



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 15, 2023

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
345 Park Avenue, Fifth Floor
New York, NY 10154

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

As co-chair of the Congressional Gaming Caucus and the representative of Las Vegas, I write today in response to recent reports that players and coaches at the professional and collegiate levels have been found in violation of their league's respective policies surrounding sports betting.¹ As you know, in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*, sports betting is legal and operational in 33 states and the District of Columbia.² This legalization has led to increased state tax revenue, fan engagement, and league business opportunities.

While sports betting offers a fun way for fans to enjoy their favorite teams, it also brings risk that could undermine the integrity of the games that so many love. This risk is not new. Prior to 2018, sports betting by league-affiliated individuals in the illegal, offshore marketplace was much harder to detect, but that does not mean it was not happening. With sports betting increasingly becoming legal across the United States, sportsbooks and innovative integrity monitoring companies can alert gaming regulators and leagues when suspicious betting activity occurs. When players get suspended and coaches get fired, that means the system is working. The goal, however, should be to stop these bets before they are placed. Increased education of players and coaches about league policies regarding sports betting would assure fans that games they watch, and often bet on, are fair.

While I appreciate all the work you are doing with sportsbooks, state regulators, and integrity partners, more needs to be done to ensure that sports remain free from outside influence. This includes educating the public about what you are doing to protect the integrity of the game and maintaining full transparency surrounding your policies and procedures.

Therefore, we ask that you please answer the following questions by July 15, 2023:

- 1) What is your league's sports betting policy for athletes and staff?

¹ Ricky Maese and Danny Funt. "In Iowa and Alabama, betting scandals raise red flags for college sports." *The Washington Post*, May 12, 2023; Stephen Holder and David Purdum. "NFL investigating Colts' Isaiah Rodgers for possible betting." *ESPN*, June 5, 2023.

² "Interactive U.S. Map: Sports Betting." *American Gaming Association*, accessed June 5, 2023.

- a. Does your league prohibit affiliated individuals from betting on leagues outside of your own?
 - b. Does your league prohibit sports betting in league-affiliated locations like stadiums or practice facilities?
- 2) How often does your league require in-person education on the rules surrounding sports betting? Please describe the education required for players and staff to be in compliance with your league's rules.
 - 3) How many staff members does your league employ for the education, monitoring, and investigation of sports betting activity by league-affiliated individuals? Please describe what partnerships your league maintains to assist with these efforts.
 - 4) Does your league provide a list of names of individuals who are prohibited from sports betting to integrity monitoring firms and sportsbooks?
 - 5) Since 2018, how many individuals have been found guilty of breaking league rules regarding sports betting? What punishments have these individuals received?
 - 6) How many active investigations does your league currently have into suspicious sports betting activity?

I look forward to working with you to ensure that the responsible, regulated sports betting market continues to thrive and that leagues are doing their part to protect the integrity of the sports they sponsor. If you need any additional information or have any questions, please contact Jeremy Marsh in my office at Jeremy.Marsh@mail.house.gov. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus

Member of Congress