

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Petition for Rulemaking)	
Seeking Elimination)	MB Docket No. 12-3
Of the Sports Blackout Rule)	
)	

**JOINT REPLY COMMENTS OF THE
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
AND THE NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE**

The National Basketball Association and the National Hockey League (hereinafter “the Leagues”) hereby submit the following Reply Comments relating to MB Docket No. 12-3 and the Federal Communications Commission’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 79 Fed. Reg. 4138 (Jan. 24, 2014).

The Commission, consistent with Congressional mandates, adopted the Sports Rules (47 C.F.R. Sections 76.111, 76.127, 76.128 and 76.1506(m)) as a means of preserving the continued availability of live sports programming on broadcast television. See, *e.g.*, *Amendment of Part 76 of the Commission’s Rules and Regulations Relative to Cable Television systems and the Carriage of Sports Programs on Cable Television Systems*, Report and Order in Docket No. 19417, 54 FCC2d 265, at para. 63 (1975).

The Leagues, like the NFL and MLB, remain supportive of local exclusive contracts - which are negotiated with the full awareness of contracts with Regional Sports Networks and national contracts with broadcast or cable networks – and of maintaining the protection of those local contracts through the continuation of the current Sports Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip R. Hochberg (D.C. Bar No. 5942)

Law Offices of Philip R. Hochberg
12505 Park Potomac Ave., #600
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 230-6572

phochberg@srgpe.com

*Counsel for the National Basketball Ass'n and
the National Hockey League*