

# DAKOTA PRO FOOTBALL

## Bismarck Bucks

### SB2214 amended



**SPORTS**



We have more collegiate championship titles than any other state in football and hockey, yet we have NO professional sports franchises in either sport.





# Leadership

## Greg Schuh

General Manager

- ❖ Worked in professional sports management since 1998
- ❖ Managed both professional hockey and football
- ❖ Has worked in over 100 venues throughout the country
- ❖ Responsible for team safety and medical management

## Heidi Ripplinger

Vice President of Operations

- ❖ Worked with the Bismarck Bucks since 2019 Season
- ❖ Nominated for Executive of the Year
- ❖ Member of the Board of Directors for the IFL
- ❖ Served on the Executive Board for the IFL



# WHO WE ARE: Bismarck Bucks

- ❖ Inaugural Season: 2017
- ❖ Members of the Indoor Football League (IFL)
- ❖ We are solely owned by BEK Communications Cooperative since June 2019. BEK is 70-year-old North Dakota Cooperative.
- ❖ We make a positive impact in local communities by providing family-friendly sports entertainment.
- ❖ We have had over 120,000 in-venue spectators since 2017.
- ❖ All 16 games are broadcast LIVE on BEK Sports Network, local cable, satellite and over-the-air with 8 home games held at the Bismarck Event Center.





# PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL TEAMS

**NFL** 32 teams

**XFL** 8 teams

**USFL** 8 teams

**IFL | CIF | NAL** 31 teams

**79 TEAMS**

# **Medical Coverage & Workers Compensation**

## **All Professional Football Leagues REQUIRE Insurance**

### **Coverage Options**

- 1. League mandated program**
- 2. League mandated coverage via open marketplace**
- 3. State mandated workers compensation program**
  - ❖ **Exempting Professional Athletes**

**North Dakota law prohibits all 3 coverage options.**



# Our Plan: Option 3

- ❖ State Mandated Workers Compensation Program

- with professional athlete exemption

- ❖ Partnerships

- allows us to manage our premium and to manage medical, surgical, and rehabilitation expenses

# Amended SB 2214

- ❖ ONLY applies to professional athletes not office staff.
- ❖ 4-year sunset provides an opportunity to pilot the program.
- ❖ The IFL **REQUIRES** professional athletes have coverage.
- ❖ SB2214 allows us to get market-based coverage and use partnerships to manage medical, surgical, and rehabilitation expenses.
- ❖ We would appreciate your support and a DO PASS.



# Bucks ND WSI Timeline

**11.2021**

## Step 1 Annual Review

- ❖ Each year prior to the season our organization meets with WSI staff to review the previous and upcoming seasons.
- ❖ Annual review resulted in the Bucks being notified premiums will increase from \$31,931 to \$484,552.

**4.2022**

## Step 2 Find a solution

- ❖ For the past year we have spoken to WSI about finding a solution to the rate structure. In the Fall of 2022 WSI suggested we present the issues to their Board with the understanding they could provide an exception.

**10.2022**

## Step 3 WSI Presentation

- ❖ We presented why the current model in place does not work for Dakota Pro Football LLC as well as any professional sports team in North Dakota.
- ❖ WSI Board stated an exception requires legislative review and approval.

**12.2022**

## Step 4 Determination

- ❖ Our attorney met with the attorney for WSI to draft appropriate language and determine a suitable section for the change.

**01.2023**

## Step 5 SB 2214 Bill Testimony & Vote

- ❖ Presented in Senate Industry and Business Committee.
- ❖ Passed 5-0 with Amendments
- ❖ Amendments include sunset clause and 2 sport classification ONLY (football and hockey).
- ❖ Full Senate vote passed with amendments 47-0.

**03.2023**

## Step 6 House Testimony

- ❖ In collaboration with ND WSI and the Senate Industry & Business Committee, amended bill to be presented which ONLY targets a unique, select group in the employee classification code and provides a 4-year sunset.

# **Bismarck Bucks: Economic Impact**

**Public & Private Partnership REACH**

**- 124 Businesses in ND**

**Direct Economic Activity**  
**\$780,000 annually**

**Indirect Economic Activity**  
**\$445,000 annually**

**Total Economic Impact**  
**\$1,225,000 Annually**

Meals, hotels, air & bus transportation, team housing, facilities, game day costs, equipment, media & advertising, staff, player and game day payroll



# **Bismarck Bucks: Community Benefits**

## **Faith and Community Outreach**

### **– 67 Organizations**

- ❖ Family Entertainment
- ❖ Community Pride
- ❖ Mentorship e.g. Kids & Youth Camps
- ❖ Tourism
- ❖ Professional Sports is an Important Mechanism to Promote Equity and Inclusion
- ❖ Regardless of Socioeconomic background, Race, Religion, Language, etc.
- ❖ Mission is Centered Around Providing Opportunities For Youth



































































