



FOOTBALL

One Division I

As most football fans know, three classifications – Division I-A, I-AA and I-AAA – were used to differentiate the administration of a school's football program. As of December 15, 2006, those three classifications were declared out of bounds and new designations were kicked off.

The Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) will be used to describe football programs that compete to participate in the postseason bowl system that includes the 32 NCAA-licensed bowls that make up the Bowl Championship Series.

The NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) now will be used to describe schools that participate in the NCAA championship postseason structure (one of 88 NCAA national championships that formerly was described as the I-AA football championship).

PREVIOUS NAME > NEW NAME

Division I-A > **Football Bowl Subdivision**

I-A (short hand) > **Bowl Subdivision**

I-A (acronym for NCAA manual use) > **FBS**

Bowl Championship Series > **Same**

Division I-AA > **NCAA Football Championship Subdivision**

I-AA (short hand) > **Football Championship Subdivision**

I-AA (acronym for NCAA manual use) > **FCS**

NCAA Division I-AA Football Championship > **NCAA Division I Football Championship**

Division I-AA Football Committee > **Division I Football Championship Committee**

Division I-AAA > **Division I**

Division I (all other sports) > **Same**

The Reason for the Change

The I-A, I-AA and I-AAA designations were confusing and as result, misapplied by college football fans and the media when referring not only to football programs (e.g., I-AA basketball). And because of greater awareness of specific conferences and schools, the I-A label was rarely emphasized by the I-A membership, which only caused greater confusion about the I-AA classification.

This initiative, voted into effect by the presidents and chancellors who comprise the NCAA Division I Board of Directors last August, is not intended to confuse or devalue the importance of the BCS format.

Why These Titles Were Chosen

These labels communicate in a positive and clear way about the differences between the Division I football classifications, chiefly the postseason opportunity, while still defining them within the Division I experience.

The name change also clearly defines the student-athlete experience. Rather than being incorrectly referred to by a football classification, they'll simply be a Division I student-athlete.

Spreading the Word

The use of the new football labels was rolled out at the 2006 NCAA Division I Football Championship game. During the course of the 2007 season, expect these new football designations to be used by members of the college football community, which includes student-athletes, corporate supporters, university/college officials, community leaders and media partners.

Coaches, administrators and staff have been asked to use the new classifications in media guides, game programs, Web sites, tickets and promotional materials.

Get to know the new names for the teams in your favorite game – the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) and the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS).