



### **Topic 1: Expansion**

Expansion in the NFL is something that should be welcomed with caution. While the expansion fees paid right into the owner's pockets is enticing, the committee must first decide if the risks are worth the rewards. The Green Bay Packers is owned by a board of directors meaning there is no big company that is behind the team if expansion leads to a fall in league revenue. There are two markets that the Green Bay Packers would support having an NFL Franchise, Toronto and/or Mexico City. Toronto had a semi successful Bills in Toronto series but the committee cannot take the mixed results at face value, the Bills were not a good team at the time making them undesirable. Green Bay would propose that the games would be played at Rogers Centre due to the presence of a dome and the baseball season being over for over half the season. Toronto is one of the largest cities in North America and it's a sports city; hockey on Saturday and football on Sunday should further lament that.

Mexico City has an even greater fan base than Toronto and a large stadium to accommodate them. This makes them an even better candidate for expansion. There will be challenges: the worry with expanding to Mexico City would be perceived security risks, xenophobia, and also the patriotism associated with football (this would be a problem with Toronto as well). However, the Packers believe that the committee should look past this and move with expansion to Mexico City first and then possibly Toronto. Expansion will require a large expansion fee, and the fan base is large enough to sustain the income to the owners. Some owners may have reservations about expansion because the pot will be divided even more than it is now, but the stream of revenue caused by expansion should override this. Expanding to Mexico City will also grow the game which has been tough in recent years.

### **Topic 2: Concussions and Head Safety**

There must be some form of head safety reform to ensure the game lives on. The current concussion problem in the NFL is damaging to the league on a few fronts but it all comes down to the willingness of young people to play football. Participation in youth football has fallen 25% over the past 6 years despite USA football spinning the numbers by limiting the timeframe to one year.<sup>1</sup> This means more people won't be playing football and more people won't watch it leaving the league in an uncertain state. The league will also continue to lose money over lawsuits if not enough is done now to make the game safer, we already lost \$765 million in 2015. More rules should be put in place to ensure that tackles are safer and more programs should be put in place in youth football to teach proper tackling. These rules should be made in cooperation with USA Football and other football organizations across the USA to make football a safer and more popular game.

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<sup>1</sup> Moore, J. (2016). Youth Football Participation Is Plummeting. Retrieved November 03, 2016, from <http://www.vocativ.com/298019/youth-football-participation-is-plummeting/>

### **Topic 3: Players and Criminal Offenses**

Roger Goodell has done a tremendously terrible job at being the sheriff of the NFL. He appears to make concrete policies to combat drug use and domestic abuse and then he makes odd exceptions. He gives out light fines/suspensions to crimes and then uses large amounts of time and money to pursue a league icon for maybe deflating footballs, something that many QBs casually admit to. In fact, Tom Brady and Peyton Manning made the rule that teams supply their own footballs making Manning just as likely to have done this yet Brady is the one actively pursued. As our own Aaron Rodgers said, "The majority of quarterbacks, I would say more than half, are maybe on the other end of the spectrum and like it on the flatter side, my belief is that there should be a minimum air-pressure requirement but not a maximum. There's no advantage, in my opinion -- we're not kicking the football -- there's no advantage in having a pumped-up football."<sup>2</sup> Rodgers saying that most like it on the flatter side means that QBs around the league are definitely doing this too, but Goodell doesn't care. Another thing Goodell doesn't care about is violence against women and other legitimate crimes. From Ray Rice to the most recent case of Josh Brown. Josh Brown has been terminated by the Giants yet he has not received an official suspension at the writing of this paper. There should be a concrete protocol that the NFL follows to deal with crimes of any sort that the commissioner cannot meddle with. Green Bay would propose a suspension when a player is charged, not accused of a crime. This would mean players couldn't be suspended by potentially false accusations but only when they are charged by a District Attorney as this would require evidence.

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<sup>2</sup> Reimer, A. (2015). Aaron Rodgers stands up for Tom Brady. Retrieved November 03, 2016, from <http://www.sbnation.com/nfl/2015/8/14/9155283/aaron-rodgers-tom-brady-deflategate-comments>

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