

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



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)

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.



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 1 st 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.

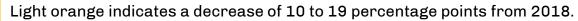
Dark green indicates an increase of 20 percentage points or more from 2018.

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:



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%





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 %



NEW

OUESTION



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%



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 %



QUESTION

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

ON ON	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%



NEW

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%



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.



Have you ever attended a Division II National Championships Festival?

	AD (N=214)	Coach (N=914)	FAR (N=89)	Ath. Trainer (N=165)		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%



Opinion on Division II Championships Festival

(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	Have A	ttended a	Festival	Have not Attended a Festival		
"The division should"	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.



Opinion on Division II Championships Festival

(Percentage responding "Agree" or "Strongly Agree")

	Have A	ttended a I	- estival	Have not Attended a Festival		
	AD Coach (N=90) (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.



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 threequarters of respondents believe outdoor track and field should be included.



The Fall Championships Festival Should Include...

(Percentage endorsing sport)

	Atte	ended a Fest	ival	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%	



The Winter Championships Festival Should Include...

(Percentage endorsing sport)

	Atte	ended a Fest	ival	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%	



The Spring Championships Festival Should Include...

(Percentage endorsing sport)

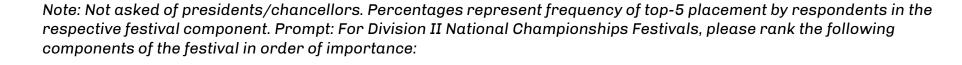
	Atte	ended a Fest	tival	Have not attended a Festival			
	AD (N=63)	Coach (N=157)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=93)	AD (N=87)	Coach (N=422)	Other Ath. Admin. (N=247)	
Baseball	48%	68%	63%	60 %	77 %	74%	
Men's Golf	87 %	75 %	86%	79 %	73 %	81 %	
Women's Golf	87 %	76%	86%	78 %	72 %	81%	
Men's Lacrosse	73 %	75 %	82 %	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%	



	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.





	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%



	Atter	nded a Fe	stival	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.



	Atter	nded a Fe	stival	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%	



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.



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

	Sponso	rs 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.

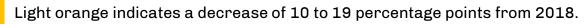


The Division II regionalization model helps to limit missed class time for student-athletes during the regular season.

	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

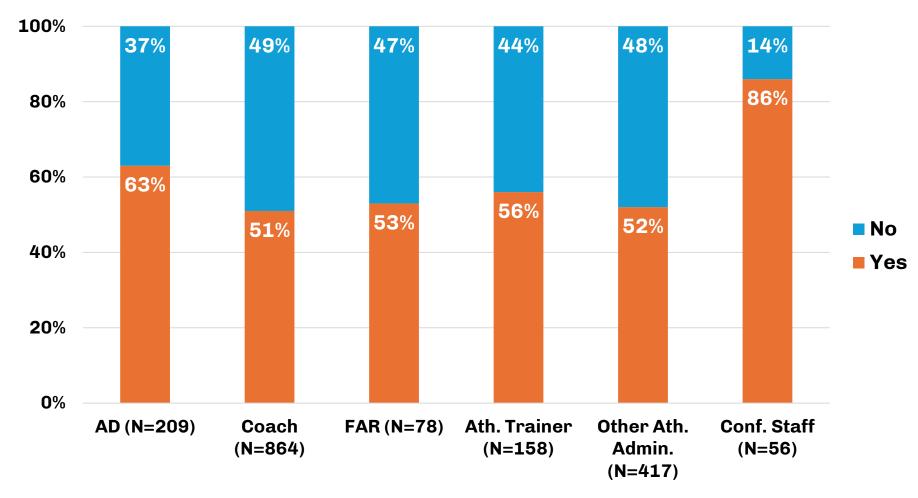
	Sponso	ors MFB	Census Region					
	MFB (N=949)	No MFB (N=800)	Midwest (N=451)	Northeast (N=301)	South (N=748)	West (N=239)		
Agree/Strongly Agree	43%	47%	39%	59%	46%	35%		





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

QUESTION







What should be the top priority of the Division II Championships Committee bracketing model review?

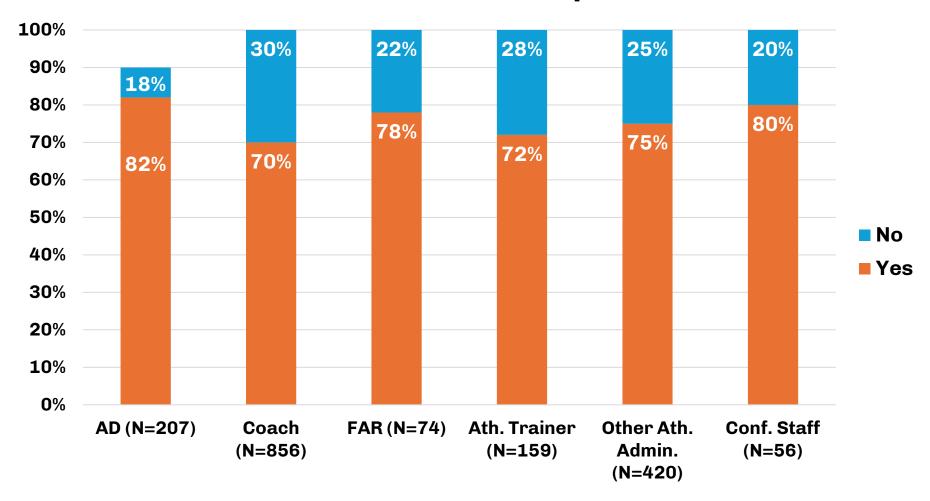
(Two response options)

	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%



NEW QUESTION

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







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 1 st 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 1 st round conference matchup.	18%	23%	53 %	26%	28%	27%



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.



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%



Opinion on Basketball Championships using an eight-team, eight regional site model **OUESTION**

(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%



NEW

Opinion on Women's Volleyball Championships using an eight-team, eight regional site model **OUESTION**

(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%



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