

COACHES' SURVEY '07

NEARLY 200 NCAA DIVISION I AND II COACHES ANSWERED OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NUMBER AND SIZE OF SCHOLARSHIPS. THEIR RESPONSES GIVE YOU AN UNPRECEDENTED LOOK INTO HOW THEY BUILD THEIR PROGRAMS.

MANY FAMILIES DREAM of the rewards an athletic scholarship can provide and the satisfaction of reaching the apex of one's sport. NCAA rules are designed to give the athlete every advantage in the recruiting process. But the situation turns murky when scholarships enter the discussion as families try to decipher how coaches allocate those dollars. And what might surprise you is that those hard-earned dollars can be taken away after any season.

This year's second Golf Digest Coaches' Survey examines the prevalence and size of scholarships and how they are awarded in Divisions I and II (NCAA rules forbid them in Division III). A total of 72 women's coaches in Division I (31 percent) and 16 coaches in Division II (13 percent) gave us an inside view of their teams.

Golf is an "equivalency" sport: Programs may split the value of a scholarship among multiple students. Coaches of women's teams reported an average roster size of 8.28 this season, with 7.04 players (85 percent) receiving scholarships. Only nine coaches had more than 30 percent of players without scholarships, remarkable considering per-team averages of 4.99 scholarships in Division I and 2.38 in Division II.

All those dollars mean a full ride remains the norm in Division I. Eighty-two percent of coaches had players on full scholarship in Division I; by comparison, only 6.3 percent of Division II teams had one player on a full ride.

One misconception about scholarships is that they represent a four-year offer. They are one-year arrangements—and 82 percent of coaches said they re-evaluate them in some form. When asked to explain their philosophy, the coaches sounded similar themes. "I reward hard work," one Division I coach wrote. "When others see hard work rewarded, it motivates them to work hard."

A Division II coach said she gives players two years, then re-evaluates. "Unfortunately, I've found players become complacent if they don't have the possibility of a scholarship reduction."

CONTINUED

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

WOMEN	'03-'04	'04-'05	'05-'06	'06-'07
D-I (6.0 MAXIMUM)	4.32	4.37	4.65	4.99
D-II (5.4 MAXIMUM)	1.31	1.49	2.26	2.38

INSIDE WOMEN'S SURVEY

81.7

The percentage increase in athletic scholarships in Division II during the past four seasons (versus 15.5 percent for Division I) indicates expanding opportunities for top players.

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

	ZERO	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX
D-I	18.2%	18.2	21.8	10.9	9.1	9.1	12.7
D-II	93.7%	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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%	81.8	6.7	Less than 10%	20.0	33.3				
90% - 99%	5.5	6.7	10% - 19%	12.6	33.3				
80% - 89%	5.5	13.2	20% - 29%	14.5	26.7				
70% - 79%	1.8	0.0	30% - 39%	16.7	0.0				
60% - 69%	1.8	13.2	40% - 49%	5.5	6.7				
50% - 59%	0.0	6.7	50% - 59%	12.6	0.0				
40% - 49%	1.8	6.7	60% - 69%	1.8	0.0				
30% - 39%	0.0	6.7	70% - 79%	1.8	0.0				
20% - 29%	0.0	26.7	80% - 89%	0.0	0.0				
10% - 19%	0.0	6.7	90% - 99%	0.0	0.0				
Less than 10%	1.8	6.7	100%	14.5	0.0				
Average largest	94.8	47.7	Average smallest	36.4	14.9				

30.9

Percentage of responding Division I coaches with at least four players on a full ride; it remains the sole currency by which top teams are formulated.

30.7

Nearly one-third of responding Division I coaches have at least a 50 percent ride as their *smallest* scholarship.

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

	ALL	DIV I	DIV II
YES	82	79	93
ALL PLAYERS	55	49	71
ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS	38	42	29
OTHER	7	9	0
NO	18	21	7

8.18

Academic performance, which emerged during last year's survey as the top factor in recruiting, drives decisions on scholarship dollars for Division I coaches.

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 / ACADEMIC STANDING/PERFORMANCE	8.18	8.33	7.67
2 / GOLF SCORES	8.03	8.14	7.67
3 / LEADERSHIP OFF-COURSE	7.85	7.75	8.20
4 / LEADERSHIP ON-COURSE	7.74	7.67	8.00
5 / TOURNAMENT FINISHES	7.52	7.61	7.20
6 / NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS QUALIFIED FOR	7.14	7.29	6.60
7 / TIME TO GRADUATION	6.56	6.48	6.79
8 / PLAYER/FAMILY FINANCIAL SITUATION	5.70	5.61	6.00

8.20

Leadership away from the course is weighed heavily by women's coaches—primarily in Division II, where a role model can serve as a second (or first) assistant.