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NSIC to sponsor women's swimming & diving as 18th NCAA championship sport *League sponsorship grows to seven as Augustana, Sioux Falls and U-Mary add sport*

Burnsville, Minn. – Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Commissioner Erin Lind announced that women's swimming & diving will be sponsored as the league's 18th championship sport beginning in the 2016-17 academic year. The NSIC sponsored women's swimming and diving during the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years with the aide of affiliated members.

With Augustana College, University of Mary and University of Sioux Falls announcing the addition of women's swimming and diving at each campus, the NSIC now has seven institutions that sponsor the sport, one above the NSIC minimum for recognizing a championship sport. NSIC schools sponsoring women's swimming and diving in 2016-17 will be Augustana College; University of Mary; Minnesota State University, Mankato; Minnesota State University Moorhead; Northern State University; University of Sioux Falls and St. Cloud State University.

"We are proud to bring back women's swimming and diving in the NSIC and are grateful for our institutions that are committed to the sport and student-athletes for the long term," said Lind. "The NSIC saw great success in the classroom and in the pool during the first two years and we are excited to be able to expand on that and showcase all of these outstanding student-athletes."

With the addition of women's swimming and diving, the NSIC can provide a place in the Upper Midwest for student-athletes to compete at the Division II level.

The NSIC currently sponsors the following 17 NCAA Division II Championship Sports: Baseball; Men's Basketball; Women's Basketball; Men's Cross Country; Women's Cross Country; Football; Men's Golf; Women's Golf; Men's Indoor Track & Field; Women's Indoor Track & Field; Men's Outdoor Track & Field; Women's Outdoor Track & Field; Women's Soccer; Softball; Women's Tennis; Women's Volleyball and Wrestling.

#NSICSD