

## ***Position Paper for the National Football League 2016***

The Cleveland Browns are a professional American Football team based in Cleveland, Ohio. The Browns franchise was founded in 1945 by Arthur B. McBride, and have been playing in the National Football League ever since. Unfortunately the Cleveland Browns have struggled to find success in these past two decades, with only two winning seasons in 2002 and 2007, and one playoff appearance (2002). It has also been noted that the franchise has had a lack of stability in quarterbacks in the past 18 seasons, with 26 different players in the position. Despite this, the Browns have a large number of dedicated fans

### **Players and Criminal Offences**

After a video of Ray Rice assaulting his fiancée was released, a firestorm has since ignited in protest of the NFL, who are now forced to reevaluate their policies on player behaviour toward women. Since then, even more cases have been coming to light on this topic. However, before Ray Rice, there was former Cleveland Browns running back, Jim Brown. Jim Brown was first accused of assaulting 18-year-old Brenda Ayres in a Howard Johnson motel near Cleveland's university circle. Several other assault cases arose afterward regarding Jim Brown, and in response to this, he

dismissed the accusations as a “creation of the Media”. The Browns and the NFL seemed indifferent on the subject as well, largely thanks to the era when football was still just a sport, and social media couldn’t put the issue on blast. In 2013, Jimmy Haslam brought Jim Brown back as a special advisor. When the Browns organization was asked how it views Brown’s past in light of the Ray Rice incident, Haslam said “We have seen his dedication and his commitment to positive change in the community. His experience and perspective, especially with the valued benefit of time, can positively impact our organization as we continue to evolve and grow.” In September of this year a statue was unveiled in honour of Jim Brown. So it’s safe to say that the Browns and the NFL are only concerned with Brown’s achievements as a player. The Browns are willing to turn a blind eye to what goes on off the field when it comes to their hall-of-fame players.

## **Bibliography**

Smith, Michael David (September 19, 2016). NBC Sports. Retrieved September 23, 2016.

Mark Naymik, Northeast Ohio Media Group. "Before Ray Rice, There Was Jim Brown and the NFL's Indifference toward Off-the-field Behavior: Mark Naymik." *Cleveland.com*. N.p., 10 Sept. 2014. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.