

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154
p. (212) 450-2000
f. (212) 681-7573
nflmedia.com



Greg.Aiello@nfl.com
Senior Vice President of Communications
Brian.McCarthy@nfl.com
Vice President of Corporate Communications
Michael.Signora@nfl.com
Vice President of Football Communications

COMMUNICATIONS

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**NDAMUKONG SUH SUSPENDED ONE GAME
FOR VIOLATION OF PLAYER SAFETY RULES**

Defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** of the Detroit Lions has been suspended without pay for this Sunday's Wild Card playoff game against the Dallas Cowboys for a violation of safety-related playing rules in last Sunday's game against the Green Bay Packers.

In the fourth quarter with Packers quarterback **AARON RODGERS** on the ground in a defenseless posture, Suh backed up and stepped on Rodgers' left leg with his right foot. He then stepped on Rodgers' left leg again, this time with his left foot, applying pressure and unnecessarily pushing off Rodgers' unprotected leg with his left foot, violating playing rules prohibiting unnecessary roughness.

The suspension was imposed by NFL Vice President of Football Operations **MERTON HANKS**. Hanks ruled that Suh engaged in a non-football act which placed his opponent, Rodgers, at unnecessary risk of injury – specifically the second step and push off, which could have been avoided.

In his letter to Suh, Hanks noted, "You did not respond in the manner of someone who had lost his balance and accidentally contacted another player who was lying on the ground. This illegal contact, specifically the second step and push off with your left foot, clearly could have been avoided." Hanks further noted "you unnecessarily stepped on your opponent's unprotected leg as he lay on the ground unable to protect himself."

Suh will not be permitted to attend team meetings and functions; attend or watch practices; appear at the club's facilities for any reason; attend press conferences; appear at the team's January 4 game, or have contact with any club personnel except to arrange off-site medical treatment or rehabilitation. Suh will be reinstated on Monday, January 5.

Under the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the suspension may be appealed within three business days. Appeals are heard and decided by either **DERRICK BROOKS** or **TED COTTRELL**, the officers jointly appointed and compensated by the NFL and NFLPA to decide appeals of on-field player discipline.

For a detailed description of the on-field player discipline process, please visit NFLmedia.com or NFLcommunications.com.

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