs draw international students. This could supplement the talent pool to fill the highly skilled positions on the rugby field which may include 2-4 positions in the starting line-up of 15. This approach would be an administrative choice as the talent pool within the United States is sufficient to provide all the necessary athletic and skill abilities

Coaching Staff

Current NCAA program salary ranges
Head Coach (Part-time - Full-time)

\$32,000 - \$80,000

Additional allowable staff: 1-2 full time head coaches 1-2 part or full time assistants and/or Graduate Assistant. 4 allowable staff members

As more NCAA Rugby programs are added, schools not only assume the role as pioneers in the sport at the D-I level with opportunity to host a NIRA series playoff, but inter-conference play would be guaranteed.

Competition

The current playing season as delegated by NCAA legislation for women's rugby is the fall. The 17 NCAA programs structure their competitive season with an all-varsity championship with season running from August to as late as the first week in December.

A competition schedule could be set up for Friday, Saturday, or Sunday games working around established NCAA sports schedules so as not to create a competition overlap. Bylaw-17, which details playing and practice season requirements, was approved in April 2005 and may be reviewed in detail in the NCAA Manual.

Possible Scheduling

With Women's Rugby categorized as an Emerging Sport, this designation qualifies the institution for flexibility in scheduling. According to Bylaw 20.9.4.3.6, a mixed varsity club schedule is permitted and will ultimately allow for outside conference play to accommodate travel distance and cost as the conference membership for rugby develops. A maximum of 16 contests with a minimum of 9 NCAA games is outlined in the NCAA bylaws for Women's Rugby for Division I and III.

Women's Rugby offers:

- ✓ Affordability and Flexibility
- ✓ Answers to questions on competition requirements, structure and scheduling options
- ✓ Opportunity to house a 30+ student-athlete roster
- ✓ Resources for recruited student-athletes
- ✓ An understanding of the current demographic and geographic plan for NCAA women's rugby
- ✓ Budget statistics and long term plan for the future growth of women's rugby

Funding an NCAA D-I Rugby Program at Air Force

As the elevation of club to NCAA would occur, the athletic department would be fully responsible for determining a competitive schedule and budget. A sample budget of Division I, is below.

Again, we encourage all athletic directors to contact our current NIRA administrators whom currently sponsor rugby to gain a broad range of budget perspectives are most conducive to USAFA's fiscal planning. If the club team currently possesses quality equipment, upgrades and replacements for equipment may be necessary to alleviate other first year **start-up costs**.

A low end start up cost would be about \$80,000 (excluding coach salary) with an annual operating budget of approximately \$1700 per athlete Existing NCAA programs from DI to DIII currently operate on budgets ranging from \$80,000 to \$150,000



Practice & Game Equipment

Typical required equipment includes: scrum-sled, warm-ups, practice and game jerseys, shorts and socks, sports bras, sweatshirts, sweat pants, spandex, balls, cones, tackle bags, cleats, blocking bags, shoes, head gear, shoulder pads, mouth guards, goal post pads, field markers, strength and conditioning apparel, travel bags,

Note: While some equipment will need to be replaced after a few years, scrum sled and field equipment will last longer than 5 years

Game Practice Facility (can be a typical phase-in project 130x75 yards)
Surface can be field turf or natural grass, natural grass is highly recommended

• Field Playing Area Sprinkler System • Team Benches • Fence Enclosure • Locker Room Development • Public Address System • Equipment Storage Spectator Seating • Goal Posts

• To subsidize cost on kit, Rhino Rugby will extend 20% discount to first year start-up NCAA women's rugby programs. Each year thereafter at 15%. Inquire with NIRA for Rhino contacts.

Contact and Resources

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