

Why are athletes kneeling during the national anthem?

Here's what you need to know

Source: <https://mic.com/articles/154349/why-are-athletes-kneeling-during-the-national-anthem-here-s-what-you-need-to-know#.B11Rij9FG>



Athletes take a knee during the singing of the US national anthem

In August, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick announced his decision to sit down or **take a knee during the national anthem to call attention to police violence and injustice** in black America. His **act of protest** followed several high-profile fatal police shootings of black men this summer (2017).

Kaepernick's act of protest has **spread** not only **across** the NFL(National Football League), but even to [high school sporting events](#). Instead of

standing with their hands resting over their hearts, several athletes of color are either sitting down or taking a knee and **raising a clenched fist** in protest of police brutality and racial inequities; many others are joining the protests to **show solidarity** with their teammates, who risk public backlash and are being **ostracized for peacefully exercising their freedom of speech**.

1. What are the players expected to do during the singing of the National anthem?

Donald Trump defied at Wembley as Jaguars and Ravens kneel for anthem

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2017/sep/24/donald-trump-defied-wembley-jaguars-ravens-nfl-kneel-anthem>

Twenty-seven players from the Jacksonville Jaguars and Baltimore Ravens took a knee during the singing of the US national anthem at Wembley Stadium on Sunday (24/9/'17) as the protest against the US president, Donald Trump, intensified. It was the most ever in a single NFL game.

Trump had increased his criticism of NFL players on Saturday, not only suggesting that fans of the sport should **“refuse to go to games until players stop disrespecting our Flag & Country”** but also urging any players who took a knee to be fired or suspended.

2. Why did the players take a knee during the singing of the anthem?

3. What has the President of the US prompted the fans and the authorities to do?

“NFL attendance and ratings are **WAY DOWN**,” he added. “Boring games yes, but many stay away **because they love our country. League should back US.**” However Trump’s **testy demands** were ignored by more than 80,000 fans at Wembley as well as a large number of players from the Jaguars and Ravens, who took a knee. The Guardian counted around 12 players from the Jaguars and 14 from the Ravens. There did not appear to be any white players taking a knee. However many players, coaches and even the Jaguars’ owner Shahid Khan linked arms instead as they stood, showing unity for their black team-mates against Trump.

The Ravens' players and coaching staff were also supported by their owner Steve Bisciotti, who said: "We respect their demonstration and support them 100%." The NFL's rules encourage but do not require players to stand for the playing of the anthem. Several team owners have issued statements over the past 24 hours condemning Trump's comments as **divisive** and supporting their players' ability to express themselves.

4. Do the white players support their black team-mates?

The latest came on Sunday morning from the New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, who said he was "deeply disappointed" by the president's views. Kraft, who has previously called Trump a very good friend when the Patriots visited the White House in April, said in a statement: "There is no greater unifier in this country than sports, and unfortunately, nothing more divisive than politics"

"I think our political leaders could learn a lot from the lessons of teamwork and the importance of working together toward a common goal," he added. "Our players are intelligent, thoughtful, and care deeply about our community and I support their right to peacefully affect social change and raise awareness in a manner that they feel is impactful."

5. In what ways are sports and politics different according to Robert Kraft?

6. What lesson can we take from team sports?

Homework: Summary and Presentation

- What happened at Wembley stadium on Sunday 27 September 2017?
- Why did the players proceed with that form of protest?
- What has been president Trump's reaction to that kind events?
- What has been the response of the sports community?
- What's your opinion? Shouldn't we follow what our political leaders prompt us to do? Shouldn't we abide by the law? On what conditions our we justified to proceed with acts of civil disobedience?

WRITE your answer in 120-150 words and prepare an oral presentation as well.

KEY WORDS

to take a knee	the singing of the national anthem	to attention to	police violence
police brutality	injustice	an act of protest	to spread across
peaceful	thoughtful	to suspend	to fire
		to be divisive	testy demands
to show solidarity	to be ostracized	to risk public backlash	
to show unity	to raise a clinched fist	sports are a great unifier	
to stand with the hands resting over their hearts		to intensify criticism against	
to work together toward a common goal		to show disrespect to our flag	
to exercise your freedom of speech		an impactful manner	