

Big Sky Conference Continues To Grow

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The Big Sky Conference has picked up four new members for the 2012-13 season. Southern Utah University and the University of North Dakota have joined the league as full-time members; Cal Poly and University of Cal-Davis are affiliate-football only members. The Big Sky Conference now has 11 full-time institutions and 13 football-only members. With

these new additions, the Big Sky Conference has become the largest in the Football Championship Subdivision. Each new member announced its intentions to join the Big Sky in 2010. The moves also brought an end to the Great West Football Conference. The University of South Dakota, a member of the Great West, joined the Missouri Valley Conference as an affiliate member in football.

North Dakota competed in the Great West for most sports, while Southern Utah was affiliated with the Summit League. Cal Poly and UC Davis will continue membership in the Big West Conference for most sports. The University of Northern Colorado was the last school to join the Big Sky on July 1, 2006. The University of Montana, which plays at Appalachian State on Saturday, September 8, had ideas of leaving the Big Sky last season to join the Football Bowl Subdivision, but decided against the move.