

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


























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