



STILLMAN SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS
The Sharkey Institute

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Seton Hall Sports Poll

PUBLIC DISAGREES WITH NBA COMMISSIONER SILVER'S ADVOCACY OF SPORTS BETTING, BUT AGREES WITH HIS POSITION

S. Orange, NJ, November 20, 2014 --- While the majority of Americans agree that gambling has become a popular form of entertainment, and that it should be legal to bet on sports, they don't think it was appropriate for NBA Commissioner Adam Silver to take such a stance.

While 55% agreed with Silver and 33% disagreed that it should be legal to bet on sports, by almost the same margin, 51%-34%, the public thinks that it was inappropriate for the Commissioner to take such a stance. And while they don't approve of his advocacy, the vast majority, 72%-20%, agree with him that gambling has become a popular form of entertainment.

The poll, conducted by the Seton Hall Sports Poll over three days and concluding last night, was based on random phone calls to land lines and cellphones across the US to 847 people, with a +/- 3.4% margin of error.

Broken down by gender, 44% of males and 25% of females supported Commissioner Silver's stance, with 44% of males also not in support and 58% of females not in support. Younger people supported him more than older ones, with support of 47% (age 18-29), 35% (30-44), 30% (45-59) and 26% (60+).

DISTURBING AMOUNT THINK GAME RESULTS ALREADY INFLUENCED BY GAMBLING

Even without legalized gambling in place, the public suspects all is not clean with game results. 47% of Americans believe referees or umpires influence the outcomes of games occasionally or often because of gambling interests, and 43% believe athletes influence the outcomes occasionally or often because of gambling interests. Only 38% (re: officials) and 37% (re: athletes), believe they never, or very rarely, influence outcomes.

"Those are shockingly high numbers," noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is sponsored by The Sharkey Institute. "The leagues can't take this lightly when the very integrity of their sports is a prime responsibility. And it must be part of any discussion of legalized sports betting."

Indeed, 49% felt that legalized sports gambling would damage the integrity of sports, with 44% saying it would not.

NATION AGREES WITH NEW JERSEYANS ON BILL SUPPORTING SPORTS GAMBLING

A Seton Hall Sports Poll last month asked residents of New Jersey whether they supported a bill allowing sports gambling in their state, and 52% agreed, with 37% opposing it. The same question was asked of a national sample this week and similar results were returned - 50% in support, and 39% opposing. Indeed 61% of the nation felt it should be left to the states, with only 29% saying it was a matter for the federal government.

ABOUT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

One of the country's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall University has been a catalyst for leadership — developing students in mind, heart and spirit — since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 academic programs, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by *The Princeton Review*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

Seton Hall, which embraces students of all religions, prepares its graduates to be exemplary servant leaders and global citizens. Its attractive main campus is located in suburban South Orange, New Jersey, and is only 14 miles by train, bus or car from New York City, offering a wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities. The university's nationally recognized School of Law is prominently located in downtown Newark.

For more information, visit www.shu.edu.

About the poll:

This poll was conducted by telephone November 17-19, 2014 among 847 adults in the United States. The Seton Hall Sports Poll is conducted by the Sharkey Institute.

Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard landline and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus 3.4 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. Do you think it should be legal to bet on sporting events?
 1. Yes 55%
 2. No 33
 3. Don't know/no opinion 13

2. Last week, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver reversed the league's historical stance and advocated legalized betting on sporting events on a strictly regulated basis. Do you think it's appropriate for the leader of a major professional sports league to take such a stance?
 1. Yes 34
 2. No 51
 3. Don't know/no opinion 15

3. Do you think legalized sports gambling damages the integrity of sports?
 1. Yes 49
 2. No 44
 3. Don't know/no opinion 8

4. New Jersey has passed a law allowing for sports gambling in the state. The major professional sports leagues and the NCAA are asking for an injunction to block the law because they say gambling on sporting events damages the integrity of the game. Do you think New Jersey should be able to pass a law allowing sports gambling in the state?
 1. Yes 52
 2. No 37
 3. Don't know/no opinion 12

5. Four states (Nevada, Delaware, Montana and Oregon) are exempt from a federal law passed in 1992 that banned betting on sporting events. With which of the following statements do you agree?
 1. The law should be left as it is 17
 2. The law should be changed to allow all states to legalize sports betting if they so desire 45
 3. Legalized sports betting should be outlawed in the four states in which it's now legal 26
 4. Don't know/no opinion 13

6. Do you think publishing point spreads in newspapers and on line encourages gambling on sporting events?
 1. Yes 58
 2. No 32
 3. Don't know/no opinion 10

7. How often do you think athletes intentionally influence the outcomes of games because of gambling interests?
- | | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 1. Never or very rarely | 37 |
| 2. Occasionally | 24 |
| 3. Often | 18 |
| 4. Don't know/no opinion | 20 |
8. How often do you think referees or umpires influence the outcomes of games because of gambling interests?
- | | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 1. Never or very rarely | 38 |
| 2. Occasionally | 27 |
| 3. Often | 20 |
| 4. Don't know/no opinion | 15 |
9. If gambling on sporting events was legalized do you think it should be regulated on a state-by-state basis or by the federal government?
- | | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 1. State-by-state | 61 |
| 2. Federal government | 29 |
| 3. Don't know/no opinion | 10 |
10. Have you ever gambled on a sporting event?
- | | |
|--------|----|
| 1. Yes | 33 |
| 2. No | 67 |

IF NO TO PREVIOUS QUESTION

11. If gambling on sporting events was legalized do you think you would place a bet?
- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 12 |
| 2. No | 84 |
| 3. Don't know | 5 |
12. Commissioner Silver stated that gambling has become a popular form of entertainment in the United States. Do you agree with this statement or disagree?
- | | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 1. Agree | 72 |
| 2. Disagree | 20 |
| 3. Don't know/no opinion | 9 |