

# Harding

A C A D E M Y

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Kevin L. Starks  
Athletic Director

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Dear Harding Family:

In the August TSSAA Board of Control meeting, the Division II committee proposed that Division II schools be divided into two classifications based on school enrollment in grades 9-12. Currently, Division II has three classifications for football (A, AA, AAA) and one classification for all other sports. The Division II committee's goal was to make joining Division II more appealing for additional private schools.

Currently, Harding is classified AA in football. For the upcoming two-year period (school years 2007-08 and 2008-09), Harding's enrollment places us as a single-A school for all sports. Although every school has the option of moving into a larger-school classification, Harding has opted to stay in single-A for this period. After two years, there will be a new realignment, and we will be able to decide our classification for the next four-year period. However, we do not know what that alignment will be. After these two years, we will reevaluate our situation and make a decision about what classification is best for our program at that point.

Our decision is the consensus among our coaches and administration. In making the decision, we looked at what our competition would be in both A and AA. We compared Harding's 9-12 enrollment (396) against the significantly higher adjusted enrollment\* of AA schools [for example, 1700 (Christian Brothers), 1250 (McCallie), 924 (MBA), 862 (MUS)]. In the interest of both physical safety and fair competition, we have elected to stay with our assigned classification for these next two years. We are pleased that we will still be able to choose to schedule games against the larger schools, including some local private schools that we have always played as well as some public schools.

Thank you for your continued support of Harding athletics. May God bless us as we strive to honor Him in all we do.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Starks

\* The enrollment of single-gender schools is adjusted (doubled) for the purposes of classification.

*They shall all be taught of God.  
John 6:45*