

For Immediate Release
October 19, 2017

NFLRA RESPONDS TO FALSE REPORTS, COMPLAINTS OF OFFICIATING BIAS

WASHINGTON – The NFL Referees Association strongly denounces recent media reports alleging bias in NFL officiating.

“Claims like these demonstrate a fundamental lack of knowledge about NFL officiating,” said NFLRA Executive Director Scott Green. “NFL officials are graded on every call made in every game. Missing a single one can hurt his or her ranking and may be the difference between working in the postseason or not.”

“These recent attempts to sensationalize statistics and create click-bait headlines lack important context,” Green continued. “Without the proper perspective, the information being pushed is completely misguided.”

For example:

- The reports incorrectly focus solely on number of penalties called and the total yardage assessed on a team compared to its opponent.
 - This relies solely on end-of-game statistics, which are not an accurate picture of the game’s called penalties. It fails to take into account that some penalties that are called are declined.
 - Conversely, not all penalty yardage is equal. Team A may be assessed 30 penalty yards via six separate five-yard fouls, but Team B could be assessed 30 yards through one pass interference penalty.
- Finally, to insinuate that a specific crew is historically biased against a team fails to consider the reality that crews are made up of different officials each season.

“The passion of NFL fans and teams are a big part of what makes the game so great,” Green said.

“However, it’s no excuse for the irresponsible and baseless claims we’ve seen lately. NFL officials are committed to upholding the integrity of the game and do so every week.”

###