

YouGov Survey Results

The State of Football

Prepared for The Sun

Sample Size: 2362

Fieldwork: 7th - 9th October

Rio Ferdinand has been excluded from England's squad for this weekend's match against Turkey, following his failure to report for a drugs test. Do you think Ferdinand should have been included in the England squad, or was it right to exclude him?

Should have been included	20%
Right to exclude him	70%
Don't know	10%

Should players be randomly tested for drink and drug abuse?

Yes – frequently	81%
Yes – occasionally	16%
No	2%
Don't know	2%

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: 'High wages are largely to blame for bad behaviour among professional footballers.'

Agree strongly	32%
Tend to agree	42%
Tend to disagree	17%
Disagree strongly	4%
Don't know	6%

Do you believe there should be a maximum wage for professional footballers?

Yes, less than £1,000 a week (less than £50,000 a year)	23%
Yes, around £1,000 a week (around £50,000 a year)	19%
Yes, between £1,500 and £5,000 a week (between £80,000 and £250,000 a year)	21%
Yes, between £5,000 and £10,000 a week (between £250,000 and £500,000 a year)	6%
Yes, between £10,000 and £20,000 a week (between £500,000 and £1m a year)	4%
No, there should not	19%
Don't know	9%

Currently the maximum club fine for players who behave badly is two weeks' wages. Should this maximum be increased?

Yes it should – there should be no limit at all	57%
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Yes it should – up to one year’s wages	9%
Yes it should – up to three months’ wages	13%
Yes it should – up to one month’s wages	9%
No it should not	3%
Don’t know	8%

How closely do you follow professional football?

Very closely	15%
Fairly closely	19%
Not very closely	31%
Not at all	36%

How would you describe the importance of professional football in your life?

Not important	77%
Fairly important	17%
Very important	6%
More important than anything other than family	1%
Most important thing in my life	0%

How big a duty do you believe professional footballers have to act responsibly as role models in life - especially for our children – in their behaviour ON the pitch?

A big duty to behave responsibly	82%
Some duty	15%
Not much of a duty	1%
No duty to behave responsibly	1%
Don’t know	1%

How big a duty do you believe professional footballers have to act responsibly as role models in life - especially for our children – in their private lives OFF the pitch?

A big duty to behave responsibly	59%
Some duty	31%
Not much of a duty	6%
No duty to behave responsibly	2%
Don’t know	1%

Do you think that any players convicted of a criminal offence should or should not be banned for life from the game?

Should be banned for life	42%
Should not be banned for life	43%
Don’t know	15%

Would the recent reported behaviour of some players, on and off the field, discourage you from taking any children to see professional football or watch games on TV?

Yes it would	46%
No it would not	40%
Don’t know	14%

**'Roasting' is the term soccer players use to describe group sex.
Which of these statements best describes your view about this activity?**

'What footballers get up to in their private lives is their own business, provided all involved are willing participants and no laws are broken'	56%
'Footballers should set a good example and be banned from this kind of activity'	39%
Don't know	5%

Which of the following descriptions do you think applies to the majority of Premiership players? Please tick as many as apply:Arrogant

Arrogant	52%
Well-behaved	18%
Selfish	25%
Intelligent	6%
Humble	1%
Stupid	23%
Sensible	11%
Spoilt	54%
None of these	3%
Don't know	15%

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: 'Football clubs could do much more to curb the anti-social behaviour of their players?'

Agree strongly	45%
Tend to agree	43%
Tend to disagree	6%
Disagree strongly	1%
Don't know	6%

How much do you blame each of the following for the bad behaviour of players:

a) Club managers

	0%
Blame a great deal	10%
Blame a fair amount	39%
Do not blame much	34%
Do not blame at all	10%
Don't know	7%

b) Players themselves

Blame a great deal	85%
Blame a fair amount	12%
Do not blame much	0%
Do not blame at all	0%
Don't know	1%

c) The Football Association

Blame a great deal	11%
Blame a fair amount	36%
Do not blame much	34%
Do not blame at all	12%
Don't know	7%

d) Players' agents

Blame a great deal	25%
Blame a fair amount	38%
Do not blame much	22%
Do not blame at all	7%
Don't know	8%

e) Football club directors

Blame a great deal	12%
Blame a fair amount	30%
Do not blame much	35%
Do not blame at all	13%
Don't know	10%

f) Fans

Blame a great deal	14%
Blame a fair amount	29%
Do not blame much	28%
Do not blame at all	23%
Don't know	7%