

COACHES' SURVEY '07

CONTINUED

IN MUCH THE WAY a general manager of a pro sports franchise juggles player contracts to stay beneath a salary cap, men's college coaches maximize their scholarship dollars to award as many players with as much as possible. They do so by slicing the funding pie into smaller increments, according to responses of 83 Division I men's coaches (29 percent) and 28 Division II coaches (13 percent) in the second Golf Digest Coaches' Survey.

Coaches of men's teams reported an average roster size this season of 10.51 players, up slightly from last year's inaugural survey, which found a typical roster of 10.1 players in Division I and 8.0 in Division II. Of those 10.51 players, coaches said 8.58 players (82 percent) received partial or full scholarships. Only seven coaches said they gave scholarship dollars to fewer than half their players. Many young men (and their parents) dream of getting a full athletic scholarship, but that's not the reality. A majority of players on men's teams receive scholarships of less than 50 percent of full value, often only enough to cover books and incidental costs.

As with women's teams, the opportunity to re-evaluate scholarships on an annual basis gives men's coaches a method to maximize the way they dispense those dollars. However, unlike women's coaches, men's coaches are more pointed in the process of re-evaluating scholarships because they have fewer dollars. Scores and tournament finishes are the major determining factors in whether a young man will retain or increase his funding. When asked to explain their reasoning and philosophy for re-evaluating scholarships, several coaches said they did not reduce scholarships, because of a personal or college policy.

"It's only fair to reward players who've achieved at a level higher than expected when recruited," wrote a Division I coach. "It's not permitted to decrease an athletic scholarship unless team rules have been blatantly violated."

That ethos was not universal. In several cases coaches emphasized that tournament scores and finishes were paramount. "Coaches are evaluated on how their team performs," another Division I coach wrote, "and players should perform up to their scholarship amount." **B.A.**

Q / How many total athletic scholarships did your players receive each academic year?

MEN	'03-'04	'04-'05	'05-'06	'06-'07
D-I (4.5 MAXIMUM)	3.48	3.50	3.68	3.84
D-II (3.6 MAXIMUM)	1.51	1.53	1.60	2.10

INSIDE MEN'S SURVEY

85.3

The percentage of maximum allowed scholarships in Division I, according to coaches who responded. More than half the coaches said they have reached the limit of 4.5.

Q / How many players on your team during the 2006-'07 season received a full athletic scholarship?

	ZERO	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR
D-I	69.7%	16.7	10.6	3.0	0.0
D-II	90.4%	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0

69.7

In Division I, nearly 7 in 10 teams have zero players receiving a full scholarship. By comparison, 30.9 percent of women's teams have four or more players on a full ride.

Q / What are the largest and smallest individual scholarships received by any player on your team during the 2006-'07 season?

LARGEST	DIV I		DIV II		SMALLEST	DIV I		DIV II	
100%	30.2	9.5	37.9	47.6	Less than 10%	28.8	33.3	0.0	0.0
90% - 99%	7.6	0.0	21.2	0.0	10% - 19%	6.1	4.8	0.0	14.3
80% - 89%	16.7	4.8	4.5	0.0	20% - 29%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
70% - 79%	15.2	4.8	0.0	0.0	30% - 39%	1.5	4.8	0.0	0.0
60% - 69%	10.6	19.0	0.0	0.0	40% - 49%	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
50% - 59%	6.1	9.5	0.0	0.0	50% - 59%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
40% - 49%	1.5	9.5	0.0	0.0	60% - 69%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
30% - 39%	6.1	14.3	0.0	0.0	70% - 79%	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
20% - 29%	4.5	14.3	0.0	0.0	80% - 89%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10% - 19%	1.5	4.8	0.0	0.0	90% - 99%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less than 10%	0.0	9.5	14.3	14.1	100%	14.3	14.1	0.0	0.0
Average largest	75.7	45.7			Average smallest				

50.1

Although a full ride is rare, big fractional scholarships are slightly more prevalent: The biggest scholarship for more than half of Division I teams is between 60 and 99 percent.

Q / After initially awarding scholarships do you ever re-evaluate players and adjust the value of their scholarships?

	ALL	DIV I	DIV II
YES	86	87	81
ALL PLAYERS	62	63	59
ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS	34	32	41
OTHER	4	5	0
NO	14	13	19

66.7

Minimal scholarships are abundant: Two-thirds of Division I teams give less than 20 percent as their smallest fractional (and that rises to 80.9 percent in Division II).

Q / How important are each of the following factors when evaluating a new player's athletic scholarship?

ON A 1-10 SCALE	ALL	DIV I	DIV II
1 / GOLF SCORES	8.54	8.52	8.63
2 / TOURNAMENT FINISHES	8.47	8.58	8.11
3 / ACADEMIC STANDING/PERFORMANCE	8.02	8.07	7.89
4 / LEADERSHIP ON-COURSE	7.59	7.83	6.84
5 / LEADERSHIP OFF-COURSE	7.44	7.73	6.53
6 / NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS QUALIFIED FOR	7.01	7.18	6.47
7 / TIME TO GRADUATION	6.67	7.17	5.12
8 / PLAYER/FAMILY FINANCIAL SITUATION	5.97	6.32	4.89

8.54

Unlike with the women, where classroom performance rules, men's coaches look to the scorecard when determining how to award scholarships.