



**AMERICANS FAVORING SOME FORM OF INCREASED BENEFITS
FOR COLLEGE ATHLETES TRENDING UPWARD**

65% Support Borland Decision on Early Retirement

S. Orange, NJ, March 26, 2015 -- Americans increasingly favor increased benefits for college athletes.

In a Seton Hall Sports Poll conducted this week, 38% of respondents felt that student/athletes should receive a salary. A year ago, the number was 29%, and in 2012 it was 24%.

The poll was taken of 788 adult Americans, randomly dialed on landlines and cellphone across the country. The margin of error for the poll is 3.6%.

Other forms of benefits were also asked: medical benefits upon graduation went from 36% yes in 2014 to 52%; free post graduate education went 42% yes in 2014 to 54%; and additional spending money went from 45% yes in 2014 to 47%.

“The attention to this subject has clearly gotten people more and more aware of the issue,” noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is sponsored by The Sharkey Institute.

The percent favoring different forms of compensation last year and this:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Salary	38	29
Spending money	47	45
Med.Benefits upon grad.	52	36
Free post-grad education	54	42

Meanwhile, with greater attention being paid to the concussion issue in football, 65% of respondents said San Francisco 49er’s Chris Borland made a good decision to retire after playing only one year, and 56% expected other NFL players to retire earlier than they previously would have to avoid brain injuries.

And while 66% of Americans felt that the risk of permanent injury is accurately portrayed or even worse than portrayed, 73% said they would allow their son to play football. (Asked “If you had a son....”).

The public believes the tradeoff of an additional mandated year in college, while forgoing an NBA contract for a year, is worth it, and agrees with NBA Commissioner’s call to raise to two years the number of years a college player should play before becoming eligible for the NBA. 56% said they should change the rule to two years, only 12% felt it should stay as it is - one year - and 23% said there should be no limit at all.

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 March 23-25 among 788 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 3.5 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: Media: Marty Appel Public Relations (212) 245-1772, AppelPR@gmail.com; Rick Gentile (917) 881-9489.

The results:

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1. If you had a son would you allow him to play football?
 1. Yes 73
 2. No 21
 3. Don't know 6

2. Do you think the risk of permanent injury that we read about is overblown, accurately portrayed or worse than portrayed?
 1. Overblown 19
 2. Accurately portrayed 50
 3. Worse than portrayed 16
 4. Don't know 15

3. The San Francisco 49ers linebacker Chris Borland retired from the NFL last week after playing only one year, citing the risk of permanent brain injury as the reason. In doing so he forfeited at least 2 million dollars in salary for the coming season. Do you think it was a good decision or a bad decision?
 1. Good decision 65
 2. Bad decision 14
 3. Don't know 21

4. Do you expect other NFL players to retire earlier than they previously would have to avoid brain injuries?
 1. Yes 56
 2. No 29
 3. Don't know 15

5. Have you watched any coverage of this year's NCAA Basketball Tournament?
 1. Yes 44
 2. No 56

6. Have you filled out a set of brackets for this year's tournament?
 1. Yes 14
 2. No 86

7. Are you participating in any pools involving money for this year's tournament?
 1. Yes 7
 2. No 93

8. The commissioner of the National Basketball Association has suggested raising the minimum age for eligibility to the NBA draft from 19 to 20. In effect, this means players will have to finish two years of college instead of one year as it is now. Do you think they should leave the rule as it is now at one year, change to two years, or have no limits for when a player can be drafted?
- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. One year | 12 |
| 2. Two years | 56 |
| 3. No limits | 23 |
| 4. Don't know | 10 |
9. Do you think an additional year of school would benefit student/athletes even though it would mean forfeiting a year of pro salary?
- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 72 |
| 2. No | 19 |
| 3. Don't know | 9 |

Currently student/athletes who participate in revenue generating sports for their college can only receive scholarships. Do you think they should also receive:

10. A salary?
- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 38 |
| 2. No | 55 |
| 3. Don't know | 8 |
11. Additional spending money?
- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 47 |
| 2. No | 45 |
| 3. Don't know | 7 |
12. Medical benefits after they graduate?
- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 52 |
| 2. No | 40 |
| 3. Don't know | 8 |
13. Free post-graduate education at their university?
- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 54 |
| 2. No | 39 |
| 3. Don't know | 7 |
14. If college players competing in the NCAA tournament were financially compensated above their scholarships would you be more interested in the event, less interested or would it make no difference?
- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. More interested | 7 |
|--------------------|---|

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 2. Less interested | 14 |
| 3. No difference | 79 |

15. How closely do you follow sports, very closely, closely, not closely or not at all?

- | | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1. Very closely | 17 |
| 2. Closely | 35 |
| 3. Not closely | 33 |
| 4. Not at all | 15 |