

SETON HALL SPORTS POLL

**72% SUPPORT SELIG PUNISHMENT OF A-ROD - OR WORSE;
LEGACY OF COMMISSIONER GETS HIGH GRADES**

A THIRD OF MEN SAY NFL LESS ENJOYABLE WITH NEW SAFETY RULES

S. Orange, NJ, October 3, 2013 --- An overwhelming majority of Americans who consider themselves sports fans support the 211-game ban on Alex Rodriguez for steroid use - with about half of them saying he should be banned for life.

A Seton Hall Sports Poll conducted this week, while the Rodriguez appeal before an arbitration panel is being heard, found that 37% want the ban upheld, and an additional 35% would favor having him banned for life. The poll has a 4% margin of error for the 668 respondents who said they followed sports, very closely, closely or not closely. (An additional 279 people who said they did not follow sports participated with additional questions, with a +/- margin of error of 3%.)

The poll was based on random phone calls to landlines and cellphones across the United States.

Although the arbitration hearing calls attention to the steroid problems baseball has dealt with over the last two decades, the legacy of Commissioner Bud Selig appears to be a strong one, as he prepares for what he has said will be his final year in office. 57% of sports fans said he would enjoy a positive or extremely positive legacy, with only 20% saying it would be negative or extremely negative. 24% said they did not know or had no answer.

"It would appear that the continuing appeal of the game under his reign - in attendance, marketing, expanded playoffs, popular new ballparks and more, will override the steroid issue in people's minds," noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is sponsored by The Sharkey Institute. "Of course, responses could also be influenced by his battling the very unpopular Rodriguez on the steroid issue."

The poll also asked people about changes in NFL rules intended to reduce injuries. Asked if the changes were right, 18% said they were "too much," 37% said they were the "right amount," and 24% said they were "not enough." But there was a more noticeable shift when broken down between men and women. 27% of men said the rules were "too much," and only 8% of women agreed. Asked if the attempts to reduce injuries have made the game more or less enjoyable, or had no effect, 14% said more enjoyable, 22% said less, and 52% said it had no effect. However, 31% of men said the game was less enjoyable.

"That's a big percentage - nearly a third of men finding the NFL less enjoyable," said Gentile. "It's a statistic the NFL will want to pay attention to."

All 947 participants were asked for favorable/unfavorable reactions to select athletes in the news. Peyton Manning had a 64% favorable reaction, and his brother Eli had 58%. Tim Tebow had a 46% response. Mariano Rivera had a 38% response. Alex Rodriguez

had only a 16% favorable reaction compared to 41% unfavorable.

The poll also asked if the respondent knew where this year's Super Bowl was being played, and 79% did not know that it was in New Jersey/New York. 77% could not name last year's city (New Orleans). 61% said that professional sports teams improve the image of their city.

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 September 30-October 2 , 2013 among 947 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 3.0 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.

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The results:

1. How closely do you follow sports, very closely, closely, not closely or not at all?
 1. Very closely 17
 2. Closely 29
 3. Not closely 23
 4. Not at all 31

(IF NOT AT ALL SKIP TO FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE AT QUESTION 9)

2. Which would you say you are more interested in, post-season baseball or the upcoming week of NFL games?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Baseball | 31 |
| 2. NFL | 59 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 10 |
3. The NFL has changed its rules to reduce injuries. Do you think the NFL has made too much change, the right amount or not enough change to reduce injuries?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Too much | 18 |
| 2. Right amount | 37 |
| 3. Not enough | 24 |
| 4. Don't know/refuse to answer | 11 |
4. Do you think the NFL's attempt to reduce injuries has made the game more enjoyable, less enjoyable or has had no effect?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. More enjoyable | 14 |
| 2. Less enjoyable | 22 |
| 3. No effect | 52 |
| 4. Don't know/refuse to answer | 13 |
5. Last Sunday the NFL played a regular season game in London. Do you think the NFL should consider permanently placing a team in London?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 21 |
| 2. No | 63 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 16 |
6. Alex Rodriguez is appealing his 211-game suspension from Major League Baseball due to use of performance enhancing drugs. Would you like to see his suspension decreased, eliminated, remain the same or should he be banned for life?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Decreased | 12 |
| 2. Eliminated | 5 |
| 3. Remain the same | 37 |
| 4. Banned for life | 35 |
| 5. Don't know/refuse to answer | 11 |
7. Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig has announced he will retire after the 2014 season. Do you think his legacy will be extremely positive, positive, negative or extremely negative?

1. Extremely positive	4
2. Positive	53
3. Negative	18
4. Extremely negative	2
5. Don't know/refuse to answer	24

8. Which team do you think will win this year's World Series **(LIST OF ELIGIBLE TEAMS PLUS YANKEES – NOT TO BE READ TO RESPONDENTS)**

1. NY Yankees	4
2. Boston Red Sox	13
3. Oakland A's	3
4. Cleveland Indians	4
5. Tampa Bay Rays	2
6. Texas Rangers	2
7. St. Louis Cardinals	6
8. Pittsburgh Pirates	5
9. LA Dodgers	6
10. Cincinnati Reds	2
11. Atlanta Braves	6
12. Other	7
13. Don't know/refuse to answer	41

I'm going to read you some names. Please tell me if your opinion of each is favorable, unfavorable or if you have no opinion.

9. Tim Tebow

1. Favorable	46
2. Unfavorable	12
3. No opinion	42

10. Peyton Manning

1. Favorable	64
2. Unfavorable	4
3. No opinion	33

11. Eli Manning

1. Favorable	58
2. Unfavorable	7
3. No opinion	36

12. Alex Rodriguez

1. Favorable	16
2. Unfavorable	41
3. No opinion	43

13. New York Yankees

1. Favorable	37
2. Unfavorable	24
3. No opinion	38

14. Mariano Rivera

1. Favorable	38
2. Unfavorable	5
3. No opinion	57

15. Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig

1. Favorable	25
2. Unfavorable	13
3. No opinion	62

16. Football Commissioner Roger Goodell

1. Favorable	27
2. Unfavorable	14
3. No opinion	59

17. Do you know where this season's Superbowl is going to be held?

1. Yes	22
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2. No 79

18. Do you know where the last Superbowl was held?

1. Yes 23

2. No 77

19. When a city hosts the Superbowl does your interest in that city increase, decrease or remain the same?

1. Increase 23

2. Decrease 2

3. Remain the same 75

20. Would the fact that a city has hosted a Superbowl make you want to visit after the event?

1. Yes 18

2. No 68

3. Don't know/ 15

21. Do you think professional sports teams improve the image of their host city?

1. Yes 61

2. No 24

3. Don't know/ 15