

**Division III Philosophy Statement Survey  
Summary of Findings  
December 16, 2022**

**Introduction**

The Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee distributed a survey to seek membership input on potential changes to the Division III Philosophy Statement (Bylaw 20.11). The questions were designed to solicit views on a draft statement that may be used to shape a possible legislative proposal to amend the Philosophy Statement.

The web-based survey was voluntary, and all responses are confidential. Findings are reported in the aggregate, appropriately grouped with other respondents (e.g., by position title). Item responses were indicated on a six-point scale of strongly agree to strongly disagree.

**Response Rate**

**Overall**

Title	Count	Percent
Assistant/Associate Director of Athletics	76	6.3
Athletics Direct Report	25	2.1
Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Designee	5	0.4
Athletics Health Care Administrator	98	8.1
Coach	583	48.1
Conference Commissioner/Exec. Director	34	2.8
Director of Athletics	194	16.0
Faculty Athletics Representative	62	5.1
President/Chancellor	50	4.1
Senior Compliance Administrator	11	0.9
Senior Woman Administrator	18	1.5
Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Member	24	2.0
Additional	31	2.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>100</b>

**Findings**

**Overarching NCAA Constitutional Principles**

*Should the following principles be part of the Division III Philosophy Statement?*

Principle	Strongly Agree and Agree
1. Division III members shall establish and maintain an environment in which a student-athlete's activities are conducted with the appropriate primary emphasis on the student-athlete's academic experience.	84%
2. Division III intercollegiate athletics shall be conducted in a manner designed to protect, support and enhance the physical and mental health and safety of student-athletes.	95%
3. Division III members shall be committed to the creation of diverse and inclusive environments with respect for and sensitivity to the dignity of every person.	85%
4. Division III athletics shall be conducted in a manner free of gender bias.	80%

## Overarching Division III Principles

*Should the following principles be part of the Division III Philosophy Statement?*

Principle	Strongly Agree and Agree
1. Institutional presidents and chancellors have the ultimate responsibility and final authority for the conduct of Division III intercollegiate athletics at the national, conference and institutional levels.	57%
2. Institutional and conference members determine policy at the national level through the Division III governance and legislative processes.	80%
3. Key constituents who play an integral role in the governance and operation of Division III at the national, conference and institutional levels include student-athletes, presidents and chancellors, athletics direct reports, directors of athletics, senior woman administrators, faculty athletics representatives, coaches, and conference commissioners.	81%

## Student-Athlete Collegiate Experience

*Should the following principles be part of the Division III Philosophy Statement?*

Principle	Strongly Agree and Agree
1. Seek to establish and maintain an environment in which a student-athlete's athletics activities are conducted as an integral part of their educational experience with a focus on intercollegiate athletics as primarily an undergraduate experience.	73%
2. Assure that student-athletes are supported in their efforts to meaningfully participate in nonathletic pursuits to enhance their overall educational experience.	80%

## Student-Athlete Athletics Experience

*Should the following principles be part of the Division III Philosophy Statement?*

Principle	Strongly Agree and Agree
1. Support student-athletes in their efforts to reach the highest levels of athletics performance, with a primary emphasis on regional, in-season competition, and may include opportunities for participation in conference and national championships.	80%
2. Place special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators, and place greater emphasis on the internal constituency (e.g., students, alumni, institutional personnel) than on the general public and its entertainment needs.	79%
3. Encourage the development of sportsmanship in all constituents, including student-athletes, coaches, administrative personnel and spectators.	94%

## Member Responsibility and Oversight

*Should the following principles be part of the Division III Philosophy Statement?*

Principle	Strongly Agree and Agree
1. Encourage participation by providing a broad-based athletics program.	69%
2. Provide equitable opportunities with support for gender and ethnic/racial diversity.	87%
3. The athletics program should support the institution's educational mission by financing, staffing and controlling the athletics program through the same general procedures as other departments of the institution.	64%
4. The administration of an institution's athletics program (e.g., hiring, compensation, professional development, certification of coaches) should be integrated into the campus culture and educational mission.	82%
5. Assure all teams are provided with adequate facilities, competent coaching and appropriate competitive opportunities.	92%
6. Assure student-athletes are considered members of the student-body in the areas of admissions, enrollment, student financial aid, academic and career support, and degree completion.	95%
7. Assure alignment with the initial and progress towards degree standards, and academic performance of other students at the institution.	95%