



# STATE & WOMEN'S LEAGUE

*What our competition community told us — and what it means for the future of Baseball NSW leagues.*

**237**

**Respondents**

Players, coaches, parents  
& administrators

**11**

**Clubs**

All clubs represented

**6**

**Competitions**

Men's, Women's & U18s

# About This Review

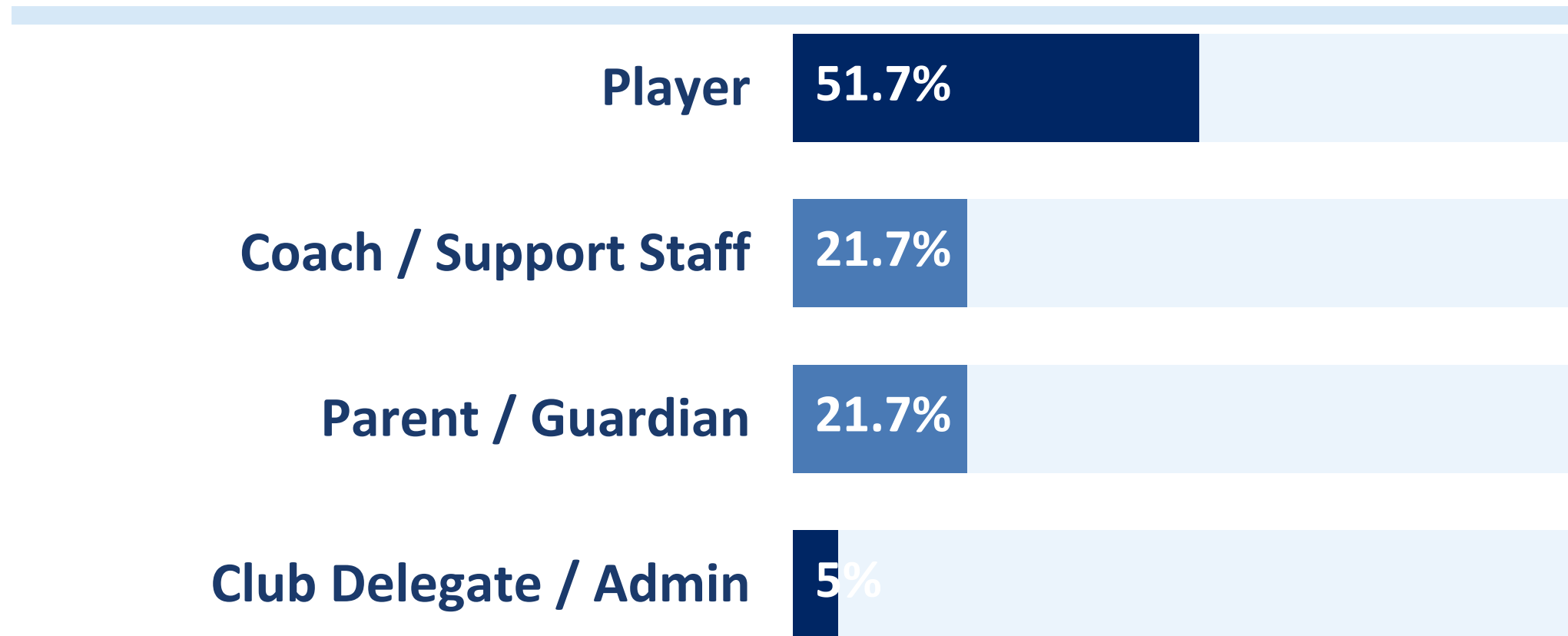
*A direct conversation with the people who play, coach and run our competitions*

In May 2026, Baseball NSW conducted a competition review survey across the State League and Women’s League. 237 people responded - a strong cross-section of the competition community, spanning all 11 clubs and six competition grades. Their feedback is direct, thought out and useful. This report presents it honestly.

## About this consultation

Conducted May 2026 across Baseball NSW State League and Women’s League. Respondents included players, coaches, parents and club administrators from all 11 clubs across Men’s 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, Women’s 1st Grade, 2nd Grade and U18s competitions.

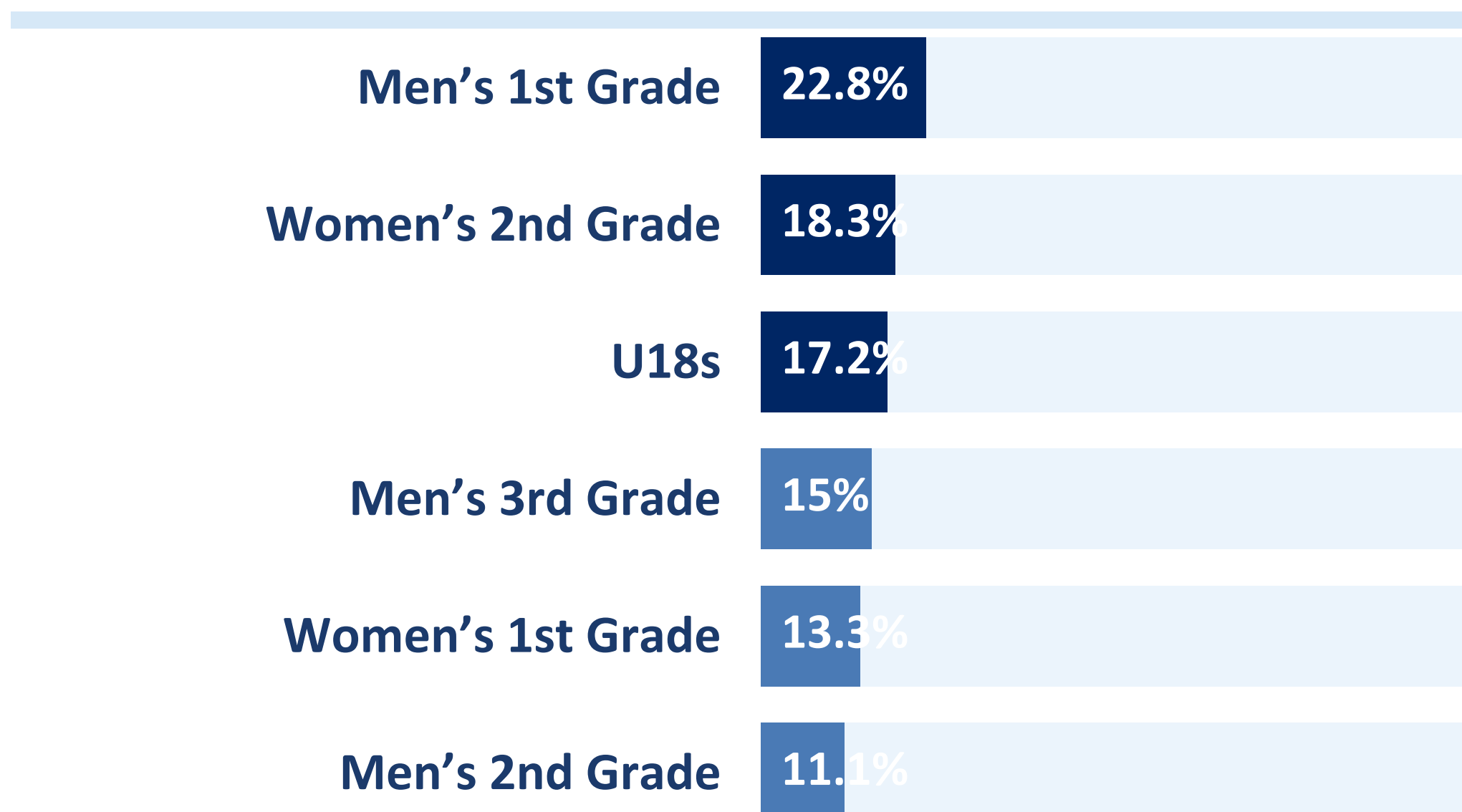
## Who responded



## Clubs represented



## By league / team

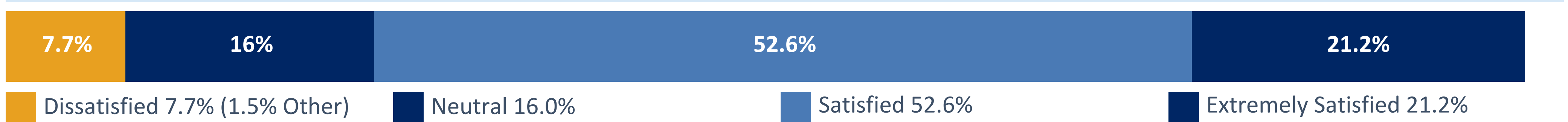


# How the Competition Rates

*Satisfaction levels and the factors driving the experience*

Overall, the competition generates genuine satisfaction -- nearly three quarters of respondents are satisfied or extremely satisfied. But a meaningful group are not, and their concerns deserve direct attention.

## State League overall satisfaction



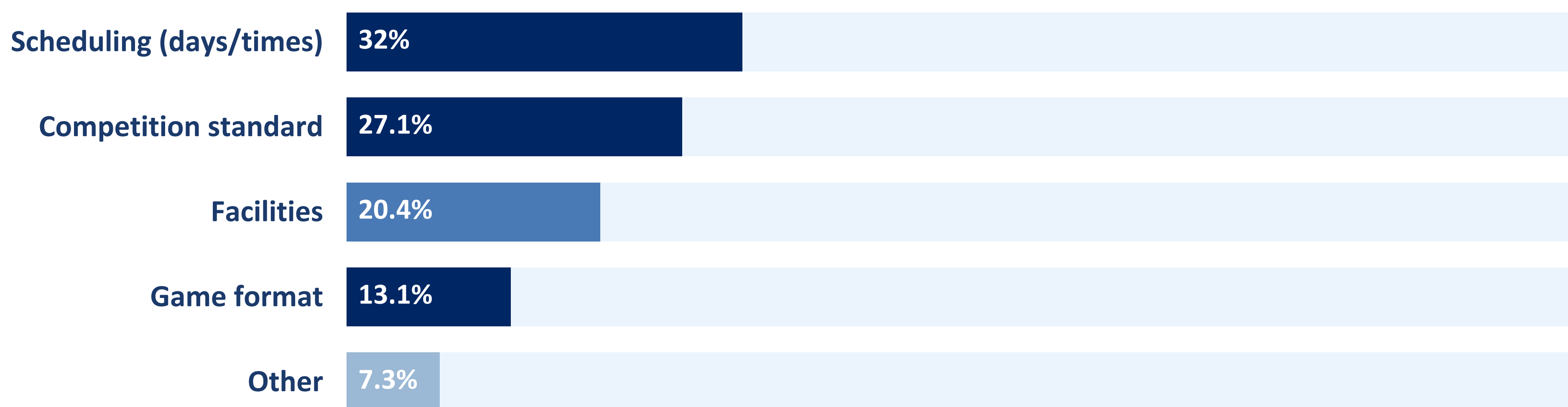
73.8%

Satisfied or Very Satisfied

A solid foundation — but more work to do

## What has the biggest impact on your experience?

Scheduling dominates - but competition standard is a close second and facility quality is a material concern.



**KEY INSIGHT**

**Scheduling is the single biggest lever and the most actionable.**

- Midweek games are the dominant scheduling complaint — work commitments, traffic, cost and fatigue all cited directly
- Competition standard concerns are closely linked to player availability and the drain of ABL selections on roster depth
- Facility feedback centres on scorer facilities, weather protection and variation in standards across grounds

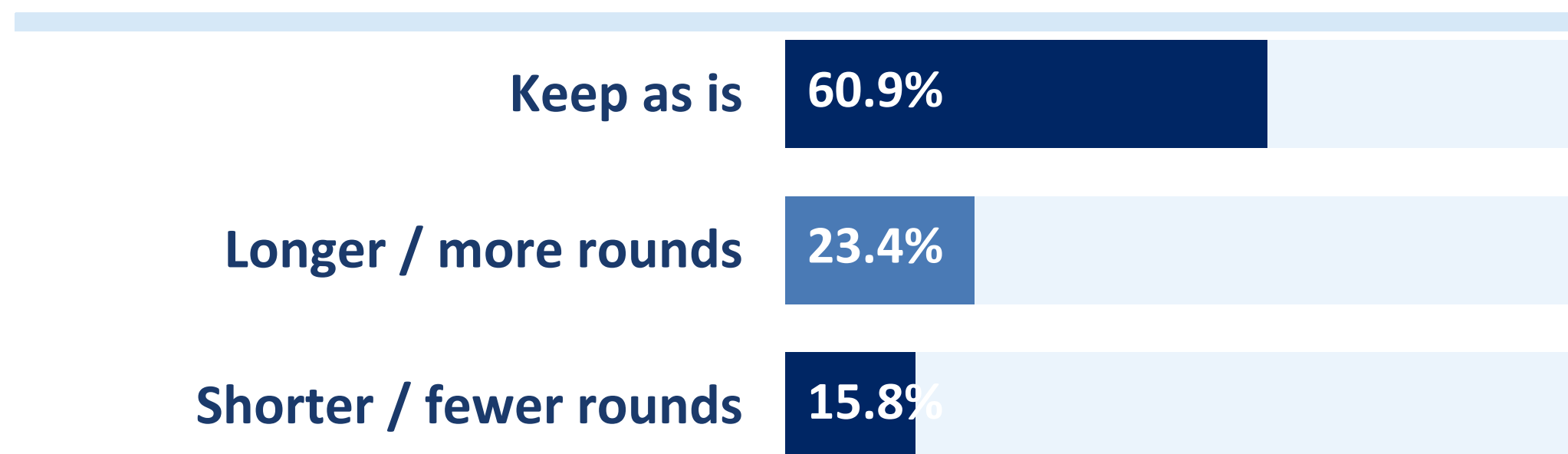


## SEASON STRUCTURE

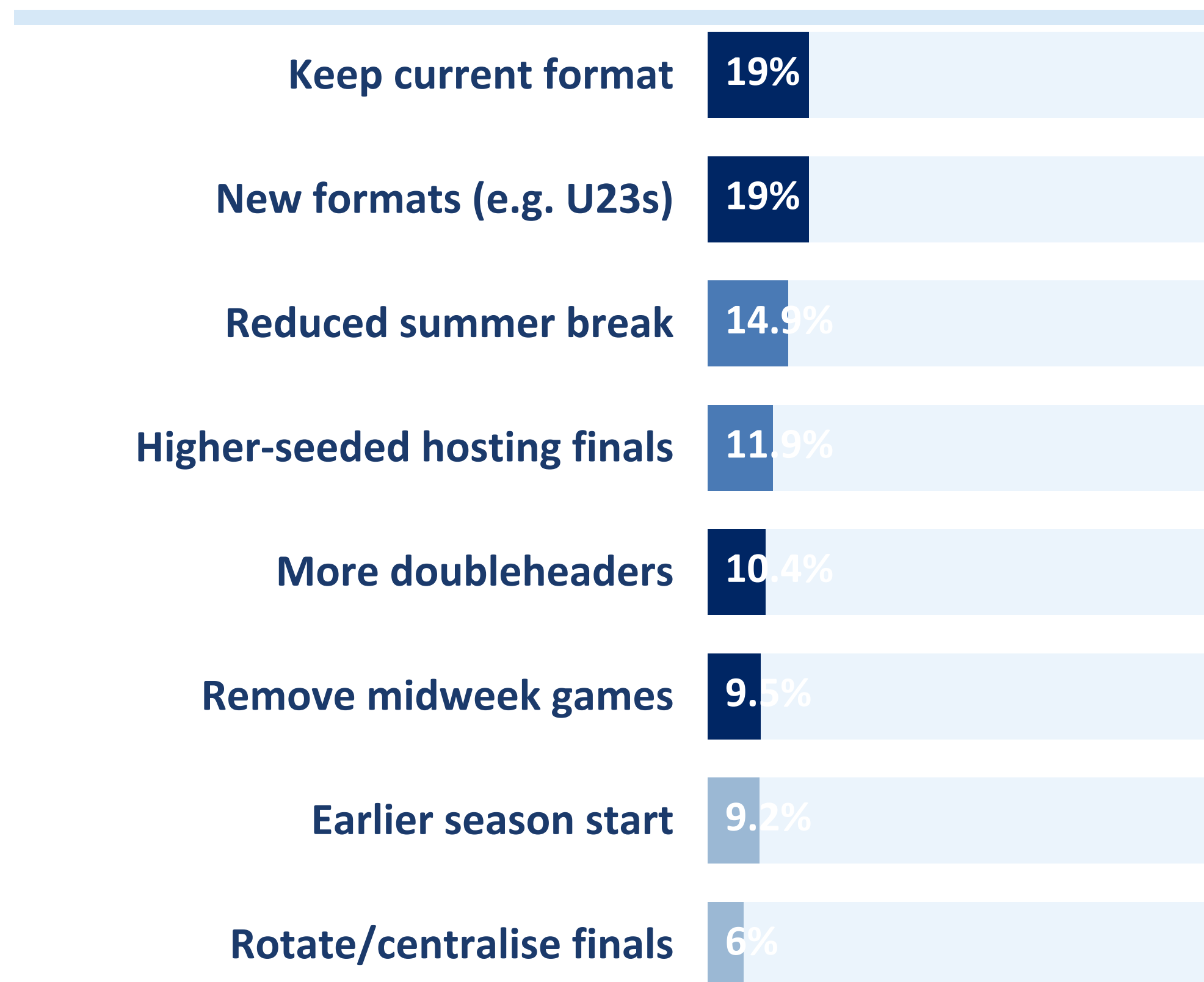
# What the Community Wants

Despite the scheduling challenges, the majority of respondents want to keep the current season length or make it longer. The issues raised are about how the competition is structured and delivered.

### Season length preference



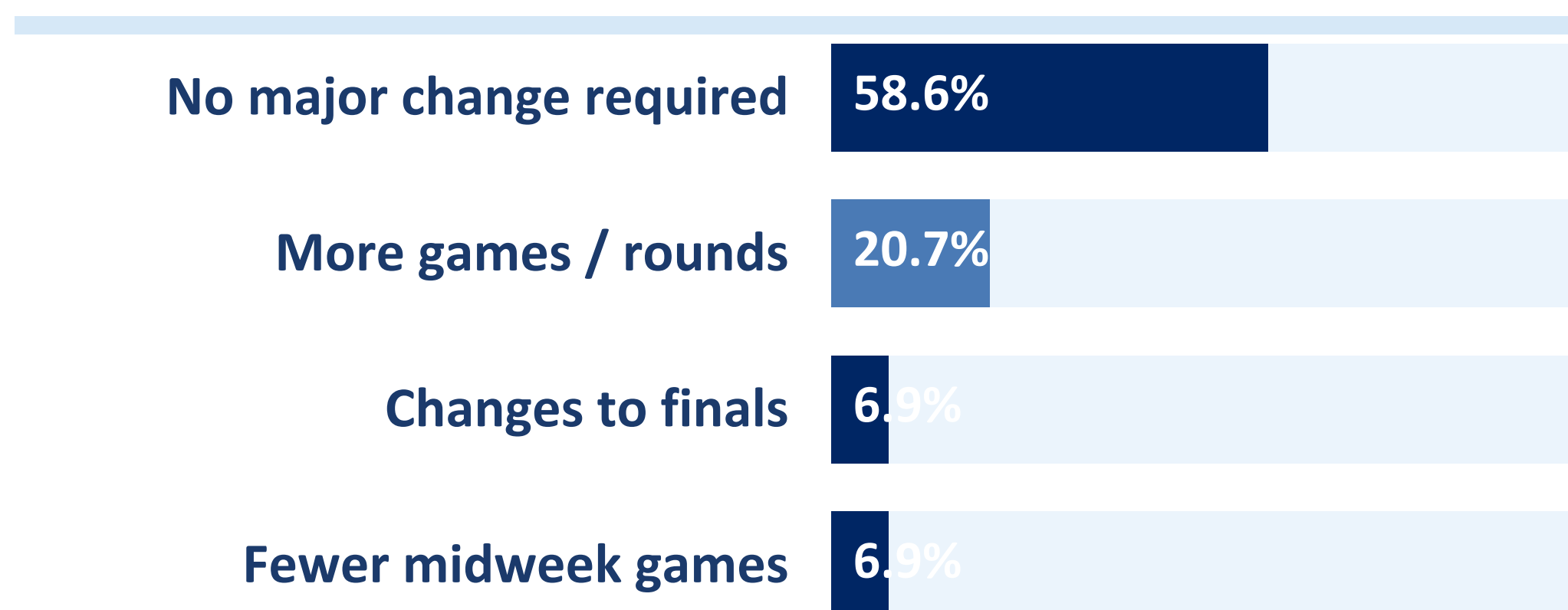
### Format changes most supported



#### What this tells us

84.3% want the same amount of baseball or more. The issue isn't season length — it's how the season is scheduled, particularly midweek games and the summer break.

### Player development — changes needed?



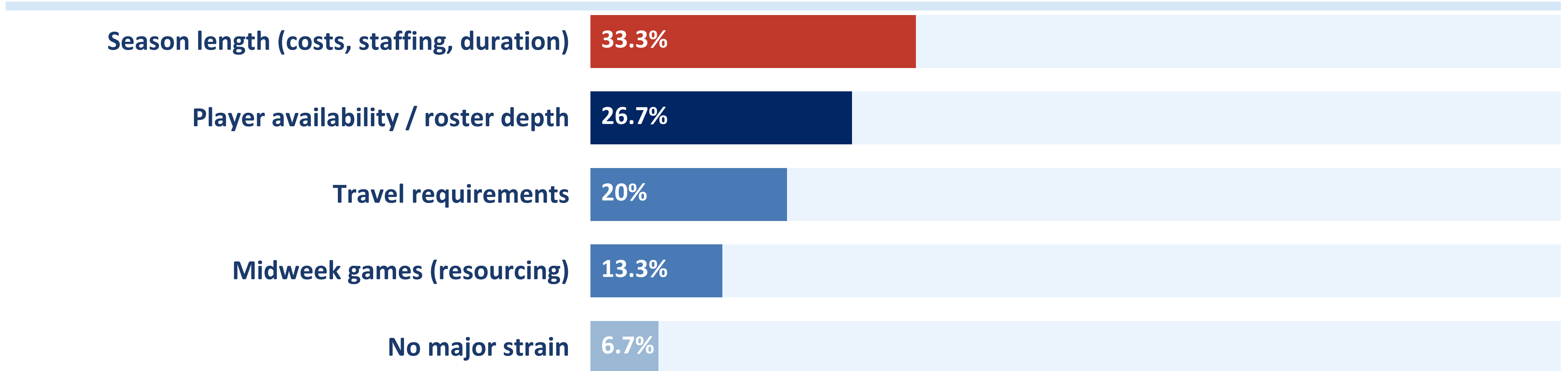
*“The format change conversation is genuinely split which is itself a signal. There's no single obvious answer. Any change requires careful consultation.”*

# What's Putting the System Under Strain

*The pressures that clubs and administrators are feeling most*

Behind the competition experience is a delivery system under pressure. Similar to most sporting environment, clubs are finding it harder to field teams, retain volunteers, and manage the demands of a long season.

## Greatest operational strain



## In their own words

Direct quotes from respondents.

*"21 weeks is just too much. On one hand we'd love more baseball but the season length is unsustainable."*

Club administrator — Season length

*"Loss of players to ABL seriously affects the overall standard of competition."*

Player — Competition standard

*"Volunteers, scorers and coaches are stretched to the point of pulling out due to season length."*

Club delegate — Season length

*"Players moving toward 1st grade are competing with 1st grade players playing socially in 2nd grade."*

Coach — Pathway gaps

### OPERATIONAL INSIGHT

#### Season length and midweek games are connected — and compounding each other.

- A 21-week season with midweek games creates cumulative fatigue for players, volunteers and club administrators
- Player availability issues driven by ABL selections, midweek attendance difficulty and junior-to-senior pathway gaps
- Coach behaviour in certain competitions is a concern requiring intervention.

# What We Do With This

This survey was not a feedback exercise but an attempt to hear what the playing community (237 voices) directly involved in our competitions think, feel and need.

## SIX THINGS THIS REVIEW IS TELLING US TO ADDRESS

### 1 Scheduling reform

Review the role of midweek games whether to reduce, remove, or restructure them. Wednesday nights are a specific pressure point across clubs, players and administrators.

### 2 Season length review

21 weeks is stretching clubs and volunteers to breaking point. Explore whether a tighter, better-structured season delivers more quality without the attrition cost.

### 3 Junior-to-senior pathway

The transition from junior to senior competition needs to be clearer. Formats and development pathway improvements have direct community support.

### 4 Club & Competition culture

Ensuring both the competitive and developmental environments exists to provide the best possible playing experience.

### 5 Facility standards

Scorer facilities, weather protection and umpire standards vary significantly. A minimum standards framework developed with clubs and associations would address common complaints.

### 6 ABL impact on competition depth

The drain of players to ABL affects roster depth and competition standard. NSW can lead by establishing clearer availability expectations and sustainable import policies.

## OUR COMMITMENT

### What Happens Now

This review directly informs the competition review workstream within the Play Ball NSW Strategic Plan 2026–2029. The data here will shape the format and structure of Baseball NSW leagues from the 2026/27 season onward. We will report back to clubs and the community on the specific decisions made, and why.

- Competition structure recommendations - developed and consulted with clubs, target Q3 2026
- Clubs and Competition culture standards
- Scheduling / Regs review — ongoing and in collaboration with our respective standing committees.