



ADs Take the Lead!

Division II is a collection of more than 300 NCAA colleges and universities that provide thousands of student-athletes the opportunity to earn athletics scholarships and compete at a high level while excelling in the classroom and fully engaging in the broader campus experience.

As the leader of your athletics department, you have the opportunity to champion Division II in ways that work to your advantage by emphasizing the following to constituents and community members who may not fully understand the benefits of Division II:

Access to scholarships

Division II offers a “partial scholarship” model that allows student-athletes to be rewarded for their skills through athletics-based aid, and then use academic scholarships, student loans and employment earnings to complete their financial aid package.

Students who receive athletics aid tend to bolster an institution’s academic profile and increase ethnic and geographic diversity among new students.

The partial scholarship model offers a cost-effective alternative for institutions to operate their athletics programs by contributing as a revenue producer for the institution, particularly when compared to the alternatives of full scholarships (Division I) or no athletics grants-in-aid (Division III).

Access to NCAA championships

Division II sponsors and fully funds 25 national championships – 12 in men’s sports and 13 in women’s sports. Of the three divisions, Division II provides the highest access ratio to championships competition.

Division II is the only NCAA division that conducts “National Championships Festivals,” Olympic-style events in which a number of national championships are held at a single site over a period of several days.

Academic and career success

Division II’s academic philosophy emphasizes learning and development in a personal setting. Graduation rates indicate the success of that approach, as student-athletes graduate at rates several percentage points (usually 6-9 points) higher than their general student body counterparts (see ncaa.org/about/what-we-do/academics?division=d2 for more about academic success in Division II).

Division II students have an excellent opportunity to be highly skilled and highly decorated athletes, but the division’s “Life in the Balance” approach allows them to become marketable in their career because they’ll have time to focus on their academic pursuits, their grades, their internships, and whatever else it takes to prepare themselves for life after graduation.

For more information about Division II, visit ncaa.org/D2.



Speak Up About Division II!

Here's what your peers are saying about the benefits of Division II. What can you add to the conversation?

*"When I talk to prospects and their families about what they'll experience at our institution, **I emphasize the student aspect.** I talk about the regional focus, the reduced travel and limited missed class time. Our student-athletes have the ability to do both – being a student and an athlete – very well in Division II. In addition, our partial scholarship model gives us an advantage in several sports. In many cases depending upon your university, you can put together a financial aid package that is superior to the equivalency a prospect might receive at a Division I school."*

*"When you talk about the athletics experience in Division II, **reiterate what the potential outcomes are.** At the so-called Division I mid-majors, prospects probably will be competing for conference championships, whereas in Division II, **they'll be contending for national championships.**"*

*"We as Division II leaders are incredible. We do the same amount of work as our counterparts in Division I and are subject to the same kinds of expectations, yet we do all of this typically with fewer resources and staff. **We're in the business of developing young people, and that doesn't change at whatever level you serve – that's our responsibility.** At the end of the day, we're preparing students for life after college."*

*"We're always asked to distinguish Division II from Division I. It doesn't matter whether you're new to the division or you've been in Division II for many years. What we've done at my institution is to **sit down as a staff and determine what our own distinguishing attributes and characteristics are.** I would advise anyone just joining the division to build within your department that uniform culture of communication about what you represent as a Division II institution."*

*"In Division II, you're playing the sport because you love it, and you're not in it for yourself or for proving that you are the superstar. **Everyone is chipping in something to be a part of the team, which makes for strong and often lifelong relationships among Division II student-athletes.**"*

Tip Have you calculated the value of athletics at your institution? If various constituents – either on campus, in the community, or from external parties – question your athletics budget, be able to demonstrate how your program adds value to the institution by bringing in additional students, and in turn, boosting the academic and ethnic composition of your student body.

For more information and resources, visit the "Tools to Tell the DII Story" on the Division II homepage at ncaa.org.