



LISTENING

In order to do this task, you should follow these steps:

1. Listen to the podcast
2. Answer the questions below
3. Have a look at the vocabulary support and read the podcast transcript to help you understand the text
4. The answers to the questions will be available on the website next week

• **QUESTIONS**

1) The expression *bending the rules* is a synonym for:

- a. shirt pulling
- b. obstruction
- c. cheating

2) What was the foul that Luis Suárez committed?

- a. deliberate handball
- b. accidental handball
- c. both answers are correct because this incident split opinion.

3) According to Tin (Liverpool fan), the worst cheating action in football is...

- a. diving
- b. deliberate handball
- c. simulation

4) Simon (Chelsea fan)...

- a. Thinks that pretending being hurt or trying to get penalties complicates the referee's job.
- b. Thinks that diving is right if a player's intention is to score a goal.
- c. Agrees with breaking the rules because this action lets a team win a match.

5) According to the text, which of the following players was called a cheat?

- a. Maradona
- b. Paul Scholes
- c. Luis Suárez

• **VOCABULARY SUPPORT**

- **Bend the rules:** to cheat a little bit without breaking the law.
- **A trip:** when a player hits or taps the legs of another player and causes them to fall over; a trip usually knocks one leg against the other, making the runner fall over
- **Obstruction:** unfairly standing in the way of another player and preventing them from reaching the ball; blocking.
- **Diving:** pretending to have been knocked over/fouled; simulation.
- **Be pilloried:** be heavily criticized; be attacked.
- **Non-league:** semi-professional or amateur level football; in England there are four professional leagues, so non-league is the fifth tier (level) or lower.
- **Be branded:** be called; be named.
- **Beyond the pale:** totally unacceptable; terrible; very bad behaviour.
- **Con:** to trick; to cheat someone; to deceive.
- **Partisan:** biased (*a favor de*) towards your team; overly supportive of your side.

• **PODCAST TRANSCRIPT**

Breaking the rules

Cheating, breaking the rules, **bending the rules**, pushing the limits, gaining an advantage – we refer to all sorts of actions such as shirt pulling, a deliberate **trip**, **obstruction**, deliberate handball, **diving**, in these different ways. Cheating is clearly bad, while gaining an advantage is a positive thing, yet people may use both these expressions to refer to the

same incident on the pitch. It just depends on your connection with the players involved.

Last week, Luis Suárez of Liverpool was **pilloried** by some pundits (*comentaristas*) for what some saw as a deliberate handball against **non-league** side Mansfield ([see the incident here](#)). He was **branded** a cheat. Others saw an accidental handball and a player trying to help his team win. This incident split opinion, but most people agree that players have always tried to **con** the referee and try to get away with whatever they can.

But where is the line between a bit of cheeky rule bending and something that football fans regard as **beyond the pale**. We asked four football fans what they thought. Here are their answers.

Tim (Liverpool fan)

Well as an Englishman, the first thing I would say is deliberate handball especially when it comes to scoring goals in World Cups (reference to Maradona and his '[Hand of God](#)'), and, uh, the second thing I really don't like is simulation or diving because basically you're conning or cheating the referee, and it just looks bad... it makes the game look bad.

Dave (Manchester City fan)

Beyond the pale in football? Football! And if not a Paul Scholes (A Manchester United player) tackle (*entrada*).

Simon (Chelsea fan)

Aah, well... There are many things that a modern footballer does, but for me the number one thing is diving.... because the referee has a very hard job anyway, and then players just pretending that they're hurt or trying to get penalties... I just don't like that.

James (Manchester City fan)

Oh um, definitely kicking the ball, on purpose, kicking the ball at someone's head... because it's very dangerous, you could kill somebody.

So there we have it – it looks like diving is one thing that annoys fans, but the comments by the Manchester City fans aimed at their rivals Manchester United show just how **partisan** opinions can be when it comes to what is cheating.