



2018/2019 Research Topic 1

THBT professional sports should not receive any public funding



Topic 1: THBT professional sports should not receive any public funding

Helpful research links:

- <https://grandstandcentral.com/should-public-money-be-used-on-private-sports-stadiums-94f6f91ec95b>
- <https://7500toholte.sbnation.com/2017/9/24/16357604/we-cannot-keep-politics-out-of-sport-because-sport-is-politics>
- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/public-money-used-build-sports-stadiums>

This research booklet is intended as a starting point for both junior and senior high students. Debaters are expected to conduct their own additional research. Ideas presented are intended to inspire greater inquiry, and debaters should broaden the scope of the debate to other topics beyond those presented here.

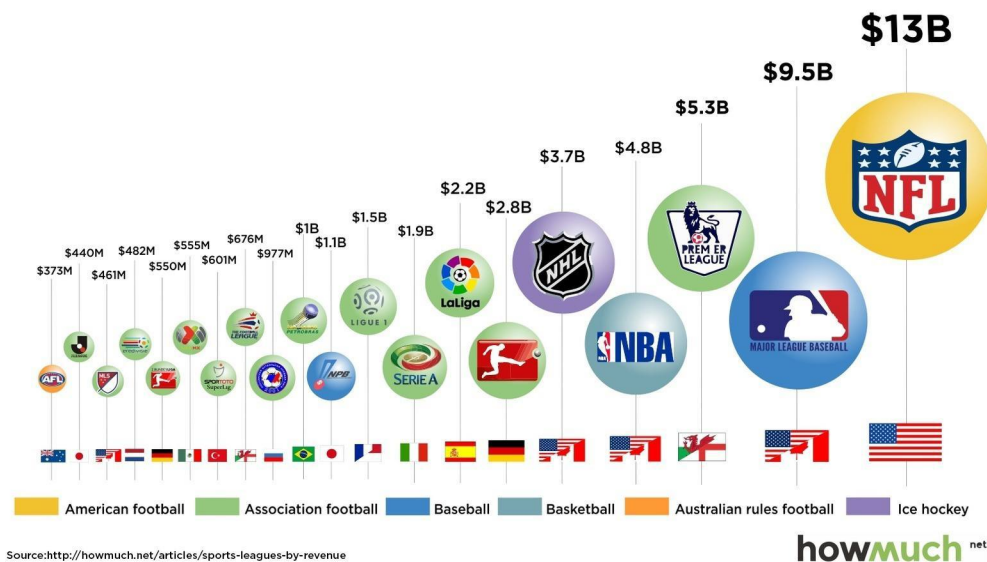
Model and Definition

Proposition team should create fair and balanced definitions for the debate.

A model may clarify to the judges a team's position and can be a valuable tool. If proposition team would like to implement a model, they may want to consider questions such as whether funding will be phased out over a certain time period or simply removed, which aspects of sporting this will apply to, etc.

Public sports funding typically comes in the form of subsidies for the construction of stadiums for private sport franchises. This can come from either direct subsidies, tax free bonds, or tax breaks instead of a direct form of payment.

Top Professional Sports Leagues by Revenue



Potential Proposition Points

1. Unjustifiable economic cost

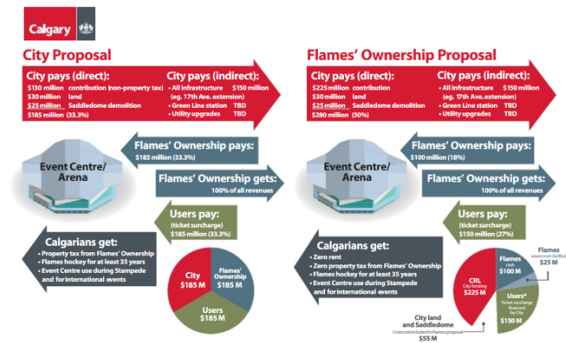
Numerous academic studies have repeatedly demonstrated that the economic value generated by subsidies for stadiums and other sporting infrastructure do not lead to net economic gain for the city. If the public is not able to receive a return on investment for these subsidies in the long term, they should not be offered.

2. Service is more suitably provided by sports teams

Public funds should be used in circumstances where there is a clear benefit to the general public (which should have reasonable access to this service), or to provide a service that only the government can reasonably be expected to provide. Subsidies for sports teams fit neither of these criteria as there is no net economic gain from the subsidies and the individual franchises are capable of providing the service without public subsidies.

3. Prevents abuses of power

Sporting teams threaten to leave cities and relocate to other areas if they are not granted requests for additional public funding for infrastructure. By preventing them from receiving public funding, we eliminate their ability to inappropriately leverage municipal governments for additional funds.



Potential Opposition Points

1. Economic benefit through creation of jobs and tourism

By publicly funding sports through the development of sports stadiums, the government is creating the opportunity for more jobs for the locals. Additionally, revenue from tourists who decide to visit the city for a sports game will be of overall benefit to the government. This revenue can be invested into education, healthcare and other necessities.

2. Quality of life

Publicly funding well known sports with mass fan followings are important to the quality of life of the citizens of a city. Let's take the Oilers, for example. A new arena was built due to the high demand by fans. The government must prioritize its citizens wants and needs. Therefore, public funding for sports is justified as it is what the people want.

3. Sports are used as a political tool

It is important to publicly fund sports as these sports are already bonded to politics. It is the responsibility of the government to fund them due to their inherent political nature. Sports allow a common ground for people to unite and people all over the world use sports to reflect their views as a political body.