**Specialised Agency: National Football League**

**Tennessee Titans: Position Paper**

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The National Football League is often viewed as a medium of media where a one can enjoy watching professional football. Although this naive view of perception has not changed, the perception of the league’s drug policy and player wellbeing policy has been radically criticised for not keeping up with expectations. Other topics include the possibility of expansion, and domestic abuse within the NFL. The league’s drug policy is something that the Tennessee Titan’s uphold, and want to further increase the penalty for. The Tennessee Titans would also lobby for expansion not to be seen as a viable option.

**Topic 001: Domestic Abuse/Criminal Charges Involving Players**

The Tennessee Titan’s have had some complications with the law regarding domestic violence. Since 2014, the criminal record for the Titan’s players have been clean. [[1]](#footnote-0) Firstly, the domestic abuse policies have not been significant enough for the offenders. Since 2014, a first time offender for domestic assault will receive a “baseline suspension without pay of six games, with consideration given to any aggravating or mitigating factors”, with the second charge leading to an indefinite ban from the league itself. [[2]](#footnote-1) Furthermore, this new policy has only been developed after years of giving moderate and lenient bans to past offenders of domestic abuse. The Tennessee Titan’s recognize that the league is taking appropriate steps towards advancing its policies, such as offering assistance to the victims when the situation is appropriate and investigating the claims itself. [[3]](#footnote-2)

Taking all of the past history and current reforms into consideration, the Tennessee Titan’s believe that in this day and age, the NFL needs to raise the level of discipline for players that commit these offenses. The Titans suggest that the first stage of punishment should be a full season ban without pay, and the second level of punishment should lead to a ban from the NFL. The need for this policy is clear, as the NFL and the teams of the NFL need to show the public that we do not condone or even tolerate this kind of behavior from any of the athletes in our league.

**Topic 002: Performance Enhancing/Recreational Drug Abuse**

The topic of drug abuse and player wellbeing is something that the NFL should be taking more reformative measures for. The penalty for these infractions consist of a monetary fine for the first offense, a monetary fine plus a risk of suspension for the second offense, and a suspension of a year for the third offense. [[4]](#footnote-3) This rule applies to all teams, and luckily the Tennessee Titan’s has not been on the receiving end of these punishments since 2014.

This policy has not been a problem for our team, and other teams should deal with their players so this policy also does not affect their team. The Tennessee Titans strongly recommend that the consequence for using recreational drugs should be a significant monetary fine and the risk of suspension for their first offense, and a year-long suspension for their second offense. The rationale for this increased policy is due to how the NFL needs to be fair for all teams and athletes, and how the usage of recreational drugs can be harmful to the brand image of the Tennessee Titans.

**Topic 003: Expansion/Ticket Sales**

Expansion is a way for the NFL to reach a larger crowd of people that are interested in american football. There are many risks that come with expanding internationally, as the interest from American’s may decrease and how the fans outside of the United States will quickly lose interest after its debut. The Tennessee Titans do not vote in the favour of expansion as it would jeopardize our chance at a first-round draft pick since the expansion team would get first overall draft pick. However, the Tennessee Titans do feel that expansion would be a good idea in two or three years, as we should have more time to see what the market for american football is in other countries.

**Topic 004: Head Safety**

Although safety of the players in the NFL is imperative for all officials, it has not always been like that. Only in 2010 did the league start acknowledging the ramifications of concussions and the league only started implementing appropriate concussion safety methods.[[5]](#footnote-4) These concussions can lead to CTE or even dementia, and can also lead to reduced cognitive abilities. [[6]](#footnote-5)

The NFL is taking steps to prevent head injuries, criminal offenses and drug abuse. These steps are limited, and these policies have only come into place through public demand and medical research that directly contends the fact that concussions have no lasting effect. The Tennessee Titans hope to develop stricter disciplinary punishments for drug abuse and criminal offenses, lengthening the amount of games for suspension and the fine for these offenses. Additionally, the Titans hope to prevent expansion of the NFL for one year to have more time to conduct market research, and to develop a stricter guideline regarding illegal hits that are to the head. Furthermore, all teams and level of management in the NFL should work together as a cohesive team to come up with policies that apply and benefit every stakeholder in the NLF, from the players to the commissioner.

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