**Handbook Entry # 8 National Anthem Protests by Professional Athletes**

This topic began with the San Francisco 49er’s quarterback [Colin Kaepernick](http://time.com/4470998/athletes-protest-colin-kaepernick/) going onto one knee during the singing of the US national anthem before NFL games last season. He is on record as saying that this was his way to protest the unjust treatment of black in America by police. This year he remains at home without a contract, while many have suggested that this is simply due to his protests last year, and not his ability to be an NFL quarterback. (click on Kaepernick’s name above for a history of protests by past athletes).

Now the protesting has gone almost league wide as US President Donald Trump has got into the debate by saying that these athletes should be “fired” by their owners. [(click here to review Tump’s remarks.)](http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/24/politics/donald-trump-nfl-sunday-protest-response/index.html)

Click here to read the [Maclean’s article on national anthems at NFL games.](http://www.macleans.ca/news/world/trump-taking-a-knee-in-the-nfl-and-the-true-meaning-of-patriotism/)

So your handbook entry should address the following:

-Briefly describe the events that have occurred.

- Be sure to explain why the athletes have dropped to one knee or locked arms during the anthem.

- Discuss Canadian’s rights to protest. What things can you do if you want to protest injustice in our society. What can you not do?

- Finally, discuss your feelings on the situation in the NFL and NBA. Do you think players are within their rights to protest before games? What do you think the leagues should do about this if anything?