

The blackout rule, as applied, is unfair to subscribers of premium NFL content in that it discriminates against viewers in particular zip codes around the country. I pay the same price to receive DirecTV's NFL Sunday Ticket and MLB's Extra Innings packages as does the guy subscribing in Minot, South Dakota. But because I live in San Diego, I am blacked out of certain broadcasts on these packages for which I have paid. DirecTV nor either the NFL or MLB subsidize or refund the cost of my service when league rules determine that a game will not be telecast in my area. Rather, they earn what I deem as a gratuity for delivering less product than I pay for. Unless the blackouts are ceased, I, as a paying customer, will continually be discriminated against based solely on my residency. Last I checked, this sort of preferential treatment is in violation of the commerce clause of the United States Constitution. Why has a government entity like the FCC been so successful for the past 35+ years in circumventing the very document that allows their existence? This is outrageous and a solution must be found. If the game is to be blacked out, then all markets should be subject to that game being blacked out. If St. Louis plays in Tampa and Tampa does not sell enough tickets to air the game locally, it should be too bad St. Louis, you can't see the game either. It should not be exclusively the obligation of the fans in the immediate vicinity of a professional franchise's home location to meet the flawed blackout rules. Those St. Louis fans ought to be held accountable, too, for not traveling to the game in Tampa and buying game tickets and spending money in the Tampa area. As I said, the blackout rules, as applied, are discriminatory and illegal. Stop hiding behind state immunity and end this farce!