



# July 2026 World Cup Survey Findings

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U.S. National Survey Results

# Detailed Research Methodology

- This survey was conducted within the United States from **July 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>** among **1,008 registered voters**.
- Recruitment occurs through a broad variety of professional, validated respondent panels to expand the sampling frame as wide as possible and minimize the impact of any given panel on recruiting methods.
- The results reflect a **nationally representative sample of adults**. Results were weighted for age, gender, region, race/ethnicity, income, political party, education, and ideology where necessary to align them with their actual proportions in the population. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.1 percentage points.



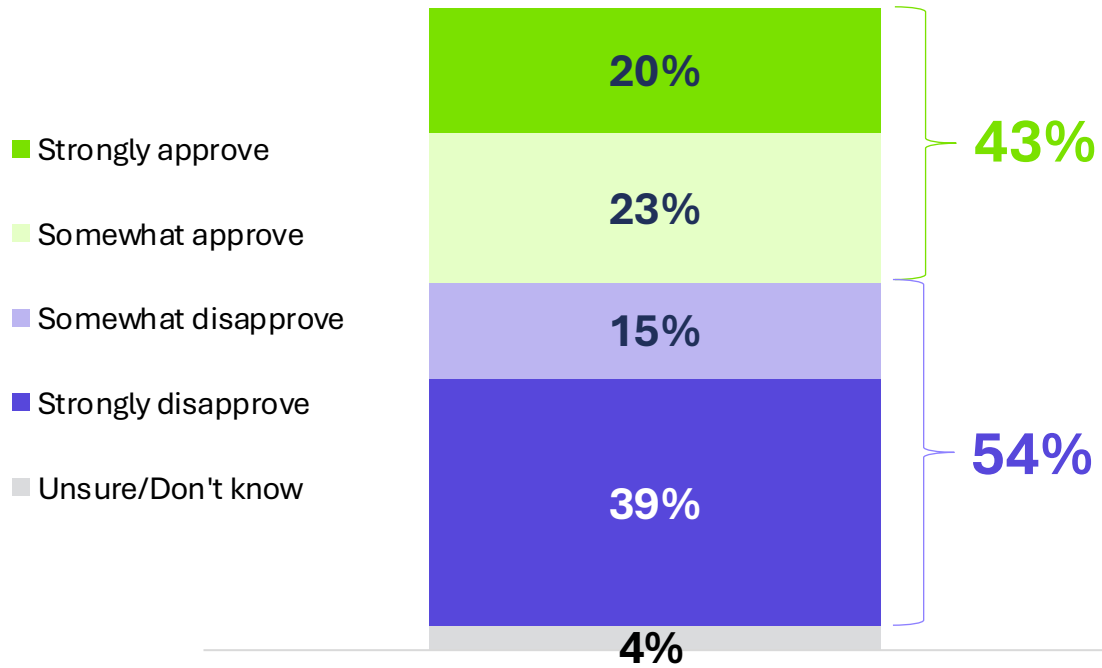
## The sample size and sampling margin of error

<b>1,008</b> U.S. adults in total	<b>+/-3.1 pts</b> Sampling Margin of Error
<b>333</b> Republicans (GOP)	<b>+/-5.4 pts</b> Sampling MoE
<b>366</b> Democrats	<b>+/-5.1 pts</b> Sampling MoE
<b>290</b> Independents	<b>+/-5.8 pts</b> Sampling MoE

**Note:** Some percentages on the slides may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding.

# President Trump's approval is underwater but remains strong among Republicans

**Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?**



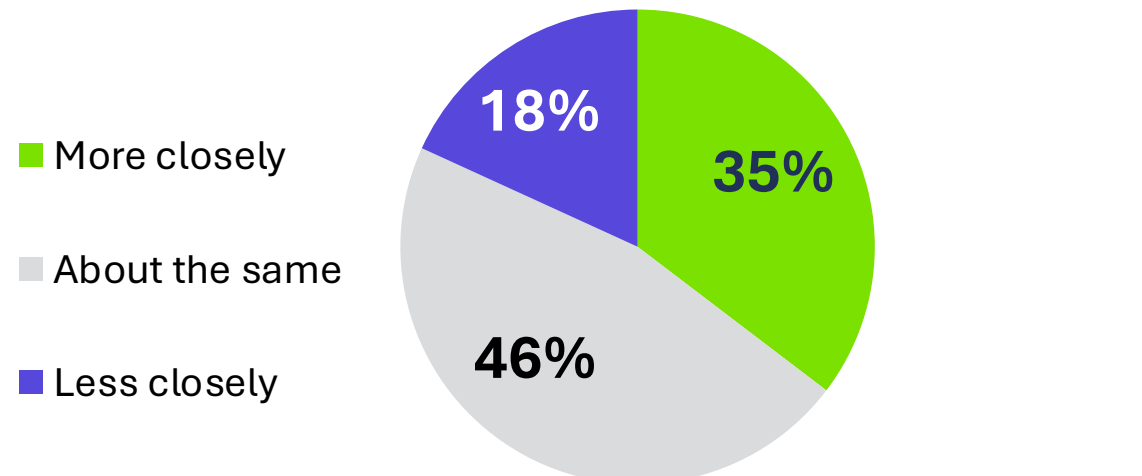
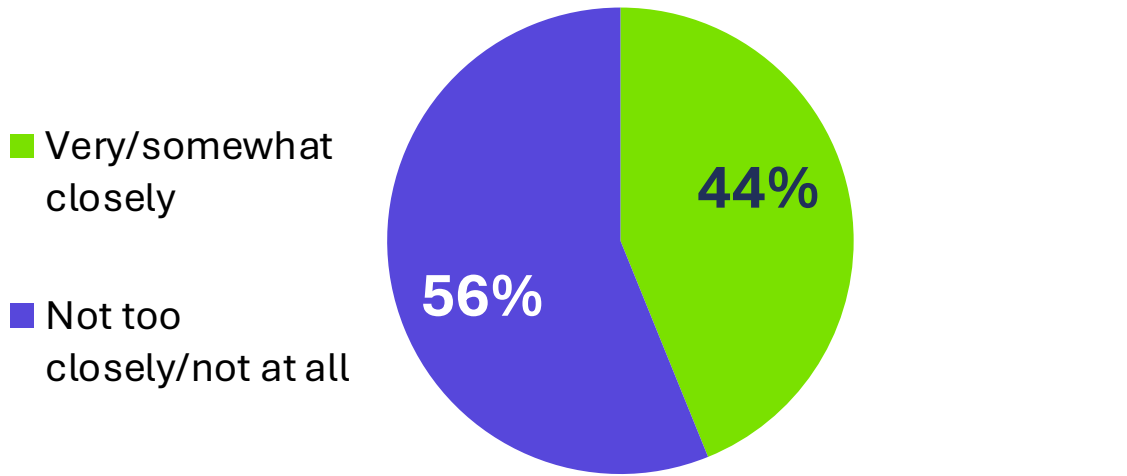
	GOP	DEM	IND	MAGA
<b>Approve</b>	<b>82%</b>	12%	32%	<b>93%</b>
<b>Disapprove</b>	16%	<b>85%</b>	<b>63%</b>	6%
<b>Unsure/Don't know</b>	2%	2%	6%	1%

TQ1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

# Over 4 in 10 Americans are following the 2026 World Cup, with attention toward the tournament growing

**How closely have you been following the FIFA World Cup?**

**Compared to previous World Cups, would you say you have been following this one...**



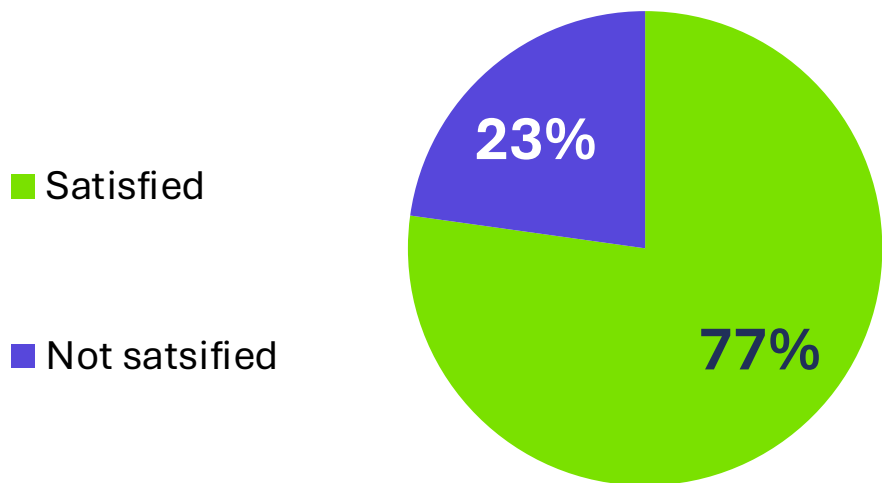
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Women
<b>Very/somewhat closely</b>	60%	48%	37%	31%	50%	38%
<b>Not too closely/not at all</b>	40%	52%	63%	69%	50%	62%

	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Women
<b>More closely</b>	40%	33%	39%	29%	37%	33%
<b>About the same</b>	47%	50%	37%	51%	45%	47%
<b>Less closely</b>	13%	17%	23%	20%	17%	19%

WC1. How closely have you been following the FIFA World Cup?  
 WC2. Compared to previous World Cups, would you say you have been following this one...  
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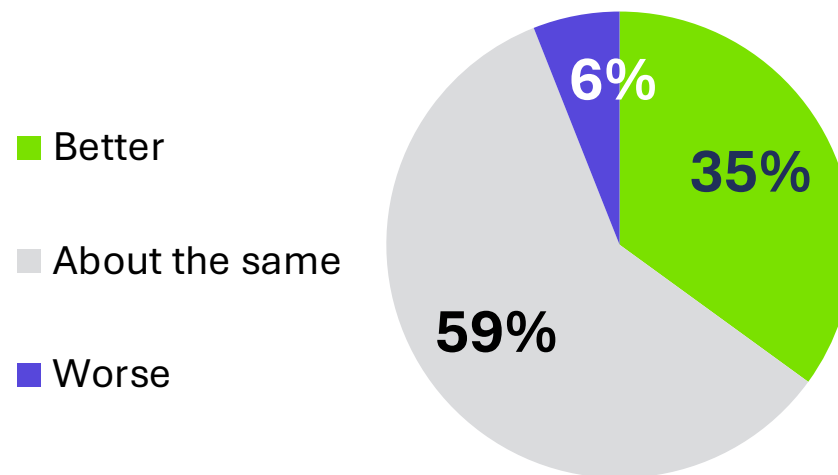
# Those following the World Cup are overwhelmingly satisfied and believe it has been better than previous events

Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the current World Cup.



	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Women	Following World Cup
Satisfied	75%	82%	75%	77%	76%	79%	90%
Not satisfied	25%	18%	25%	23%	24%	21%	10%

Compared to previous World Cups, would you say the games in this World Cup have been...



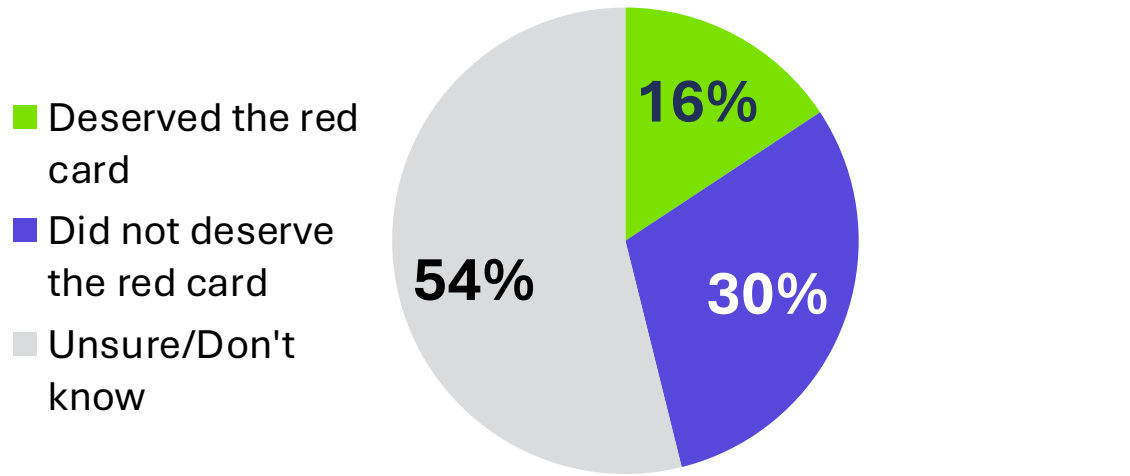
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Women	Following World Cup
Better	36%	39%	36%	28%	39%	32%	58%
About the same	56%	54%	57%	69%	55%	62%	38%
Worse	8%	7%	7%	3%	7%	6%	4%

WC3. Compared to previous World Cups, would you say the games in this World Cup have been...

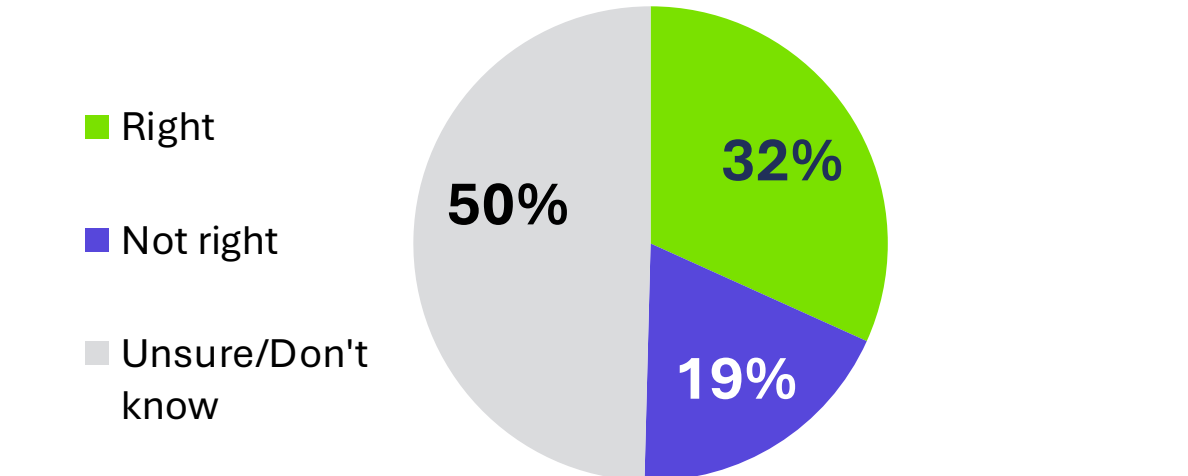
WC4: Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the current World Cup.

# While generally unfamiliar, those aware of the events do not believe Balogun's red card was deserved and believe its suspension by FIFA was right

**Do you believe Folarin Balogun deserved or did not deserve the red card?**



**Was FIFA right or not right to suspend the red card given to Folarin Balogun?**



	GOP	DEM	IND	USMNT fan	Familiar with red cards	Heard of Balogun red card
<b>Deserved</b>	12%	21%	14%	15%	22%	24%
<b>Did not deserve</b>	41%	25%	25%	40%	<b>43%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Unsure/Don't know</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>44%</b>	35%	25%

	GOP	DEM	IND	USMNT fan	Familiar with red cards	Heard of Balogun red card
<b>Right</b>	<b>44%</b>	24%	27%	<b>40%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Not right</b>	14%	26%	17%	21%	26%	28%
<b>Unsure/Don't know</b>	42%	<b>51%</b>	<b>56%</b>	39%	31%	24%

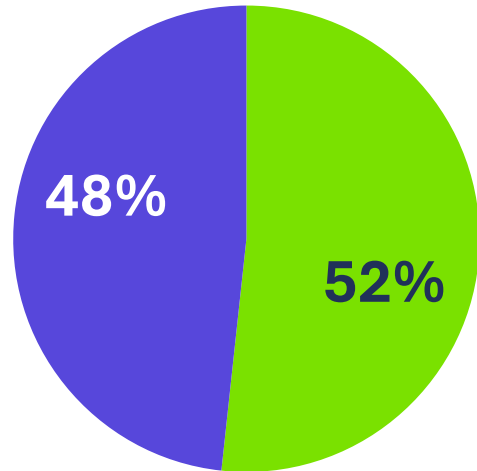
WC12: Do you believe Folarin Balogun deserved or did not deserve the red card?  
 WC17: Was FIFA right or not right to suspend the red card given to Folarin Balogun?

# Voters are unsure whether FIFA’s decision was independent or influenced by politics or the U.S. being a host country

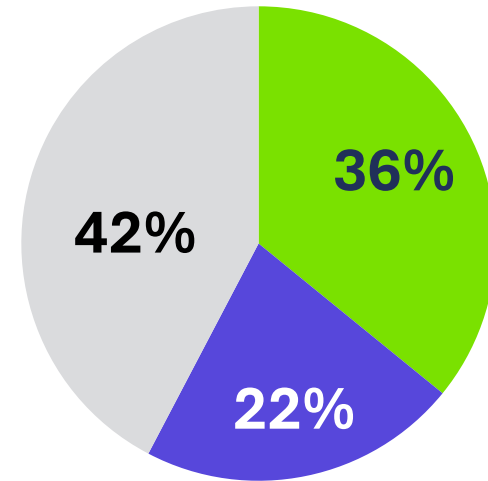
Was the FIFA decision taken by an independent review committee or was it politically influenced by outside factors?

Do you think the U.S. being a host country of the 2026 FIFA World Cup influenced FIFA’s decision to suspend Balogun’s red card?

■ Independent review committee  
■ Politically influenced



■ Yes  
■ No  
■ Unsure/Don't know



	GOP	DEM	IND	USMNT fan	Familiar with red cards	Heard of Balogun red card
Independent review	63%	40%	52%	55%	50%	49%
Politically influenced	37%	60%	48%	45%	50%	51%

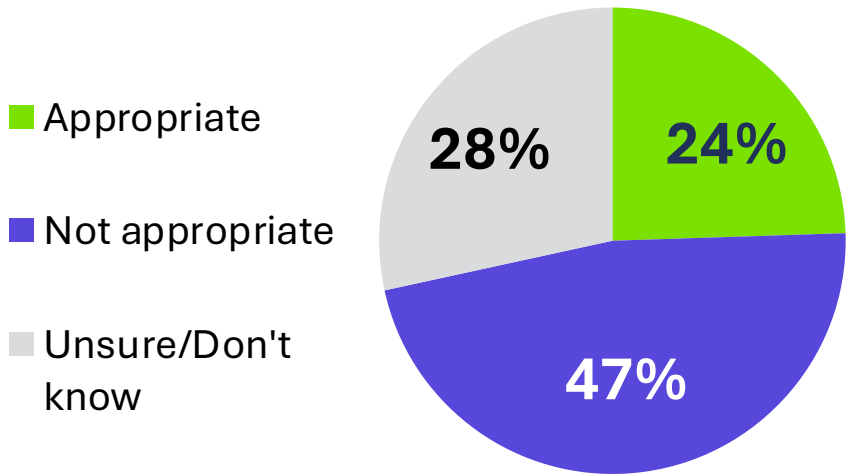
	GOP	DEM	IND	USMNT fan	Familiar with red cards	Heard of Balogun red card
Yes	31%	44%	33%	38%	48%	49%
No	29%	21%	16%	26%	27%	30%
Unsure/Don't know	40%	36%	51%	36%	26%	21%

WC18. Was the FIFA decision taken by an independent review committee or was it politically influenced by outside factors?

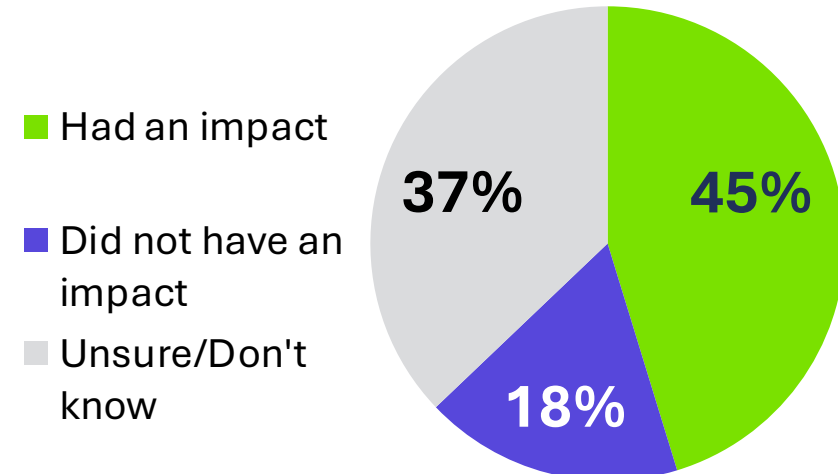
WC19. Do you think the U.S. being a host country of the 2026 FIFA World Cup influenced FIFA’s decision to suspend Balogun’s red card?

# Few believe it was appropriate for Trump to call FIFA about Balogun’s red card – and a plurality believe his decision to do so had an impact

**Was it appropriate or not appropriate for President Trump to contact FIFA President Gianni Infantino to inquire about Folarin Balogun’s red card?**



**Do you think President Trump contacting FIFA President Gianni Infantino had an impact on FIFA’s decision, or did not have an impact?**



	GOP	DEM	IND	USMNT fan	Familiar with red cards	Heard of Balogun red card
Appropriate	38%	13%	22%	29%	32%	35%
Not appropriate	31%	67%	46%	48%	54%	53%
Unsure/Don't know	31%	20%	33%	23%	14%	13%

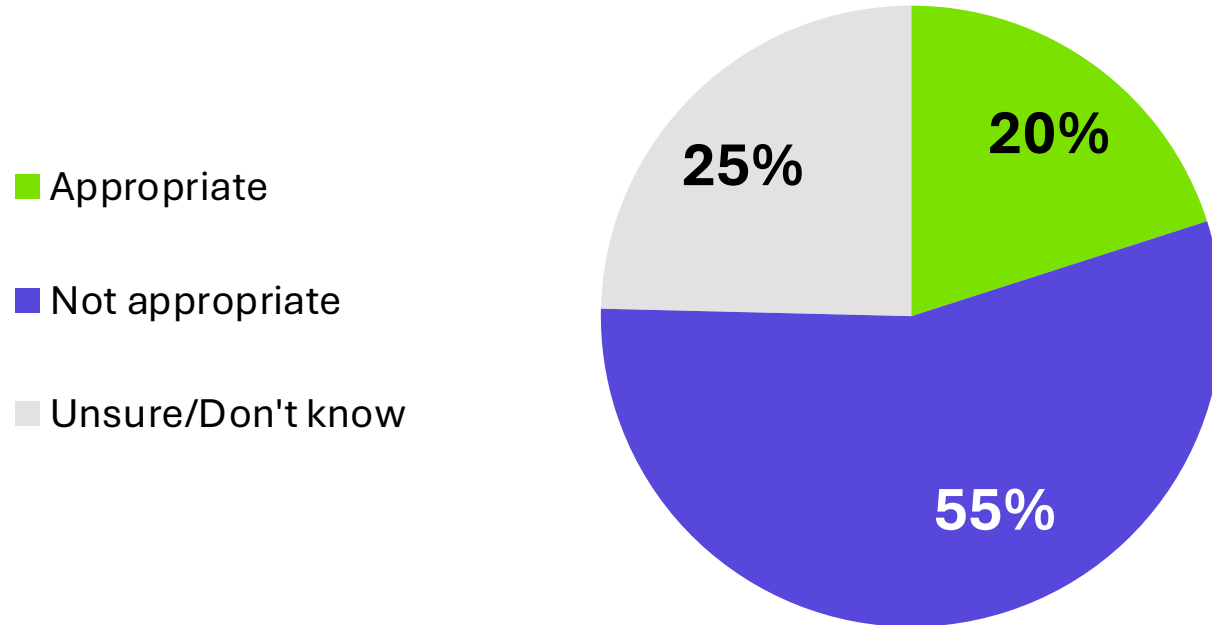
	GOP	DEM	IND	USMNT fan	Familiar with red cards	Heard of Balogun red card
Had an impact	39%	56%	42%	50%	57%	60%
Didn't have impact	22%	15%	17%	19%	19%	19%
Unsure/Don't know	40%	29%	42%	31%	25%	21%

WC20. Was it appropriate or not appropriate for President Trump to contact FIFA President Gianni Infantino to inquire about Folarin Balogun’s red card?

WC21. Do you think President Trump contacting FIFA President Gianni Infantino had an impact on FIFA’s decision, or did not have an impact?

# Most voters say it is inappropriate for political leaders to get involved with international sports rulings and decisions

In general, do you think it is appropriate or not appropriate for political leaders to contact the heads of international sports organizations about specific rulings or disciplinary decisions?



	GOP	DEM	IND
Appropriate	30%	13%	17%
Not appropriate	41%	73%	53%
Unsure/Don't know	29%	14%	29%

	Following World Cup	USMNT Fan	Familiar with red cards	Heard of Balogun red card
Appropriate	30%	23%	25%	27%
Not appropriate	54%	56%	59%	58%
Unsure/Don't know	16%	21%	16%	14%

WC22. In general, do you think it is appropriate or not appropriate for political leaders to contact the heads of international sports organizations about specific rulings or disciplinary decisions?

# Slight majorities find most arguments – from both supporters and opponents of the suspension of Balogun’s red card – persuasive

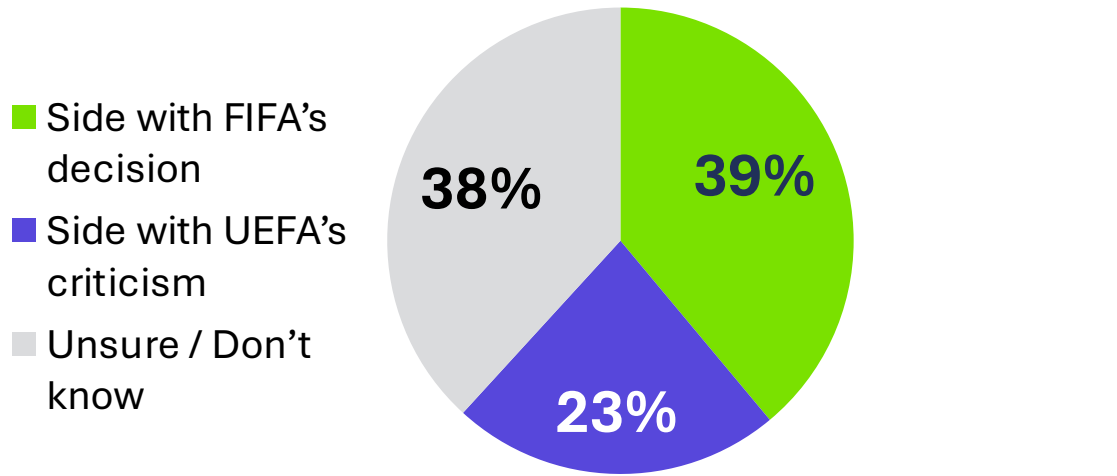
## % Convincing

Arguments	Voters	GOP	DEM	IND	USMNT Fan	Familiar with red cards	Heard of Balogun red card
<b>Football analysts</b> have pointed out other cases of similar red card suspensions based on FIFA’s article 27, most recently the repeal of a multi-game ban on Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal which would have seen him miss the first two games of the World Cup. Even though the Balogun case is not identical to any prior precedent, it is not unprecedented either.	56%	65%	54%	49%	63%	62%	65%
<b>FIFA President Gianni Infantino</b> said that the red card was reviewed by an independent disciplinary board within FIFA which used article 27 of the FIFA charter to suspend the penalty, as it has been done in similar other cases.	56%	67%	50%	50%	59%	60%	63%
<b>The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) organization wrote</b> in reaction to the decision that: “Football, like any other sports, relies on rules, which are the basis for fair, honest and transparent competition. Sometimes rules are open to interpretation. In this case not. When the certainty of rules is no longer guaranteed by its guardians, the integrity of the game is at stake and the credibility of a competition is undermined.”	55%	56%	61%	49%	57%	59%	58%
<b>USMNT Coach Mauricio Pochettino</b> said about the repeal that “It’s a fair decision because it should have never been a red card.” He called the punishment “too big” for an unintentional foul. “It’s not that we are victims, but we are not the bad men, the mean ones here.”	53%	68%	47%	45%	58%	57%	60%
<b>FIFA President Gianni Infantino</b> said that he did receive a call from President Donald Trump, just as he receives regular calls from heads of state, government officials, football stakeholders and business executives from around the world on many different FIFA issues. Infantino said he told Trump that any review of decisions was carried out by independent bodies.	49%	64%	40%	44%	55%	54%	55%

WC23. Please indicate whether you find each of the following arguments convincing or not convincing.

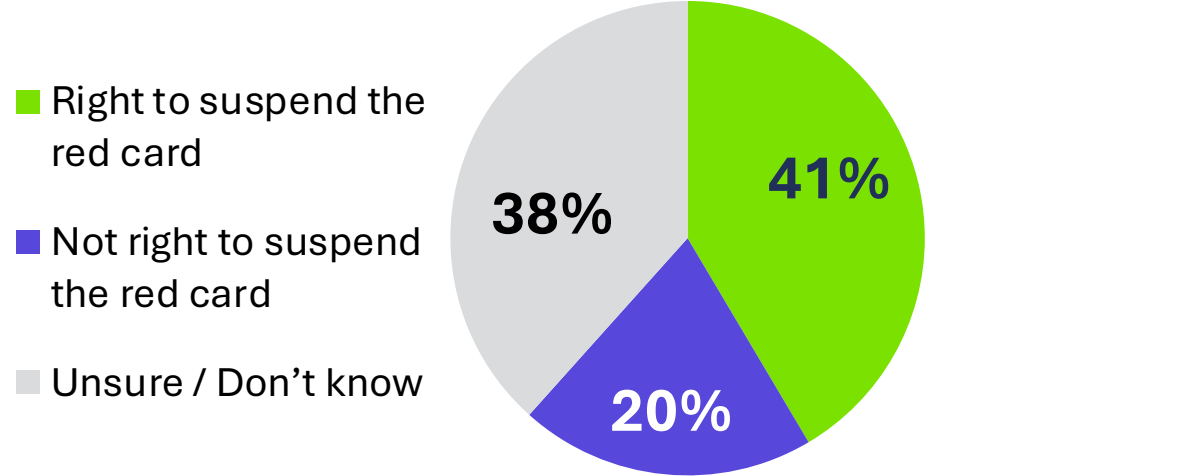
# After reading arguments, pluralities of voters side with FIFA’s decision to allow Balogun to play and believe FIFA was right to suspend the red card

Do you side more with FIFA’s decision to allow Balogun to play, or with UEFA’s criticism that overturning the red card undermines the integrity of the game and credibility of the competition?



	GOP	DEM	IND	USMNT fan	Familiar with red cards	Heard of Balogun red card
FIFA’s decision	52%	35%	30%	49%	50%	52%
UEFA’s criticism	15%	32%	23%	23%	29%	31%
Unsure/Don’t know	34%	33%	47%	28%	21%	17%

Assuming all the arguments are correct, given this information was FIFA right or not right to suspend the red card given to Folarin Balogun?



	GOP	DEM	IND	USMNT fan	Familiar with red cards	Heard of Balogun red card
Right	54%	35%	35%	50%	51%	56%
Not right	14%	29%	20%	21%	26%	27%
Unsure/Don’t know	32%	36%	45%	29%	23%	18%

WC24: Do you side more with FIFA’s decision to allow Balogun to play, or with UEFA’s criticism that overturning the red card undermines the integrity of the game and credibility of the competition?

WC25: Assuming all the arguments are correct, given this information was FIFA right or not right to suspend the red card given to Folarin Balogun?