

## SBA's Stance Against Racism

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Dear SBA,

As an established student-run organization at the University of Michigan that you have personally chosen to associate with, I find it necessary to address the events over the past few weeks and their relationship to the Michigan Sport Business Association. As a club, our mission is to connect, educate and inspire the leaders and best in sport, and this goal is out of reach, and quite frankly, impossible to accomplish if racism and inequality continue to exist.

The deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd have been heartbreaking and angering, and they have resurfaced the relevance of the Black Lives Matter movement, however, it is important to remember the Black Lives Matter movement has been around for over six years. Unfortunately, racism played a large part in our nation's history and continues to find its way into our everyday lives; it has to be stopped. It is wrong in every sense and it's our job as members of SBA to strive for inclusivity and ensure everyone's voice is heard regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, etc.

Sport provides a platform for social change, and as a club that is built on that foundation, it is crucial we come together and not only address the issue of police brutality, but also educate ourselves and each other. We must ensure we are taking proper action to prevent racism in the future. We are the future of sport, and we will be the ones to have an opportunity to make a difference in the industry as we enter the workforce.

As a start to this battle, SBA leadership is continuing to make it its goal of recruiting diversity in both our membership and leadership roles. It is important to us as an Executive team to develop a strategy and outreach method to reach a more diverse pool of applicants. However, it is everyone's job as a member to actively pursue inclusion and diversity, whether it be public or in private, to help accomplish the goal of diversifying our club.

If you're interested in further educating yourself on racism's role in our modern world, please refer to the two following links that include multiple different podcasts, articles, support groups, and more.

1. <https://www.buzzfeed.com/jessicaprobos/resources-for-white-allies-fighting-racism>
2. <https://medium.com/wake-up-call/a-detailed-list-of-anti-racism-resources-a34b259a3eea>

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and I cannot emphasize this enough - you matter. Your voice is desired within SBA, we want to hear you and no matter what background you come from, you have insight worth offering.

Sincerely,

Ethan