

Frequently Asked Questions

Question #1 – Why increase support and funding for sport clubs?

Answer –

The University's strategic plan, *The Richmond Promise*, promotes an integrated student experience, including athletic programs characterized by excellence. It calls for: *“a distinctly integrated student experience, coordinating a rich and innovative life for students inside and outside of the classroom, with excellent programs as varied as international study, arts, and athletics.”*

Question #2 – What impact will increased support and funding for sport clubs have on students and the institution?

Answer - Sport clubs support the overall mission of colleges and universities by involving students in experiential learning and prepare students to live lives of purpose and become responsible leaders in society.

- Student Recruitment/Retention - Successful clubs and inspired coaches help with recruitment and retention of students.
- Connections and Support System - First year students make an immediate connection. Teammates and coaches provide a much needed support system.
- Leadership Opportunities - Sport clubs help prepare students to live lives of purpose and become responsible leaders in society.
- Health and Well-Being - Participation in sport clubs promotes physical fitness, relieves stress and helps students with their emotional and psychological well being.
- Alumni Relations - Increases opportunities for alumni involvement and relations.

Question #3 - What are some of the recommended actions steps to bolster and support sport clubs?

Answer – Specific recommendations within the plan include:

- Tier Classification System – Recommend further developing the tier classification system and establish and recognize “varsity clubs”.
- Varsity Clubs – Recommend Women’s Crew and Men’s Lacrosse be elevated to “varsity clubs”.

- Funding – Recommend significantly increasing funding to sport clubs.
- Facilities – Recommend improving and expanding facilities.
- Fundraising – Recommend University take a more active role in sport club fundraising.

Question #4 -What is a varsity club?

Answer - A varsity club is a sport club program given many of the benefits of a NCAA varsity program without the strict rules and regulations of the NCAA. These will be flagship programs receiving the highest level of university funding and administrative support to make this a positive and successful experience for the students. Paid coaches and athletic trainers will be present and available at all practices and competitions to ensure quality coaching, supervision, and risk management. Safe and efficient travel will be provided to minimize missed class time and allow sport club athletes to focus on their studies. Clubs will travel and present themselves in a manner befitting the University of Richmond in official team attire: respectful and proud. Varsity clubs will cost the university less than a similar NCAA program, while providing students an opportunity to live a balanced life--academically, athletically, and socially.

Question #5 – What clubs are being considered for varsity club status and why?

Answer – The two sport clubs being considered for varsity club status are men’s lacrosse and women’s crew. Some of the factors that influence this decision include:

- Student Welfare – Clubs that provide opportunities for personal development and maturation regardless of race, religious, ethnic, or gender background.
- Quality of Competition – Clubs that have a national governing body and have opportunities for regional and national championships.
- Viability of Sport - Evidence this is an emerging sport on the high school level locally and regionally.
- NCAA – To offer an array of recreation and athletic programs and make the best use of resources, sports currently offered as NCAA programs by the Athletic Department will be recognized and funded as lower tier sport club programs and will not be recognized as varsity clubs.
- Financial – Requires evidence of potential for significant fundraising to support and sustain the program. Considerations must be given to include the cost of coaches, trainers, facilities, equipment, and travel.

Question #6 - When will sport clubs funding and support be increased?

Answer - This is one of many proposals being considered as initiatives in the *Richmond Promise*. Bolstering and increasing support for sport clubs must be balanced with other academic and student life priorities.

Question #7 – How can I get more information?

Answer – To find out more information about the plans for bolstering sport clubs contact Tom Roberts at troberts@richmond.edu or (804) 289-8912. If you're interested in financially supporting this initiative or any of the sport clubs contact Heather Krajewski at hkrajews@richmond.edu or (804) 289-8763.