2025 Division II Membership Survey

Comprehensive Findings, May 2025

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Methods

- Division II governance collaborated with NCAA Research to gather feedback from Division II presidents and chancellors, athletics directors, athletic trainers, commissioners, conference staff, and other athletics staff about the current state and future of Division II.

- Individuals at all active Division II institutions and those in the membership process (304 institutions) were invited to complete the online survey via a Salesforce email invitation. Those as schools transitioning out of Division II were not invited to complete the survey.

- The survey was designed using Qualtrics survey software and took 30-60 minutes to complete. It opened January 22 and closed February 21. Due to a lower than desired response rate among presidents and chancellors, the survey reopened for that group of individuals and closed March 7, 2025.

Overall Responses

- N = 2,234

- Individuals from 302 (99%) institutions and conference staff representing 23 (100%) conferences responded.

Institutional Characteristics

	Division II	Survey Respondents
Public/Private	**50 % / 50%**	**46% / 54%**
HBCU/Non-HBCU	**10% / 90%**	**5% / 95%**
MFB/No Football	**54% / 46%**	**55% / 45%**
Midwest	**22%**	**25%**
Northeast	**17%**	**17%**
South	**45%**	**44%**
West	**16%**	**14%**

Midwest: IL, IN, MI, OH, WI, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD
Northeast: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT, DE, DC, MD, NJ, NY, PA
South: AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV, AZ, NM, OK, TX
West: CO, ID, MT, UT, WY, AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA

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Responses by Key Analysis Groups

Title	N
President/Chancellor	106
Director of Athletics	230
Conference Staff	61
Athletic Trainer*	179
Coach**	1,003
FAR	96
Other Athletics Administrator	480

*Athletic Trainer: 152 head, 27 assistant/associate
**Coach: 953 head, 44 assistant, (6 indicated being both a head and assistant coach)

Note: Responses from those outside the above roles were collected and categorized as Other, please specify (N=56) or Higher Education Administrators (N=23; e.g., Chief Financial Officer, Chief Academic Officer) but were not included in final data reporting as they were unable to view role-specific survey items.

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Responses by Other Athletics Admin

Title	N
Compliance Coordinator/Officer	185
Associate Director of Athletics	174
Assistant Director of Athletics	145
Athletics Health Care Administrator	113
SID/Athletics Communications Director	75
Academic Advisor/Counselor	36
Business Manager	25
Life Skills Coordinator	18

Title	N
Ticket Manager	17
Assistant or Associate SID	16
Promotions/Marketing Manager	15
Fundraiser/Development Manager	10
Facility Manager	10
Strength Coach	8
Graduate Assistant	5
Equipment Manager	2

Note: Individuals who indicated multiple roles are included in each category selected.

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Responses by Conference

Conference	N
California Collegiate Athletic Association	66
Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference	99
Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association	46
Conference Carolinas	138
East Coast Conference	47
Great American Conference	91
Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	77
Great Lakes Valley Conference	128
Great Midwest Athletic Conference	133
Great Northwest Athletic Conference	78
Gulf South Conference	105
Independent	5

Conference	N
Lone Star Conference	130
Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association	144
Mountain East Conference	67
Northeast-10 Conference	117
Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference	113
Pacific West Conference	97
Peach Belt Conference	83
Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference	93
Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference	104
South Atlantic Conference	105
Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	58
Sunshine State Conference	91

Note: Includes responses from conference-office staff.

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President/Chancellor Responses

Individual Characteristics

	Division II ('23-24)	Responses
Male / Female	72% / 28%	63% / 38%
White / BIPOC	77% / 23%	86% / 14%

Institutional Characteristics

	Division II	Responses (N=106)
Public/Private	50 % / 50%	52% / 48%
HBCU/Non-HBCU	10% / 90%	7% / 93%
MFB/No Football	54% / 46%	58% / 42%
Midwest	22%	27%
Northeast	17%	10%
South	45%	48%
West	16%	16%

Note: President/chancellor response for gender (N=96) and race (N=95) items. BIPOC refers to Black, Indigenous and people of color.

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Director of Athletics Responses

Individual Characteristics

	Division II ('23-24)	Responses
Male / Female	75% / 25%	73% / 27%
White / BIPOC	82% / 18%	85% / 15%

Institutional Characteristics

	Division II	Responses (N=230)
Public/Private	50 % / 50%	52% / 48%
HBCU/Non-HBCU	10% / 90%	7% / 93%
MFB/No Football	54% / 46%	54% / 46%
Midwest	22%	24%
Northeast	17%	18%
South	45%	43%
West	16%	16%

Note: AD response for gender (N=202) and race (N=201) items. BIPOC refers to Black, Indigenous and people of color.

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Head Athletic Trainer Responses

Individual Characteristics

	Division II ('23-24)	Responses
Male / Female	57% / 43%	58% / 42%
White / BIPOC	86% / 14%	88% / 12%

Institutional Characteristics

	Division II	Responses (N=152)
Public/Private	50 % / 50%	48% / 52%
HBCU/Non-HBCU	10% / 90%	9% / 91%
MFB/No Football	54% / 46%	57% / 43%
Midwest	22%	25%
Northeast	17%	18%
South	45%	41%
West	16%	17%

Note: Head athletic trainer response for gender (N=133) and race (N=134) items. BIPOC refers to Black, Indigenous and people of color.

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FAR Responses

Individual Characteristics

	Division II ('23-24)	Responses
Male / Female	67% / 33%	70% / 30%
White / BIPOC	85% / 15%	90% / 10%

Institutional Characteristics

	Division II	Responses (N=96)
Public/Private	50 % / 50%	52% / 48%
HBCU/Non-HBCU	10% / 90%	2% / 98%
MFB/No Football	54% / 46%	52% / 48%
Midwest	22%	23%
Northeast	17%	16%
South	45%	48%
West	16%	13%

Note: FAR response for gender (N=79) and race (N=80) items.

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Head Coach Responses

Individual Characteristics

	Division II ('23-24)	Responses
Male / Female	78% / 22%	71% / 29%
White / BIPOC	78% / 22%	83% / 17%

Institutional Characteristics

	Division II	Responses (N=959)
Public/Private	50 % / 50%	44% / 56%
HBCU/Non-HBCU	10% / 90%	4% / 96%
MFB/No Football	54% / 46%	55% / 45%
Midwest	22%	27%
Northeast	17%	17%
South	45%	42%
West	16%	14%

Note: Head coach response for gender (N=782) and race (N=770) items. BIPOC refers to Black, Indigenous and people of color.

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Demographics

What sport do you coach?

Sport	N
Women's Volleyball	112
Women's Outdoor Track	92
Women's Cross Country	89
Women's Indoor Track	85
Women's Soccer	80
Men's Cross Country	79
Softball	77
Baseball	76
Football	76
Women's Basketball	76
Men's Basketball	72
Men's Outdoor Track	71

Sport	N
Men's Indoor Track	65
Men's Soccer	61
Men's Golf	57
Women's Golf	51
Women's Tennis	43
Women's Swim & Dive	36
Men's Lacrosse	33
Women's Lacrosse	32
Men's Swim & Dive	31
Men's Tennis	30
Men's Wrestling	21
Field Hockey	15

Note: Head coach and assistant coach responses only.

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What sport do you coach?

Sport	N
Men's Volleyball	13
Women's Wrestling	12
Mixed Outdoor Track	9
Mixed Indoor Track	8
Women's Bowling	8
Women's Acro & Tumbling	7
Women's Beach Volleyball	7
Women's Stunt	6
Women's Rowing	4
Women's Triathlon	4
Women's Gymnastics	3

Sport	N
Men's Water Polo	2
Mixed Cross Country	2
Women's Flag Football	2
Women's Polo	2
Men's Ice Hockey	1
Men's Skiing	1
Mixed Golf	1
Women's Rugby	1
Women's Skiing	1
Women's Water Polo	1

Note: Head coach and assistant coach responses only.

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What is the area in which you work the most?

Area	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Business	5%	0%	1%	2%	6%	7%
Coaching	1%	0%	97%	0%	9%	0%
Compliance	<1%	0%	<1%	8%	41%	17%
Development	1%	0%	<1%	0%	1%	2%
Equipment	0%	0%	<1%	0%	0%	0%
Facilities/operations	0%	0%	<1%	0%	3%	2%
General athletics administration	91%	1%	<1%	9%	15%	38%
Marketing/promotions	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Outside athletics	0%	0%	<1%	62%	1%	0%
Sports info./athletics comms.	0%	0%	<1%	0%	18%	20%
Training/medical	0%	96%	0%	0%	4%	0%
Other, please specify	1%	3%	1%	19%	3%	15%

Note: Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated areas of administration, conference management / operations, championships, athletic training and sports medicine, etc.

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Is your position considered full-time?

	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Yes	100%	99%	95%	58%	98%	100%

Indicate the percentage of time you spend on …
(Mean Percentages for Each Category)

	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Administrative	88%	35%	35%	40%	76%	84%
Coaching	2%	1%	48%	0%	7%	0%
Other	10%	63%	16%	60%	18%	16%

Green indicates an increase of 10 percentage points or more from 2018.

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Percentage of time spent on <u>coaching</u>

	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)
0%	92%	96%	0%	86%
1-25%	4%	1%	18%	3%
26-50%	3%	1%	48%	6%
More than 50%	<1%	2%	34%	6%

Note: Only included breakdown for roles that indicated time spent coaching.

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How many years have you worked at <u>any</u> Division II institution or conference?

	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
< 1 year	<1%	1%	2%	3%	1%	0%
1-5 yrs.	2%	29%	36%	20%	32%	17%
6-10 yrs.	8%	21%	22%	20%	23%	25%
11-15 yrs.	11%	21%	16%	7%	17%	18%
16-20 yrs.	15%	12%	11%	17%	14%	15%
21 or more yrs.	65%	16%	14%	32%	14%	25%
Median (yrs.)	14	10	8	15	10	12

Orange indicates a decrease of 10 percentage points or more from 2018.

Green indicates an increase of 10 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors.

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How many years have you worked in college sports?

	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
< 1 year	<1%	0%	<1%	1%	<1%	0%
1-5 yrs.	2%	17%	16%	33%	22%	3%
6-10 yrs.	8%	21%	20%	23%	20%	15%
11-15 yrs.	11%	21%	17%	16%	16%	18%
16-20 yrs.	15%	11%	17%	11%	18%	17%
21 or more yrs.	65%	31%	30%	17%	25%	47%
Median (yrs.)	25	14	15	10	14	20

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors.

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Division II Philosophy

Key Findings

- While presidents and chancellors, conference staff, ADs and other athletics administrators rated membership/conference stability as a valuable characteristic, athletic trainers and FARs rated community engagement as most valuable. Coaches indicated grants/scholarships as most important.

- Championship enhancements, revenue distribution to schools and championships *per diem* were rated as the highest priorities for future allocations by presidents and chancellors and ADs.

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Position on Institutional Alignment with Division II Philosophy
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

My institution...	Pres./ Chanc. (N=106)	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Fosters a balanced approach to academic pursuits, civic engagement and athletics competition	99%	97%	83%	91%	92%	88%	78%
Establishes an inclusive culture that individuals of all backgrounds are respected and given the opportunity to participate	95%	88%	88%	90%	92%	84%	72%
Operates the athletics program with integrity and complies with NCAA rules and regulations	100%	100%	83%	94%	97%	93%	77%
Supports the institution's educational mission through institutional control and presidential involvement and oversight	100%	98%	75%	84%	91%	85%	78%
Funds the athletics program that aligns with institution's budget and educational mission	92%	64%	48%	47%	60%	48%	55%

Note: *Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.* The survey prompt read: *Indicate your level of agreement with the following statement of the Division II Philosophy Statement (Bylaw 7.1.2) as they relate to <u>your institution:</u>*

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Position on Institutional Alignment with Division II Philosophy
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

My institution...	Pres./ Chanc. (N=106)	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Integrates athletics into the college experience and allows students to pursue academic pursuits and other campus / community activities	100%	95%	66%	85%	91%	80%	68%
Supports sportsmanship by establishing energetic and respectful game environments for athletics contests	100%	96%	85%	91%	96%	88%	68%
Promotes student-athlete involvement in decision-making	85%	73%	53%	74%	72%	62%	49%
Provides student-athlete leadership opportunities and offers student-athletes a representative voice in the athletics department	95%	87%	70%	82%	87%	73%	59%

Note: *Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option. The survey prompt read: Indicate your level of agreement with the following statement of the Division II Philosophy Statement (Bylaw 7.1.2) as they relate to* **your institution:**

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Most Valuable Characteristics to Division II Members

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=106)	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Membership / conference stability	76%	75%	67%	62%	66%	64%	83%
Grants and scholarships	56%	41%	55%	77%	53%	60%	25%
Community Engagement	53%	42%	73%	59%	69%	56%	25%
Revenue distribution	52%	48%	30%	27%	28%	39%	58%
Conference Strategic Priorities Fund	39%	32%	41%	35%	33%	33%	65%
Partial-scholarship model	35%	45%	15%	28%	38%	32%	32%
Number of participation opportunities in NCAA national championships	32%	53%	24%	49%	21%	39%	63%
Regionalization philosophy for regular-season scheduling	32%	36%	28%	27%	22%	29%	26%
Strategic positioning platform (Life in the Balance; Make It Yours)	25%	29%	29%	19%	49%	29%	16%

Note: Percentages represent frequency of top-5 placement by respondents in the respective category.
Characteristic listed in top 5 most often for group in dark blue. Prompt: As a member of DII, please rank the following characteristics in order of most to least value to you.

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Most Valuable Characteristics to Division II Members

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=106)	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
"One school, one vote" model for convention voting	22%	31%	13%	8%	28%	16%	37%
Regionalization philosophy for championship selections	19%	25%	13%	24%	12%	19%	32%
Professional development opportunities	19%	13%	37%	20%	20%	24%	11%
Diversity of the Division II membership	17%	17%	44%	30%	38%	27%	11%
Regular-season and postseason media opportunities	14%	7%	6%	16%	8%	17%	12%
National championship festivals	8%	4%	6%	11%	6%	5%	0%
Partnership with the Make-A-Wish foundation	1%	1%	12%	6%	5%	7%	2%
Partnership with Team IMPACT	0%	1%	9%	3%	4%	5%	5%

Note: Percentages represent frequency of top-5 ranking by respondents in the respective category.
Prompt: As a member of DII, please rank the following characteristics in order of most to least value to you.

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Highest Priority for Future Allocations

NEW QUESTION

	AD (N=230)	Pres./Chanc. (N=106)
Championships enhancements	81%	54%
Revenue distribution to schools	71%	79%
Championships per diem	71%	43%
Student-athlete programming	52%	49%
Revenue distribution to conferences	50%	65%
Branding /marketing	40%	55%
Grants for athletic training	41%	53%
Mental health / wellness initiatives	45%	50%
Grants for athletic communications	23%	28%
Officiating initiatives	20%	24%

Note: Presidents/Chancellors and AD responses only.
Priority listed in top 5 for 60% or more of group respondents in dark blue.
Prompt: Please rank the following areas in order of highest priority for future allocations:

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Athletics Operations

Key Findings

- While across the key response groups the majority of respondents indicate they are concerned about the current state of college sports, there is less consensus regarding concern for the current status of Division II.

- Athletic training is considered to have insufficient staffing and operating budget across respondent roles.

- The majority of respondents believe weekly student-athlete participation in athletically related activities is just right.

- ADs and presidents and chancellors rated athletic training and mental health/wellness as the areas that would most benefit from additional NCAA grants or funding.

Athletics Director: To whom do you directly report?

	AD (N=218)
President / Chancellor	**76%**
Provost / Other VP	**10%**
Chief Student-Affairs Officer	**8%**
Other, please specify	**4%**
Chief Financial Officer	**1%**
VP / Director of Communications / Univ. Relations	**1%**
Chief Academic Officer	**0%**

Green indicates an increase of 10 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: AD responses only. Those who selected 'Other please specify' indicated reporting to a vice president role (vice president of athletics or advancement, executive vice president, etc.) or a head athletic director.

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Athletics Director: To whom do you indirectly report or report via a 'dotted line'?

	AD (N=205)
Other, please specify	**58%**
President / Chancellor	**27%**
Chief Financial Officer	**7%**
Provost / Other VP	**6%**
Chief Student-Affairs Officer	**3%**
VP / Director of Communications/Univ. Relations	**1%**
Chief Academic Officer	**0%**

Orange indicates a decrease of 10 percentage points or more from 2018.

Green indicates an increase of 10 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: AD responses only. Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated also reporting to a chief executive officer, chief of staff or senior vice president.

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Athletics Director: Are you a member of the president/chancellor's senior leadership team (e.g., cabinet)?

Yes — No

	Yes	No
2024	71%	30%
2018	52%	48%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Note: AD responses only (N=217)

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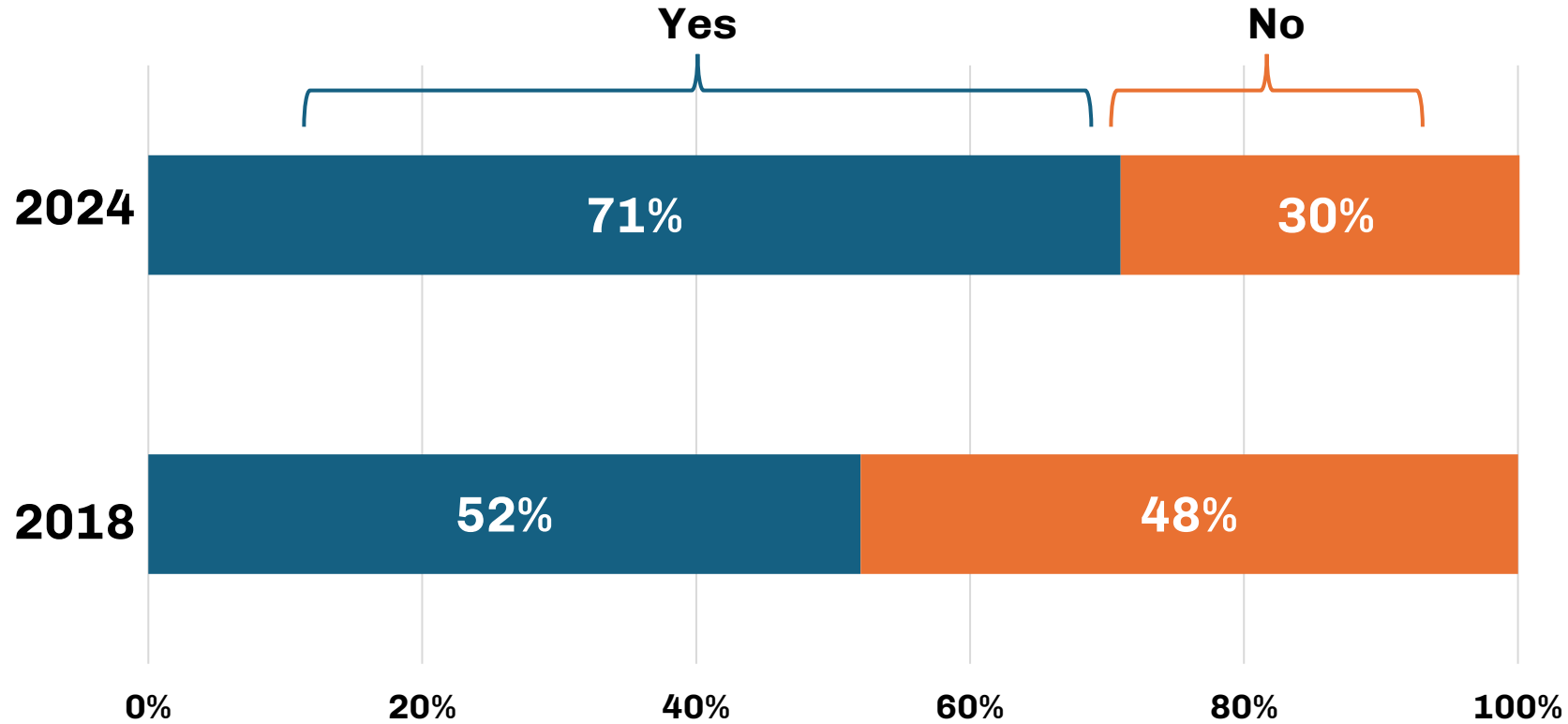
Athletics Directors: Athletics Department Staffing
Staff members by category

	Full-Time		Part-Time		Volunteer	GA/Intern
	Exempt	Non-Exempt	Exempt	Non-Exempt		
Mean	31	3	8	8	8	10
Median	30	2	5	2	5	8

Note: AD responses only (N=217)

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Football vs. Non-Football Athletics Department Staffing
Staff members by category

Football Sponsoring Institutions

|	Full-Time		Part-Time		Volunteer	GA/Intern
	Exempt	Non-Exempt	Exempt	Non-Exempt		
Mean	36	3	8	6	6	11
Median	35	2	7	2	5	10

Non-Football Sponsoring Institutions

	Full-Time		Part-Time		Volunteer	GA/Intern
	Exempt	Non-Exempt	Exempt	Non-Exempt		
Mean	27	4	8	9	9	8
Median	26	2	4	3	8	5

Note: AD responses only (N=203)

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Athletics Director: Does your institution have a written and documented strategic plan for the athletics program?

Unsure

No

Yes

4%

27%

69%
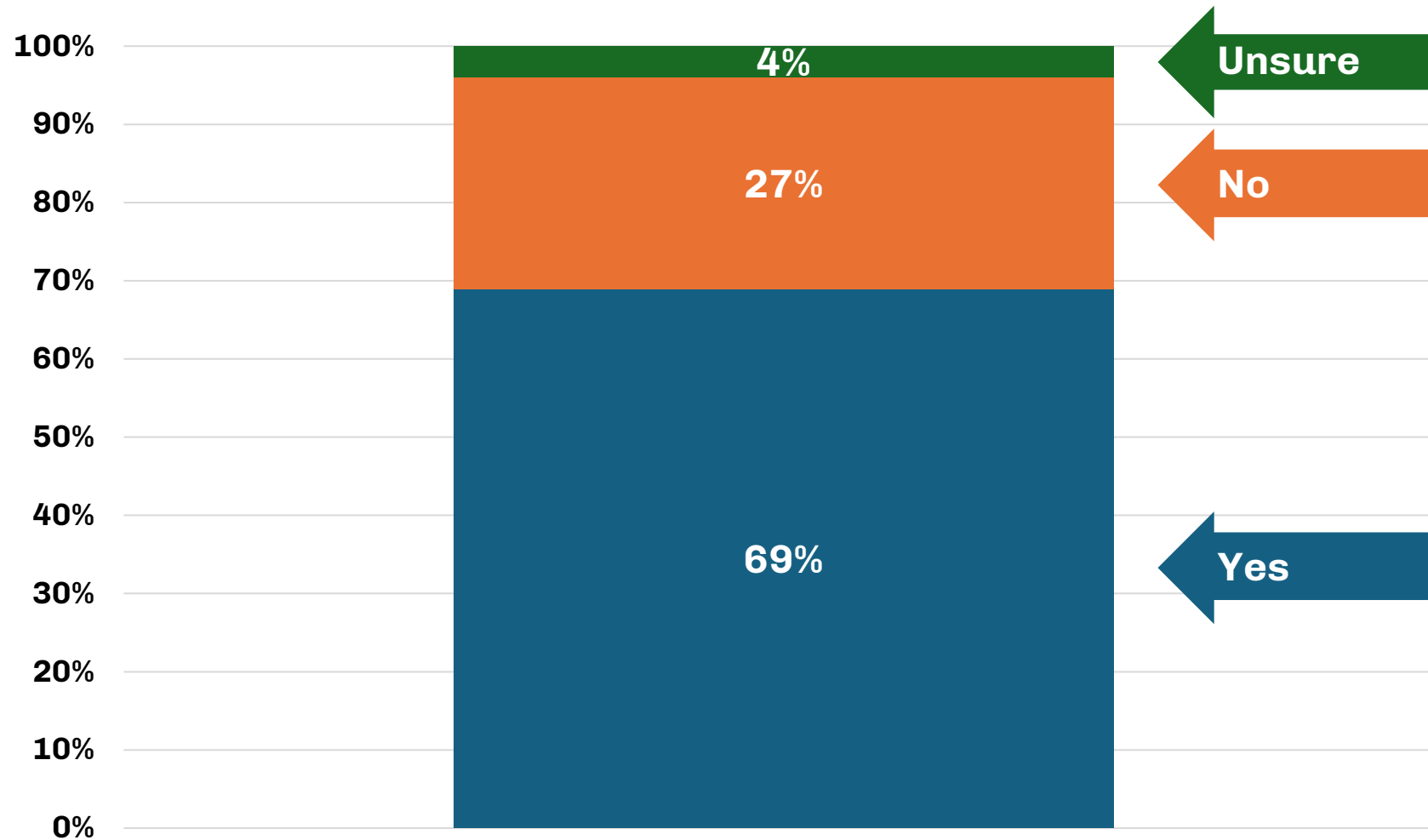
Note: AD responses only (N=218).

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Position on Division II
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=106)	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
The current status of college sports concerns me.	86%	92%	68%	77%	79%	79%	88%
The current status of DII concerns me.	55%	51%	48%	55%	43%	54%	47%
DI, DII and DIII are named appropriately.	36%	38%	60%	59%	48%	54%	38%
DII should explore a name change that better reflects its values, philosophy and model of college sports.	43%	32%	8%	13%	25%	18%	24%
DII should explore a name change regardless of whether DI and DIII consider changing their names.	35%	20%	7%	11%	20%	14%	16%

Light green indicates an increase of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark green indicates an increase of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

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My school has allocated a sufficient <u>operating budget</u> to allow for the effective operation of the:
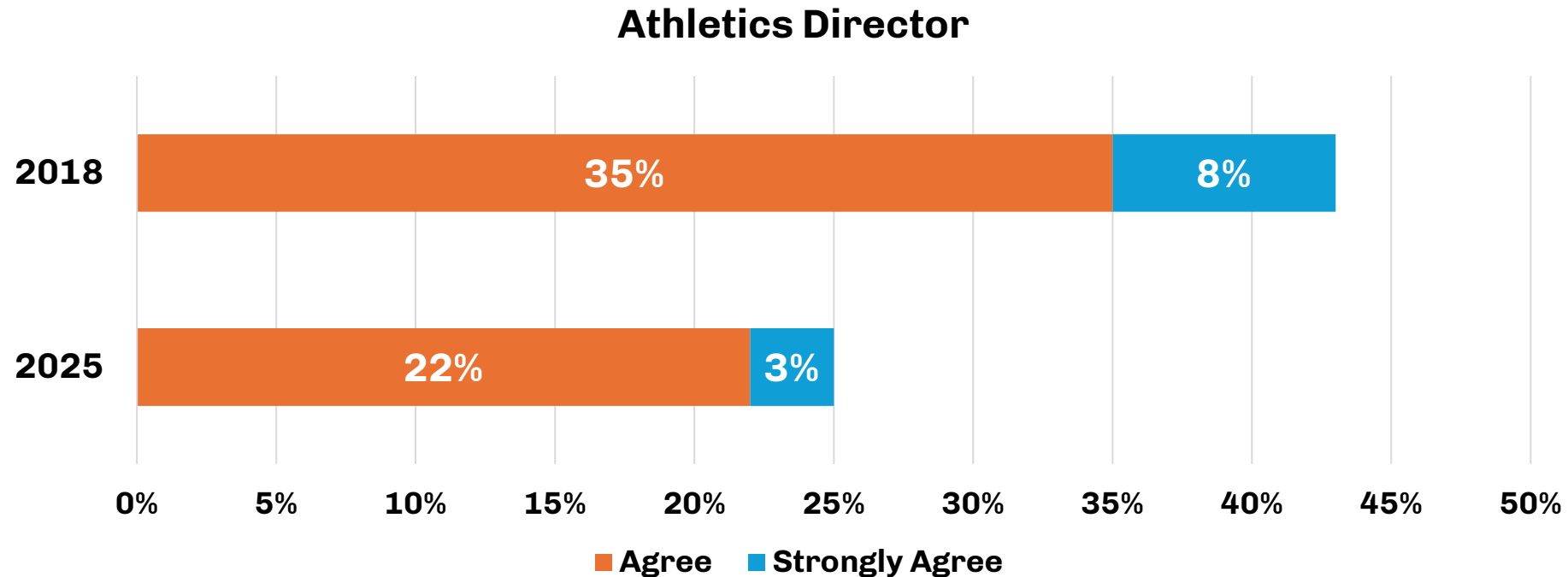### (Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Athletics Compliance	45%	27%	54%	54%	40%	39%
Athletic Training	35%	19%	36%	35%	29%	11%
Athletic Academic Support	29%	22%	37%	34%	27%	23%
Athletic Communications	29%	22%	36%	36%	30%	30%
Overall Athletics Department	25%	24%	29%	40%	27%	33%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors.

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My school has allocated a sufficient <u>operating budget</u> to allow for the effective operation of the overall athletics department:

Athletics Director

2018 — Agree: 35%, Strongly Agree: 8%

2025 — Agree: 22%, Strongly Agree: 3%

| 0% | 5% | 10% | 15% | 20% | 25% | 30% | 35% | 40% | 45% | 50% |

■ Agree   ■ Strongly Agree

*Note: The following bolded words appeared in the 2025 but not the 2018 version of the item: My school has allocated a sufficient **operating** budget to allow for the effective operation of the **overall** athletics department.*

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My school has allocated a sufficient <u>operating budget</u> to allow for the effective operation of athletics compliance:

Athletics Director

2018
48% | 18%

2025
33% | 12%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70%

■ Agree ■ Strongly Agree
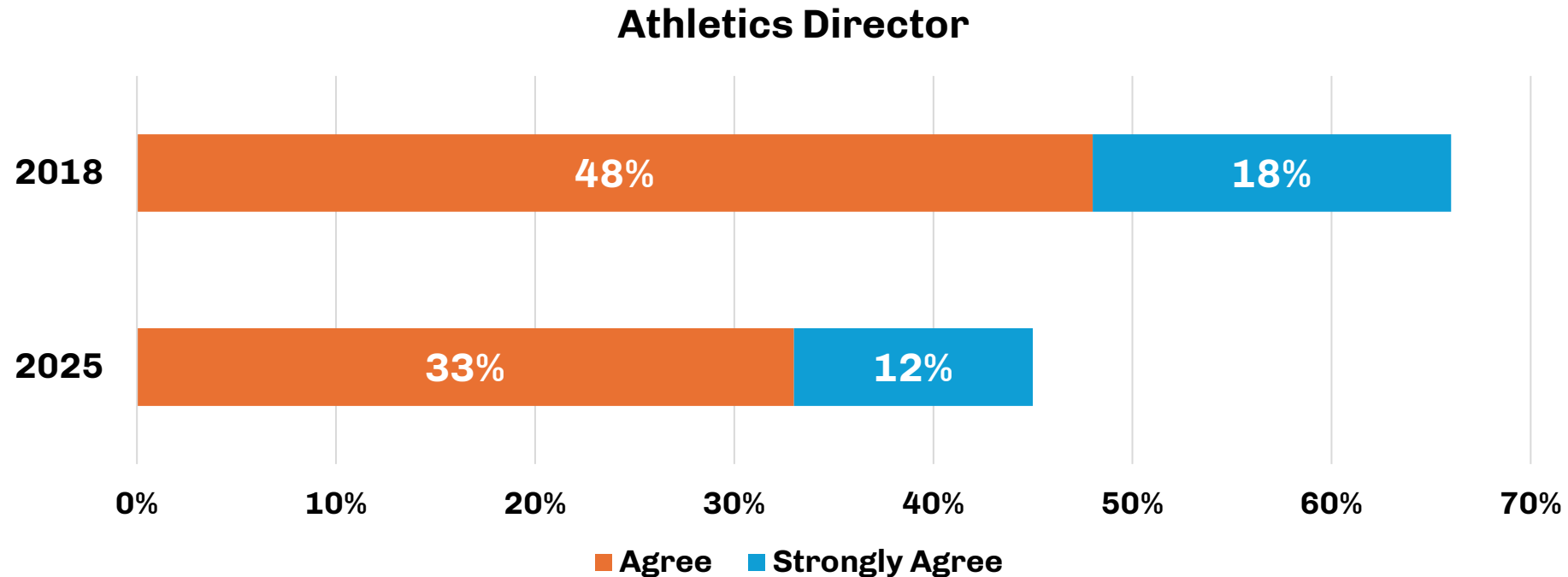
*Note: The following bolded word appeared in the 2025 but not the 2018 version of the item: My school has allocated a sufficient **operating** budget to allow for the effective operation of athletics compliance.*

NCAA RESEARCH

My school has allocated a sufficient <u>staffing</u> to allow for the effective operation of the:
## (Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

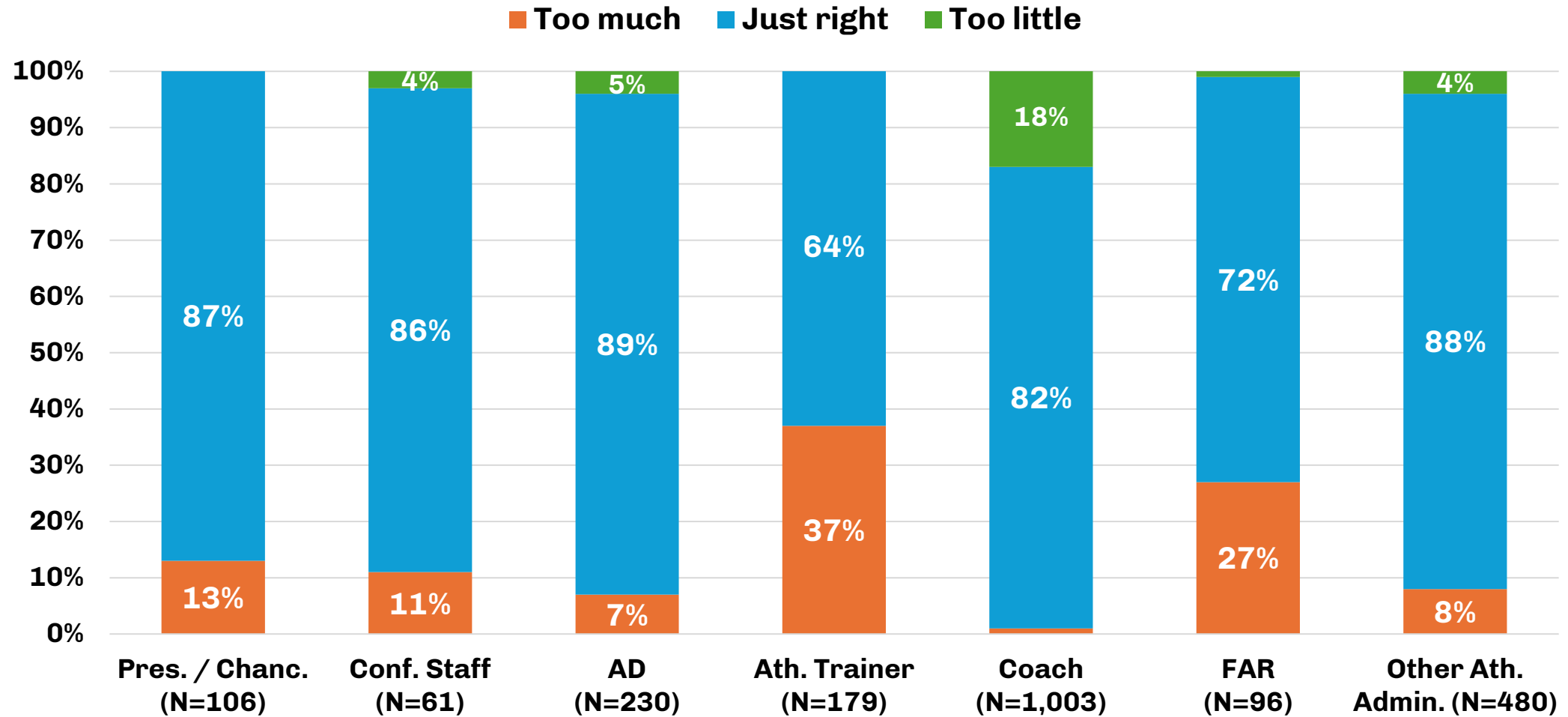|	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Athletics Compliance	40%	17%	49%	48%	35%	35%
Athletic Training	36%	7%	33%	29%	28%	7%
Athletic Communications	28%	19%	33%	39%	25%	28%
Overall Athletics Department	26%	20%	30%	37%	24%	23%
Athletic Academic Support	25%	14%	32%	26%	23%	16%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors.

NCAA RESEARCH

My school has allocated a sufficient <u>staffing</u> to allow for the effective operation of athletics compliance:

Athletics Director

	Agree	Strongly Agree
2018	42%	14%
2025	29%	11%
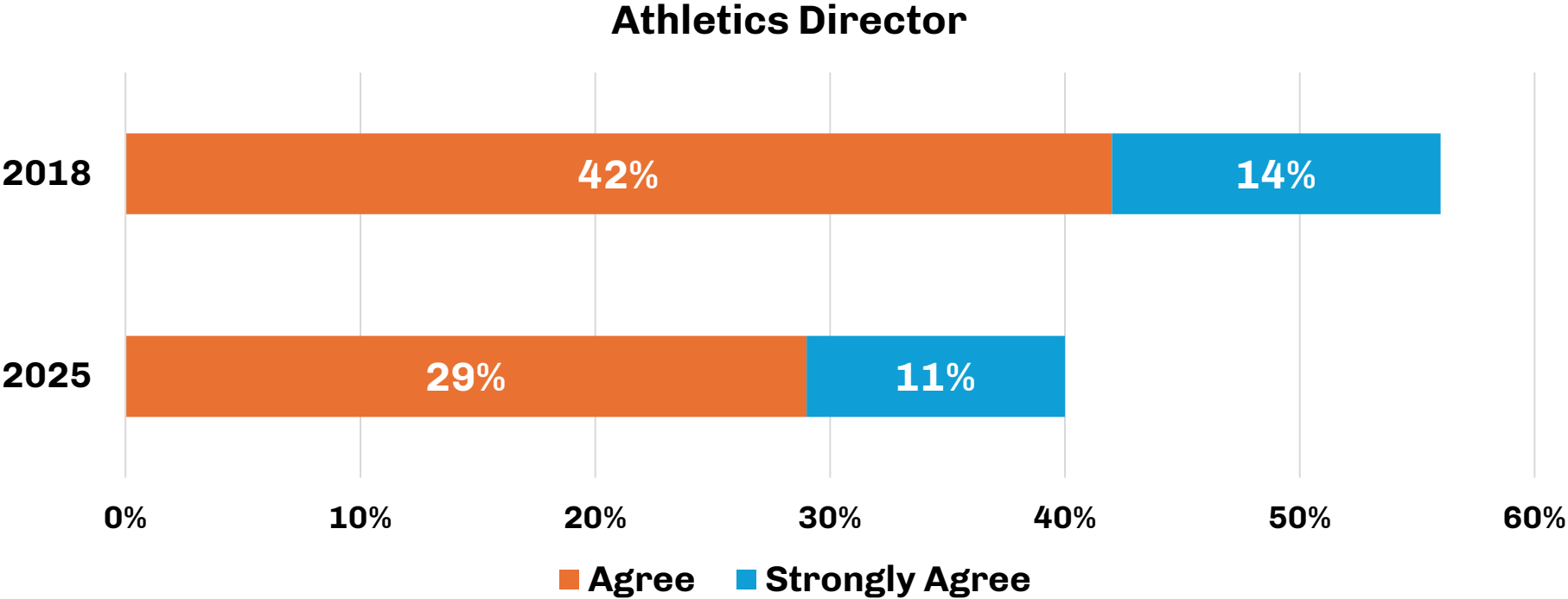
In general, student-athlete participation in athletically related activities (e.g., practice, competition) each week is:

Legend: ■ Too much ■ Just right ■ Too little

Role	Too much	Just right	Too little
Pres. / Chanc. (N=106)	13%	87%	
Conf. Staff (N=61)	11%	86%	4%
AD (N=230)	7%	89%	5%
Ath. Trainer (N=179)	37%	64%	
Coach (N=1,003)		82%	18%
FAR (N=96)	27%	72%	
Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	8%	88%	4%

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: How best do your <u>student-athletes</u> learn on campus related to the following areas:

	In-person training/ Speaker	Webinars/ Online Modules	Workshops	Informational Documents/ Brochures/ Written Materials	Train the Trainer
NCAA Rules Education	70%	18%	6%	5%	1%
Mental Health/Wellness	61%	17%	12%	7%	3%
Sports Wagering	53%	21%	6%	19%	1%
Nutrition	52%	11%	13%	19%	4%
Alcohol/Drug Prevention	51%	23%	8%	15%	3%
Social Media Use	43%	18%	19%	17%	3%
Resume/Interview Skills	41%	8%	38%	11%	2%
Financial Literacy	36%	21%	25%	15%	2%

Note: AD responses only (N=209)

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: How best do your <u>administrators and coaches</u> learn on campus related to the following areas:

	In-person training/ Speaker	Webinars/ Online Modules	Workshops	Informational Documents/ Brochures/ Written Materials	Train the Trainer
NCAA Rules Education	66%	23%	8%	2%	1%
Mental Health/Wellness	63%	18%	13%	5%	1%
Sports Wagering	49%	25%	7%	17%	2%
Alcohol/Drug Prevention	48%	27%	11%	12%	2%
Social Media Use	44%	24%	13%	17%	2%
Nutrition	40%	21%	16%	19%	4%
Financial Literacy	30%	28%	18%	22%	2%
Resume/Interview Skills	29%	18%	25%	25%	4%

Note: AD responses only (N=210)

NCAA RESEARCH

Position on Athletics Department
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	AD (N=230)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Our department culture encourages SAs to disclose mental wellness concerns without fear of consequences or judgment.	84%	58%	83%	63%	64%	35%
Our coaches and non-clinical staff understand it is not their role to diagnose or resolve issues regarding SA mental wellness.	88%	51%	83%	65%	72%	29%
Our coaches and staff know where to direct SAs to mental health support.	97%	70%	90%	80%	83%	33%
Our campus has adequate resources to effectively manage SA mental wellness.	54%	29%	63%	52%	53%	17%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree).

NCAA RESEARCH

Indicate how beneficial it would be for your school if the NCAA provided grants or funding for the following areas:
(Percentage responding "Beneficial" or "Extremely Beneficial")

NEW QUESTION

	Pres./Chan. (N=106)	AD (N=230)
Athletic Training	92%	84%
Mental Health / Wellness	80%	84%
Life Skills / Professional Development	69%	68%
Financial Literacy	67%	60%
Academic Counseling	66%	65%
Degree Completion	62%	61%

Note: Presidents/chancellors and AD responses only. Responses on a 6-point scale (extremely beneficial to extremely unbeneficial).

NCAA RESEARCH

NEW QUESTION

Indicate how beneficial it would be for your school if the NCAA provided grants or funding for the following areas:
(Percentage responding "Beneficial" or "Extremely Beneficial")

	Pres./Chan. (N=106)	AD (N=230)
Officiating	62%	46%
Alcohol and Drug Prevention	50%	52%
Branding	52%	47%
Career Counseling / Development	57%	57%
NCAA Rules Education	49%	48%
Sports Wagering	46%	47%

Note: Presidents/chancellors and AD responses only. Responses on a 6-point scale (extremely beneficial to extremely unbeneficial).

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Healthcare on Campus

RESEARCH

Key Findings

- Nearly 40% of athletic trainers report they are "always" or "frequently" consulted on legislative and/or policy changes, while fewer than 10% indicate they are "always" or "frequently" consulted about the scheduling of practices and competitions.

- About 20% of ADs and athletic trainers believe the trainer to athlete ratio is appropriate on their campus.

- Salary and working 40 or more hours and on weekends were the top cited reasons for athletic trainer departures from schools.

- Athletic trainers rated salary and staff culture as the most important variables when searching for their current position.

- 50% of athletic trainers report receiving less than 24-hours notice for changes to practice and competition.

Who has the autonomous, unchallengeable authority to make medical decisions on your campus?
(Select all that apply.)

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)	AD (N=216)
Head Athletic Trainer / Director of Sports Medicine	91%	84%
Team Physician	86%	75%
Assistant Athletic Trainer	72%	48%
Other, please specify	5%	1%
Director of Athletics	4%	7%
Head Coach	1%	0%

Note: Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated campus medical oversight, assistant AD for sports medicine, or all athletic trainers (including associate) as also having autonomous, unchallengeable authority to make medical decisions on campus.

Who on your campus has the authority over athletic training room hours?
(Select all that apply.)

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)	AD (N=216)
Head Athletic Trainer / Director of Sports Medicine	98%	95%
Assistant Athletic Trainer	37%	13%
Director of Athletics	19%	31%
Other, please specify	8%	3%
Head Coach	3%	<1%
Team Physician	2%	7%

Note: Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated associate AD, associate athletic trainer, management roles such as associate vice president, vice president of athletics or provost.

NCAA RESEARCH

Consultation with Athletic Trainer on Key Issues

	Scheduling practices and competition		Legislative / policy changes considered by the NCAA / conference	
	Athletic Trainer	AD	Athletic Trainer	AD
Yes, always	1%	24%	9%	53%
Yes, frequently	8%	44%	28%	36%
Sometimes	28%	26%	36%	9%
Rarely	37%	6%	18%	1%
Never	25%	1%	10%	0%

Note: Athletic Trainer N=169; AD N=216

Scheduling prompt: Does the person responsible for scheduling practices consult with the head athletic trainer (for ATs, are you consulted) about the scheduling of student-athlete practices and competition?
Legislative prompt: Do you consult with the head athletic trainer (for ATs, are you consulted) on legislative and/or policy changes considered by the NCAA and/or your conference?

NCAA RESEARCH

On average, how many student-athletes is each full-time trainer on your staff responsible for with regards to their health care?

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)	AD (N=216)
1-25	0%	1%
26-50	7%	13%
51-75	21%	26%
76-100	37%	37%
More than 100	35%	23%

Opinion on Athletic Trainer Model and Ratio
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)	AD (N=216)
I feel our trainer to athlete ratio is appropriate.*	**20%**	**23%**
I feel that the student-athlete healthcare model on my campus is appropriate.	**34%**	**40%**

Note: Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree). *There was typo in the version of the question that appeared for athletic trainers (i.e., I feel our student to athlete ratio is appropriate). Some respondents pointed out the error in their open responses and indicated they interpreted the intended question to read as 'I feel our trainer to student-athlete ratio is appropriate.

Reasons for Athletic Trainer Departure
(Select all that apply.)

	Athletic Trainer (N=158)	AD (N=213)
Salary	72%	73%
Working 40+ hours and weekends	65%	70%
Staffing Volume	48%	37%
Career change within athletic training	46%	37%
Value and support from admin., coaches & co-workers	33%	5%
Career change outside of athletic training profession	30%	41%

	Athletic Trainer (N=158)	AD (N=213)
Location	21%	19%
Spouse or significant other professional job change	21%	8%
Professional advancement opportunity	19%	25%
Benefits or benefit package	11%	15%
Other, please specify	9%	7%
COVID-19 staffing/benefit changes	6%	2%

Note: Question specific to those who separated from "your institution" within the last three years. Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated retirement, work life balance, poor leadership or culture in department as additional reasons.

NCAA RESEARCH

How many open athletic trainer positions are there currently at your institution?

	Athletic Trainer (N=168)	AD (N=213)
0	57%	41%
1	21%	26%
2	11%	10%
3	4%	6%
4	1%	7%
5 or more	7%	10%
Median	0	1

Note: The maximum number of open positions indicated was 11.

NCAA RESEARCH

How many open athletic trainer positions has your institution had in the last three years?

	AD (N=213)
0	4%
1	16%
2	22%
3	23%
4	19%
5 or more	16%
Mean	3
Median	3

Note: The maximum number of open positions indicated was 12.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: Challenges with <u>Recruiting</u> New Athletic Trainers

- **Small applicant pool, fewer qualified candidates**
  - *Finding qualified ATs since the min. qualifications changed has been extremely challenging; not enough qualified to go around.* – Director of Athletics, Gulf South Conference

- **Offer low, non-competitive salary and not enough to support cost of living**
  - *The private sector/corporate market for ATs in our area is high and pays more than collegiate or HS. The cost of living in our area post-COVID is high.* – Director of Athletics, Lone Star Conference

- **Schedule of long, irregular hours and workload conflict with work-life balance**

- **Location, particularly for rural institutions**
  - *Recruiting athletic trainers who want to live in our town and have a competitive salary.* – Director of Athletics, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference

- **High turnover in AT leadership, inexperience of potential trainers**
  - *The interim nature of key positions and the inexperience of recent hires have created instability, requiring more oversight and mentorship to ensure proper athlete care and operational efficiency.* – Director of Athletics, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Prompt: What are the challenges, if any, your department has faced in terms of <u>recruiting</u> new athletic trainers?
Note: AD (N=205) response only.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: Challenges with <u>Retaining</u> Athletic Trainers

- **Low, non-competitive salary not enough to support cost of living**
  - *Corporate industry now hiring "athletic trainers" for their staff at a higher rate than what schools can pay and for fewer hours worked.* – Director of Athletics, Pacific West Conference

- **High turnover, constant staff shortage/not enough additional trainers to ease workload**
  - *Our current staffing shortage increases the workload, which creates stress and makes the situation untenable long-term.   Because of the nationwide shortage, opportunities are ample and moving on is easy.* – Director of Athletics, Conference Carolinas

- **Time commitment, travel requirements and workload too demanding**
  - *Many athletic trainers are opting for PT clinics or industrial AT positions that offer predictable Monday-Friday, 9-5 schedules, rather than the long, irregular hours required in collegiate athletics.* – Director of Athletics, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

- **Athletic training incompatible with work-life balance**
  - *Trainer [departures] have been due to growing families, so hours are not conducive to life changes, or [they are] moving to be closer to family/partners.* – Director of Athletics, Great Lakes Valley Conference

NCAA RESEARCH

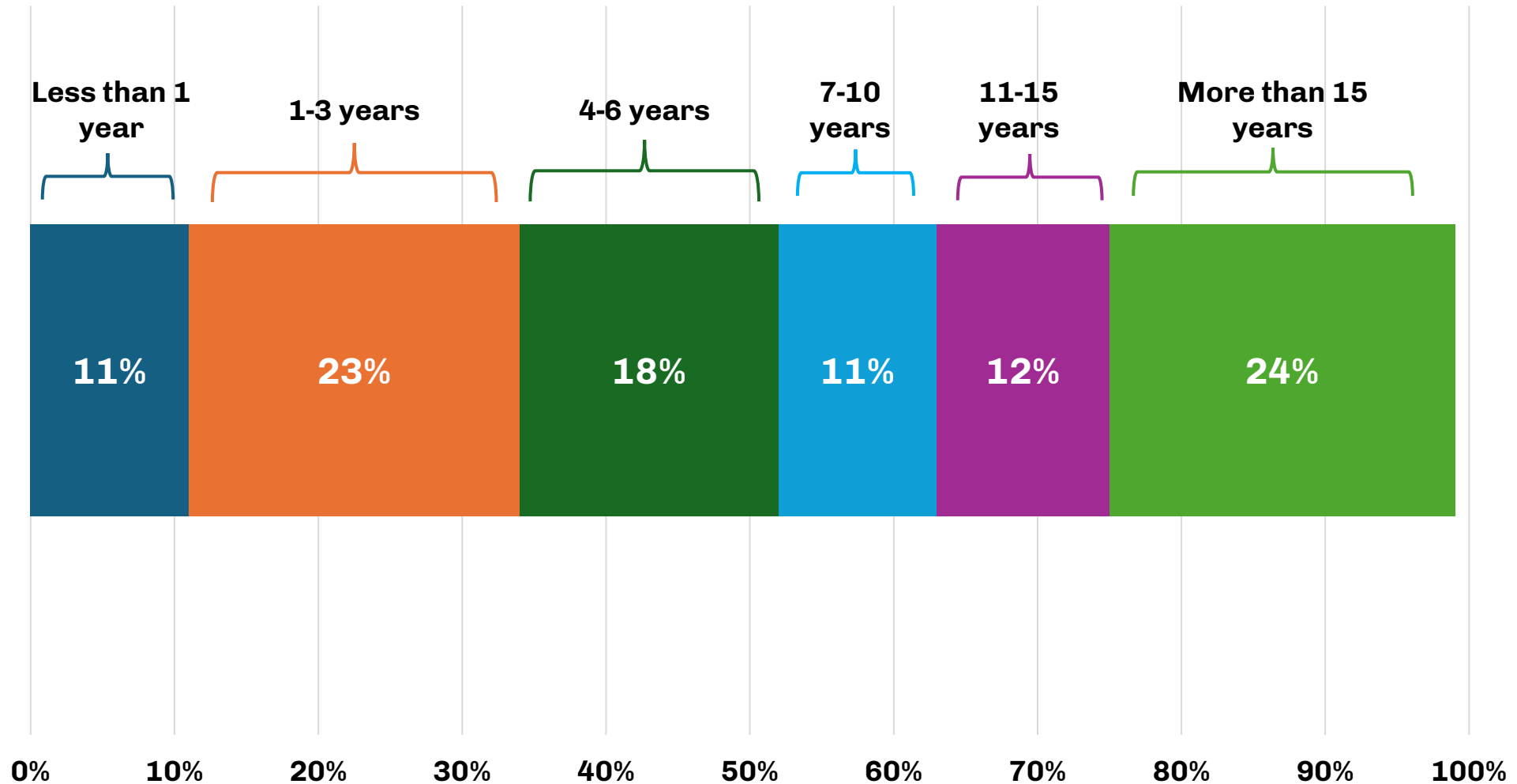# Athletic Trainer: What is your current position title or closest equivalent?

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)
Head Athletic Trainer / Director of Sports Medicine	78%
Associate / Assistant Director of Athletics	7%
Staff / Assistant Athletic Trainer	7%
Associate Athletic Trainer	5%
Associate Director of Sports Medicine	2%
Other, please specify	2%

Note: Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated assistant AD for sports medicine, professor and athletic trainer or assistant AD and director of sports medicine/head athletic trainer as additional titles.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletic Trainer: How long have you been at your current place of employment?

Less than 1 year — **11%**

1-3 years — **23%**

4-6 years — **18%**

7-10 years — **11%**

11-15 years — **12%**

More than 15 years — **24%**

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
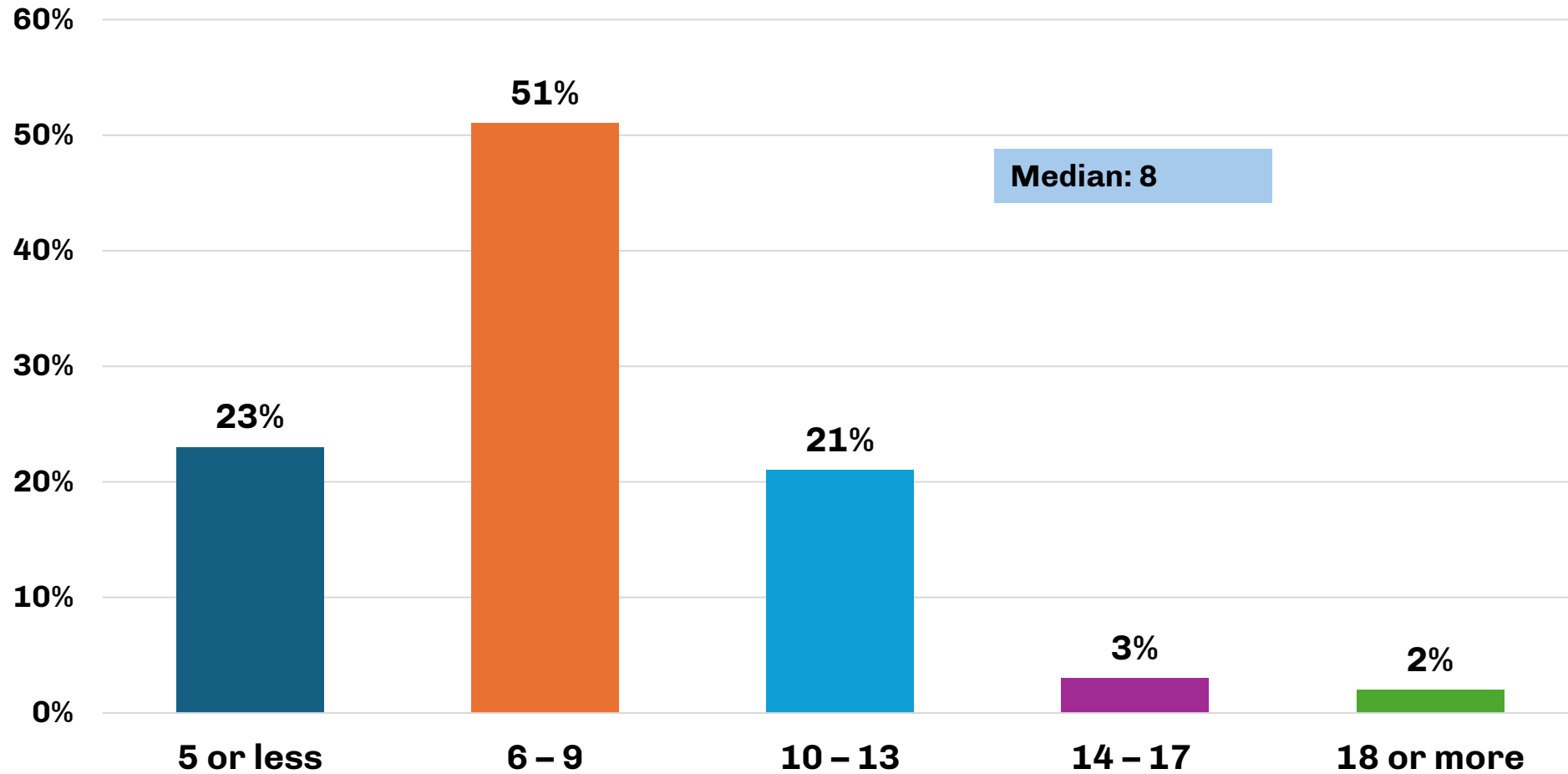
Note: Athletic Trainer (N=169)

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletic Trainer: How many student-athletes is the athletic training staff responsible for on your campus?

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)
100 – 300	22%
301 – 500	46%
501 – 700	24%
701 or more	8%
Median	410

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletic Trainer: How many sports is the athletic training staff responsible for on your campus?

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)
8 - 13	24%
14 – 19	40%
20 – 25	26%
26 or more	10%
Median	17

Athletic Trainer: How many different locations/venues are used for your institution's athletic practice or competition?

Median: 8

- 5 or less: 23%
- 6 – 9: 51%
- 10 – 13: 21%
- 14 – 17: 3%
- 18 or more: 2%

Note: Athletic Trainer (N=169)

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletic Trainers: What is the current employment model at your institution for your role?

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)
Employed by and report to an athletics dept.	82%
Other (e.g., hybrid), please specify	10%
Employed by and report to hospital system	3%
Employed by hospital system and report to athletics dept.	2%
Employed by outside allied health prof. group; report to athletics dept.	2%
Employed by and report to outside allied health prof. group / office	1%
Employed by and report to student health services	1%
Employed by student health services; report to athletics department	0%

Note: *Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated hybrid model of employment by and report to a combination of hospital system, athletics department and/or university.*
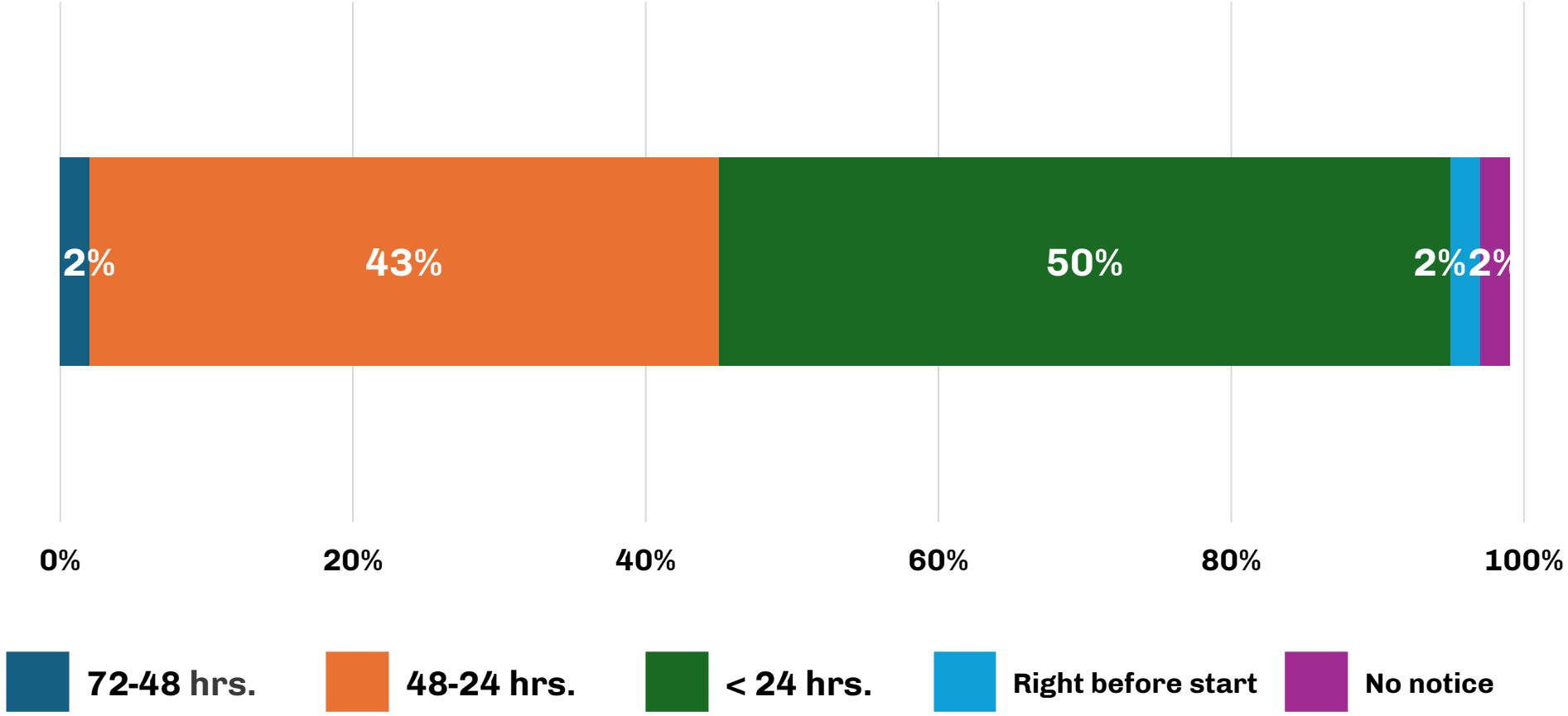
Athletic Trainer: What is your employment term?

Hourly (<1%)

9 months (1%)

10 months (10%)

11 months (4%)

12 months (86%)

Note: Athletic Trainer (N=168)

NCAA RESEARCH
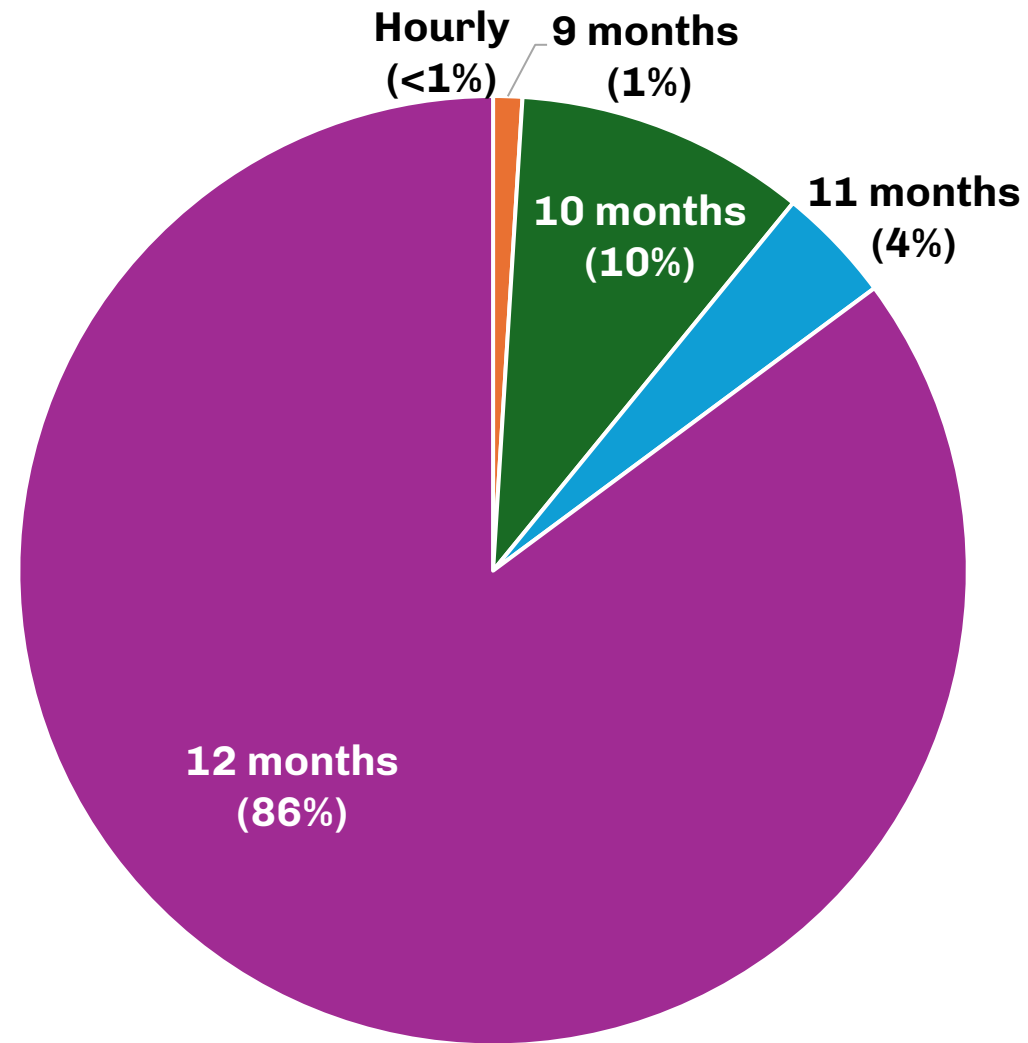
Athletic Trainer: How much notice are you given regarding changes to practice and competition schedules that are <u>not</u> due to inclement weather?

2% | 43% | 50% | 2% | 2%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

- 72-48 hrs.
- 48-24 hrs.
- < 24 hrs.
- Right before start
- No notice

Note: Athletic Trainer (N=169)

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletic Trainer: Important Variables When Searching for Current Position
(Select all that apply.)

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)
Salary	83%
Staff culture	74%
Paid CEUs	59%
Retirement (401k, Pension, etc.)	58%
Unchallengeable medical autonomy	54%
Sport(s) assignment	50%
Advancement opportunities	43%

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)
Flexible schedule	40%
Extra benefits and allowances	32%
Employment contract	24%
Model of care clearly defined reporting lines, salary / positional advancement	24%
Organized regular time off	20%
Mentorship	16%
Other, please specify	10%

Note: Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated location or lack of required travel, proximity to family, sufficient staffing/trainer to athlete ratio, paid professional membership fees and emphasis of medical model and development of clinical skills as important variables in their search for their current position.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletic Trainer: Reasons for Staying at Current Institution
(Select all that apply.)

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)
Sports medicine culture-staff morale	61%
Location	50%
Salary	42%
Overall department culture	39%
Sports coverage	38%
Retirement benefits	36%
Family dynamics (job of significant other, school district, etc.)	34%
Healthcare benefits	33%
Continuing education opportunities	31%
Work-life balance	31%

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletic Trainer: Reasons for Staying at Current Institution
(Select all that apply.)

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)
Administrative responsibilities	27%
Advancement opportunities	22%
Reporting line structure	20%
Tuition benefits	14%
Other, please specify	11%
Philosophical / financial administrative support	7%
Technology benefits (phone, tablet, etc.)	3%
Childcare benefits	1%
Housing benefits	1%
Vehicle benefits	0%

Note: Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated location, lack of required travel, proximity to family, the student-athletes they work with, loyalty to/belief in institution and its mission as additional reasons for staying at their current institution.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletic Trainer: Have you separated from a collegiate institution in the past three years?

	Athletic Trainer (N=169)
Yes	17%
No	83%

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletic Trainer: Why did you separate from your previous institution?
(Select all that apply.)

	Athletic Trainer (N=28)
Career change within athletic training	32%
Professional advancement opportunity	32%
Value and support from administration, coaches and co-workers	32%
Other, please specify	32%
Staffing volume	25%

	Athletic Trainer (N=28)
Location	21%
Benefits or benefit package	18%
Working 40+ hours and weekends	18%
Spouse of significant other professional job change	4%
COVID-19 staffing / benefit changes	9%
Career change outside of athletic training profession	0%

Note: Response from athletic trainers (N= 28) who selected 'Yes' to 'Have you separated from a collegiate institution in the past three years' only. Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated school closure, end of assistantship, unhealthily work culture, salary/financial stress and disinterest in continuing to work with assigned sport as additional reasons.

NCAA RESEARCH

Incentives to Retain Athletic Trainers

- **Increase staff size and hire more support staff (e.g., insurance coordinators, physical therapists)**
    - *Increase the number of ATs on staff to help decrease the amount of stress and obligations each athletic trainer feels in caring for their 4-5 teams. This would also increase the level of care we are able to provide to the student-athletes.*– Head Athletic Trainer, Northeast-10 Conference

- **Encourage athletic trainer work-life balance by:**
    - providing more stable and consistent schedules
    - limiting work on nights and weekends
    - decreasing total weekly hours
    - limiting the scheduling of out of season events and competitions
    - setting realistic expectations concerning practice coverage and availability
    - restricting practice times
    - limiting multiple in-season sport coverage

NCAA RESEARCH

Incentives to Retain Athletic Trainers

- **Provide additional compensation and benefits such as:**
  - more vacation time
  - support for professional development (e.g., cover professional membership dues, conference travel) and Continuing Education Units
  - a guaranteed or mandatory day off per week
  - non-salary related benefits such as a work phone or tablet, local housing options, parking, meals, clothing stipend or funds for medical kits

- **Improve schedule reporting system and require notification of practice and competition changes.**
  - *Require coaches to communicate effectively with the sports medicine staff. Providing the sports medicine staff with opportunities to review schedules in advance (competition and practice) and provide feedback.* – Head Athletic Trainer, South Atlantic Conference

- **Upgrade rehabilitation equipment, practice and training facilities.**
  - *Provide full-time mental health position within athletics, improve facilities to allow for better practice times, improve training room facilities.* – Head Athletic Trainer, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

Prompt read: *Outside of a salary increase, what could your athletics department do to retain athletic trainers?*
Note: *Athletic trainer (N=164) response only.*

NCAA RESEARCH

Incentives to Retain Athletic Trainers: Improve Athletic Department Culture

- **Encourage athletics staff to recognize athletic trainers as healthcare professionals, not as coaching support staff**

- **Foster an environment where coaches and staff <u>respect</u> athletic trainers**

- **Acknowledge and validate athletic trainers' frustrations and time demands**

- **Support athletic trainers when conflicts arise and address when coaches overstep training policies and procedures**

  - *Be more supportive of the sports medicine policies in place, give the athletic trainers more overall value, understand the value of time off, understand that we are being spread thin...* – Assistant or Associate Athletic Trainer, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association

- **Involve athletic trainers in discussions concerning roster sizes, scheduling, policy and procedure creation**

  - *Better communication, support from administration on Athletic Training decisions, inclusion in scheduling, inclusion in policy and procedure making.* – Head Athletic Trainer, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association

Prompt read: *Outside of a salary increase, what could your athletics department do to retain athletic trainers?*
Note: *Athletic trainer (N=164) response only.*

NCAA RESEARCH

Current AI Usage

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: Does your athletics department currently use an artificial intelligence (AI) application to support operations?

	AD (N=216)
Yes	19%
No	82%

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: Areas of AI Use to Support Operations

	AD (N=40)
Game day summaries/stories on your website	63%
Research	30%
Game day operations (ticketing, types of concessions, etc.)	28%
Performance management	20%
Student-athlete support services (academic advising, tutoring)	18%
Recruiting	15%
Budgeting	8%
Other, please indicate	8%

Note: Responses from ADs who selected 'Yes' to AI use. Those who selected 'Other, please indicate' noted livestreaming and spreadsheet and formula design as other areas.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: How long has your athletics department been using AI application?

	AD (N=39)
Less than 1 year	49%
1 to 2 years	36%
More than 2 years	15%

Note: Responses from ADs who selected "Yes" to AI use.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: What challenges have you faced in implementing AI applications?
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=39)
Lack of technical expertise	79%
Resistance to change	51%
Budget constraints	44%
Data privacy concerns	26%
Not applicable	5%
Other, please specify	0%

Note: Responses from ADs who selected "Yes" to AI use.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: Are you considering using an AI application in the near future?

	AD (N=175)
Yes	48%
No	52%

Note: Responses from ADs who selected 'No' to AI use.

Athletics Director: Areas Considering AI Use to Support Operations
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=80)
Game day summaries/stories on your website	**74%**
Game day operations (ticketing, types of concessions, etc.)	**38%**
Research	**38%**
Student-athlete support services (mental wellness, academic advising, tutoring, etc.)	**38%**
Recruiting	**31%**
Budgeting	**26%**
Performance Management	**24%**
Other, please indicate	**10%**

Note: Responses from ADs who selected 'yes' to AI use in the near future. Those who selected "Other, please indicate" noted communication, video and instant replay and fundraising as other areas.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: What factors would most influence your decision to adopt AI application in the future?
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=84)
Improved efficiency	92%
Cost savings	81%
Enhanced decision-making	56%
Competitive advantage	48%
Other, please specify	4%

Note: Responses from ADs who selected "Yes" to AI use in the near future. Those who selected "Other, please specify" noted decreasing the workload of staff as an additional influential factor.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: In which specific areas do you think AI could provide the most value to your athletics department?
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=197)
Game day summaries/stories on your website	72%
Research	60%
Student-athlete support services (mental wellness, academic advising, tutoring, etc.)	42%
Budgeting	38%
Performance Management	37%
Recruiting	35%
Game day operations (ticketing, types of concessions, etc.)	32%
Other, please indicate	6%

Note: Those who selected "Other, please indicate" noted advancement and fundraising, communications and marketing as additional areas.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: What type of training or support would be most helpful for your staff in using AI applications?
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=205)
Online tutorials	**67%**
Webinars	**64%**
In-person workshops	**57%**
Documentation and manuals	**31%**
Other, please specify	**0%**

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: How do you think AI could be used to support student-athletes in your department?
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=198)
Tutoring	63%
Mental wellness	59%
Personalized training	57%
Academic advising	48%
Other, please specify	4%

Note: Those who selected "Other, please specify" indicated uncertainty or disagreement that the use of AI would be beneficial to support student-athletes.

NCAA RESEARCH

Athletics Director: In what ways do you think AI could be used to enhance fan engagement and experience?
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=205)
Real-time updates	**82%**
Interactive features	**76%**
Personalized content	**70%**
Other, please specify	**3%**

Note: AD responses only. Those who selected "Other, please specify" indicated uncertainty in AI use for fan engagement.

Athletics Director: How do you think AI could assist in ensuring compliance with NCAA regulations?
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=198)
Automated compliance check	84%
Real-time monitoring	81%
Predictive analytics	57%
Other, please specify	4%

Note: Those who selected "Other, please specify" indicated uncertainty in using AI to assist with compliance.

NCAA RESEARCH

Streaming

Are you responsible for and/or oversee the webstreaming of regular season and/or conference games for your school or conference?

	SID (N=66)	Conf. Staff (N=58)	AD (N=213)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=360)	Coach (N=888)
Yes	91%	60%	49%	10%	7%
No	9%	40%	51%	90%	93%

Note: SIDs /Athletics Communication Directors were separated from the Other Athletics Administrators total. No FARs or ATs indicated overseeing webstreaming.

What streaming platform does your institution use?
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=205)	SID (N=60)	Conf. Staff (N=33)
Hudl	49%	73%	64%
FloSports	34%	28%	27%
SIDEARM Sports	20%	3%	9%
YouTube	12%	12%	6%
Other, please specify	7%	7%	0%
Presto Stream	4%	0%	0%
Facebook Live	1%	0%	0%
ESPN+	0%	0%	6%
Boxcast	0%	0%	0%

Note: Responses from ADs and from conference staff and SIDs who selected 'Yes' to overseeing streaming. Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated Blueframe, a conference specific network, or HBCUGo.

NCAA RESEARCH

If you are currently under contract with a streaming platform/website, how many years remain in your agreement?

	AD (N=179)	SID (N=53)	Conf. Staff (N=31)
One year	24%	23%	26%
Two years	27%	25%	26%
Three years	27%	26%	19%
Four years	12%	17%	13%
Five or more years	10%	9%	16%

Note: Responses from ADs and from conference staff and SIDs who selected 'Yes' to overseeing streaming.

Does your institution/conference charge fans to watch webstreams?

	AD (N=207)	SID (N=59)	Conf. Staff (N=33)
No – All web streams are available for free.	52%	58%	39%
Yes – Pay-per-View or subscription model is used.	41%	29%	42%
Other – We only charge for select sports.	7%	14%	18%

Note: Responses from ADs and from conference staff and SIDs who selected 'Yes' to overseeing streaming.

NCAA RESEARCH

Which sports does your institution currently live stream during the regular season?

	AD (N=205)	SID (N=60)	Conf. Staff (N=33)
Baseball	99%	98%	100%
Basketball	100%	98%	100%
Field Hockey	93%	93%	100%
Football	99%	100%	100%
Lacrosse	100%	97%	100%
Soccer	99%	98%	100%
Softball	98%	98%	100%
Tennis	31%	28%	42%
Volleyball	99%	98%	100%
Wrestling	93%	90%	100%
Other, please specify	96%	95%	100%

Note: Percentage included for those who indicated sponsoring sport. Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated sports such as acrobatics and tumbling, cross country, gymnastics, ice hockey, swimming, stunt, track and field, and water polo.

NCAA RESEARCH

What kind of equipment does your institution use for production?
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=96)	SID (N=59)	Conf. Staff (N=27)
Livestream Software (e.g., Production Truck, BoxCast)	81%	95%	93%
Video cameras requiring operators	72%	95%	81%
Production Headsets	67%	71%	70%
Audio mixer	64%	90%	67%
Scoreboard console integration	61%	59%	74%
Switcher for multiple cameras	59%	63%	70%

Note: Responses from ADs, conference staff and SIDs who selected 'Yes' to overseeing streaming.

NCAA RESEARCH

What kind of equipment does your institution use for production?
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=96)	SID (N=59)	Conf. Staff (N=27)
Graphics software	57%	44%	63%
Fixed/automatic cameras without operators	51%	63%	67%
Replay machines	50%	32%	44%
Tricaster with replay	41%	29%	48%
Wirecast	16%	2%	15%

Note: Responses from ADs, conference staff and SIDs who selected 'Yes' to overseeing streaming.

NCAA RESEARCH

Does your production capability allow you to add:
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=94)	SID (N=57)	Conf. Staff (N=28)
Multiple cameras	94%	93%	100%
Score bugs/graphics	83%	98%	96%
Multiple announcers	77%	91%	93%
Replays	77%	79%	93%
Custom transitions or wipes	50%	72%	68%

Note: Responses from ADs, conference staff and SIDs who selected 'Yes' to overseeing streaming.

NCAA RESEARCH

How many cameras do you use in a typical webstream for the following sports?

		AD (N=205)	SID (N=60)	Conf. Staff (N=33)
Baseball	One	37%	37%	39%
	Two	35%	43%	50%
	Three	16%	11%	8%
	Four	11%	7%	4%
	Five or more	1%	2%	0%
Basketball	One	30%	24%	8%
	Two	21%	43%	65%
	Three	27%	16%	19%
	Four	16%	10%	8%
	Five or more	6%	7%	0%
Field Hockey	One	85%	46%	50%
	Two	8%	54%	50%
	Three	8%	0%	0%
	Four	0%	0%	0%
	Five or more	0%	0%	0%

Note: Percentages included for those who indicated using any number of cameras.

NCAA RESEARCH

How many cameras do you use in a typical webstream for the following sports?

		AD (N=205)	SID (N=60)	Conf. Staff (N=33)
Football	One	18%	10%	0%
	Two	20%	41%	33%
	Three	29%	28%	48%
	Four	22%	10%	14%
	Five or more	12%	10%	5%
Lacrosse	One	65%	57%	65%
	Two	27%	36%	35%
	Three	8%	7%	0%
	Four	0%	0%	0%
	Five or more	0%	0%	0%
Soccer	One	58%	57%	60%
	Two	30%	36%	40%
	Three	11%	7%	0%
	Four	1%	0%	0%
	Five or more	0%	0%	0%

Note: Percentages included for those who indicated using any number of cameras.

NCAA RESEARCH

How many cameras do you use in a typical webstream for the following sports?

		AD (N=205)	SID (N=60)	Conf. Staff (N=33)
Softball	One	39%	41%	44%
	Two	46%	36%	44%
	Three	7%	12%	7%
	Four	7%	9%	4%
	Five or more	2%	2%	0%
Tennis	One	46%	54%	70%
	Two	31%	15%	30%
	Three	8%	0%	0%
	Four	0%	0%	0%
	Five or more	15%	31%	0%
Volleyball	One	30%	35%	26%
	Two	33%	47%	52%
	Three	24%	14%	15%
	Four	9%	2%	7%
	Five or more	4%	2%	0%

Note: Percentages included for those who indicated using any number of cameras.

NCAA RESEARCH

How many cameras do you use in a typical webstream for the following sports?

		AD (N=205)	SID (N=60)	Conf. Staff (N=33)
Wrestling	One	47%	50%	77%
	Two	34%	50%	15%
	Three	13%	0%	8%
	Four	3%	0%	0%
	Five or more	3%	0%	0%

Note: Percentages included for those who indicated using any number of cameras.

NCAA RESEARCH

Are you currently or have you previously worked with an outside production company to produce your broadcasts?

	AD (N=97)	Conf. Staff (N=30)	SID (N=59)
Yes	37%	60%	25%

If yes, top 15 sports produced include:

	(N=66)		(N=66)
Men's Basketball	76%	Women's Cross Country	17%
Women's Basketball	70%	Women's Outdoor Track	17%
Football	55%	Men's Cross Country	15%
Baseball	50%	Men's Outdoor Track	12%
Softball	50%	Women's Indoor Track	12%
Women's Volleyball	41%	Men's Swim & Dive	11%
Men's Soccer	30%	Women's Lacrosse	11%
Women's Soccer	30%		

Note: Responses from ADs and conference staff and SIDs who selected 'Yes' to overseeing streaming. Sports produced by more than 10% of respondents are displayed.

NCAA RESEARCH

Did your school host an NCAA Championship contest in 2022, 2023 or 2024?

	AD (N=103)	Conf. Staff (N=30)	SID (N=59)
Yes	50%	33%	37%
No	50%	67%	63%

Note: Responses from ADs, conference staff and SIDs who selected 'Yes' to overseeing streaming.

NCAA RESEARCH

Did you produce the webstream internally or use an outside production company?

	AD (N=49)	Conf. Staff (N=10)	SID (N=22)
Internally	80%	70%	68%
Outside production company	20%	30%	32%

NCAA RESEARCH

Have you used the NCAA's or Division II's PSAs during your regular season webcasts?

	AD (N=93)	Conf. Staff (N=27)	SID (N=57)
Yes	68%	100%	84%
No	32%	0%	16%

Note: Responses from ADs, conference staff and SIDs who selected 'Yes' to overseeing streaming.

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

My campus SAAC meets at least:

	AD (N=210)
Weekly	8%
Monthly	88%
Once a semester	2%
Yearly	0%
As needed	1%
Don't know	1%

NEW QUESTION

I attend my SAAC meetings:

	AD (N=210)
Weekly	1%
Monthly	17%
Once a semester	31%
Yearly	8%
As needed	43%
Don't know	1%

NCAA RESEARCH

AD Opinion on Campus SAAC
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	AD (N=211)
I am involved in the work of my campus SAAC.	46%
My athletics senior leadership team supports the work of my campus SAAC.	91%

Note: Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Campus SAAC
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

"My campus SAAC..."	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Is an organized leadership group	76%	75%	72%	61%	64%	44%
Is a recognized leadership group	75%	71%	60%	58%	61%	40%
Can influence change	74%	62%	57%	45%	46%	42%
Embraces national DII SAAC's goals	73%	70%	73%	62%	58%	46%
Understands its purpose	73%	67%	60%	56%	56%	47%
Has their input considered when school decisions impacting the SA experience are made	69%	58%	53%	44%	52%	38%
Is aware of resources created by national SAAC	67%	63%	59%	55%	54%	49%

Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Campus SAAC
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

"My campus SAAC…"	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Is a productive leadership group	64%	65%	61%	49%	50%	39%
Is supported by my school through the allocation of resources	61%	52%	36%	44%	41%	40%
Is relied upon to communicate information to other SAs	57%	56%	49%	45%	49%	38%
Coordinates most of our athletics dept. community engagement and service events	49%	48%	50%	35%	39%	33%
Members are more engaged in non-athletic campus events than other SAs	43%	52%	36%	35%	38%	19%
Has been active in the NCAA's Congressional engagement efforts	36%	50%	28%	36%	33%	33%

Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Ideas to Enhance the Student-Athlete Experience
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

"*I support...*"	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Our SAs' involvement in community engagement initiatives.	94%	86%	93%	91%	88%	69%
Providing at least two opportunities annually for campus SAAC leaders to discuss SA-related topics with the athletics senior leadership team.	89%	77%	89%	85%	75%	69%
A requirement for my campus SAAC to have a SA executive team.	84%	71%	78%	82%	75%	67%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Ideas to Enhance the Student-Athlete Experience
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

NEW QUESTION

"I support…"	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
My institution administering an NCAA-managed survey among SAs about their experience and areas my school can improve.	78%	72%	82%	87%	73%	60%
A requirement to have at least one SA from my school serve as an active member on an institutional committee or ad hoc group.	70%	71%	79%	76%	65%	56%
Requiring a senior athletics administrator to oversee my campus SAAC.	68%	69%	70%	76%	60%	56%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Ideas to Enhance the Student-Athlete Experience
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

"I support..."	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
A requirement for my institution to provide career counseling and life skills programming to student-athletes.	66%	76%	68%	80%	64%	53%
The establishment of an annual attestation that requires my institution to provide SAs with education and programming in mental health, nutrition, transfer requirements, etc..	55%	74%	68%	79%	59%	42%
Student-athlete involvement and engagement at my athletic department staff/coaches meetings.	50%	55%	66%	63%	51%	40%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Championships

Key Findings

- Bracket changes to minimize first-round conference opponents and the expansion of the bracket/field size were rated the top priorities for future championships resource allocation.

- Sunday evening (6 to 9 pm ET) was indicated as the preferred day and time for a selection show.

- The quality of the championships venue and the ability to hold multiple championships at one site were rated as the most important components of championships festivals.

- The majority of respondents believe the top seed in each region should continue to earn the right to host preliminary rounds.

NCAA RESEARCH

Top Priorities for Future Championships Resource Allocation

	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Expansion of bracket/field size for championships	76%	72%	61%	43%	61%	75%
Bracket changes to minimize 1st round conference opponents	75%	70%	66%	70%	70%	77%
Per diem	66%	45%	38%	56%	51%	52%
Funding to ensure No. 1 seed has opportunity to host	53%	51%	60%	62%	57%	54%
Transportation to the site	52%	48%	53%	62%	50%	52%
Reimbursement for ground transport when traveling by air	39%	32%	43%	35%	38%	38%

Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Light green indicates an increase of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark green indicates an increase of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Percentages represent frequency of top-5 placement by respondents in the respective group. Prompt: Please rank the following priorities in order of importance in future championships resources:

NCAA RESEARCH

Top Priorities for Future Championships Resource Allocation

	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Travel party sizes	45%	40%	21%	36%	36%	23%
Honorariums for host institutions	36%	21%	44%	39%	33%	23%
Television/streaming exposure	19%	36%	26%	24%	30%	36%
Officiating expenses	14%	26%	38%	18%	32%	32%
Student-athlete awards	14%	31%	29%	26%	21%	21%
Student-athlete mementos	11%	30%	22%	30%	23%	18%

Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Percentages represent frequency of top-5 placement by respondents in the respective group. Prompt: Please rank the following priorities in order of importance in future championships resources:

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on DII Championships host sites' non-neutral environment
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
I support DII expanding the policy to include the entire game/context and not just pre-game.	48%	51%	53%	47%	48%	51%
I support the current DII neutrality policy.	41%	51%	64%	55%	51%	70%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on DII Championships Streaming
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Division II would benefit from having its preliminary and final site championships that are not on an ESPN or CBS platform streamed in one centralized hub.	58%	58%	46%	52%	57%	56%
Division II should consider giving conferences and institutions the ability to stream all regular season contests in one centralized NCAA-provided hub.	38%	61%	48%	56%	50%	34%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option. Prompt: Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

NCAA RESEARCH

Have you ever watched an NCAA Division II championships selection show?

	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Yes	93%	70%	58%	80%	85%	93%

Does the timing of the championships selection show impact whether your school gathers to watch the selection show?

	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Yes	65%	50%	51%	56%	66%	54%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors.

NCAA RESEARCH

What is your preferred day and time for a selection show?

	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Sunday Morning (10 am to Noon ET)	1%	6%	0%	4%	2%	2%
Sunday Afternoon (Noon to 6 pm ET)	22%	25%	35%	34%	25%	7%
Sunday Evening (6 to 9 pm ET)	47%	40%	42%	37%	38%	36%
Sunday Late evening (9 to 11 pm ET)	3%	2%	4%	3%	1%	7%
Monday Morning (10 am to Noon ET)	3%	4%	0%	4%	7%	16%
Monday Afternoon (Noon to 6 pm ET)	8%	6%	3%	6%	12%	13%
Monday Evening (6 to 9 pm ET)	16%	15%	14%	9%	14%	18%
Monday Late Evening (9 to 11 pm ET)	0%	1%	3%	3%	1%	0%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors.
Day and time with the highest selection for each group highlighted in dark blue.

NCAA RESEARCH

Rate the quality of the NCAA Division II championships selection show.

	AD (N=197)	Coach (N=640)	FAR (N=52)	Ath. Trainer (N=135)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=375)	Conf. Staff (N=53)
Excellent	11%	9%	13%	12%	10%	0%
Good	77%	77%	88%	84%	81%	71%
Poor	11%	13%	4%	4%	8%	25%
Extremely poor	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	4%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses only from those who reported watching a selection show.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Championships Selection Show
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	AD (N=197)	Coach (N=640)	FAR (N=52)	Ath. Trainer (N=135)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=375)	Conf. Staff (N=53)
The quality of selection shows has improved in the last five years.	59%	47%	48%	43%	50%	34%
Division II should continue to announce the #1 seed for each region via social media prior to the selection show.	43%	37%	43%	33%	39%	38%
Announcing the #1 seed for each region prior to the selection show is effective in building excitement for the championship.	39%	37%	43%	31%	35%	37%

■ Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

■ Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses from those who selected 'Yes' to ever watching a selection show on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Have you ever attended a Division II National Championships Festival?

	AD (N=214)	Coach (N=914)	FAR (N=89)	Ath. Trainer (N=165)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=437)	Conf. Staff (N=57)
Yes	43%	25%	3%	17%	28%	49%
No	57%	75%	97%	83%	72%	51%

If attended, during which season?
(Select all that apply.)

	AD (N=93)	Coach (N=321)	Ath. Trainer (N=30)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=127)	Conf. Staff (N=28)
Fall	61%	45%	40%	54%	75%
Winter	27%	30%	50%	20%	39%
Spring	59%	40%	33%	51%	61%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Season with the highest selection for each group highlighted in blue.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Division II Championships Festival
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

"The division should…"	Have Attended a Festival			Have not Attended a Festival		
	AD (N=90)	Coach (N=225)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=121)	AD (N=113)	Coach (N=657)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=301)
Host a championships festival in the <u>fall</u>.	29%	40%	46%	16%	22%	25%
Host a championships festival in the <u>winter</u>.	26%	38%	41%	14%	20%	21%
Host a championships festival in the <u>spring</u>.	29%	39%	39%	16%	23%	22%

Note: Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option. Current fall festival sports: m/w cross country, field hockey, m/w soccer and women's volleyball. Current winter festival sports: m/w indoor track and field, m/w swimming and diving, and men's wrestling. Current spring festival sports: m/w golf, women's lacrosse, and m/w tennis.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Division II Championships Festival
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	Have Attended a Festival			Have not Attended a Festival		
	AD (N=90)	Coach (N=225)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=121)	AD (N=113)	Coach (N=658)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=302)
The SA experience at the festival is worth the financial investment by DII.	31%	53%	45%	13%	19%	22%
The SA experience at the festival is worth the changes in scheduling (e.g., earlier start date, changes in date formula).	26%	42%	41%	12%	18%	20%

Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Sports to include in Championships Festivals

- The majority of athletics staff feel the current sports should remain at their respective festivals.

  - Except for coaches who have not attended a festival, less than half of respondents believe football should be included in the fall championship festival.

  - 55% of ADs who have attended a festival think men's and women's basketball should be included in the winter championships festival.

  - A little more than half of ADs responded that women's rowing should be included in the spring championship festival. Of ADs who have attended a festival, less than half indicate baseball should be included. Additionally, more than three-quarters of respondents believe outdoor track and field should be included.

Note: Current fall festival sports: cross country, field hockey, soccer and women's volleyball. Current spring festival sports: golf, women's lacrosse, and tennis. Current winter festival sports: indoor track and field, swimming and diving, and men's wrestling.

NCAA RESEARCH

The Fall Championships Festival Should Include...
(Percentage endorsing sport)

	Attended a Festival			Have not attended a Festival		
	AD (N=65)	Coach (N=164)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=95)	AD (N=90)	Coach (N=420)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=250)
Men's Cross Country	91%	86%	94%	98%	80%	88%
Women's Cross Country	91%	86%	94%	98%	80%	88%
Field Hockey	82%	79%	85%	72%	68%	74%
Football	23%	48%	33%	34%	63%	45%
Men's Soccer	97%	94%	94%	91%	88%	95%
Women's Soccer	97%	95%	96%	92%	88%	96%
Women's Volleyball	92%	88%	97%	90%	88%	94%

Note: Percentage represents those who endorse including the sport.

NCAA RESEARCH

The Winter Championships Festival Should Include...
(Percentage endorsing sport)

	Attended a Festival			Have not attended a Festival		
	AD (N=64)	Coach (N=156)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=93)	AD (N=87)	Coach (N=419)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=248)
Men's Basketball	55%	74%	60%	63%	83%	79%
Women's Basketball	55%	73%	61%	63%	82%	79%
Men's Indoor Track & Field	88%	83%	91%	80%	74%	77%
Women's Indoor Track & Field	88%	83%	91%	82%	74%	77%
Men's Swim & Dive	86%	86%	89%	76%	71%	80%
Women's Swim & Dive	86%	86%	89%	76%	71%	81%
Wrestling	84%	87%	89%	77%	77%	85%

Note: Percentage represents those who endorse including the sport.

NCAA RESEARCH

The Spring Championships Festival Should Include...
(Percentage endorsing sport)

	Attended a Festival			Have not attended a Festival		
	AD (N=63)	Coach (N=157)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=93)	AD (N=87)	Coach (N=422)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=247)
Baseball	48%	68%	63%	60%	77%	74%
Men's Golf	87%	75%	86%	79%	73%	81%
Women's Golf	87%	76%	86%	78%	72%	81%
Men's Lacrosse	73%	75%	82%	72%	72%	79%
Women's Lacrosse	78%	76%	85%	74%	70%	81%
Men's Outdoor Track & Field	79%	74%	84%	83%	77%	78%
Women's Outdoor Track & Field	78%	75%	84%	85%	76%	79%
Women's Rowing	52%	58%	61%	51%	56%	60%
Softball	70%	74%	73%	72%	79%	82%
Men's Tennis	94%	87%	95%	84%	77%	84%
Women's Tennis	92%	89%	95%	84%	78%	85%

Note: Percentage represents those who endorse including the sport.

NCAA RESEARCH

Most Important Components of Championships Festivals

	AD (N=175)	Coach (N=688)	FAR (N=65)	Ath. Trainer (N=131)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=380)	Conf. Staff (N=52)
Quality of championships venue	83%	79%	62%	80%	83%	96%
Multiple championships at one site	68%	46%	62%	61%	59%	67%
Per diem to stay the duration of the festival	60%	54%	52%	57%	59%	46%
Flexibility on arrival and departure dates	57%	48%	39%	50%	54%	44%
Opening ceremony	53%	52%	45%	37%	43%	46%
Community engagement activities	43%	47%	49%	45%	46%	56%

Light blue indicates a festival component was listed in the top 5 for 60% or more of group respondents.

Dark blue indicates a festival component was listed in the group's top 5 most often.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Percentages represent frequency of top-5 placement by respondents in the respective festival component. Prompt: For Division II National Championships Festivals, please rank the following components of the festival in order of importance:

NCAA RESEARCH

Most Important Components of Championships Festivals

	AD (N=175)	Coach (N=688)	FAR (N=65)	Ath. Trainer (N=131)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=380)	Conf. Staff (N=52)
NCAA-provided daily breakfast	42%	51%	35%	56%	49%	46%
Enhanced signage at championship venues	27%	34%	28%	28%	26%	50%
Student-athlete interactive lounges	24%	32%	39%	31%	29%	19%
Closing ceremony	23%	33%	32%	26%	22%	17%
Student-athlete study lounges	19%	25%	59%	29%	31%	12%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Percentages represent frequency of top-5 placement by respondents in the respective category. Prompt: For Division II National Championships Festivals, please rank the following components of the festival in order of importance:

Most Important Components of Championships Festivals

	Attended a Festival			Have not attended a Festival		
	AD (N=92)	**Coach (N=225)**	**Other Ath. Admin. (N=121)**	**AD (N=113)**	**Coach (N=658)**	**Other Ath. Admin. (N=301)**
Quality of championships venue	85%	82%	84%	82%	78%	83%
Multiple championships at one site	71%	47%	64%	66%	45%	57%
Flexibility on arrival / departure dates	61%	52%	54%	53%	46%	54%
Per diem to stay the duration of the festival	60%	61%	63%	60%	52%	57%
Opening ceremony	57%	53%	50%	48%	52%	40%
Community engagement activities	44%	35%	40%	43%	52%	49%

Orange indicates a decrease of 10 percentage points or more from 2018.

Green indicates an increase of 10 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Percentages represent frequency of top-5 placement by respondents in the respective category. Prompt: For Division II National Championships Festivals, please rank the following components of the festival in order of importance:

NCAA RESEARCH

Most Important Components of Championships Festivals

	Attended a Festival			Have not attended a Festival		
	AD (N=92)	**Coach (N=225)**	**Other Ath. Admin. (N=121)**	**AD (N=113)**	**Coach (N=658)**	**Other Ath. Admin. (N=301)**
NCAA-provided daily breakfast	40%	57%	54%	44%	49%	47%
Enhanced signage at championship venues	33%	32%	19%	23%	34%	28%
Student-athlete interactive lounges	22%	34%	27%	26%	31%	30%
Closing ceremony	13%	27%	20%	31%	36%	23%
Student-athlete study lounges	13%	20%	25%	25%	27%	33%

Orange indicates a decrease of 10 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Percentages represent frequency of top-5 placement by respondents in the respective category. Prompt: For Division II National Championships Festivals, please rank the following components of the festival in order of importance:

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Division II Regionalization Model
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	AD (N=208)	Coach (N=872)	FAR (N=83)	Ath. Trainer (N=163)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=424)	Conf. Staff (N=54)
The top seed in each region should continue to earn the right to host preliminary rounds.	85%	73%	69%	76%	80%	75%
The DII regionalization model causes my institution to schedule most of its regular-season contests with in-region opponents.	74%	64%	62%	63%	70%	61%
The regionalization philosophy should be considered satisfied at the time of selections.	57%	51%	53%	46%	53%	59%
I support the regionalization model for Division II national championships (e.g., teams selected and bracketed regionally).	39%	34%	56%	42%	40%	38%

Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

The DII regionalization model results in savings for my institution's travel budget during the regular season.

	AD (N=208)	Coach (N=883)	FAR (N=84)	Ath. Trainer (N=164)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=425)	Conf. Staff (N=56)
Agree/Strongly Agree	58%	40%	55%	44%	49%	39%

By Institution Football Sponsorship and U.S. Census Region

	Sponsors MFB		Census Region			
	MFB (N=949)	No MFB (N=803)	Midwest (N=451)	Northeast (N=303)	South (N=749)	West (N=239)
Agree/Strongly Agree	44%	47%	39%	61%	45%	41%

■ Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

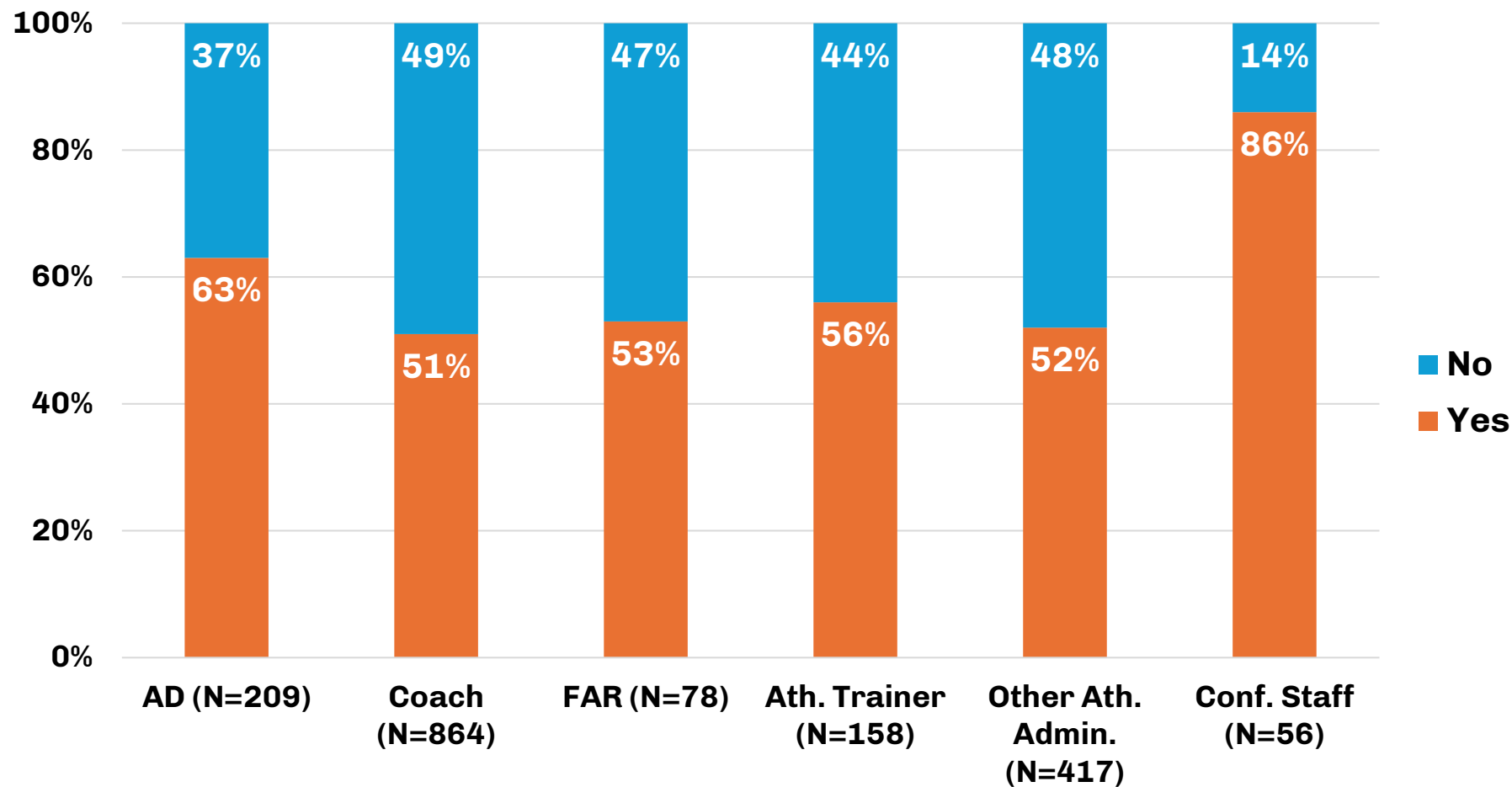■ Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

The Division II regionalization model helps to limit missed class time for student-athletes during the regular season.

	AD (N=208)	Coach (N=883)	FAR (N=84)	Ath. Trainer (N=164)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=425)	Conf. Staff (N=56)
Agree/Strongly Agree	54%	41%	52%	43%	47%	38%

By Institution Football Sponsorship and U.S. Census Region

	Sponsors MFB		Census Region			
	MFB (N=949)	No MFB (N=800)	Midwest (N=451)	Northeast (N=301)	South (N=748)	West (N=239)
Agree/Strongly Agree	43%	47%	39%	59%	46%	35%

■ Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

■ Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Do you support a metric-based system that would be the only tool used for selecting teams for the championships?

Legend:
- No (blue)
- Yes (orange)

	AD (N=209)	Coach (N=864)	FAR (N=78)	Ath. Trainer (N=158)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=417)	Conf. Staff (N=56)
No	37%	49%	47%	44%	48%	14%
Yes	63%	51%	53%	56%	52%	86%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors.

NCAA RESEARCH

What should be the top priority of the Division II Championships Committee bracketing model review?
(Two response options)

	AD (N=206)	Coach (N=849)	FAR (N=77)	Ath. Trainer (N=161)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=421)	Conf. Staff (N=56)
Avoiding first round conference matchups.	54%	45%	42%	41%	48%	54%
Ensuring top teams (e.g., top eight nationally ranked teams) do not play each other.	46%	55%	58%	59%	53%	46%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors.

NCAA RESEARCH

Would you support switching of seed lines to avoid first round conference matchups?

Legend:
- **No** (blue)
- **Yes** (orange)

Role	Yes	No
AD (N=207)	82%	18%
Coach (N=856)	70%	30%
FAR (N=74)	78%	22%
Ath. Trainer (N=159)	72%	28%
Other Ath. Admin. (N=420)	75%	25%
Conf. Staff (N=56)	80%	20%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors.

NCAA RESEARCH
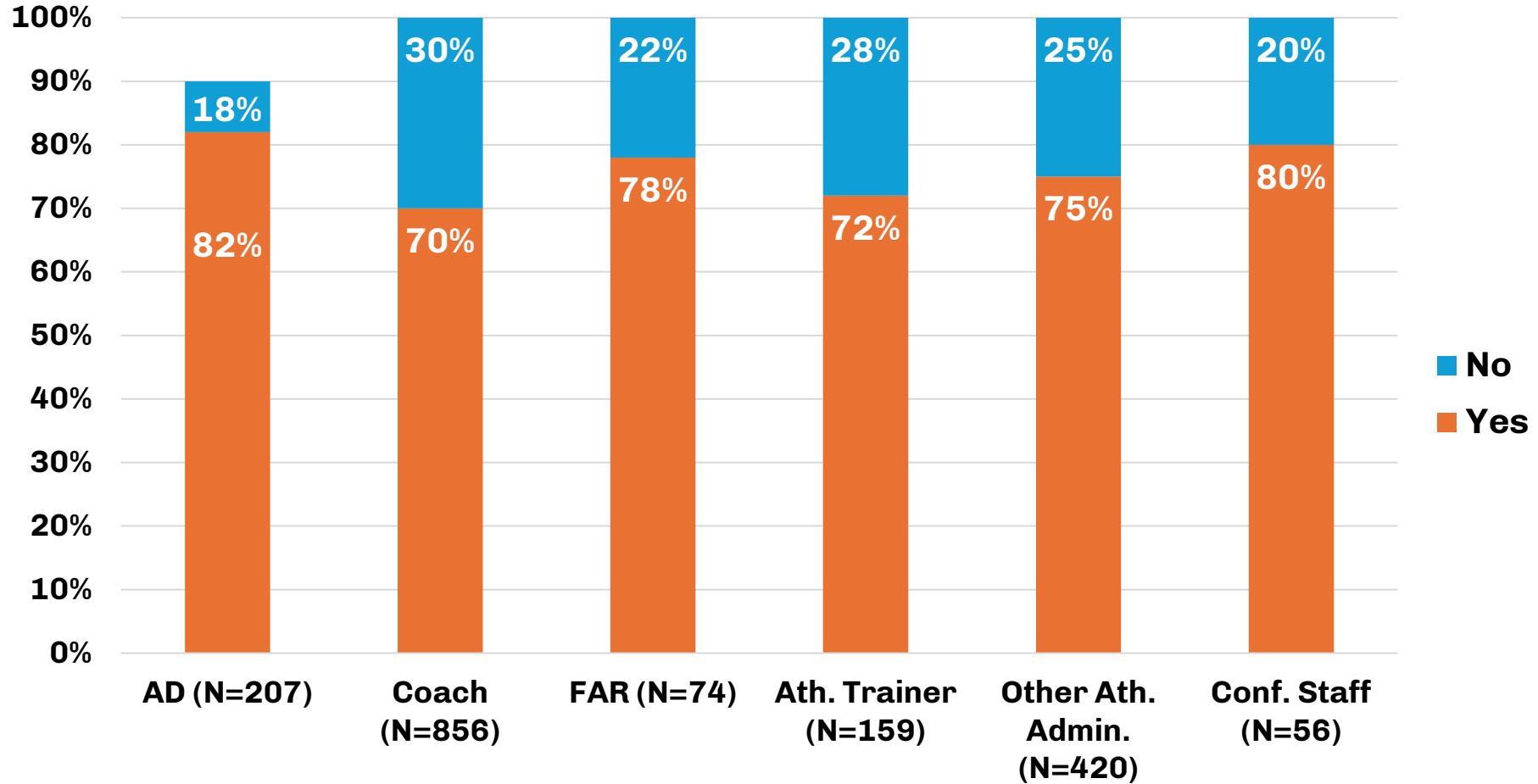
Which is more impactful to the student-athlete experience?
(Two response options.)

	AD (N=206)	Coach (N=846)	FAR (N=75)	Ath. Trainer (N=157)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=419)	Conf. Staff (N=56)
Avoiding 1st round conference matchups, even if it would result in having to travel further away from campus.	82%	77%	47%	75%	72%	73%
Playing at a site closer to campus, even if it means a potential 1st round conference matchup.	18%	23%	53%	26%	28%	27%

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Division II Hosts Sites
(Percent responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
I support holding national championships at the same site for multiple years.	52%	32%	22%	33%	40%	47%
I believe national championships should not be held at the same site for more than two years in a row.	30%	37%	42%	36%	35%	18%

Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Coach Opinion on Division II Host Sites by Sport
(Percentage Responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	Football (N=58)	Soccer (N=111)	Volleyball (N=101)	Basketball (N=120)	Baseball (N=66)	Softball (N=65)
I support holding national championships at the same site for multiple years.	36%	27%	15%	41%	55%	51%
I believe national championships should not be held at the same site for more than two years in a row.	17%	39%	50%	47%	24%	23%

Note: Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option. Sports included at the request of Division II Championships for sports engaged in active discussions concerning future host sites.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Basketball Championships using an eight-team, eight regional site model
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

"*I support…*"	Basketball Coach (N=122)	AD (N=230)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Moving the men's and women's basketball championship to a three-weekend format.	68%	45%	31%	37%	43%	58%
The current men's and women's basketball championship format (i.e., 8 teams at 8 regional sites; 8 regional champions advance to final site).	42%	51%	66%	53%	51%	38%

Note: Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option. Coaches of men's and women's basketball included.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Women's Volleyball Championships using an eight-team, eight regional site model
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

"*I support…*"	Women's Volleyball Coach (N=122)	AD (N=230)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (N=179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
Moving the women's volleyball championship to a three-weekend format.	61%	38%	23%	29%	38%	46%
Moving the women's volleyball championship to a three-weekend format even if it results in the first weekend being played over Thanksgiving weekend.	48%	28%	18%	21%	28%	29%
The current women's volleyball championship format (i.e., 8 teams at 8 regional sites; 8 regional champions advance to final site).	34%	55%	59%	48%	52%	44%

Note: Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Governance Structure, Legislation and Convention

Key Findings

- With the exception of coaches, the majority of respondents indicated Division II should retain the "one school, one vote" model for voting on legislative proposals.

- January was endorsed as the preferred month for NCAA Convention.

- Approximately 20% of respondents supported the Convention being held virtually.

- Across response groups, fewer than 15% believe the current four-day schedule for the annual NCAA Convention is the appropriate length of time to accomplish the division's business.

- The majority of respondents support the current active conference requirements in terms of minimum number of schools and sponsored sports.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Governance Structure and Legislative Process
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=99)	AD (N=208)	Coach (N=844)	FAR (N=76)	Ath. Trainer (N=158)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=412)	Conf. Staff (N=57)
DII should retain the "one school, one vote" model for voting on legislative proposals.	91%	94%	54%	79%	62%	75%	79%
I understand the current NCAA governance structure.	60%	81%	39%	61%	38%	60%	77%
There is currently an appropriate level of communication by the national office staff before and after governance meetings.	47%	73%	40%	67%	42%	52%	54%
The current governance structure accomplishes the goals and business of the division.	45%	62%	34%	58%	38%	52%	53%
DII should consider moving to a cycle that has voting at the NCAA convention every other year vs every year.	33%	24%	26%	26%	22%	21%	19%

Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on Governance Structure and Legislative Process
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	AD (N=208)	Coach (N=845)	FAR (N=75)	Ath. Trainer (N=157)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=410)	Conf. Staff (N=57)
The educational resources provided by the DII national office staff to understand legislative proposals are helpful.	88%	40%	71%	34%	65%	68%
I understand the nominations process for appointing or electing individuals to serve in the NCAA DII governance structure.	78%	30%	51%	24%	51%	67%
The DII business session at Convention is the most appropriate way for the membership to vote on legislative changes.	73%	32%	63%	33%	49%	46%

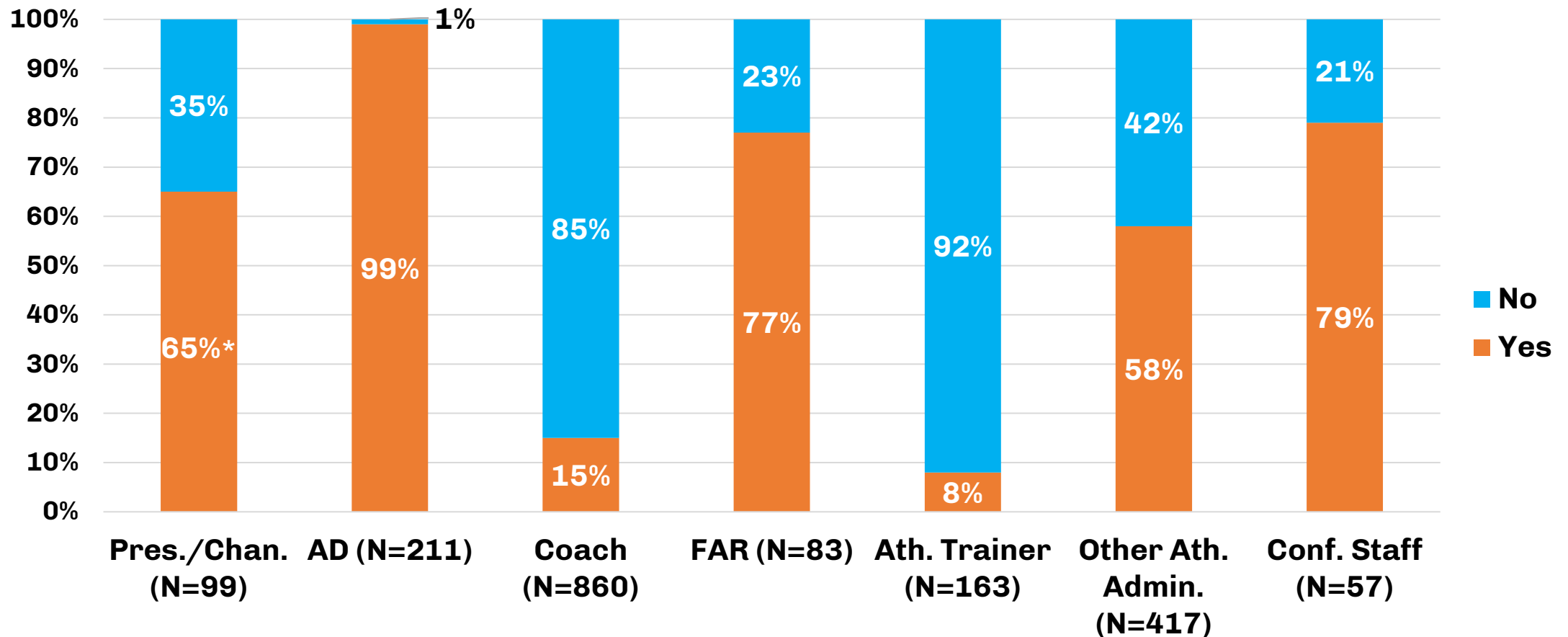■ Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

■ Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Have you attended an NCAA Convention?

Legend:
- **No** (blue)
- **Yes** (orange)

Role	Yes	No
Pres./Chan. (N=99)	65%*	35%
AD (N=211)	99%	1%
Coach (N=860)	15%	85%
FAR (N=83)	77%	23%
Ath. Trainer (N=163)	8%	92%
Other Ath. Admin. (N=417)	58%	42%
Conf. Staff (N=57)	79%	21%

*Note: *While most respondents were within 10 percentage points of 2018 responses, convention attendance among Presidents/Chancellors was down 11 percentage points from 2018.*

NCAA RESEARCH

In what month should the NCAA Convention be held?

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=93)	AD (N=209)	Coach (N=666)	FAR (N=79)	Ath. Trainer (N=144)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=389)	Conf. Staff (N=53)
January	56%	71%	35%	47%	23%	48%	81%
June	18%	11%	21%	18%	45%	22%	9%

- Of the 12 months of the year, only January and June received endorsements of 15% or more within one or more subgroup.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on NCAA Convention
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=97)	AD (N=211)	Coach (N=811)	FAR (N=80)	Ath. Trainer (N=158)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=411)	Conf. Staff (N=56)
I would support the division hosting the convention entirely in a virtual format <u>every other year</u>.	37%	21%	19%	19%	20%	23%	23%
I would support the division hosting the convention entirely in a virtual format <u>every three years</u>.	21%	17%	15%	18%	15%	20%	20%
I would support the division hosting the convention entirely in a virtual format <u>every year</u>.	13%	14%	19%	14%	23%	18%	18%

Note: Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on NCAA Convention
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=98)	AD (N=211)	Coach (N=822)	FAR (N=82)	Ath. Trainer (N=160)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=412)	Conf. Staff (N=57)
The Association-wide and DII educational sessions offered at Convention are a good use of time.	32%	37%	22%	52%	19%	31%	32%
I would support the Convention being held in Indianapolis every year.	28%	23%	31%	22%	38%	28%	42%

Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Note: Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Opinion on NCAA Convention
(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	AD (N=230)	Coach (N=1,003)	FAR (N=96)	Ath. Trainer (179)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=480)	Conf. Staff (N=61)
The NCAA Convention format starting Tuesday and ending on Friday is appropriate.	74%	26%	52%	28%	52%	74%
The current length of time (four days) for the annual NCAA Convention is the appropriate length of time to accomplish the division's business.	56%	25%	56%	26%	44%	56%

Light orange indicates a decrease of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Light green indicates an increase of 10 to 19 percentage points from 2018.

Dark orange indicates a decrease of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

Dark green indicates an increase of 20 or more percentage points from 2018.

Note: Not asked of presidents/chancellors. Responses on a 6-point scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) with a 'Don't know/not applicable' option.

NCAA RESEARCH

Member Requirements

The minimum number of <u>active Division II schools</u> to be considered an active Division II conference should be:

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=99)	AD (N=209)	Coach (N=831)	FAR (N=77)	Ath. Trainer (N=158)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=409)	Conf. Staff (N=56)
6	6%	12%	14%	9%	6%	10%	18%
8 (current requirement)	77%	80%	71%	78%	82%	80%	66%
10	12%	7%	11%	8%	10%	9%	14%
12	4%	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	0%
Other, please specify	1%	0%	1%	3%	1%	<1%	2%

Note: Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated uncertainty/not sure or responses ranging from 4 to 14.

NCAA RESEARCH

The minimum number of <u>sports</u> an active Division II conference must sponsor to be considered an active conference should be:

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=99)	AD (N=208)	Coach (N=829)	FAR (N=78)	Ath. Trainer (N=159)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=407)	Conf. Staff (N=56)
6	2%	3%	6%	5%	4%	2%	4%
7	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	17%	15%	12%	17%	14%	14%	18%
9	6%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
10 (current requirement)	66%	75%	75%	74%	79%	79%	63%
11	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
12	8%	6%	5%	1%	2%	4%	16%
Other, please specify	0%	0%	0%	3%	1%	0%	0%

Note: Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated uncertainty/not sure or 5.

NCAA RESEARCH

The minimum number of <u>sports</u> a Division II school must sponsor to be considered an active member school should be:

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=99)	AD (N=209)	Coach (N=825)	FAR (N=78)	Ath. Trainer (N=158)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=407)	Conf. Staff (N=56)
6	3%	3%	4%	5%	3%	3%	2%
7	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	21%	14%	11%	21%	11%	15%	23%
9	5%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
10 (current requirement)	60%	70%	77%	71%	80%	75%	59%
11	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
12	10%	10%	5%	1%	4%	6%	16%
Other, please specify	0%	1%	0%	3%	1%	0%	0%

Note: Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated uncertainty/not sure or that cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field should not count separately.

NCAA RESEARCH

The minimum number of <u>sports</u> a Division II school that is a single-gender program must sponsor to be considered an active member school should be:

NEW QUESTION

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=95)	AD (N=202)	Coach (N=812)	FAR (N=77)	Ath. Trainer (N=157)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=397)	Conf. Staff (N=55)
3	1%	1%	3%	3%	3%	2%	0%
4	16%	9%	6%	14%	6%	7%	4%
5 (current requirement)	68%	72%	79%	75%	79%	75%	58%
6	3%	10%	6%	4%	6%	8%	26%
7	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%	1%	4%
Other, please specify	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Not applicable	11%	5%	4%	3%	6%	5%	9%

Note: Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated uncertainty/not sure.

NCAA RESEARCH

The minimum number of <u>active Division II schools</u> to form a <u>new</u> active conference should be:

	Pres./ Chanc. (N=96)	AD (N=206)	Coach (N=817)	FAR (N=77)	Ath. Trainer (N=158)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=405)	Conf. Staff (N=56)
6	3%	4%	8%	5%	3%	5%	5%
8	28%	31%	20%	27%	23%	27%	21%
10 (current requirement)	60%	61%	69%	62%	72%	66%	64%
12	7%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	9%
Other, please specify	1%	1%	0%	3%	1%	0%	0%

Note: Those who selected 'Other, please specify' indicated 5, uncertainty/not sure or expressed disinterest in the ability to form new conferences.

NCAA RESEARCH

Additional Comments

Overarching Themes

- Regionalization & Bracketing (25%)
- DII Branding & Mission (23%)
- Championships & Festivals (11%)
- Distinguishing DII from DI (11%)
- Legislation & Governance (9%)
- NCAA Convention & Conferences (7%)
- Staff & SA Resources/Support (7%)
- Sport Season Length (4%)
- DII Funding & Finances (3%)
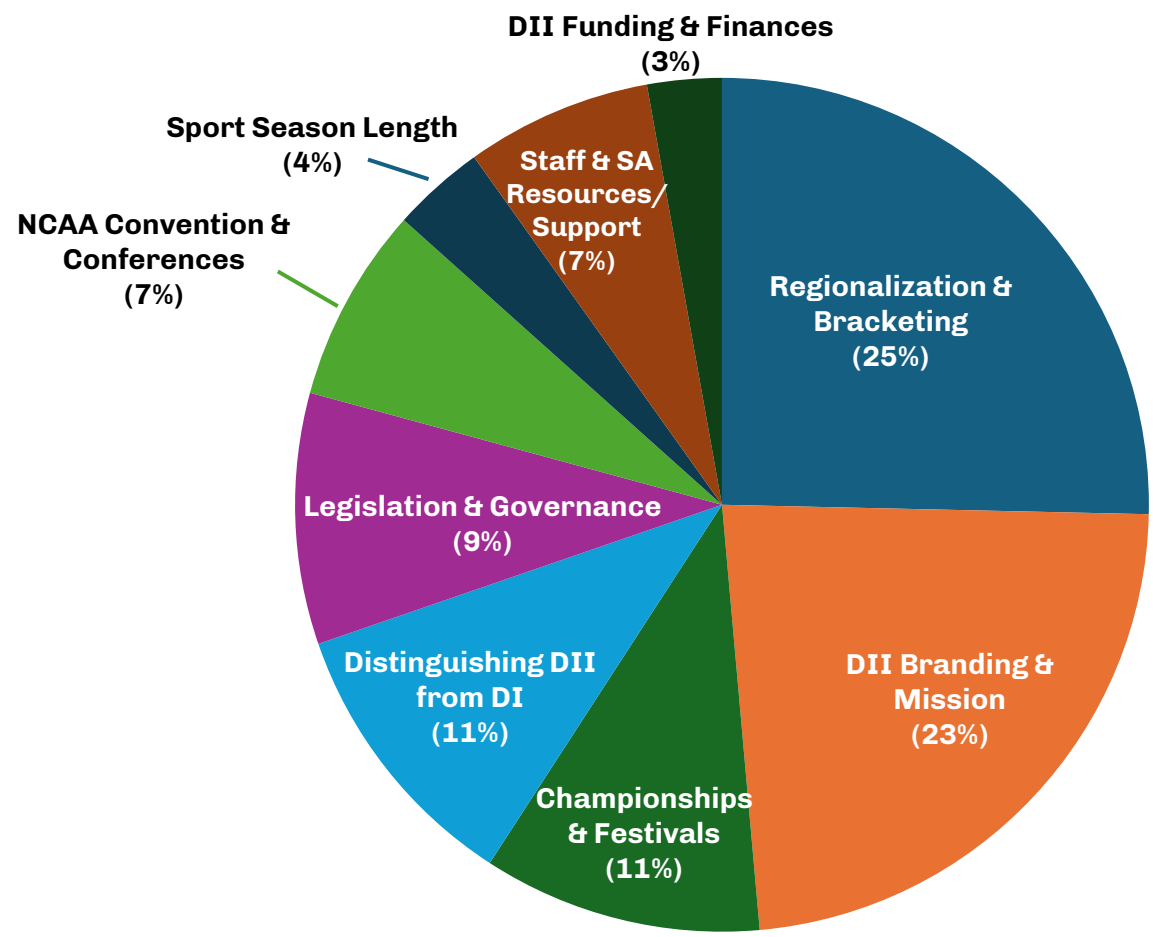
Note: Respondents were given unlimited space to provide any additional comments about Division II. Comments have been grouped thematically thus themes identified may not be representative of the Division II membership as a whole.

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Overarching Themes

- The majority respondents indicate a desire to update or move away from the current regionalization model for championships. Many believe regionalization unfairly penalizes programs in more competitive regions and prevents the best teams from advancing into the championships.

- Across roles, most respondents support the division's philosophy and mission regarding "Life in the Balance," but wish Division II did a better job of branding itself. Some maintain the mission doesn't reflect the current reality of Division II institutions. Few argue that the division needs bold changes like a new name.

- Numerous staff report wanting to see an increase in championships funding. Additionally, while there is a strong desire to provide student-athletes a great championship experience, many respondents wish to discontinue festivals. Others want to revamp or reimagine festivals as they championship festivals currently do not provide enough benefits to all festival participants to outweigh cost and disruptions to various sports' seasons.

Overarching Themes

- Respondents who left comments feel strongly that the division should not try to emulate Division I and instead embrace the Division II identity by prioritizing decisions and implementing policies that best meet the division's specific needs. However, some noted the importance of monitoring changes in Division I to avoid being left behind.

Regionalization and Bracketing

- **Interest in modifying current regionalization model**

  - *If regionalization model continues then the criteria used to select teams for the championships tournament should reflect that idea…Teams should be rewarded for playing a regionalized schedule if that is the model…teams should be incentivized to build regional schedule.*
  – Women's Volleyball Head Coach, Great Northwest Athletic Conference

- **Interest in abandoning regionalization model**

  - *Regionalization needs to be done away with. It is hurting Division II sports. How can we continue to have a model that rewards certain regions and conferences [with] more teams into the post season and at the same time punish other regions and conferences who are much stronger and allow fewer in based on location?* – Assistant or Associate Athletic Trainer, Great American Conference

- **Desire to expand football bracket**

  - *The half of Division II that sponsors football is currently disadvantaged by less access to championships compared to almost all other championship sports. Please expand the football playoff bracket to at least 32 if not 36.* – President/Chancellor, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association

Division II Branding and Philosophy

- **Support Division II's current philosophy and identity**

    - *NCAA Division II offers the best of what college athletics can be, with financial assistance for the students and the appropriate emphasis on the balance between athletics, academics and student life.* – Sports Information Director/Athletics Communications Officer, Sunshine State Conference

    - *I love Division II and its mission. I believe it is the closest thing we have to what collegiate athletics should be (i.e. academics and athletics balanced). We are not DI and should not follow what DI does.* – Compliance Coordinator/Officer, California Collegiate Athletic Association

- **Believe division's philosophy does not reflect reality of Division II institutions**

    - *We need to re-focus on "Life in the Balance." As legislation changes, we move further way from a focus on the academic piece of student-athlete...Sports is a piece of the story, not a destination for the majority...*– Compliance Coordinator/Officer, Great Midwest Athletic Conference

    - *We have to decide what kind of division we want to be. I am not sure all believe in the life in the balance and the opportunities we provide in our current structure.* – Conference Personnel, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association

Division II Branding and Philosophy

- **Desire to improve division branding**
  - *Please rebrand Division II; the "Make it Yours" served DII well for a while but in light of what has happened in Division I, DII desperately needs new branding that better describes us and distinguishes our student-athlete experience from DI.*
    – President/Chancellor, Peach Belt Conference

  - *The "Make It Yours" and "Life in the Balance" philosophy truly embody the essence of what college athletics "should" be and I think we need to continue to do a better job of telling that story to PSAs and parents of PSAs.* – Assistant Director of Athletics, Great Lakes Valley Conference

  - *I think in DII we have the best programming, but am not sure the messaging is out there for all.* – Field Hockey Head Coach, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
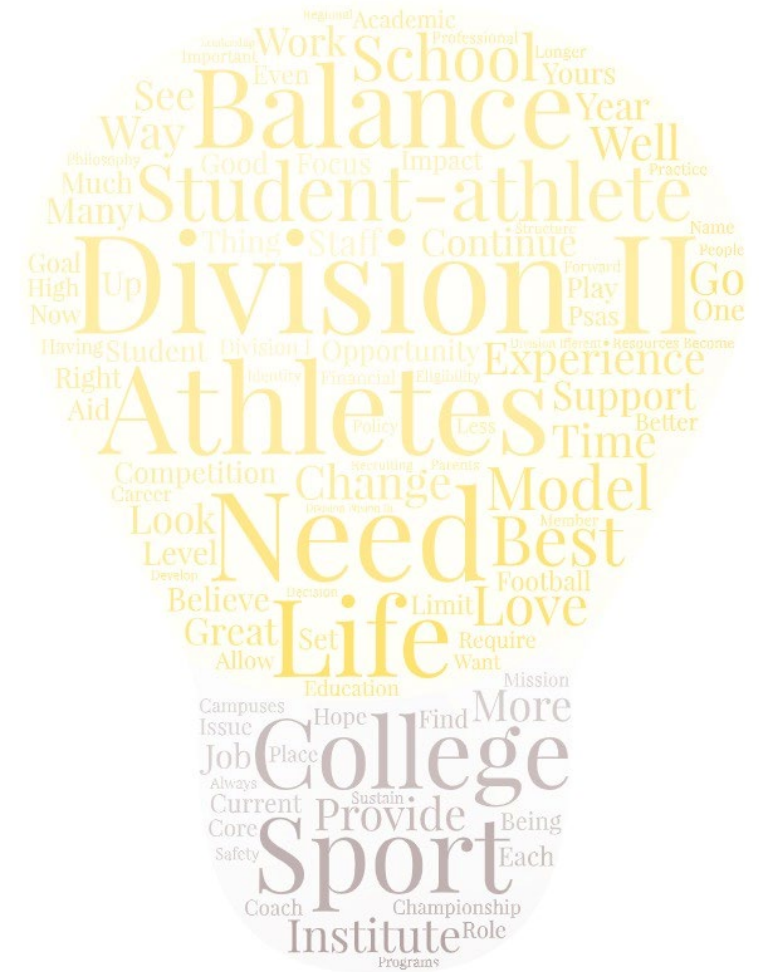
Championships and Festivals

- **Wish to modernize and improve Championships Festivals**
  - *I strongly support reimagining our approach to festivals...we should transition away from seasonal multi-sport festivals to more of a focus on multi-gender same-sport and multi-divisional festivals. There are too many negative ramifications, particularly the inconsistency in providing championship-quality venues...that are caused by seasonal multi-sport festivals.*
    – Conference Personnel, Mountain East Conference

  - *...the festival, although I believe that my team enjoyed the adventure that it was, it is at a very difficult time of the year - the missed class time right around finals added far more stress than our other final four experiences. We were in Seattle, where field hockey is not played, the lines were not on the field, poorly painted on, and the location was pretty far away from the hotel. I don't think that the festival is built for our sport..* – Field Hockey Head Coach, Northeast-10 Conference

  - *If you're going to have a festival, all teams in that season should participate, no sports should be left out like they currently are, it diminishes the festival.* – Compliance Coordinator/Officer, South Atlantic Conference

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Championships and Festivals

- **Wish to discontinue the Championships Festivals**
  - *I do think the festivals are a waste of energy, time and money. Athletes are there to compete and changing travel, competition schedules etc. to make the festival activities a priority are not enhancing the championships they make the championships seem less important.* – Women's Swimming and Diving Head Coach, Gulf South Conference

  - *I do not feel like the DII Festivals are a good model for DII to continue…every volleyball school has an additional expense to bring teams in earlier than normal…for cross country student-athletes they are training even longer than normal because their season is extended. I do not believe these costs outweigh the potential benefit of the few teams at the festival.* – Conference Personnel, Great American Conference

- **Need increased funding for Championships**
  - *Please consider increasing the spending on DII championships as well. This would help schools with the incurred costs of championship participation.* – President/Chancellor, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

  - *Per diems and travel reimbursements for playoff games need to increase. We are reaching the point where it is not financially feasible to be athletically successful.* – Higher Education Administrator, Great American Conference

Distinguishing DII from DI

- **Encourage Division II to embrace identity and avoid automatically adopting Division I policies**

  - *It feels like Division I issues are constantly affecting our level and impacting our decisions, even though it may not be an issue at DII. Instead of being reactionary to problems with whatever aligns with DI, we should be proactive for what is best for Division II.* – Associate Director of Athletics, South Atlantic Conference

  - *Division II has a chance to distinguish itself as a destination for the holistic model of balance with academics, social development, and athletics. I believe we should lean into this model and move far away from the DI model.* – Director of Athletics, Peach Belt Conference

  - *Division II has to break free of the stigmas of not being Div I and embrace why it's beneficial to be Div. II. We do not expect our athletes to be treated like professional athletes [...] but as active members of our universities.* – Compliance Coordinator/Officer, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association

Legislation and Governance

- **Support for reevaluating eligibility rules**

- **Desire to update sport sponsorship requirements**
  - *Division II should raise its minimum sports sponsorship requirement to protect Olympic Sports from being downsized.* – Director of Athletics, Lone Star Conference
  - *...the only requirement to be within sports sponsorship should simply be number of competitions, not the team size. This takes away opportunities for athletes who go to smaller Division II schools to be able to compete at the national championship.* – Women's Swimming and Diving Head Coach, Conference Carolinas

- **Concern about current legislation**
  - *I think the current legislation about the transfer portal and NIL is already making it more challenging to for Division II schools to maintain the balance between academics and athletics* – President/Chancellor, Northeast-10 Conference
  - *...the division needs to do more to make the bylaws clearer and easier to understand.* – Compliance Coordinator/Officer, Great Lakes Valley Conference

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NCAA Convention and Conferences

- **Interest in more virtual attendance options**
  - *Face to face meetings every other year would be helpful to those of us with limited travel funds.* – President/Chancellor, Pacific West Conference

  - *I believe that the NCAA Convention should be hosted in-person annually with a virtual option for institutional and conference administrators to attend ALL educational and business sessions.* – Conference Personnel, Gulf South Conference

- **Desire to shorten NCAA Convention length**
  - *I think the convention is too long and can be compacted to be more efficient.* – Director of Athletics, Great Lakes Valley Conference

  - *I think the 4 days is too much and/or NCAA needs to maximize better the days use. Potentially minimize the resource sessions and share large updates/share outs from NCAA/Division...* – Faculty Athletic Representative, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference

Sport Season Length

- **Desire to reform sports season and practice**
  - *I would like to see official practice start earlier like DI for the safety of the athletes and to put a better product out on the field.*
    – Women's Volleyball Head Coach, Lone Star Conference

  - *DII is letting some sports creep in a way that extends their seasons. Even student-athletes at DII schools should be able to get involved in campus activities and events.* – Compliance Coordinator/Officer, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

  - *Continued extensions of playing seasons and permittable practices do not keep students' best interest in mind we are seeing more and more overuse injuries and mental health burnout from sport directly. Limits need to be established and maintained to allow for a whole student experience; not just an athlete experience.* – Head Athletic Trainer, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference

Staff and Student-Athlete Resources and Support

- **Need more mental health resources and support for student-athletes and athletics staff**

- **Staff and campuses need more support**
    - *More funding, staffing, and resources need to be allocated to ensure that there are correct staff-to-student ratios and that each student athlete has a positive experience. –* Assistant or Associate Athletic Trainer, Northeast-10 Conference
    - *There is a significant amount of health and wellness legislation that you assign and recommend to the athletic trainers, but there is never a recommendation for appropriate staffing to accomplish all the recommendations. –* Head Athletic Trainer, California Collegiate Athletic Conference

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Division II Funding and Finances

- **Increase overall division funding**

  - *We need to help budgets to make the student-athletes' experience better. Funding, scholarships, facilities, gear, need to feel more important…From playing DII myself, the student-athletes need and deserve more support. Sports nutrition, strength training, they need to feel more supported for the level they are playing at.* – Women's Lacrosse Head Coach, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference

  - *Additional funding for graduate assistant grants or scholarships would help benefit Division II schools with Football.* – Life Skills Coordinator, Gulf South Conference

- **Limit athletic budgets and maximum scholarships**

  - *Set allowable limits on athletic budgets for schools within the same conference.*
    – President/Chancellor, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Conference

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