



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ROGER GOODELL
Commissioner

November 2, 2015

The Honorable John McCain
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20610

The Honorable Jeff Flake
413 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McCain and Flake,

The National Football League deeply values the dedication and sacrifice of the men and women who serve our country. For many decades, at home and abroad, the league and our individual clubs have offered respect, appreciation, and support to the U.S. military and our veterans. These efforts range from NFL players and executives traveling on USO goodwill tours, to highlighting military service during Super Bowl and Pro Bowl games, to the league's annual Salute to Service events, through which we have raised millions of dollars for our three non-profit military appreciation partners: the Pat Tillman Foundation, the USO, and the Wounded Warrior Project.

The military has also separately engaged individual NFL clubs to promote recruitment efforts, using multiple platforms to maximize the reach of their message, such as ads placed in game programs and on scoreboards or recruitment kiosks in our stadiums. These efforts are intended to be separate and apart from the NFL's longstanding recognition of the service members and their families who have dedicated their lives to serving this great country.

Earlier this year, you shared with us concerns that these two distinct types of activities have not been kept separate. We strongly oppose the use of recruitment funds for anything other than their proper purpose. As you know, on July 2, 2015, the NFL issued guidance to each of its 32 clubs to make clear that any on-field recognition, community events, or other activities that are not specifically in the form of recruitment or advertising should never be included in contracts or otherwise performed for payment. I have attached a copy of this guidance for your reference.

More recently, you have indicated that you remain concerned about inappropriate use of Department of Defense recruiting dollars. With respect to more specific claims around recruitment funds being used for tribute activities, we are conducting an audit of all contracts between our clubs and the military service branches or state National Guard units. If we find that inappropriate payments were made, they will be refunded in full. We will share the results of this review with you.

Honorable John McCain
Honorable Jeff Flake
November 2, 2015
Page 2

We look forward to working with you to resolve this issue. Our relationship with the National Guard, the various branches of the military, our veterans, and the families of our service men and women is of deep importance to the league. We embrace our opportunity to honor their service, and we are committed to the principle that this honor should never be a commercial transaction. We will take the necessary steps to ensure that all entities within the NFL meet this standard.

Please call me if you have questions about how the league is addressing this matter. I look forward to maintaining an ongoing discussion with you and working together to protect and enhance our efforts to honor those who provide military service to our nation.

Sincerely,



ROGER GOODELL

Attachment

ROGER GOODELL
Commissioner