



National Basketball Players Association

Chairs: Ishmam Nur and Andrew
Wittner

Vice Chair: Michael Verdeschi

Hello Delegates,

I'd like to welcome you all to JJMUNC III, and specifically to the National Basketball Players Association. My name is Ishmam Nur and I, along with being your USG of Finance, will serve you as the chair of this committee. I am a rising senior at John Jay High School and have been involved in Model UN since my sophomore year.

A little bit about me, along with my interest in foreign affairs, I am also a big fan of basketball, soccer and football. Repping the Lakers, Leicester and the Bengals! When I'm not doing anything academically related, I'm usually writing. I have a big hobby of writing novels and screenplays. I could probably get into a long conversation with you with just about any TV show or movie.

Along with the help of my Co-Chair, Andrew Wittner, and my Vice-Chair, Michael Verdeschi, we will all work to ensure that this committee runs smoothly. Basketball is a sport that all three of us love and are invested in. We are all looking forward to the debate in November.

- Ishmam Nur

How the NBA Players Association Operates

The NBA Players Association is the union for players in the league. Each individual team has two player representatives that represent what their respective teams want in certain issues. The mission of the NBA Players Association is “to ensure that the rights of NBA players are protected and that every conceivable measure is taken to assist players in maximizing their opportunities and achieving their goals, both on and off the court”.

The NBA Players Association represents players in many ways. Some of which, verbatim from the association itself are:

- Negotiating the terms of a collective bargaining agreement with the NBA, which governs all aspects of players’ employment
- Ensuring that the NBA and its teams meet their obligations under the CBA
- Certifying, regulating and educating player agents
- Providing a full range of services, benefits and assistance through the NBPA’s Player Services department
- Monitoring and negotiating the administration of retirement and insurance benefits
- Providing on-staff security professionals to help with proprietary or sensitive matters
- Assisting charity and community organizations
- Promoting the positive image and reputation of NBA players, both on and off the court

Players would need representation from the NBA Players Association for the following reasons, also verbatim:

- Obtain expert legal advice and/or representation in a dispute
- Receive salary and pertinent information to assist in individual contract negotiations
- File a grievance
- Appeal a fine or suspension
- Help resolve player/agent disputes
- Protect medical benefits and other rights

As one could see, the NBA Players Association would be extremely important for the representation of players in the league.

Players also make up the leadership of the NBA Players Association. The dais of the committee will act as the leading three representative of the committee. Those three being Los Angeles Clipper and President, Chris Paul, Cleveland Cavelier and First Vice-President, LeBron James, and Golden State Warrior and Vice-President, Steph Curry.



Chris Paul

LeBron James

Steph Curry

The positions you will all be presenting during the conference will be actual player representatives from each team in the NBA.

Topic Summaries

Topic A - Collective Bargaining Agreement

The NBA Collective Bargaining Agreement, or CBA, is an agreement between the NBA and the NBA Players Association which dictates much of the player's life in the NBA. Including contracts, trade distributions and limitations, salary caps, distribution of revenue, and the regulations on the NBA Draft. Much of a player's career in the NBA is determined by the CBA. The current CBA is about to expire. As the representatives of the NBA Players Association, you are too come up with an agenda, or agreement amongst yourselves in what you should fight for in the CBA. Failing to do so will lead to a league-wide lockout, much like 2011. Agreeing to like terms will allow for the situation dealing with the owners and league personnel to be unanimous, going into the the new Collective Bargaining Agreement to NBA and the Players Association need to make before the 2016-2017 season.

Topic B - Player Safety

Injuries have been seemingly more abundant in recent years. This is leading to much talk and controversy on the game overall. Are the players being overworked due to an 82 game regular season? Are referees' playcalling negatively affecting player

safety? Are injury protocols, such as concussion protocols, substantive enough to protect the players? These questions have arisen due to the nature of injuries within the past few years, especially to our league's best and brightest. It is your job, as the representatives of the NBA Players Association, to come to an agreement and to an agenda in which to present to the league, in regards to your safety in the league. Every player will have to come in with ideas that can be agreed upon with the NBA and the nature of the game, to ensure the NBA's top priority, player safety.

Topic A: Collective Bargaining Agreement

As the players, you are now tasked to come up with an agenda for the re-issuing of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.. Failing to reach an agreement will result in a lockout, such as the one the NBA went through in 2011. The Collective Bargaining Agreement encompasses agreements between the NBA players and team owners and front offices. The aspects of the Collective Bargaining Agreement include, but are not limited to salaries/salary cap, tax, free agency, the draft, player contracts, anti-drug policies, player development, and other miscellaneous aspects that a player faces as an employee and an owner faces as an employers. There tends to be many disagreements between the players and owners on these issues so it is very important to have a strong, but reasonable agenda in order to ensure the a re-issuance of the Collective Bargaining Agreement occurs.

As mentioned before, failing to come up with an agenda puts the league in danger of a lockout. This affects how the NBA runs on a fundamental level. It can get to the point where games aren't being played for an indefinite amount of time. This is crucial to avoid as it reflects on the league poorly and does damage to our image and brand

Imagine the NBA Player Association as the union of the NBA as other unions in different professions. Where the workers convene to find a common basis for how they should be treated as employees. The conference will act as a convening of the union before a huge contract. The re-issuing of the Collective Bargaining Agreement is this scenario on a higher scale, pertinent to the NBA.

To familiarize yourself with the NBA Collective Bargaining Agreement, use this current NBA Collective Bargaining Agreement to get an idea of what to negotiate for in November: <http://www.nba.com/media/CBA101.pdf>

Topic B: Player Safety

In recent years, the issue of player safety has been a heavily prevalent topic in the NBA. As it should be. Player safety is the number one priority for the NBA and NBA Players Association. There is no NBA without the best players in the world. We must do our best to ensure that the safety of our players is ensured.

However, the league can do much better on this front. We have seen some of our star in recent years suffer major injuries. Unfortunate injuries to some of our league's brightest, some of which include stars like Derrick Rose, Paul George, Kobe

Bryant, Kyrie Irving and many, many more players. Now of course, injuries are a natural part of sports, but this beckons many questions for the NBA regarding injury policies and prevention. This could bring up some substantial questions such as, “are the players being overworked?” Which can lead to the question, “are there too many NBA games?” Other issues could include the space between the cameramen and the court, or courtside seats and the court, medical staff issues, concussion policies, etc. No stone should be left unturned when it comes to these issues. It is your job as the players to gather any issues you have with the current system in regards to your safety in the NBA.

Works Cited

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