

I understand the reason behind the blackout rules held by sports leagues, namely the NFL. However, there is one aspect of it that cannot be seen as anything but legalized theft. That is the aspect wherein the blackout rule allows the broadcast of a local game to be blacked out even on a channel a consumer has actually paid for. I am referring specifically to the NFL Sunday Ticket subscriber living in a team's local broadcast area having the local team's game blacked out even on the DirecTV 700 series channel on which it is being broadcast, when that subscriber has paid to receive every game broadcast on those channels every week.

It is equivalent to any consumer paying for any service, having the provider not provide the service, regardless of the reason given, and still keeping the money paid to them by the consumer. There simply is no way possible for such a practice to be seen in any way other than what it is - legalized theft.

Regardless of the outcome of these proceedings, that one practice, at minimum, must be abolished.