

SETON HALL SPORTS POLL FINDS BASEBALL FANS MORE TROUBLED BY LENGTH OF GAMES THAN STEROID ISSUES

S. Orange, NJ, October 31, 2013 --- A poll conducted this week by the Seton Hall Sports Poll has found that current fans of baseball find the length of games more troubling than steroid issues.

The poll was conducted among 904 respondents October 28-30 with the World Series in progress, based on random phone calls to landlines and cellphones across the United States. (It has a 3.3% margin of error; 4.5% for current and lapsed fans, and 6.8% for only current fans).

31% of baseball fans said they were less interested in the sport because of the increase in the time it takes to play the game, while 25% said they were less interested because of the steroid scandals in baseball.

Among those who said they currently follow baseball, 26% said the increase in length of games had made them less interested in the sport, while only 15% said they were less interested because of baseball's steroid scandals.

"Even in a year with big name steroid suspensions and the return of the unwelcome story to headlines, fans are more troubled by long games," noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is sponsored by The Sharkey Institute.

With increased video replay coming next year to help decide close calls, 68% of all respondents feel that will further slow down the game - although the same number - 68% - agree with the implementation of the plan.

"This could turn out to be an issue of perception," said Gentile. "The use of replays will counterbalance the sometimes long arguments between managers and umpires that should now be eliminated."

On the question of length of games, the poll asked what respondents felt the main reason for the slowness was. "Too many television commercials" easily led the responses with 43%, - more than all other game related responses combined. 10% blamed batters, 10% blamed pitchers and 6% cited too many pitching changes.

By a margin of 60%- 33%, all respondents felt there should be one DH rule in the World Series, and by a margin of 34% -14%, respondents said that the two leagues employing different rules during the regular season was bad (vs. good) for baseball.

66% of respondents thought players who have been linked to performance enhancing drugs should not be allowed to be members of the Baseball Hall of Fame, with only 22% saying they should.

About Seton Hall University

For more than 150 years, Seton Hall University has been a catalyst for leadership, developing the whole student, mind, heart and spirit. Seton Hall combines the resources of a large university with the personal attention of a small liberal arts college. Its attractive suburban campus is only 14 miles from New York City, with the wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities the city offers. Seton Hall is a Catholic university that embraces students of all races and religions, challenging each to better the world through integrity, compassion and a commitment to serving others. For more information, visit www.shu.edu.

About the poll:

This poll was conducted by telephone October 28-30, 2013 among 904 adults in the United States.

Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus 3.3 percentage points. The error for subgroups may be higher. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

The Seton Hall Sports Poll has been conducted regularly since 2006.

Media: Marty Appel Public Relations (212) 245-1772, AppelPR@gmail.com; Rick Gentile (917) 881-9489

The Results:

1. Have you been watching this year's World Series between the St. Louis Cardinals and Boston Red Sox?

- | | |
|--------|----|
| 1. Yes | 34 |
| 2. No | 66 |

2. What describes you best:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. I follow baseball now | 24 |
| 2. I used to follow baseball but not so much anymore | 29 |
| 3. I never followed baseball | 47 |

(IF NEVER FOLLOWED SKIP TO DEMOGRAPHICS)

3. In recent years, the World Series has extended into November. Do you think the World Series now takes place too late in the year?

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|--------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 53 |
| 2. No | 36 |
| 3. Don't know/no opinion | 11 |

4. Has the steroid scandal in baseball made you less interested in the sport, more interested or has it had no effect?

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. Less interested | 25 |
| 2. More interested | 6 |
| 3. No effect | 66 |
| 4. Don't know/ | 3 |

5. Has the increase in the time it takes to play a baseball game made you less interested in the sport, more interested or has it had no effect?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Less interested | 31 |
| 2. More interested | 5 |
| 3. No effect | 61 |
| 4. Don't know/refuse to answer | 2 |

6. Please choose the main reason you think the length of baseball games has increased:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Too many pitching changes | 6 |
| 2. Too many TV commercials | 43 |
| 3. Batters constantly stepping out of the batter's box | 10 |
| 4. Pitchers taking too long between pitches | 10 |
| 5. Other | 13 |
| 6. Don't know/refuse to answer | 18 |

7. During the World Series, a designated hitter is used when the game is in the American League Park and not used in the National League Park. Do you think there should be one set of rules in both parks?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 60 |
| 2. No | 33 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 8 |

8. Do you think two sets of rules regarding the designated hitter throughout the season – one for the American League and another for the National League is:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Good for baseball | 14 |
| 2. Bad for baseball | 34 |
| 3. Doesn't make any difference | 38 |
| 4. Don't know/no opinion | 14 |

9. Major League Baseball has announced a plan to substantially increase the use of video reviews of close plays. Do you agree or disagree with this plan?

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| 1. Agree | 68 |
| 2. Disagree | 25 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 7 |

10. Do you think increased video reviews will slow the game down?

- | | |
|----------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 68 |
| 2. No | 26 |
| 3. Don't know/ | 5 |

11. Do you think players who have been linked to performance enhancing drug use should be allowed to be members of the Baseball Hall of Fame?

- | | |
|----------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 22 |
| 2. No | 66 |
| 3. Don't know/ | 11 |