The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

NBA dress code has some hot under collar

There will be no more dress that's cool," Suns forward down days in the NBA.

The league announced in a memo to teams on Monday that a minimum dress code will go into effect at the start of the regular season on Nov. 1. Players will be expected to wear business casual attire whenever they participate in team or league activities, including arriving at games, leaving games and making promotional or other appearances.

"If they're trying to

NEW YORK (AP) - change the image of league, their own dress code in place. Shawn Marion said.

> While the league may be trying to present a better image to its corporate partners, some of its players fear that they may lose out on the core fan base.

> "We don't really sell to big business," Suns guard Raja Bell said. "We sell to kids and people who are into the NBA hip-hop world. They may be marketing to the wrong people with this." Some teams already have

Portland coach Nate

McMillian is known for his strict rules, including bans on headbands and on cell phones on the team bus.

"It's important that the players understand they have to respect the game," McMillian said in August. "They have to respect the league. And they have to respect the fans. You must be a professional at all times." Players will no longer be

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able to wear: · Sleeveless shirts

• Shorts

• T-shirts

· Chains, pendants, or medallions worn over the player's clothes

· Sunglasses while indoors

· Headphones (other than on the team bus or plane, or in the team locker room)

Also, jerseys and baseball caps will no longer be acceptable attire for postgame press

conference.

"I think there needs to be some style improvement but at the same time it has to be with in reasons," Timberwolves forward Kevin Garnett said. Players will also now be required to wear a sport coat on the bench when they are not in uniform. The NBA already requires its coaches to wear sport coats, dress shirts, slacks and shoes on the bench.

"I think it is appropriate,

definitely, on the bench," Marion said. "I think you should be in a nice shirt and slacks."

However, the new dress code may not be practical for every NBA player, especially Garnett and his teammates who live in the cold Midwest.

"Not everyone lives in Minneapolis, going out in 20 below," he said.

"Not everyone wants to be in a suit and jacket. Hopefully they can go 50-50."

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Riddick Bowe with his former trainer Eddie Futch.	AAMALU . W
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bankruptcy

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) - Former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe filed for bankruptcy protection while he tries to revive his career, listing more than \$4.1 million in claims against him.

He filed last week to beat a new federal that law took effect Monday, making it more difficult to cut debt through the bankruptcy process.

Bowe's attorney, Paul Nussbaum, said his client's debts were tied to "business transactions and related litigation and liquidity issues." The statement said the 38year-old fighter wants to restructure his debts so he can "focus on his boxing career."

In the Chapter 11 filing, dated Saturday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Bowe listed assets of \$1 million to \$10 million.

Among his creditors, Bowe listed:

- \$3 million claim from a Vienna, Va., investment fund
- \$311,000 in claims from credit companies

• \$705,000 claimed by a California financial services

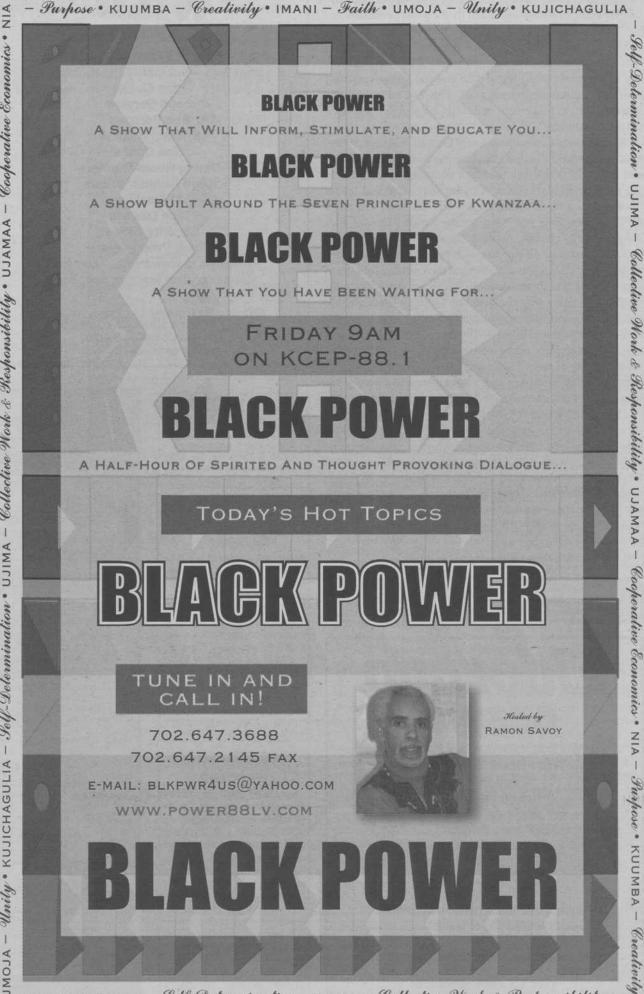
company The debts include \$5,400 owed to Prince George's County and \$104 claimed by a water utility.

Bowe beat Evander Holyfield in 1992 to become heavyweight champion, a title he lost in a rematch the following year. He has a record of 42-1, with 33 knockouts.

In 1998, Bowe was arrested for kidnapping his exwife and children from their North Carolina home. He served 17 months in a federal prison before being released in 2004.

Bowe fought in 2004 and 2005, winning both bouts. He has been dogged by accusations that fighting has left him brain damaged.

Last year, Tennessee rejected his application for a boxing license. Bowe sued to overturn the decision, and the case is pending.



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