



Charlie Baker
President

October 18, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General
Commonwealth of Virginia
202 North Ninth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Attorney General Jason Miyares,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your thoughts regarding James Madison University's transition to the Football Bowl Subdivision. Congratulations to James Madison on a 6-0 start.

As you mentioned, the current two-year transition period was intended to provide adequate time for schools to demonstrate they have met the necessary requirements to become an FBS member and adjust to the increased requirements for student-athlete support in addition to FBS competition. This timeline is intentional and membership-driven and applies to all schools that transition from the Football Championship Subdivision to the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Under the recent direction of the Division I Transformation Committee, a comprehensive review of FBS membership requirements was conducted over the past several months. The committee's work led to the Division I Council's adoption of significantly increased financial aid requirements and an increased fee to reclassify from FCS to FBS. Because James Madison is already in the reclassification process, the university will benefit from having until August 2027 to meet those elevated requirements along with current FBS members and is not responsible for paying the increased fee.

The Division I Board of Directors and council believe clear standards and timelines for reclassification processes will promote strategic membership growth and allow for a uniform experience for all reclassifying institutions. The board and council agreed that if changes to the FCS-to-FBS reclassification process are warranted, these should be handled through legislation that applies to all schools reclassifying from FCS to FBS.

James Madison may still access postseason bowl participation this year if an insufficient number of active FBS institutions meet the requirements for bowl eligibility. If there are not enough active FBS institutions that meet the requirements for bowl eligibility, and

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James Madison meets the definition of a deserving team, then there are criteria for filling the open slots that may allow for James Madison to participate as a reclassifying institution in its final year of reclassification from FCS to FBS.

I hope this additional information demonstrates the importance of a uniform reclassification process, especially during a time when FBS membership requirements are being significantly increased. Thank you again for sharing your thoughts. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Charlie Baker
NCAA President

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