

## Is the NFL Really For ‘No More’?

by Charlotte Carl

Thousands of incidents of sexual and physical harassment happen every year. People are arrested every single day. But of course, whenever a National Football League player rapes or abuses a woman, the case instantly becomes viral. The NFL needs to change their policies for punishing players for sexual and physical harassment because over half of all abuse goes unpunished, and coaches and owners lessen punishments for something that is illegal. The NFL has received a lot of bad press for this in past years. In the 2014 fall season, rape and abuse have become an especially prominent issue.

Half of the women that have been raped or abused by players in the NFL have seen no justice. 57 alleged domestic violence cases occurred during Roger Goodell’s term as NFL commissioner. Out of those 57, 14 cases were allowed to go through diversion programs, 11 went undetermined, and only 8 involved players pleading guilty. There was video evidence of Ray Rice hitting his now wife, but the second he won his appeal, he was immediately allowed to return, and all of his charges were dropped. Even more recently, Sammie Hill has faced rape allegations from a girl he met at a club. He plays for the Tennessee Titans; the case is currently being investigated. The NFL, as a whole, is not putting enough effort into investigating these cases.

After a person is convicted of a crime, they go to jail. While in the National Football League, players receive suspensions for a game or two and in more serious cases, players are cut from their teams. The players are put on a pedestal. During the NFL’s existence, there have been 17,000 alleged assaults and 150 confirmed rapes. People who are victims of these crimes are bribed, players get paid a lot of money, and to spare some of it to not be put in jail seems like an educated decision; Terrell Suggs, for example, is a player on the Baltimore Ravens. He pushed his fiancée down and poured bleach on her and their child. “Drown [her] with this bleach,” is what he said he was going to do. No punishments were given out from the league whatsoever.

Someone may argue, the league is trying to stop this kind of behavior. This is true; they have produced a ‘No More’ commercial. No More is a campaign that is against domestic violence and sexual assault. However, the organization has been around for *five years*. This commercial began airing at Thanksgiving, 2014, it has brought attention to the campaign. They do this so the NFL can prove they are ‘helping’ the effort. Since that commercial was aired, there have been two alleged cases of sexual assault. Yes, the NFL has proved what they are trying to do, but stricter guidelines on this problem would actually prevent it.

Instruction and education for the players in the NFL on laws of rape and harassment would decrease the amount of arrests and convictions. Coaches and owners do not want to waste the time and the money to make the punishments more severe. In the meantime, players will continue to do these terrible things and not be punished. The NFL needs to take action in making punishments for these crimes more severe, or these cases will continue to make headlines.

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