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RAY ANDERSON, HEAD OF NFL FOOTBALL OPERATIONS, ELEVATED TO EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Ray Anderson, the NFL's senior football executive, has been elevated to executive vice president of football operations, Commissioner Roger Goodell announced today.

Anderson joined the NFL office last August as senior vice president of football operations after four seasons as the executive vice president and chief administrative officer of the Atlanta Falcons.

"This step confirms that there is no higher priority in our office than the game," Commissioner Goodell said. "Ray Anderson is a talented executive. He will continue to strongly lead this area, working closely with the Competition Committee and our clubs to ensure that the game on the field is operating at the highest possible level."

Anderson's supervises all NFL football operations, including officiating and the NFL Europe League. A graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School, his wide-ranging career includes labor law litigation and representing NFL coaches and players in contract negotiations.

At the Falcons from 2002-2006, he worked closely with Falcons President Rich McKay and was responsible for overseeing player contracts, the salary cap, legal matters, facilities, equipment, video, travel, and other logistical functions.

In 2002, Anderson was named to the NFL Committee on Workplace Diversity by former Commissioner Paul Tagliabue. A year later, he was named to Sports Illustrated's list of the "101 Most Influential Minorities in Sports."

Anderson grew up in Los Angeles where he was an all-league high school quarterback and shortstop. As a scholarship athlete at Stanford, he earned three letters as a football player and also played baseball. He earned his degree in political science in 1976 and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1979.

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