

# AFL-CIO

SPORTS COUNCIL



**March 1, 2024**

## **AFL-CIO Sports Council Statement on Sports Illustrated Staff**

On behalf of our thousands of player members, we stand in solidarity with the unionized workers of Sports Illustrated.

We were shocked to see that these journalists—who have worked tirelessly to uphold the integrity and standards at Sports Illustrated—were laid off as the result of a licensing dispute between The Arena Group, which publishes SI, and Authentic Brands Group, its owner.

Management has some decisions to make on the future of Sports Illustrated and who will have the right to operate the brand. We will be watching this closely, and it is our expectation that Authentic and The Arena Group treat the SI workers fairly and honor their union contract.

If management replaces the brand's full-time unionized workforce, Sports Illustrated will no longer be Sports Illustrated. Our unions will always call out any attempt by management to treat their workers unfairly and demand that these union-busting tactics at one of America's most important journalistic institutions stop now.

From the playing surface to the press box: Sports jobs are union jobs.