

Questions Asked by Attendees to DII Sand VB Web Seminar May 20, 2009

Q: Was there any thought to allow Sand Volleyball Season to extend past the end of Winter/Spring Semester (like Softball and Men's Baseball into the Summer) to allow schools in cold weather climates to better compete?

A: Once Sand VB moves from an emerging sport to an NCAA championship sport, there can be conversation about a more extended season. Until then, emerging sports must finish the regular season by the end of the academic year.

Q: Will there be availability for individual beach tandem championship? (like NCAA Tennis Singles Championships)

A: See above answer.

Q: Missed yesterday's webinar.... How do these dates compare with D-I?

A: Same number of dates of competition and format as DI as this starts out as a sport without a divisional structure – similar to Men's Volleyball. Once there are 40 schools total, there will be an NCAA Championship, and once 40 per division there will be a divisional championship.

Q: Can you practice indoors if the weather is bad?

A: Yes, just like tennis, practice and competition can take place indoors.

Q: What do you foresee as happening on the recruiting side of things, for DIII, seeing how the majority of volleyball student-athletes are in DIII? Meaning was it discussed the impact on participation to other Divisions?

A: Yes, time was spent analyzing the available player pool for sand volleyball and indoor volleyball. The success of sand volleyball is based on the increase in the number of girls that choose volleyball as their sport. In the short run, there will be some "trickle up" as new opportunities open for women giving more options.

Q: With regards to seeding the doubles teams (#1 through #5), is there a model (from tennis, for example), to prevent "sandbagging" by teams? Or, is this kind of practice something that will be deemed as an acceptable part of the sport?

A: Tennis has a good model for monitoring this practice and we would borrow from their experience.

Q: How do we respond to our administrators when they say that adding sand volleyball does not add many students to our campus, therefore we will look to add another sport first that brings more "new" students to our campus?

A: Clearly, sand volleyball is a sport that can be added for a relatively nominal cost when compared to other emerging sports. This makes the sport attractive to some administrators and unattractive to others. As the sand-specific player pool grows and as indoor cross-over players tire of participating in two sports in a school year, the number of new participants will also grow.

Q: Has there been any interest from the NAIA or NJCAA on adding Sand Volleyball?

A: Yes, coaches in both groups have asked about sand and talked to their respective administrators about the sport. The next step is for teams to start playing. Both organizations add sports when a certain number of colleges have added the program at the varsity level.