

SOUTH AFRICA 2010 WORLD CUP

Britons Want Referees to Rely on Video Replay in Football Matches

Respondents and self-described football fans agree that technology should be used to review specific plays.

[LONDON – Jul. 5, 2010] – Britons and football fans would welcome the use of video replay by referees to review if the ball crossed the goal line, if a player was fouled or dove in the area, and offside calls, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative sample of 2,011 British adults also shows that less than one-in-five respondents place most of the blame for England's elimination on the referees.

England in South Africa 2010

Respondents were asked about their feelings on England's football team, which was eliminated from the South Africa 2010 World Cup in a Round of 16 match against Germany.

A majority of respondents felt shame (52%), and more than a third used the words disgust (47%), sadness (45%) and anger (37%). Self-described football fans were harsher in their assessment of the team (Shame 65%, Sadness 59%, Disgust 59%, Anger 54%).

At least three-in-ten Britons believe England's defenders (36%), attackers (33%) and manager (30%) deserve most of the blame for the elimination of England's football team from the South Africa 2010 World Cup, while fewer point the finger at the team's midfielders (22%), the referees (16%) or the goalkeepers (9%).

KEY FINDINGS

- **Britons and football fans blame defenders, attackers and manager for England's World Cup elimination**
- **Britons and football fans would welcome the use of video replay by referees to review if the ball crossed the goal line, if a player was fouled or dove in the area, and offside calls**
- **Britons lean towards bringing in a new manager for England, while football fans want Fabio Capello to stay on**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From July 1 to July 3, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,011 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2% for the entire sample. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

Andy Morris, Research Director, London, + 44-203-178-3952, andy.morris@angus-reid.com

For self-described football fans, the defenders (46%) and attackers (42%) bear most of the responsibility for England's exit, followed by the manager (33%), the midfielders (31%), the referees (19%) and the goalkeepers (10%).

There is a divide in the way Britons and football fans feel about England manager Fabio Capello. While only 31 per cent of Britons would like Capello to stay on as manager, almost half of self-described football fans (48%) want him to remain in charge.

Technology in Football

The debate over the use of video technology in football has grown as a result of certain refereeing decisions at this year's World Cup, including a shot by Frank Lampard during England's match against Germany that should have been allowed as a goal but was not called as such by the officials on the pitch.

A majority of Britons would support the use of video replay by referees in International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) matches, to review if the ball crossed the goal line (87%), if a player was fouled or dove in the area (69%), offside calls (63%), handball calls (62%) and fouls (56%).

Football fans, however, are not so certain about the use of video replay in all of these cases. While a majority would consent to FIFA relying on technology to review if the ball crossed the goal line (93%), if a player was fouled or dove in the area (62%) and offside calls (56%), support is lower for using video replay to assess handball calls (47%) and fouls (34%).

The level of support for the implementation of similar guidelines in the English Premier League (EPL) is equally high among Britons, and more nuanced for football fans.

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South Africa 2010 World Cup

Here are some feelings that you may have about England's football team. Please select up to four.

	All Great Britain Respondents	Self-described Football Fans
Pride	6%	10%
Shame	52%	65%
Joy	2%	6%
Sadness	45%	59%
Trust	2%	3%
Disgust	47%	59%
Fear	4%	8%
Anger	37%	54%
Enthusiasm	4%	7%
Indifference	31%	21%
None of these	10%	3%

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South Africa 2010 World Cup

From what you have seen, read or heard, how much blame do you think each one of the following deserves for the elimination of England's football team from the South Africa 2010 World Cup? –

All Great Britain Respondents

	Most of the blame	Some of the blame	None of the blame	Not sure
England's goalkeepers	9%	54%	24%	13%
England's defenders	36%	46%	4%	13%
England's midfielders	22%	57%	6%	15%
England's attackers	33%	48%	5%	15%
England's manager	30%	48%	9%	13%
The referees	16%	47%	24%	13%

South Africa 2010 World Cup

From what you have seen, read or heard, how much blame do you think each one of the following deserves for the elimination of England's football team from the South Africa 2010 World Cup? –

Self-described Football Fans

	Most of the blame	Some of the blame	None of the blame	Not sure
England's goalkeepers	10%	62%	27%	1%
England's defenders	46%	50%	4%	0%
England's midfielders	31%	63%	6%	0%
England's attackers	42%	53%	5%	1%
England's manager	33%	56%	10%	1%
The referees	19%	48%	30%	2%

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South Africa 2010 World Cup

All things considered, do you think Fabio Capello should stay on as manager of England's football team?

	All Great Britain Respondents	Self-described Football Fans
Yes, he should	31%	48%
No, he should not	41%	40%
Not sure	28%	12%

South Africa 2010 World Cup

As you may know, several sports rely on video replay to discern whether plays have been called correctly by referees and judges. Do you think the **International Federation of Association Football (FIFA)** should allow for the use of video replay by referees in each one of the following cases? –

“Yes, it should” responses listed

	All Great Britain Respondents	Self-described Football Fans
To review if the ball crossed the goal line (and whether a goal should be allowed)	87%	93%
To review if a player was fouled or dove in the area (before a penalty is called)	69%	62%
To review offside calls	63%	56%
To review handball calls	62%	47%
To review fouls	56%	34%

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South Africa 2010 World Cup

And do you think the English Premier League (EPL) should allow for the use of video replay by referees in each one of the following cases?

“Yes, it should” responses listed

	All Great Britain Respondents	Self-described Football Fans
To review if the ball crossed the goal line (and whether a goal should be allowed)	85%	91%
To review if a player was fouled or dove in the area (before a penalty is called)	69%	61%
To review offside calls	61%	53%
To review handball calls	59%	45%
To review fouls	55%	35%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specialising in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>**

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