

SETON HALL SPORTS POLL OF NEW JERSEYANS

60% SAY DELAY IN FIRING RUTGERS BASKETBALL COACH RICE RELATED TO PENDING MOVE OF SCHOOL TO BIG TEN CONFERENCE

S. Orange, NJ, April 18, 2013 --- Sixty percent of New Jerseyans who have been following the Rutgers University firing of basketball coach Mike Rice believe he was not fired earlier because the school was close to completing its deal to move into the Big Ten Conference.

The poll was based on random phone calls to landlines and cellphones of 1,045 people throughout New Jersey, with a 3.0% margin of error. Of those, 720 said they were following the story at least somewhat, and the findings are based on those respondents, with a margin of error of 3.7%.

47% felt it was appropriate for Athletic Director Tim Perneti to resign because of his role in the controversy, with 34% answering no to resignation. The respondents also placed the most blame for the handling of the situation on Perneti, who 38% called most responsible. University President Robert Barchi was named most responsible by 24% and the school's attorney, John Wolf, by 11%. But 48% felt that Barchi should be held responsible for his initial decision to suspend Rice and should be fired for it.

63% felt Rice should have been fired when the evidence found on the videotape first came to light.

"It was a complex issue, and the responses showed that," noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is sponsored by The Sharkey Institute.

Asked if they were surprised that Governor Chris Christie did not call for the ouster of President Barchi, 65% said no, and only 22% said yes.

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 April 15-17, 2013 among 1045 adults in New Jersey.

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 have you been following the controversy surrounding the men's basketball program at Rutgers University, very closely, closely, not closely, not at all?

1. Very closely	11%
2. Closely	30
3. Not closely	27
4. Not at all	33

(QUESTIONS 2 THROUGH 8 ARE BASED ON THE 68% WHO SAID THEY ARE FOLLOWING THE STORY, i.e. CLOSELY, THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES REFLECT ANSWERS FROM THE 68% WHO ARE FOLLOWING THE STORY CLOSELY, SOMEWHAT CLOSELY OR VERY CLOSELY)

2) Do you think coach Mike Rice should have been fired when the evidence of his physically and verbally abusing players first came to light or was suspending him enough?

1. Fired	63
2. Suspension was enough	26
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	12

3) How common do you think it is that coaches physically and verbally abuse their players, very common, common, not common or very rare?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Very common | 15 |
| 2. Common | 38 |
| 3. Not common | 25 |
| 4. Very rare | 11 |
| 5. Don't know/refuse to answer | 11 |

4) Do you think it was appropriate for Athletic Director Tim Perneti to resign because of his role in the controversy?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 47 |
| 2. No | 34 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 19 |

5) Rutgers' President Robert Barchi agreed to the recommended suspension in November. He didn't view the videotape then, but now says he would have fired Rice if he had seen it. Do you think he should still be held responsible for that initial decision and should be fired?

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|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 48 |
| 2. No | 37 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 15 |

6) Who do you think is most responsible for the University's reaction to the Mike Rice situation when it was first discovered, AD Tim Perneti, attorney John Wolf or President Robert Barchi?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Perneti | 38 |
| 2. Wolf | 11 |
| 3. Barchi | 24 |
| 4. Don't know/refuse to answer | 27 |

7) Were you surprised that Governor Chris Christie did not call for the ouster of President Barchi?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 22 |
| 2. No | 65 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 13 |

8) Around the time that Rice was suspended, Rutgers was close to completion of the deal to move to the Big Ten Conference. Do you think that was a factor in the University's decision not to fire the coach at that time?

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| 1. Yes | 60 |
| 2. No | 17 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 23 |

THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE BASED ON THE FULL SAMPLE

9) Recently a judge struck down the referendum voted on by the people of New Jersey to allow gambling on college and professional sports. Do you agree or disagree with the judge's decision to disallow sports gambling in New Jersey?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Agree | 55 |
| 2. Disagree | 35 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 10 |

10) How closely do you follow sports, very closely, closely, not closely or not at all?

- | | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1. Very closely | 20 |
| 2. Closely | 36 |
| 3. Not closely | 29 |
| 4. Not at all | 15 |

DEMOGRAPHICS

11) Have you or any members of your family attended Rutgers?

- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1. You | 10 |
| 2. Member of family | 25 |
| 3. None | 65 |