

The NCAA Division III Membership Survey: Executive Summary

April 9, 2008

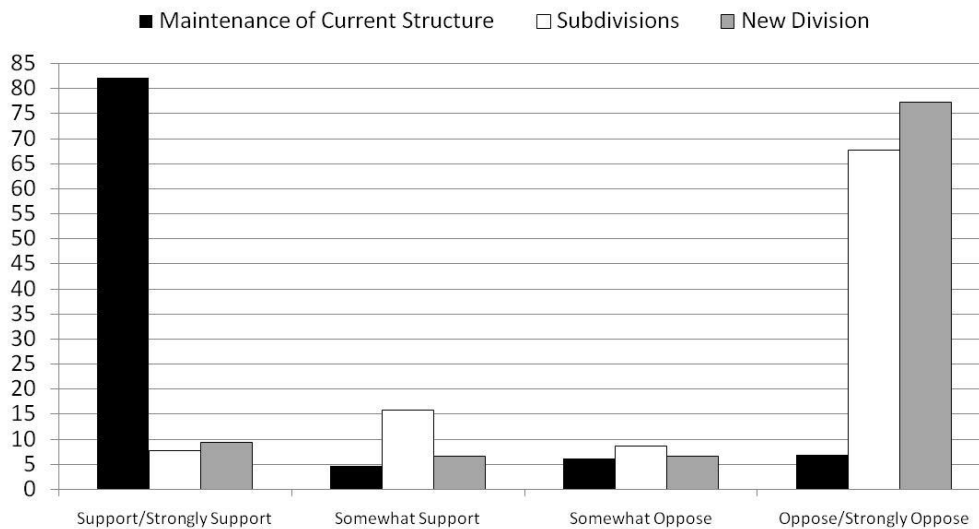
The Survey

- The survey was intended to provide Division III institutions with the ability to express their opinions concerning the future direction of Division III through an institutional response.
- 442 Division III active and provisional member institutions were requested to submit a survey.
- The response rate was: 96%
- The involvement of various campus constituents in the formulation of survey responses:

Position	%
President or Chancellor	88
Individual to whom the Athletics Director reports	67
Athletics Director	90
Senior Woman Administrator	69
Faculty Athletics Representative	61
Student-Athlete Representative	45
Other: Other athletics administrators, coaches and other campus leaders	46

Structural Considerations

- Schools were asked to indicate their level of support for the maintenance of the current Division III structure, the creation of subdivisions of Division III and the creation of a new division of the NCAA.
- 61% strongly supported the maintenance of the current Division III structure.
- 82% supported or strongly supported the maintenance of the current Division III structure.
- 15% supported or strongly supported the creation of subdivisions of Division III or the creation of a new division of the NCAA.
- 8% supported or strongly supported the creation of subdivisions of Division III.
- 9% supported or strongly supported the creation of a new division of the NCAA.



- Reasons cited for the maintenance of the current Division III structure:
 - Negative impact of a structural change (e.g. conference break-ups, increased travel, loss of traditional rivalries, branding difficulties, harm to enrollment or prospective student-athletes, harm to retention of current student-athletes).
 - The current structure works well (e.g. serves needs of members, provides adequate championships opportunities, embraces diversity of institutions, strong brand, current structure has worked well for so long).
 - A compelling case for a structural change has not been made (e.g. a philosophical divide is exaggerated, the current structure can support growth, a sense of urgency is overstated).

Division III in 2008

- *Sports Sponsorship*

- Schools were asked to indicate their preference for a minimum sport sponsorship standard assuming certain allowances for schools with small enrollments and single-gender institutions (percentages of schools).

		Current Standard	2010 Standard						
Fewer	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	More	
1.2	1.9	21.8	52.2	9.6	12.2	1.2	-	-	

- *Red-Shirting*

- 56% of schools agreed or strongly agreed that the current red-shirting prohibition should be upheld.
- 26% agreed or strongly agreed that the current red-shirting prohibition should be overturned.

- *Support for Current Playing and Practice Seasons Standards*

Standard	% Prefer Current Standard
Maximum length of the playing season in terms of <u>weeks</u> .	81
Maximum length of the playing season in terms of number of <u>contests</u> .	87
Maximum number of <u>days</u> of athletically related activity in the <u>non-traditional season</u> .	65
Maximum number of <u>dates of competition</u> permitted in the <u>non-traditional season</u> .	50

- 20% of schools preferred fewer than 16 days of athletically related activity in the non-traditional season.
- 16% preferred more than 16 days of athletically related activity in the non-traditional season.
- 17% preferred no dates of competition in the non-traditional season.
- 33% preferred more than 1 date of competition in the non-traditional season.

- *National Championships*

- 68% of schools indicated the current championships allocation (75% toward championships and 25% toward non-championship programming) is appropriate.
- 12% indicated more should be allocated to championships.
- 20% indicated more should be allocated to non-championship programming.

- *Membership Growth and National Championships*

- Respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for various methods to address membership growth as it relates to national championships.

Option	% Support/Strongly Support
Expand the championships format.	23
Increase the number of mid-week contests.	7
Eliminate Pool C (at-large) berths to preserve automatic qualification to all conferences.	9
Increase the minimum size of conference sponsorship needed to maintain the automatic qualifier.	20
Change the access ratio to limit the field to 64.	47