

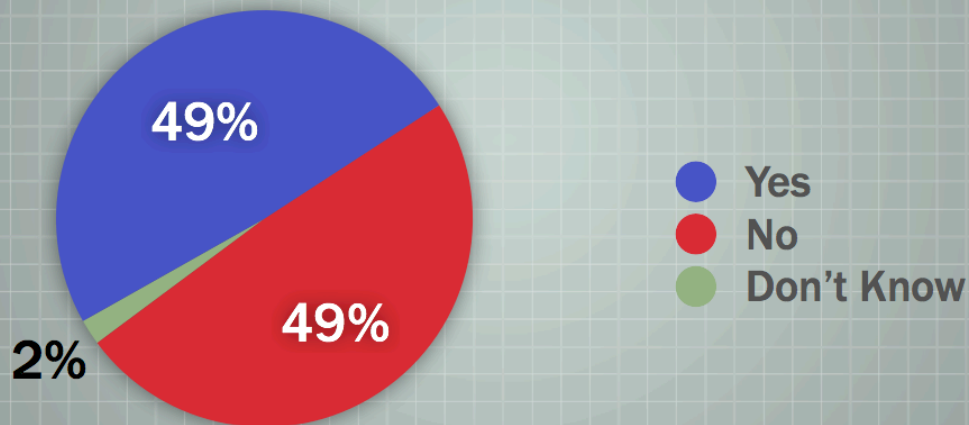
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of September 30*

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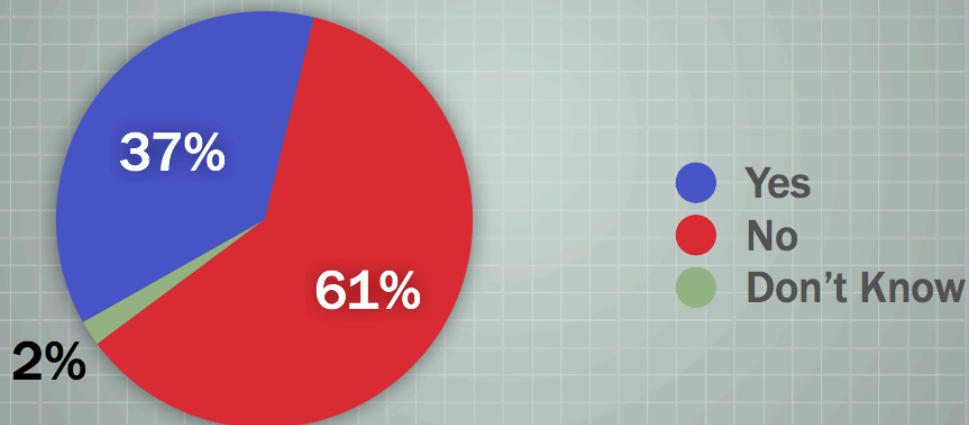
Should college athletes be paid to play?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

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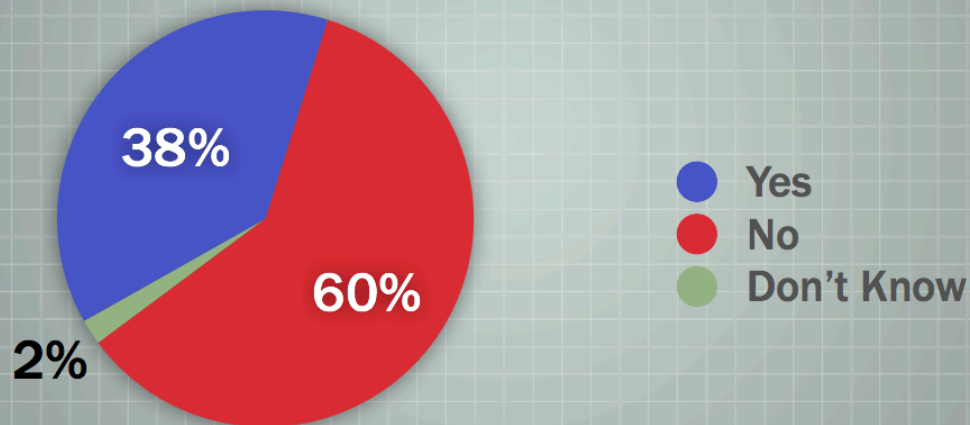
Should college athletes earn money from endorsements and the like?



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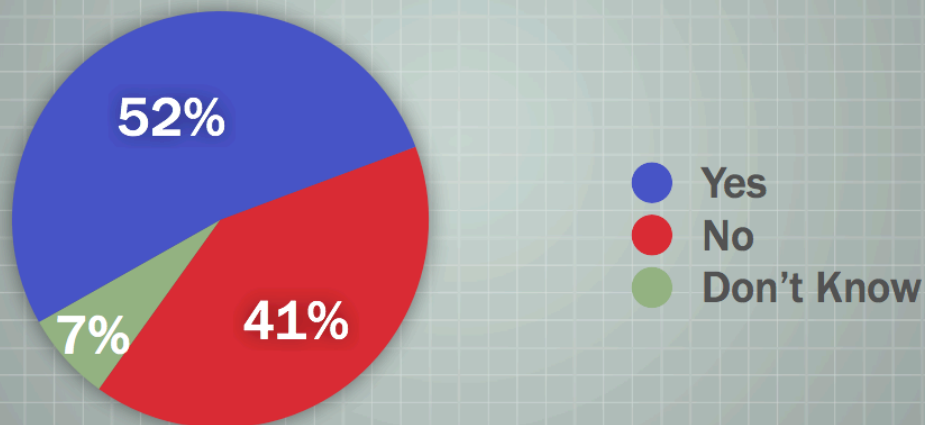
Should schools use athlete names and images for commercial purposes without paying them?



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If athletes were paid, should they also get scholarships?



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Should college athletes be paid to play?

- "!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
- "They already paid, maybe not monetarily but in other perks."
- "Why pretend any longer that college sports are for student athletes. It is professional."
- "If the coach makes over a \$million, then he should pay the kid."
- "Not an open market, but give them a living wage."
- "You mean in addition to free tuition, room, board, trainers, tutors, and athletic clothing?"
- "It will be impossible for schools to fund it themselves. The money should come from NCAA television contracts and licensing."
- "They are being paid with full-ride scholarships and amenities that the typical college student can only dream about. And they're receiving an education that will serve them long after their knees won't."
- "That would be a bad Pandora's box to open. Getting a free ride to four years of college and the special treatment they typically get is payment enough."
- "In a perfect world they would but with Title IX the parity issue would be a deal breaker."
- "They already are"
- "Only athletes in programs that produce revenue for the schools should be paid to play."
- "Scholarships should come with a monthly stipend that is the same \$ amount for all student athletes, e.g. \$75.00 per week per school year."
- "The cost of a college education has risen - they receive tuition, fees, books, room, board - they are compensated for their play. Many of these players come from families who cannot afford college tuition and cannot afford to visit to see their student play; colleges should set up 'travel' funds and allow so much per athlete for their families to be able to visit and see their games!"
- "Yes, but only for the TV sports (football, basketball, baseball)."
- "You mean above-the-board?"
- "I think certain athletes ought to be paid, but only after they graduate and over time as an annuity based on some formula of past income from a program. And only if the program for which they played brought in positive income after costs of the program including coach's salary. This means we would have disproportionate treatment of women and men since most women's programs outside of basketball do not bring in income. This will bring on suits which would likely be won by the women, which would put even more burden on the programs that do bring in substantial income (Football). So while I believe some athletes should be paid, I don't know of a way to accomplish that goal without paying all athletes, which is impractical."

- "There needs to be a trust fund established for the players post-collegiate play."

- "College sports should remain amateur and unpaid -- to paraphrase the Little Prince, what the NCAA says they are, they should be really -- a program that allows kids to participate in sports while pursuing an academic degree."

- "They should receive some sort of living stipend that would amount to a few thousand per year. The NCAA was heading this direction a few years ago and got scared before they implemented it."

- "They are paid with free room, board, books, and education. Most families would die for their child to get a free education."

- "They make the School tons of money."

- "I would feel a lot more justified in booing teenagers if I knew they were at least drawing a paycheck."

- "Increase stipend to reflect the actual cost of living expenses."

- "People think in terms of only football, but you'll have to pay every player in every sport and at a comparable rate. It's a sure path to break the (sports) budget for a lot of schools where only the 'haves' will survive."

- "College is about education, not sports."

- "The NCAA and its universities have created a modern form of slavery and no one is outraged by it."

The student athlete sacrifices his body; gets to live with long-term health issues; and as a whole make billions of dollars for a select group of men and institutions. And what do they get? Nada! There is something morally wrong with this picture."

- "They basically are getting paid, anybody priced Baylor lately?"

- "I think the collegiate sports system is broken; to dance around it is to fiddle while Rome burns. I don't like the idea of compensating student athletes, but at least it would be more honest than the system we have now."

- "Obviously sets up opportunity to exceed what should be a low limit (\$30/wk). Many of these students come from poor families with no extra money. They cannot even go to a movie or have a date. I have seen football players skip meals on Sunday so they would have the \$15 meal money for free spending."

- "Most athletes already live in great dorms, are fed well and have most of their needs met, and many of them get scholarships. If a student athlete cannot live within the means they are already adorned with then they need to find something else to do. This does not even touch on which athletes should get paid and which should not."

- "Not paid but allowed to earn an income."

- "If you are going to sell out, go all in. Sad commentary that we are spending our time discussing this instead of college tuition costs and the fact that our college dropout rates are

higher than our high school dropout rates."

- "That's just stupid."
- "No, because they ARE paid to play--it's called a scholarship, and it's worth upwards of \$50k/year. Nor can most schools afford to pay; their athletic departments are already in the red. Where's the money going to come from?"
- "Not only should they be paid to play, but more importantly they should be guaranteed that they will receive ongoing rehabilitative care AND full ride tuition should they be injured during competition to the point they can no longer play."
- "Amateur athletics is worth preserving. Paying starts us down a slippery slope, with football and perhaps men's basketball. How about women's basketball? Volleyball? Golf? Soccer? UTexas might be able to afford it, but most colleges could not. This would not end well."

• "They are 'paid' with scholarships already."

- "They get every need met (i.e., housing, meal plans, tutors). Besides, where does it end?"
- "Not paid to play, but play with equal pay (stipend)."
- "A really big business where everyone does very well except the people actually doing the work."
- "They already are, in a way--I had to pay for my tuition. That said, of course they should receive some money--they're big business."
- "They should get some type of stipend. How about the kid that is dirt poor and can't even get home for holidays."
- "A scholarship is enough payment. Stop paying coaches so much and grant more educational scholarships!!"

Should college players be allowed to earn outside income from endorsements, selling signatures, and the like?

- "!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
- "I think they should but if they are on scholarship then whatever they earn should supplant scholarship money."
- "Treat them like the professionals they are."
- "The time has come, but God forbid they take money out of the hands of the sacred university cows."
- "Yes. Split with universities for as long as student athlete wears the uniform. Put in escrow for use when degree is obtained."
- "Sorry, Johnny Autograph."
- "But they should have to split it with the university and the NCAA and the broadcast carriers who give them the brand and the opportunity and platform to make money."

- "As long as controls are in place to ensure outcomes are not being paid for, then there is no reason to get in the way of this."
- "If athletes want such--- try to go pro! Less than 1% make it in any sport."
- "Not while attending the school! However, schools should set up 'accounts' for players and a percentage of the funds made from the sale of jerseys, etc. should go into an account for the student when they leave the university."
- "Yes, within limits."
- "The school makes plenty off their names on jerseys; the players should get a cut."
- "That right should belong to the school that pays for their education."
- "But not if they are paid to play"
- "Yes, only if there is a trust fund established for the players post-collegiate play."
- "No. If a kid wants to become a professional, he should go pro."
- "That money should go to the scholarships for others not involved in athletics"
- "If the school is allowed to sell their jersey, if the NCAA is allowed to sell their likeness in perpetuity, then they ought to be able to share in those riches."
- "Maybe the schools could do the marketing and hold income in trust for players."
- "Yes. If someone wants to pay you for your signature on a jersey, go for it!"
- "YES! The question should be: Why shouldn't players be allowed to earn outside income from endorsements, etc."
- "Really? Please. These young men and women need to be grateful for the opportunity they are given as an athlete. Should professional athletes start getting a share of the TV revenue that their leagues get and a cut of the profit the team owners get? Not!"
- "If yes, it needs to be very limited. The last thing any of these program needs are 18 year olds bringing in NFL level money as a result of their jersey sales."
- "If we are willing to pay Mack Brown \$5.2 million per year, we should also allow Johnny Football to turn a buck signing ugly baseball caps."
- "The players that would earn the money from endorsements are going to earn money as a professional."
- "Sorry, but unless you want boosters paying \$10k per signature, this won't work in real life."
- "If so, a portion of that money should go into a pool to help pay the salaries or stipends of the vast majority of players who aren't famous enough to trade on their names."
- "Nope. That's what going pro means."

- "Sure, why not? Students who are not college athletes can get jobs--athletes are not always so lucky."

- "Work study jobs like any other student"

Should colleges — public or private — be allowed to use players names and faces in their own advertising and product deals without compensating the players?

- "With mutual consent from the players. It is good for the players as well."

- "Players should not be treated as a commodity but as a partner in generating profit for the school."

- "Will the colleges let me sell items with their brand without compensation? Ok then."

- "Of course they should. These athletes are getting plenty in return for their playing time."

- "No, but that doesn't mean the players should be compensated. Amateur is amateur."

- "They do compensate them--usually in the form of scholarships, equipment, food, board, and the works. They should be able to use their images and names as part of that."

- "If they do they should put away a portion for the athletes post eligibility use."

- "If it's a sport that drives revenue for the school, then the athlete should be paid for whatever he or she is doing to drive that revenue."

- "Limit any photos to entire team pictures."

- "But as I stated previously, the schools should adopt some sort of 'profit sharing' with the students - placing the money in a trust account, savings, account, IRA, etc. for the student's future! Since the majority of these players will NEVER make it professionally and this is their ONLY opportunity to utilize the names, faces, etc., placing it in trust or a retirement account for them is best."

- "Yes, but with player pay and player's own right to do so."

- "And allow me to say that it is quite sleazy for coaches to add their names to team advertising as well -- Max Brown's Longhorns. Give me a break."

- "Income should be held in trust for the players marketed."

- "No, but it should be a pool, not direct"

- "Again, players have been treated as personal property by these institutions. Use them, abuse them, make as much money as possible from them, and then dispose of them for the next great thing."

- "This is not about the individual. Whatever happened to Big Team Little Me? Perhaps this is a reflection of our self-centered culture."

- "The NCAA needs to find a balance."
- "Should media outlets allow writers to wear 'AT&T' uniforms when they're covering public policy?"
- "Of course, the best player at Paducah State is selling used cars in Bowling Green since no one knows his name. A second-stringer from Texas gets an NFL shot."
- "Yes, because the players ARE being compensated--they get to graduate debt-free. How many college students can say that?"
- "The chattel slavery of big time college sports needs to end. Abolishing the NCAA would be a good place to start."
- "I think that a percentage of the proceeds should be put into some type of savings instrument (annuity, etc.) For the student's (much later) later use. The goal should be for the student athlete to get an education. Very few of them will have a long term career in professional sports, and those who do will need an education in how to manage their assets."
- "No, compensation should be done through a socialist pool."
- "That's the deal. Even if they're not paid (and I think they should be), colleges use sports for fundraising, and nothing brings in the money like an All-American."
- "Provided they put a portion of those funds in an account the player can access after their college career."

If student-athletes were paid, should they also be offered scholarships in addition to that pay?

- "Not only no but HELL NO!"
- "I always felt scholarship athletes were practically held in detention. At WVU, when I was there in the 60's, they had separate dorms, separate cafeterias and none of them had any money. The school seemed to take the view that, because these young men were being offered a free food, water, a room and education (which virtually none really received. I doubt that a third ever made their grades in those days) that giving them money on top of all that 'largess' would be irresponsible. So yes, I believe a small but reasonable amount of money ... something on the same level as the average student on that campus might have available to them, would be both fair and responsible in addition to the scholarships, especially if the athlete is from a financially-challenged family."
- "The scholarships are the pay. Other students in more valued fields do not receive pay for significant work, like research related studies"
- "The schools make a lot of money off of their participation and work."
- "Is athlete the root word of scholar now?"
- "Most students are offered scholarships in some form or fashion. But, only a few students generate

revenue. When the math club starts selling out stadiums, pay them on top of their scholarships too."

- "Not applicable."
- "If they were paid, what difference would it make if they got paid in scholarships versus a weekly paycheck? Or, both, for that matter. Pay is pay."
- "Non-student athletes are given scholarships and fellowship stipends regularly... bet you didn't even know that... why should a student-athlete be treated differently."
- "The market should drive compensation levels and scholarship offers in order to recruit the best talent."
- "The pay should be nominal as these pampered 'students' already have lived a life that few others ever get to enjoy-- who else gets free tutoring, trips to various venues with no cost, etc.?"
- "It would not be fair to those institutions which cannot afford to pay their players."
- "How about a guaranteed four-year scholarship, so that the kid can at least get an education - even if they tear an ACL."
- "See answer to number one. A scholarship only while in school. Upon graduation from a program that brought in substantial income, then some pay provision could be accomplished. Again, this will never happen because of disparate treatment of student athletes in different programs."

• "But it depends on the monthly stipend."

• "The expectations of athletic and academic involvement are treated separately. The university currently has to 'compensate' one when they are deriving benefit from both."

• "If student athletes are paid, they become professional athletes. Should Tiger Woods be able to get a golf scholarship to finish his degree? (He dropped out of Stanford)."

• "If football and basketball coaches are going to make millions annually and programs are going to price gouge their fans at every turn then we need to quit pretending this is a good ole amateur sporting contest. That might be the case in the Ivy League but in the SEC, Big 12, etc. it is BIG BUSINESS."

• "Someone on a scholarship can also be on work study. Why shouldn't athletes?"

• "If kids want to turn pro, let 'em turn pro and get out of college. I have no desire to watch pros masquerading in college uniforms."

• "If you get paid, you don't need a scholarship. Isn't that the argument people keep making? A scholarship isn't really like getting paid? So if you get a paycheck, good luck paying that tuition, fees and books."

• "Every student athlete should be given the option to accept a scholarship without pay, or get paid without being offered a scholarship."

• "Make education about education, not about entertainment and money."

- "HELL NO!"
- "They are paid, in the form of their tuition and expenses. Let them earn extra money to cover additional expenses, but within reason."
- "Why bother with the pretense that these teams are amateur in any way. When the money is right, the big schools will scrap the NCAA to form their own television-based league(s)."
- "Scholarships yes. Pay no."
- "No and in fact they shouldn't even be provided an education let alone a scholarship. If college athletics is indeed going to be big business then the players being paid should be all they receive."
- "The incremental cost of covering a student's tuition on top of any salary or stipend is zilch. If players want a college education in addition to pay, they should get it. And by the way, stop using the term 'student-athletes.' That's NCAA-speak for 'expendable sports slaves.'"
- "If they received a salary to play, then no scholarship. If they were sharing in the advertising proceeds that the university gains from their image, then a scholarship would still be appropriate."
- "Bundle scholarship with stipend. The UTs, ATMs, and Alabamas should not be able to pay more than Boise State, Louisiana-Monroe, and UTEP."
- "It's all part of the deal."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Kevin Cooper, Addie Mae Crimmins, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Thomas Graham, Kathy Grant, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Bill Ratliff, Brian Rawson, Karen Reagan, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Boyd Richie, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Brian Sledge, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Michael Quinn Sullivan,

Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.