

Division I Coaches' Perspective on the Student Athlete Transfer Portal and Recruiting Process

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Brief History of Transfer Portal

- Prior to 2018, student athletes had to ask compliance office to transfer
- A form was filled out with approval from coach to talk to specific schools
 - Rules could be in place, such as not talking to schools within their conference.
- Compliance office reached out to those school(s) to notify coach of student athlete interest in the other school(s)
- Waivers were an option (e.g. graduate student waiver)
- Power was more with coach and university, not as much with student athletes.

New changes to Transfer Portal

- NCAA Transfer portal debuted Oct. 2018
- Transfer portal was made to benefit student-athletes
- Players interested in transferring or exploring the possibility, ask their compliance administrator to put their name in the portal.
- They do not need to ask or talk to their coach beforehand.
- Once a player is in the portal, any coach can contact that player.
- The database has information that is sortable (e.g. sport, name, conference, division, and school).

New changes to Transfer Portal

- Players also have a choice to add “do not contact” on their profile.
 - Happens when a player already has an idea of where they want to go or if they have a small list of schools. The player can then contact the schools first.
- Players can add or remove their names from the portal at any time, but must keep in mind enrollment periods and eligibility guidelines (progress toward degree)
- The portal is not public. Coaches and school administrators only have access to the portal.
- Player’s scholarship at the end of the school term in which they entered the portal can be pulled if they enter transfer portal
 - If they withdraw name from the portal, up to the coach to reinstate scholarship

New changes to Transfer Portal

- **New rule 2021:** One-time exception rule previously available for some sports , now open to all sports, as long as they enter transfer portal in the “window”
 - No need to sit out a year
- If they have already transferred and transfer again musty apply for a waiver
 - Examples: Extraordinary circumstances , Discontinued academic program...
- Graduate students who have used the one-time transfer waiver, utilize a second waiver to gain eligibility for graduate student exception
- One-time exception rule open to all sport, increased #'s entering the portal

Transfer Window Rules: Fall example

FIGURE 13-1
Notification of Transfer Windows

Season	Sport	Open	Close
Fall	Cross Country	Sunday, November 13, 2022	Tuesday, December 27, 2022
Fall	Field Hockey	Monday, November 7, 2022	Wednesday, December 21, 2022
Fall	Football (FBS)	Monday, December 5, 2022	Wednesday, January 18, 2023*
Fall	Football (FCS)	Monday, November 21, 2022	Wednesday, January 4, 2023**
Fall	Men's Soccer	Tuesday, November 15, 2022	Thursday, December 29, 2022
Fall	Women's Soccer	Tuesday, November 8, 2022	Thursday, December 22, 2022
Fall	Women's Volleyball	Monday, November 28, 2022	Wednesday, January 11, 2023
Fall	Men's Water Polo	Monday, November 21, 2022	Wednesday, January 4, 2023
Fall	Football – Spring Window	Saturday, April 15, 2023	Sunday, April 30, 2023
Fall	Other Sports - Spring Window	Monday, May 1, 2023	Monday, May 15, 2023

*To limit the uncertainty around scholarship numbers and streamline the process for players, once name is in the portal, they can transfer whenever they want as long as they are able to gain admissions and meet academic requirement dates.

*also a spring window for some fall sports

Data

- **Transfer Portal Data: Division I Student-Athlete Transfer Trends**

- Using data from transfer portal to understand trends by year, sport, and scholarship status

<https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2022/4/25/transfer-portal-data-division-i-student-athlete-transfer-trends.aspx>

- Next few slides from above Database

Year

(All)

Sport

All

2021

6,876

3,253

2022

8,197

3,705

Undergraduate transfers

Graduate transfers

Note: Because multisport athletes have records in the Transfer Portal for each sport in which they compete, indoor/outdoor track entrants with dual entries are counted only once.

Year

(All)

Sport

Football-FBS

2021


1,002

486

2022

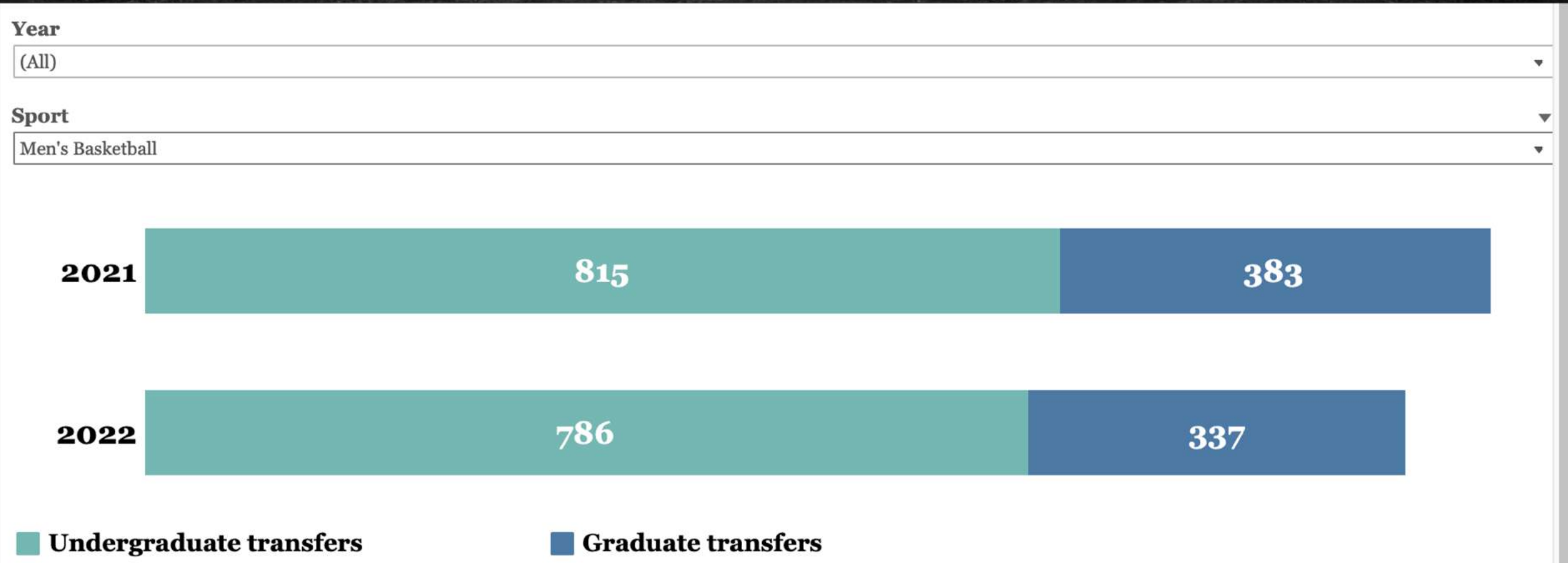
1,293

540

 **Undergraduate transfers**

 **Graduate transfers**

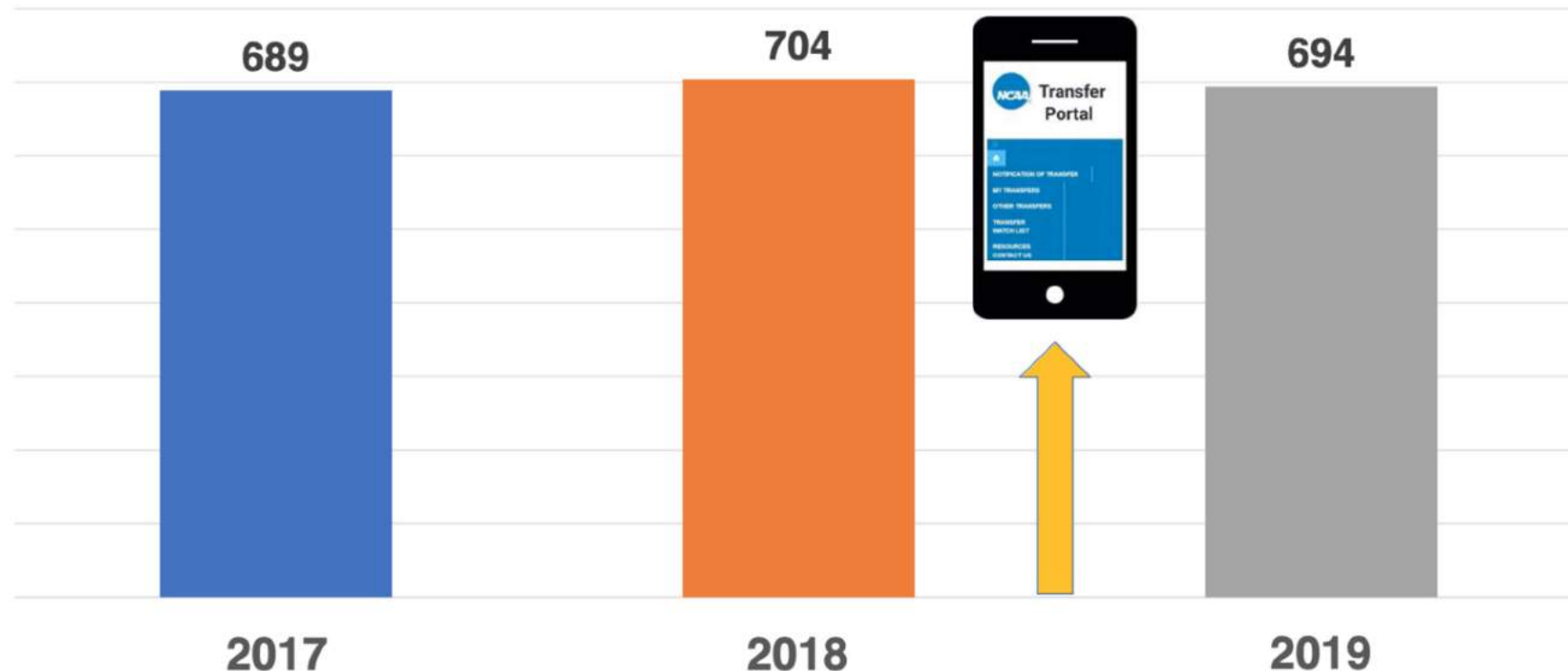




*numbers are over 1,400 student athletes in portal for 2022-2023 men's basketball (Covid year exception ends after 23'-24')

Men's Basketball Transfers by the Numbers

- ▶ From 2017 to 2019, there has not been substantial change in the number of transfers in Division I men's basketball. In 2017, there were 689 transfers (12.6% of all Division I men's basketball student-athletes), in 2018 there were 704 (12.7%) and in 2019 there were 694 (12.6%).



Year

(All) ▼

Sport

Women's Basketball ▼



Year

(All)

Sport

Women's Volleyball

2021

268

134

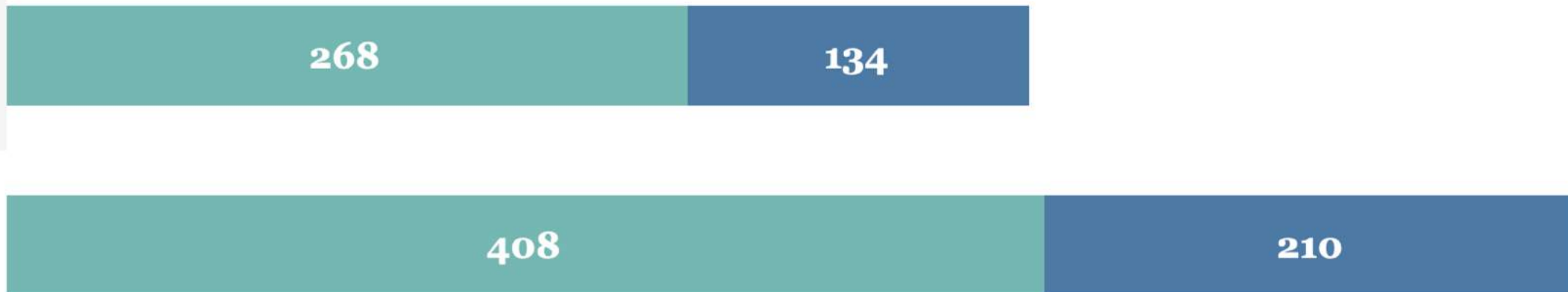
2022

408

210

Undergraduate transfers

Graduate transfers

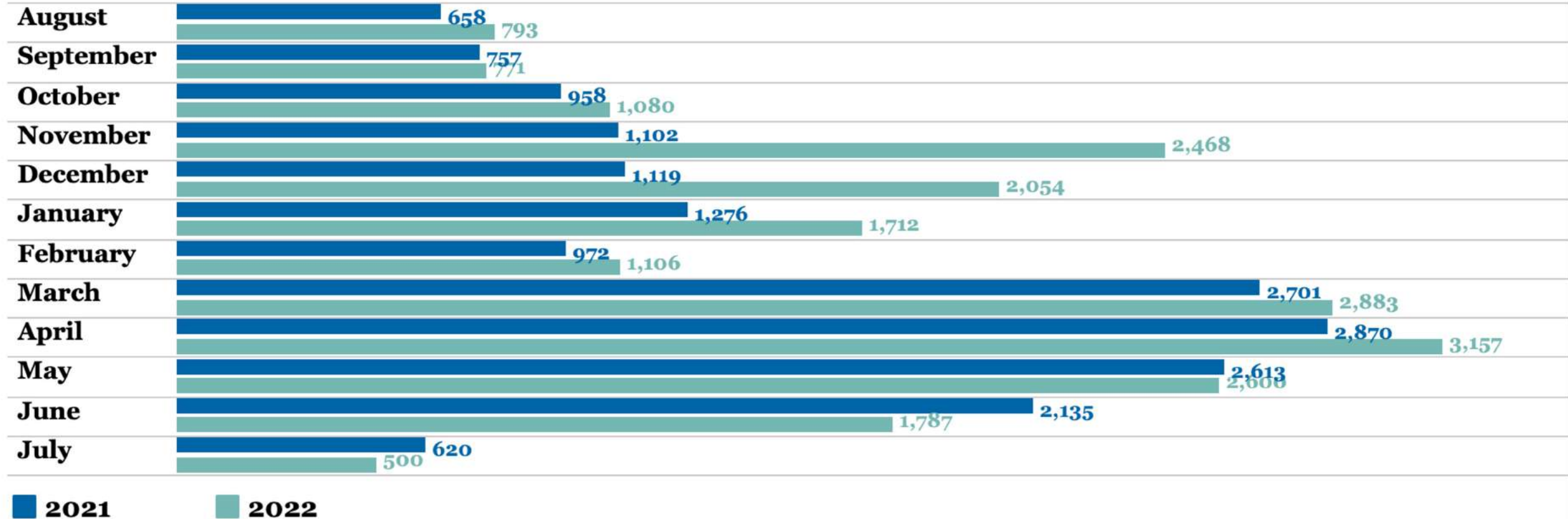


When are Division I student-athletes entering the Transfer Portal?

This timeline reflects the month a student-athlete's name is entered into the Transfer Portal.

Sport

All



Generally, NCAA student-athletes are most likely to enter the Transfer Portal at the **conclusion of their team's season** or at the **end of the academic year**.

What is the divisional destination of successful Division I Transfer Portal entrants?

Year

(All) ▼

Sport

All ▼



■ Division I

■ Division II

■ Division III

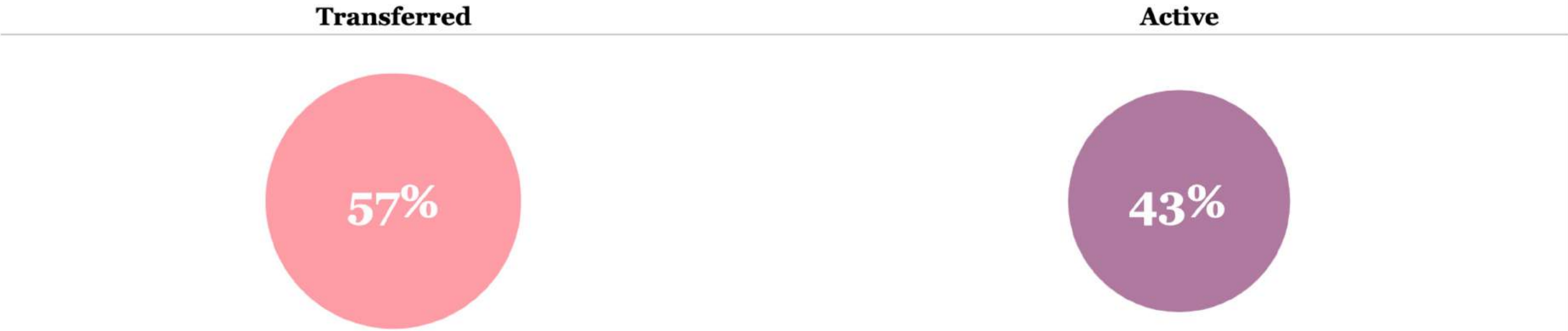
What are the outcomes for Division I students entered into the Transfer Portal?

Year

(All)

Sport

All



Default status for those entered into the Transfer Portal. **Active entrants** may still be exploring transfer options, may have transferred to a non-NCAA school or may have left their sport. Student-athletes reported to have **enrolled at a new NCAA member school**.

Note: The Transfer Portal captures enrollment at an NCAA member school; the status of those who leave their sport and those who transfer to a school outside the membership (e.g., a college that's a member of the NJCAA or the NAIA) remains active in the Transfer Portal. Because student-athletes' transfer destinations are not reported until after they enroll at their new schools, we are using data as of January 2023 to best capture fall enrollment status of 2022 entrants (those who were entered into the Transfer Portal between Aug. 1, 2021, and July 31, 2022, and likely enrolled during the fall 2022 term). Those students who were withdrawn from the portal (e.g., those who decided to stay at their original school), have been removed to capture the true number of transfers

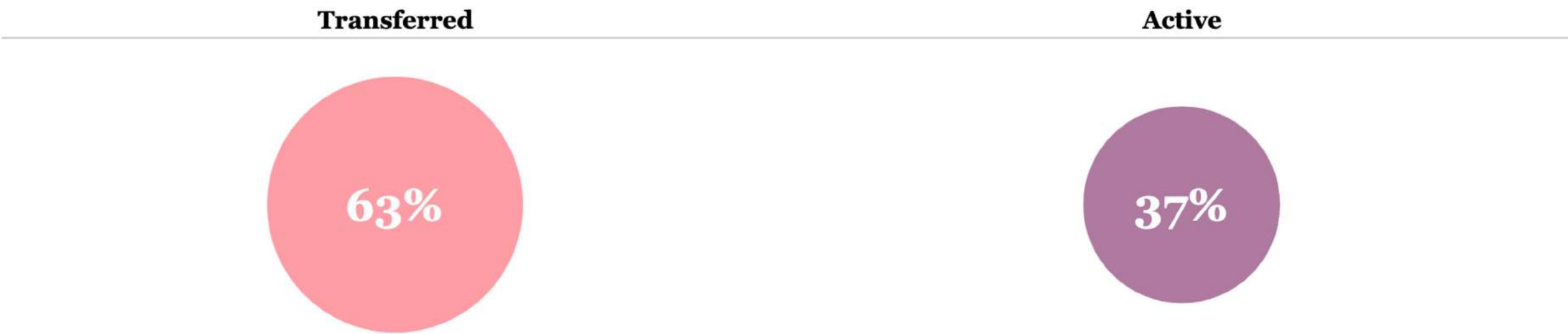
What are the outcomes for Division I students entered into the Transfer Portal?

Year

2022

Sport

Football-FBS



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What are the outcomes for Division I students entered into the Transfer Portal?

Year

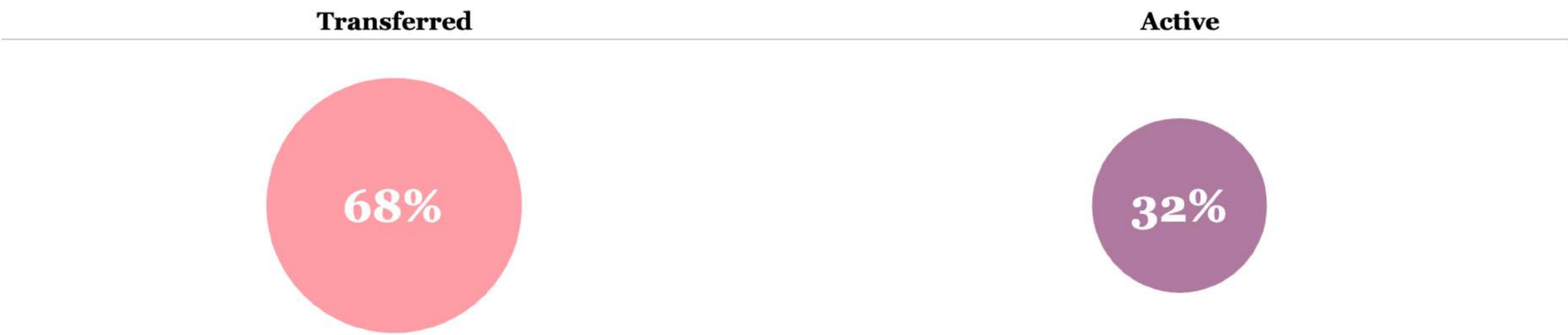
2022

▼

Sport

Men's Basketball

▼



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What are the outcomes for Division I students entered into the Transfer Portal?

Year

2022

Sport

Women's Basketball

Transferred



Active



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What are the outcomes for Division I students entered into the Transfer Portal?

Year

(All)

Sport

Women's Volleyball

Transferred

64%

Student-athletes reported to have **enrolled at a new NCAA member school.**

Active

36%

Default status for those entered into the Transfer Portal. **Active entrants** may still be exploring transfer options, may have transferred to a non-NCAA school or may have left their sport.

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What are the outcomes for Division I students entered into the Transfer Portal?

Year



(All)



Sport

Baseball



Transferred

Active

49%

51%

Default status for those entered into the Transfer Portal. **Active entrants** may still be exploring transfer options, may have transferred to a non-NCAA school or may have left their sport.

Student-athletes reported to have **enrolled at a new NCAA member school**.

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Proposed Study

- **Methodology:** Qualitative- Interview 12-15 Division I coaches (different sports, schools)
 - Phenomenological research
- A qualitative research approach that seeks to understand and describe the universal essence of a phenomenon.
- ***Phenomenological research methodology*** will be used to learn about the lived experiences to college sport coaches to gain a deeper insights into their experiences.
- **Goal:** To broaden our knowledge about the phenomenon of transfer student athletes from the coaches perspective.
- **Future Study:** Survey, higher participant #'s from a broad range of schools/sports
- **Limitations:** Coaches not wanting to share all recruiting strategies or challenges

Questions For coaches:

- How has the change in transfer portal rules impacted your collegiate sport?
- How has the change in transfer portal rules impacted your recruiting methods/strategies?
- What are the challenges/benefits of recruiting transfer students to your team?
- Once the transfer students are at the university, what has been the impact on team culture and cohesiveness?
- How was the transition for transfer students to your school? Did you notice any challenges and struggles by the student(s)?
- From what you know now, is there anything different you would do when recruiting, coaching, mentoring transfer students?
- How has NIL impacted general recruiting, specifically with transfer student athletes?

Comments from Coaches in the sport news:

- Football programs, now have to construct their rosters on a year-to-year basis. Coaches have to manage scholarship numbers, recruit their own roster to keep players happy and maintain the workload to evaluate potential transfers.
- "We have to start thinking like NFL teams -- you're rebuilding every offseason," a personnel director for a Power 5 school said. "Your culture is changing every year and there's almost too much chaos to it."
- Staffs also have to prepare for the opposite -- if one of their own players decides to leave.
- "It kind of doubled the amount of prospects for evaluating -- with high school recruits and transfers -- and trying to get information," the personnel director said. "It has added a significant amount of work and as it continues to evolve, we continue to learn and adapt our process."
- Strain on scouting and personnel staff, who are already stretched thin. Not knowing who is in the portal or who will go in the portal essentially means they have to evaluate every potential player on every roster who might transfer.

Impact on high school recruits

High school prospects will be impacted by number of open scholarship or roster spots

There are schools that would rather take a transfer with experience than take a chance on a high school prospect

- Coaching changes could impact the list of names who decide to transfer late,

Div I football coach: "From a philosophical standpoint we're never going to abandon recruiting high school student athletes because I think it eliminates the foundational development of your program," he said. "I think the past two seasons we have currently leaned a little more towards the portal out of necessity and choice.

"Once again, the portal has provided an opportunity for college programs, particularly [Power Five], to add players to the roster who are talented and experienced, so I think we would be remiss not to certainly explore those options, but never at the expense of abandoning our high school recruiting."

Challenge for Compliance and Academic Staff

- Coaches wanting quick timeline and turn around with transcript and eligibility evaluations (40/60/80 PTD Rule)
- University admissions staff not on a "rush" timeline.
- Working on getting transfers admitted into school, while also doing paperwork on the players transferring out.
- Onboarding high school prospects who are signing early and looking to enroll in January (quarter/semester school start dates)
- Increase in number of recruiting visits for staff to manage
- Deadlines for graduate programs impact graduate transfer options
- Covid 5th year will end after 23-24 academic year

Timeline

- Working on IRB approval
- Goal is to Interviewing June/July

