

# First Year Match Official Survey Results Dec 2021



**ONTARIO  
SOCCER**  
— EST. 1901 —

# The Survey

With Covid-19 creating unexpected situations in the world of Match Officials Development, we were forced to think outside the box.

A component of this was to move the Match Official Accreditation to a hybrid system – 80% online, 20% on the field.

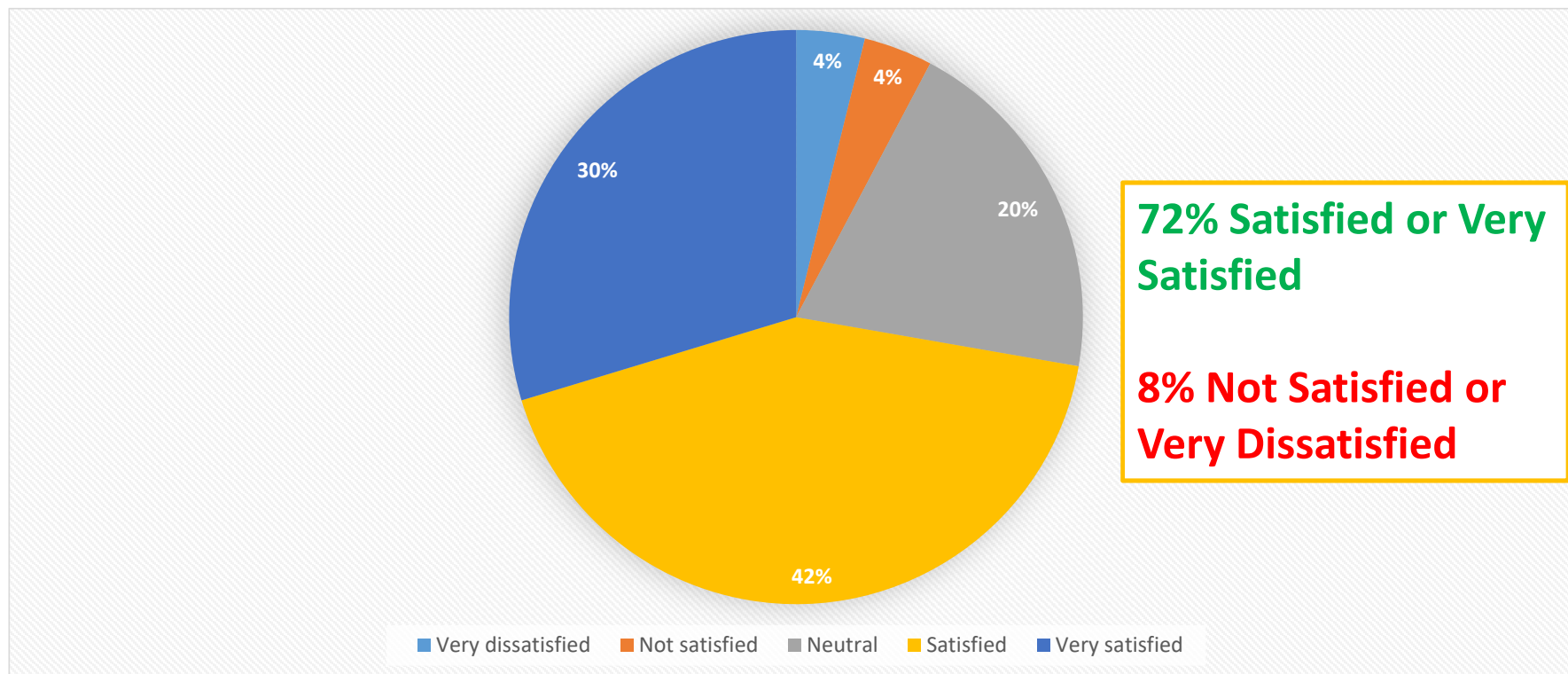
As this was a new system and process, we realized it was imperative for us to reach out to the students to find out how they felt.

Also, many leagues had reduced schedules when they returned in July 2021. We also wanted to learn about their first season.

In the following slides you will hear from those new Match Officials.



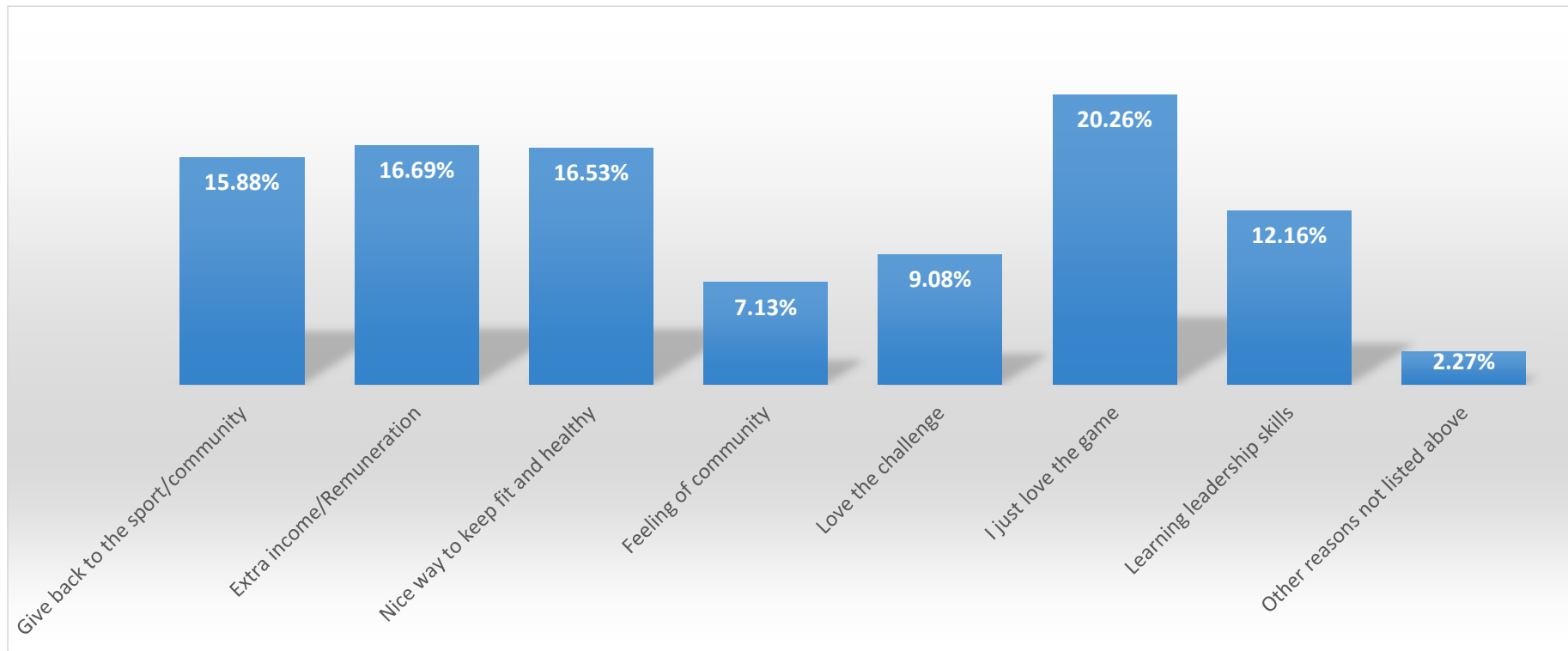
# How happy were you with your first season as a Match Official?



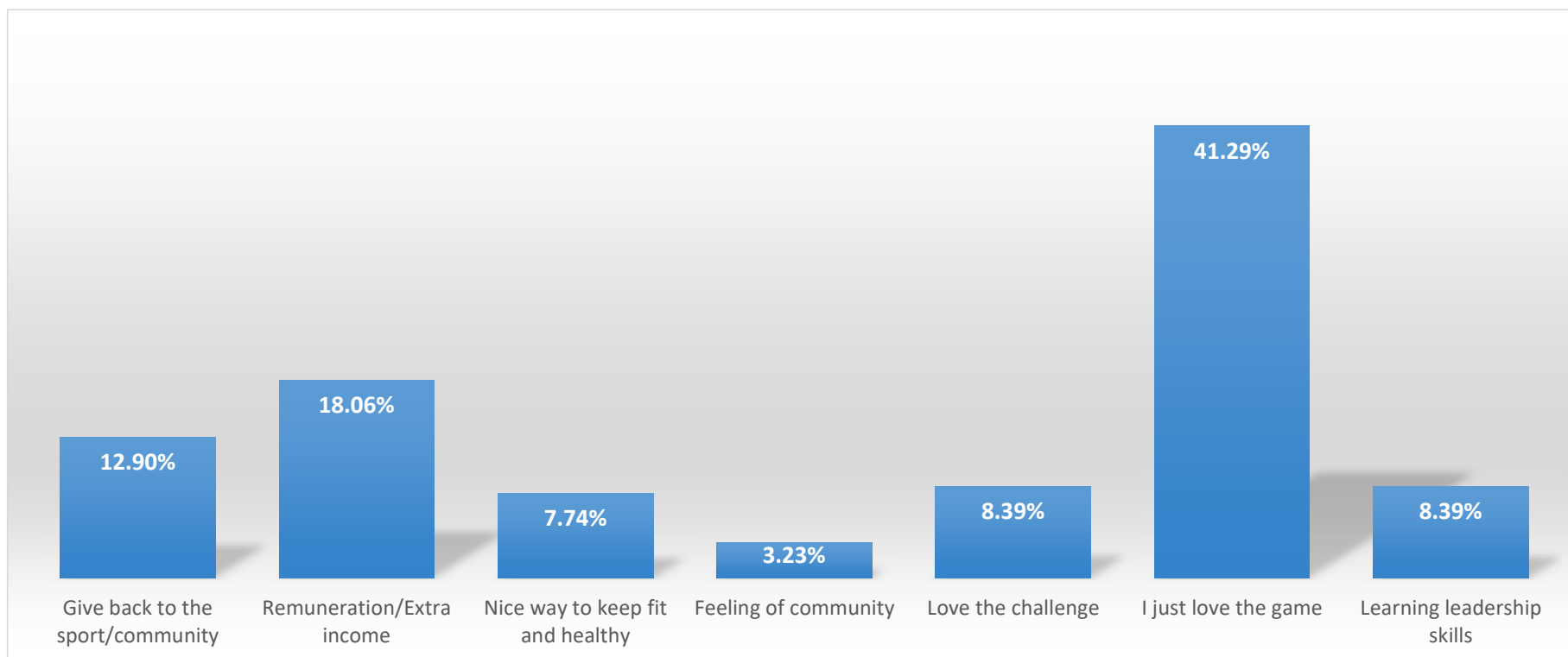
Many of the Dissatisfied officials stated that their local Club/League did not have games or games were severely reduced



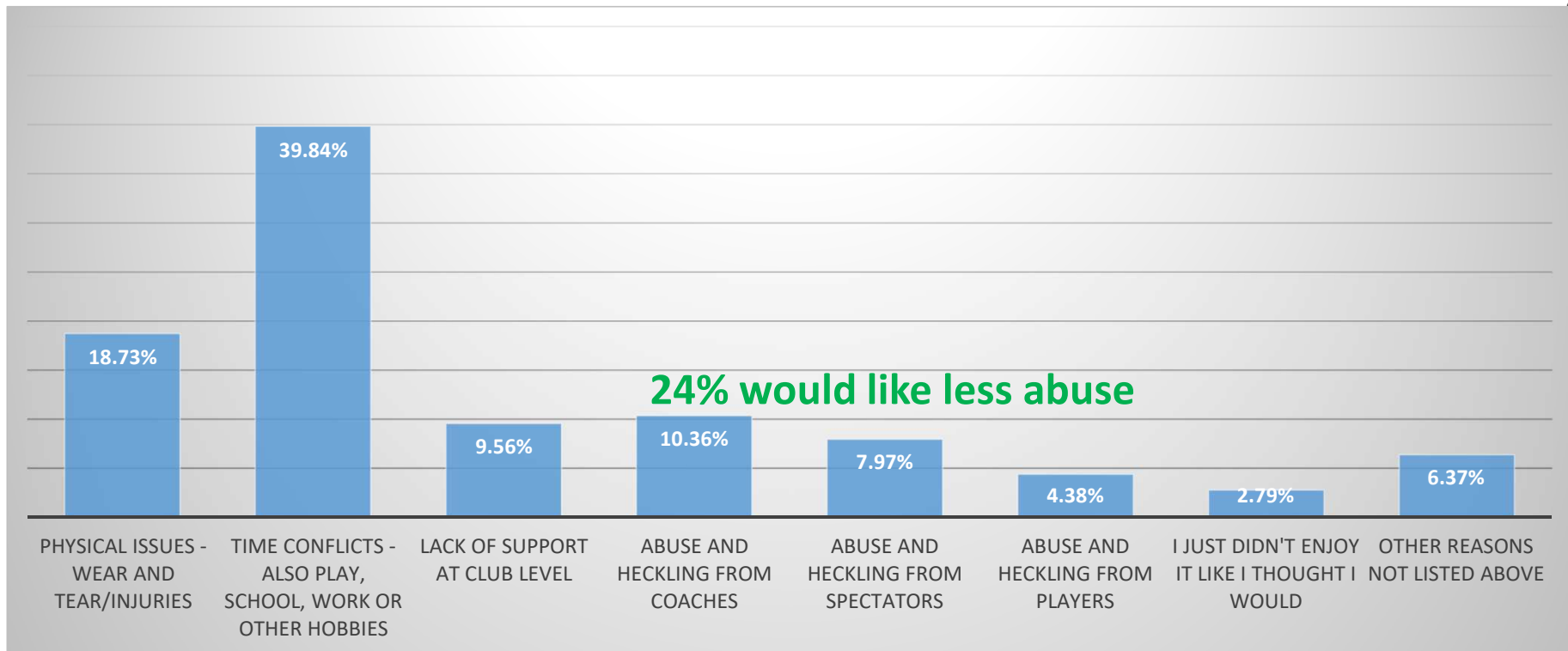
# What is bringing you back to officiating in 2022?



# What is the #1 reason you are returning?

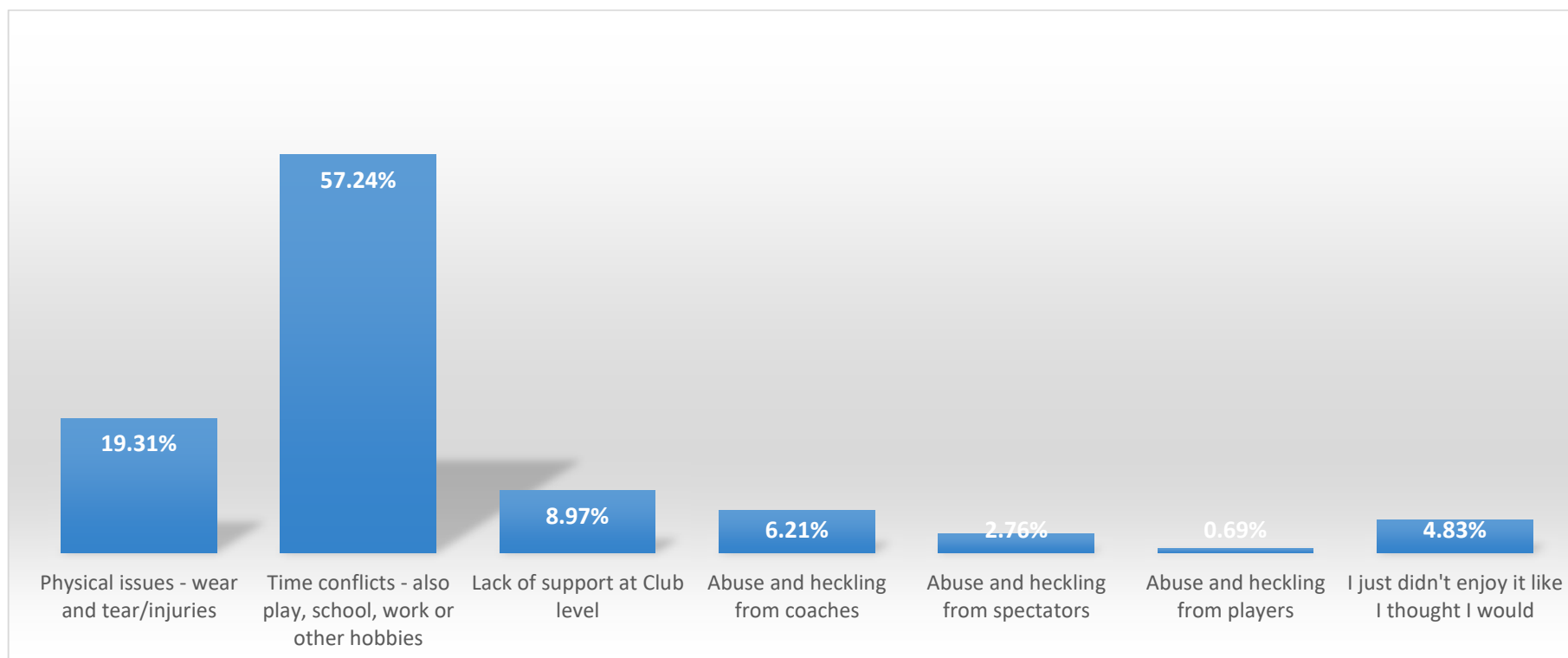


# What will stop you from returning in 2022?

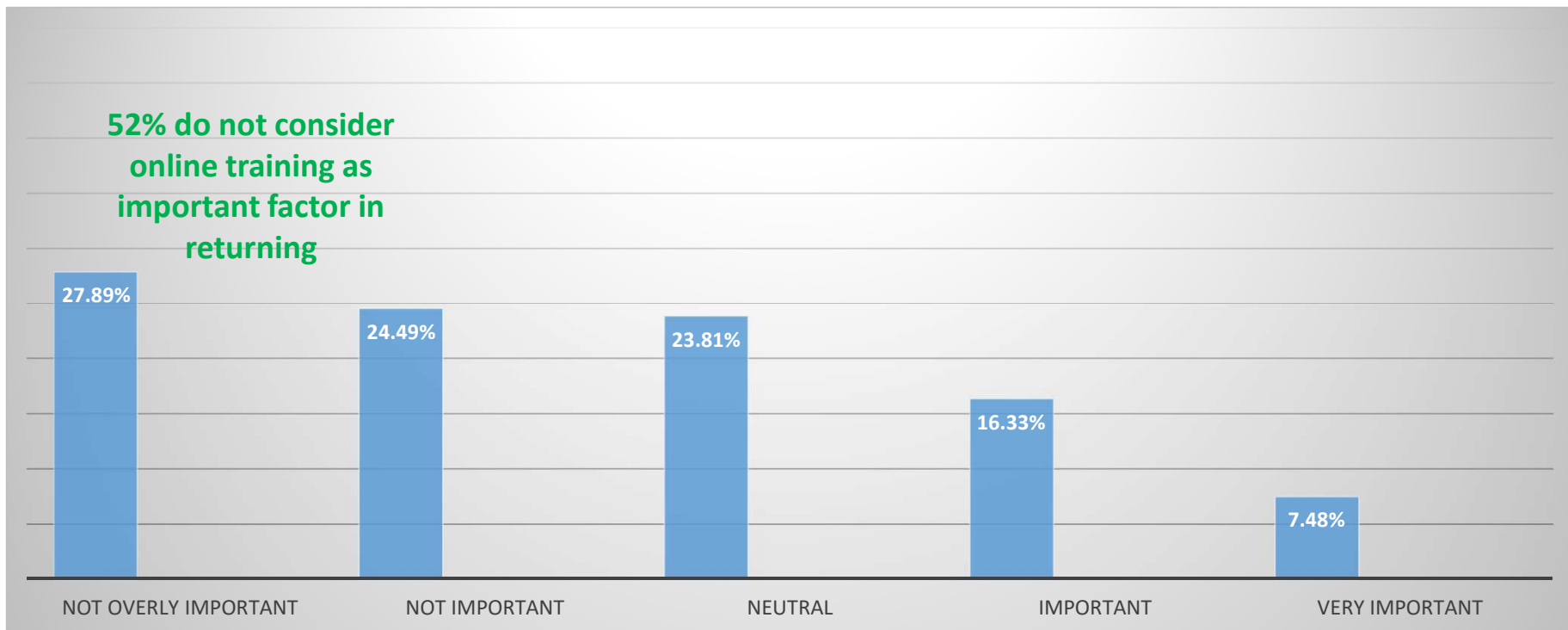


We can only control the controllable – individual time conflicts and physical issues we cannot control – the abuse we can.

# #1 reason you would not return to Officiating?

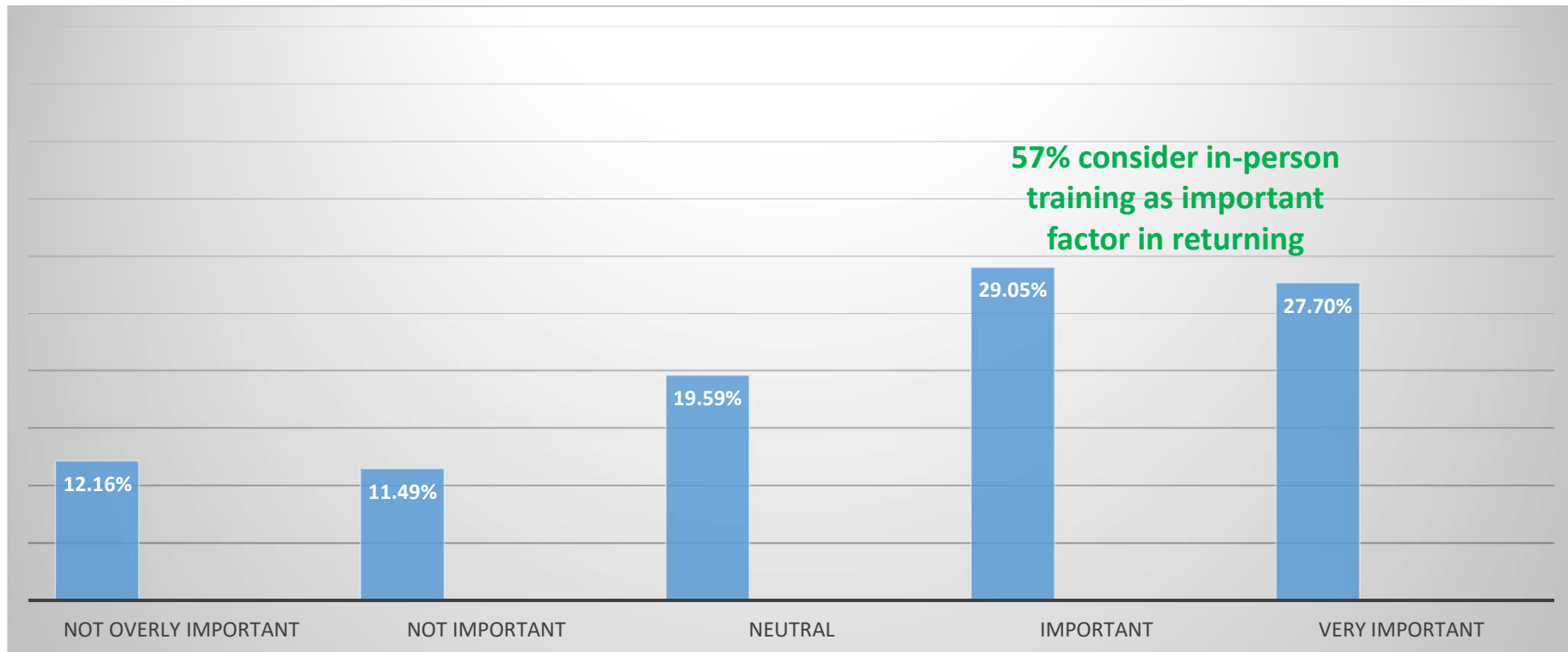


# Is more Online Training an important factor to you returning in 2022?

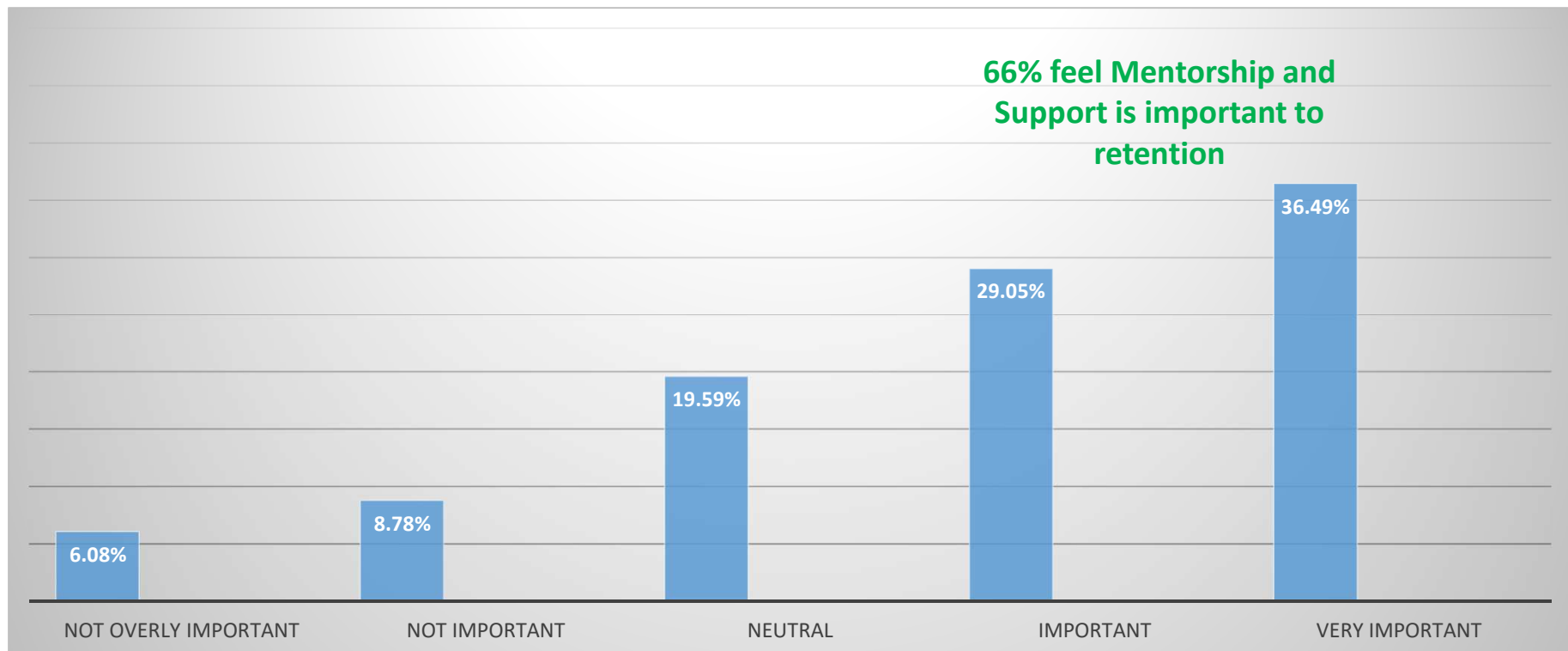




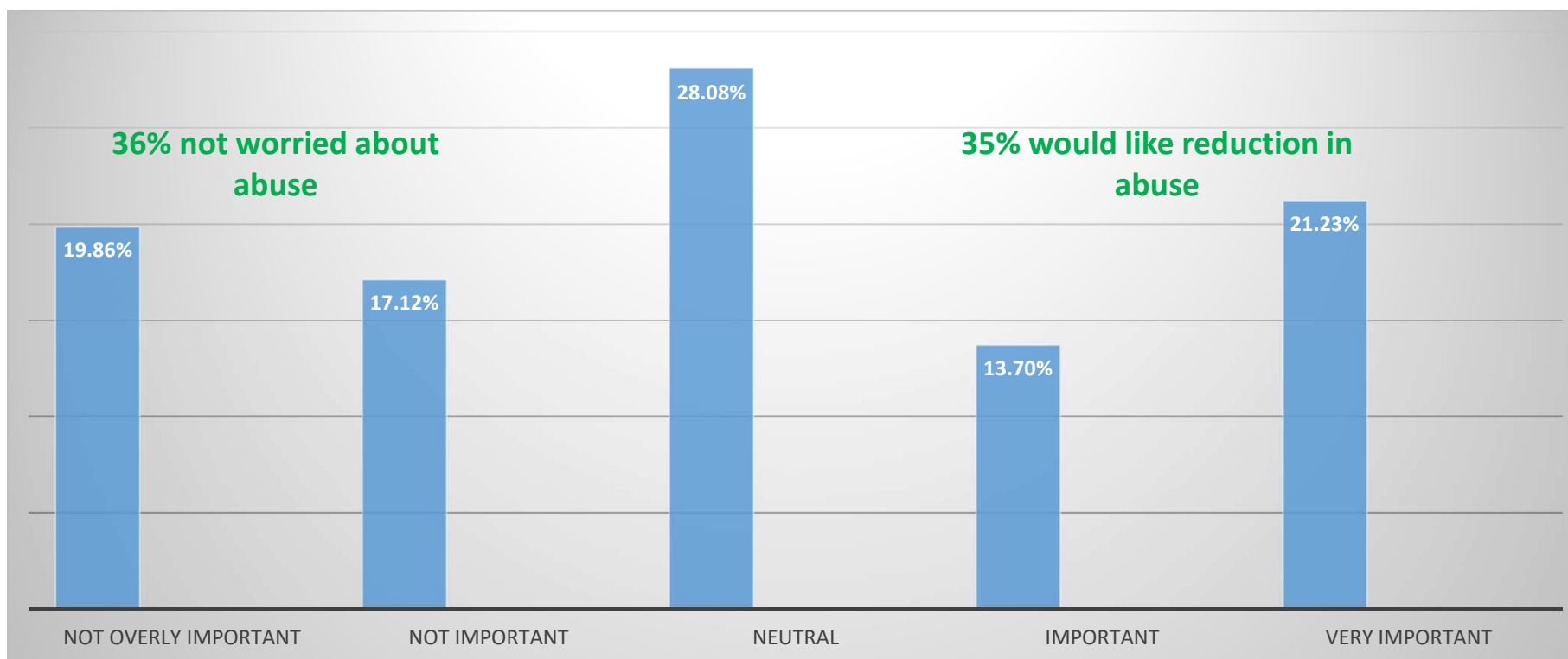
# Is more In-Person Training an important factor to you returning in 2022?



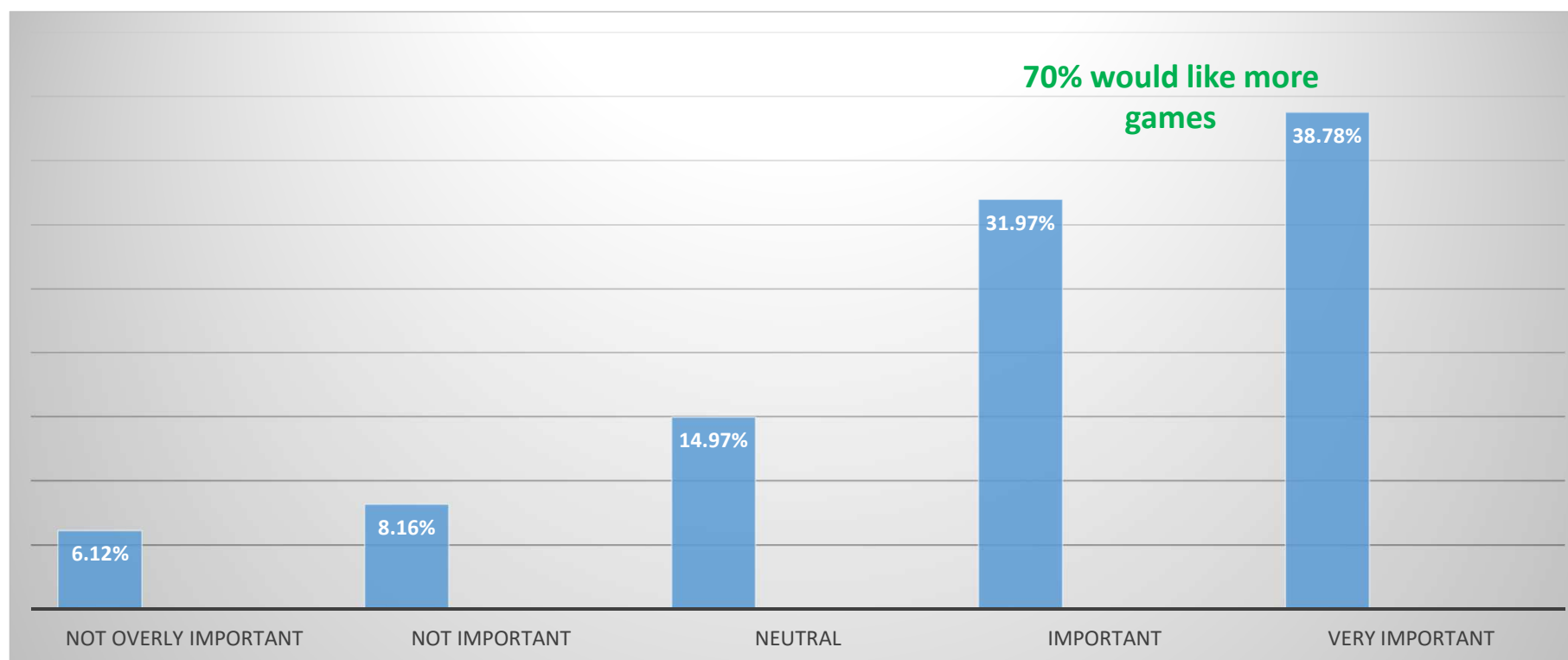
# Is Mentorship and Support an important factor for you to return in 2022?



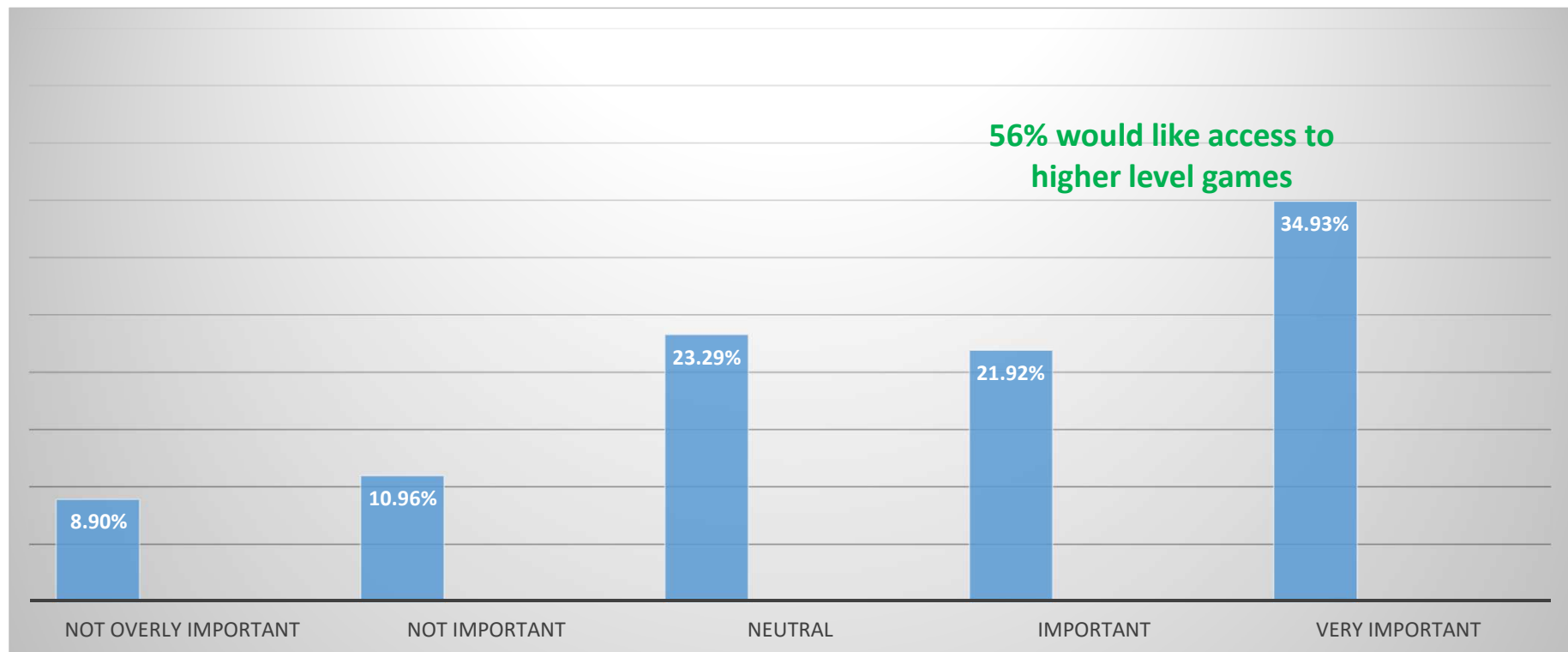
# Is Reduction of Abuse an important factor for you to return in 2022?



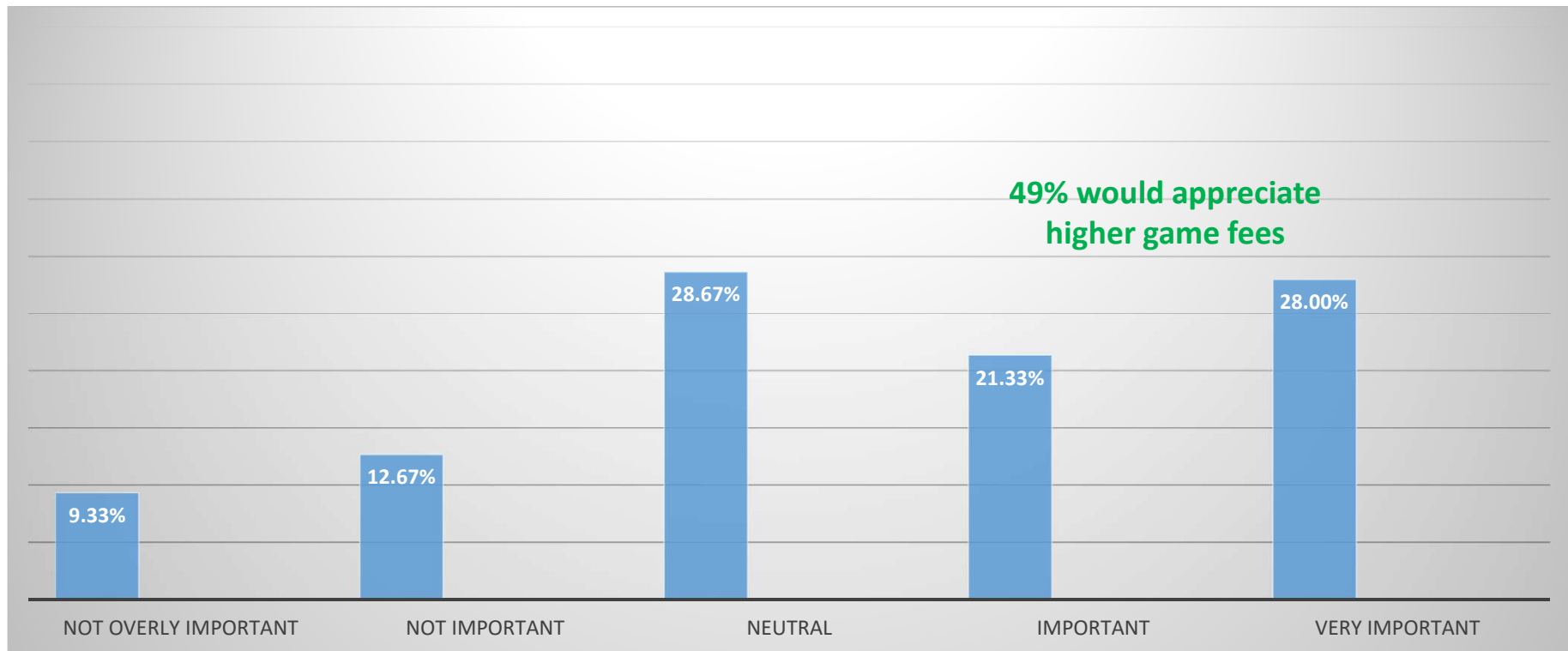
# Is access to more games an important factor for you to return in 2022?



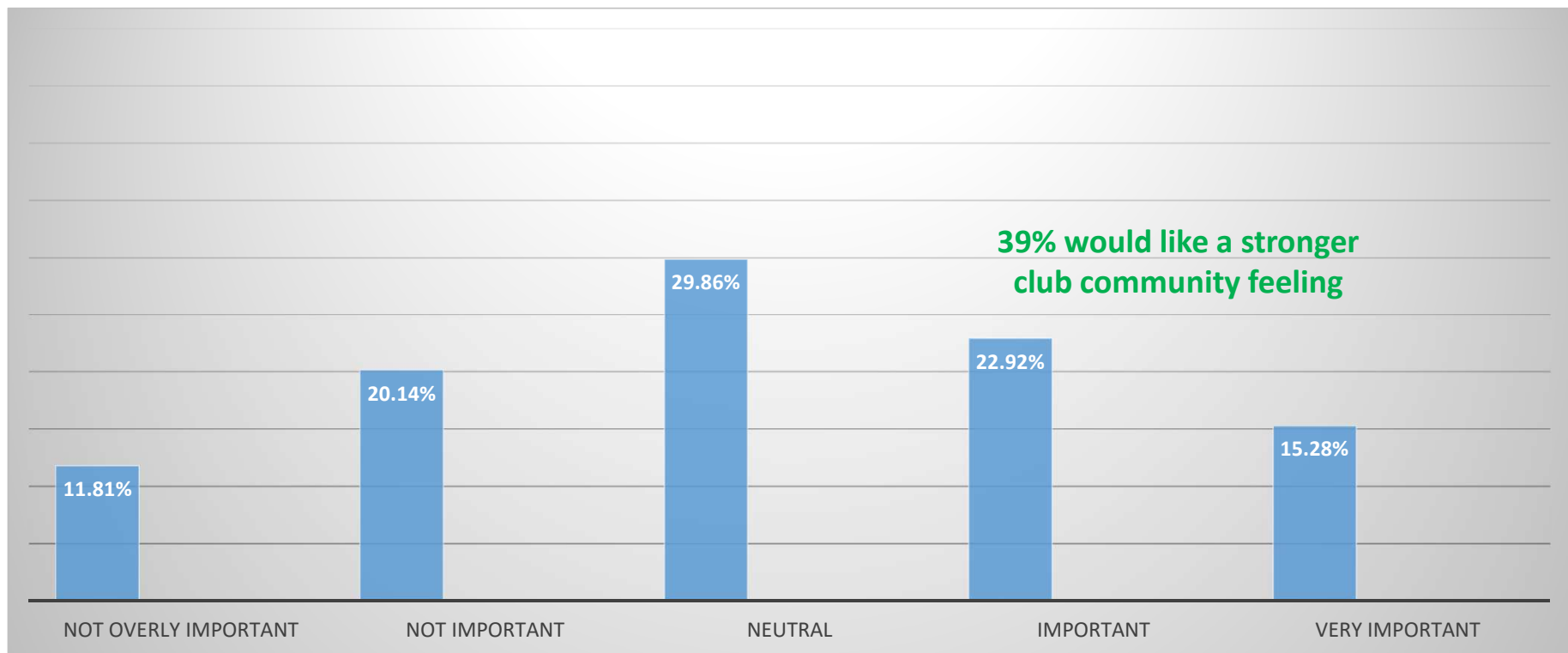
# Is a higher level of game assignment important for you return in 2022?



# Are higher game fees an important factor for you to return in 2022?



# Is a stronger sense of community at the Club level an important factor for you to return in 2022?



## If you could say **ONE** thing to **RECRUIT** new match officials, what would you say?

If you have a love of the game, then the best way to ensure it continues operating at the highest standard is not just participating as a player, but being a leader on the pitch.

I would talk about the confidence in leadership skills I gained from refereeing just a few games last summer. The experience has truly helped me communicate with new people and learn to speak more openly.

It's a fantastic part-time job! As a player, you also learn so much about the game by seeing it from an official's perspective, as well as having to know and understand the LOTG better than most

You can choose your hours!



## If you could say ONE thing to RETAIN/KEEP new match officials, what would you say?

I would remind them about all the positives that come from reffing.

The leadership skills you will achieve, the many opportunities you could get, the ability to stay active and healthy, and the feeling of pride you have after a game."

Each level of soccer that you will ref will bring you a different sense of accomplishment. It is beyond amazing watching little kids play and wonder which ones will continue and which ones will go on to thrive in the game.

Hopefully, at the end of the day, you will leave the pitch believing that you might have encouraged a player to keep playing the game they love

Focus on the game and choose which age level you are comfortable with. Do your best and enjoy it.

Refereeing becomes so much more enjoyable when you're confident in what you're doing. If you can learn from your mistakes - thinking about what went wrong/what could be done better next time, and asking more experienced officials for their feedback - you'll massively grow in ability as well as gain confidence in your ability to do the job well



# THANK YOU!

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