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Team: Philadelphia Eagles

Committee: National Football League 2016

Topic 1: Expansion

The National Football League is a platform through which football as a sport is shared around the world. People from cities all around the globe such as London, Toronto, Mexico City, are fans of this game. The league has all kind of support outside the traditional bases. These new bases would provide the league with a whole new range of income and audience. Some of these cities, such as London, where the stadium sells out when there is a NFL game.

The issue that divides people is whether the league should expand to add other teams from these cities, and therefore expand the league. However, most the football talent comes from North America. Expanding the league too much would cause a dilution of the talent present and cause people to become less interested in the game as long standing rivalries would fade away, and take from the profits generated by these games between rivals. The Philadelphia Eagles would like to oppose the idea of expanding the league, as it would cause a decline in football’s popularity. Most of the audience, already has a favorite team and adding more teams would not necessarily expand the game’s audience. Furthermore, football’s main fans enjoy the rivalries between teams that exist. An expansion would cause the games between pre-existent rivals to be less frequent. Plus, with the expansion, there would be a need to create other rivalries, and these cannot be created if the new teams are the only ones in their region that are part of the league, thus, decreasing the interest people would have in the league. If the teams cannot get enough support, the profits go down as stadiums and crowds are less eager to participate. This is a trend seen when previous attempts to expand the league were made, such the Grizzlies, where the existence of this team made games less competitive and would not get the attendance necessary to advance.

The Philly Eagles, as a team, would advocate for the maintenance of the league’s size today, and maybe even perhaps, shrinking the league to filter the best talent and make the game more interesting and worthwhile. This does mean that we do not want seek a wider ranger of audience, however, it is clear that expanding the league would not help but rather demotivate fans that are already accustomed and enjoy the current teams, as it happened with the Grizzlies. We would suggest to encourage and promote the rivalries existing between the Eagles and teams such as the New York Giants or the Washington Redskins, to create a more of a “hype” and competition, and therefore, result in more revenue for the league and for the team.

Topic 2: Concussion and Head Safety

Football like many other sports, is a sport that involves physical contact. This causes players to get injured very often. One the most focused on injuries are concussion. The NFL has a long history of player getting head injuries and suffering long term effects of these injuries. This history cast a negative image of the league and this is why the league has always been reluctant to acknowledge the consequences and implication of head injuries. While implementing policies to curb these kind of incidents, the league’s reluctance to recognize this problem of a larger has caused conflict between different factors.

The Philadelphia Eagles believe that the league must do more to avoid head injuries. Not only must they be clear and honest about the implications of the sport and these injuries, but also, should be responsible for how the problem is addressed and held accountable, to a reasonable extent. This will push them to implement rules and regulations that, no matter what the consequences on their image, will provide adequate safety for players, such as Caleb Sturgis, from getting injured and hurting the team’s strength. Furthermore, long term effects of these injuries can be avoided and improve the image of the NFL, rather than hurting it, which is what the NFL fears.

This can be done by implementing new rules and regulations that help prevent these kinds of injuries. By regulating the way players are treated and diagnosed by the medical professionals at their disposal, and creating guidelines that make sure that the players health is not compromised after a hit, that make the medical professional reasonably accountable for not diagnosing a concussion properly and letting the player continue playing, which happens in many cases and causes the injuries to worsen and make them irreparable. Furthermore, without damaging the physical image that excites a lot of supporters of the NFL, appropriate gear should be developed sponsored and supported by the NFL, that can limit injuries in case of hits as much as possible. Rules prohibiting the use of the head during the game should be implemented. Proper training to develop muscles to and reflexes to avoid head injuries specifically should be given to the athletes. By making risk injury a top priority, players can avoid getting seriously injured and therefore improves the way games are played, causing people to appreciate and generate revenues for the team and the league.

Topic 3: Players and Criminal Offenses

As in any sport, football players all have flaws and shortcomings. There has been a varied range of opinions on how the league should deal with players convicted of crimes such as, drug abuse, domestic violence, sex abuse, etc. The NFL has been called out for not doing enough to manage its players that undertake such actions, and that the league should have a bigger role in regulating the offenses committed by its players. There have been around 713 arrests of NFL players. The Philly Eagles have maintained a relatively clean sheet in this subject.

The Eagles believe that the policies implemented by the league are appropriate. By offering counseling, education and treatment programs, the league is offering the support and assistance that they can provide to the athletes that do commit these crimes. However, it is possible that these policies are not being implemented as strictly as possible, causing people to feel that the league should be doing more. The league should be implementing their policies on a case to case basis. With crimes, such as sexual assault, domestic violence or performance enhancing drugs, it should adopt the stricter version of their policies. However, when it comes to crimes such as drug abuse, or theft, where the ethical concern is not as imposing, the league can be a bit more lenient, and leave it up to the discretion of the team.

The Philadelphia Eagles believe that as a national platform, which millions of people look up to, the NFL should be more responsible and conscious about the image it projects throughout the nation. The league should research and look at ways it can prevent the occurrence of these crimes, perhaps by lowering the stress levels of the athletes so they don’t feel as compelled into doing illegal activities. Also, mandatory counseling for athletes with a record should be implemented. Athletes with a record with too many crimes should not be allowed to play. By not allowing these players onto the NFL platform, it restricts them form projecting a negative image of the league onto the public. The NFL should make it clear that crime and unlawfulness does not have a place in society, and thus it does not have place in the league.