

Committee: National Football League

Topic: League Expansion

Team: Kansas City Chiefs

Expanding the National Football League

The National Football League has been working to expand since it's founding in 1920.[i] They are now a 32 team 2 conference league which spreads across the United States.[ii] Teams have been moving and shifting nationwide in search of a more lucrative market and bigger fan base.[iii] The Los Angeles Rams just moved from St. Louis, Missouri to Los Angeles for that exact reason. As the result of this shift, we, the Kansas City Chiefs want to expand our team's market to take up the area of St. Louis. To do this, we want to expand the team salary cap and build a new stadium in St. Louis.[iv]

We, the Kansas City Chiefs of the National Football League propose growing the game of football on a domestic and international level to begin transforming American football into a global game. In order to do this, we propose creating the International Football League in Europe. Under the NFL Creation Plan, and inception of a league sponsored organization known as Spread the Love of the Game, two new teams would open.

First, we propose the expansion of the National Football League into Europe. Currently, the NFL plays one international game per year in the heart of London, England.[v] Over the last ten years, these games have sold out eight out of the last ten years, and interest in the game has grown as people of Britain have enjoyed the family friendly game compared to the major Fútbol games played at Wembley Stadium in which riots will often breakout between the two teams.[vi]

Understanding this, we propose the creation of a new four team league as a branch of the NFL known as the International Football League. This will be made of four different teams scattered throughout the continent in Glasgow, Scotland; London, England; Brussels, Belgium, and Frankfurt, Germany. Germany has the stronger Gross Domestic Product than any other nation throughout Europe which allows them financial stability to build an NFL stadium.[vii] London, England has shown international interest in the NFL and has potential owners for teams due to having many wealthy businessmen and international bankers.[viii] Brussels and Glasgow are also major cities of interest to American Football. The expansion of this league will be a three-game round robin event in which each team will play one another one time, and the organization with the best record, or in the event of a tie, the most points scored, will play a head-to-head matchup with the Super Bowl Champions from the NFL in a special preseason match up at the start of the following season.

Second, we propose expanding the league domestically on United States soil in accordance with the guidelines which have already been set up in the Collective Bargaining

Agreement (CBA) between the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) and the National Football League Managers Club (NFLMC).[ix] The CBA lists out requirements for expansion under Article 32 of the document.[x] The list of rules includes draft expansion rules as well as contract bonuses for relocation of veteran players.[xi] A veteran player will be paid a bonus of seventy-five thousand dollars for relocating while a rookie player whom is drafted from a new team, will receive all travel expenses paid for by the League.[xii] With these CBA rules in mind, we propose the creation of a team in two of the following three major cities in the United States: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Las Vegas, Nevada, or Portland, Oregon. Oklahoma City and Las Vegas are the first two cities we want to target. We understand that the Oakland Raiders owner, Mark Davis, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, and a team from Las Vegas have been in talks of moving the team to Las Vegas as early as next season.[xiii] They have a lucrative seven hundred-million-dollar stadium in the works in Vegas.[xiv] In the event that the Raiders strike up a deal with the city of Las Vegas, Portland, Oregon will then be the city we turn to. Oklahoma City is in the Midwest and already has a major football following with two major college teams, University of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State.[xv] The state has nearly three point five million people living in it, and Oklahoma City has an NBA Team there that the entire state rallies around during the season. They also have interest in major cities such as Oklahoma City, and Tulsa for season ticket holders. An NFL Team would work well in Portland Oregon because locating an NFL team here would complete the west coast for having NFL Teams, and the city Eugene, is the headquarters for one of the NFL's major sponsors, Nike.[xvi] Corporations like that of Nike would be able to provide sponsorship backing and interest for an NFL Team in the state of Oregon just as they do for the University of Oregon Football Program. These cities are on the "Elite 32" NFL website as top ten cities to locate new NFL teams in and we commissioner, Roger Goodell has said that now that we have a team located in Los Angeles once again, we would then look toward the middle and north west to expand domestically.[xvii]

Third, we propose the creation of an organization which will be known as NFL: Spread the Love of the Game. This organization will be modelled after the National Basketball Association's, "NBA Cares" in which players travel around the United States and Internationally to play with young children worldwide growing international interest in the sport of basketball.[xviii] In the last ten years, the NBA has grown more internationally than any other of the four major professional sports teams. The NFL is already very involved in their Play 60 initiative to promote getting sixty minutes of exercise a day to live a healthy lifestyle. Spread the Love of the Game will work hand in hand with the Play 60 organization, but on an international scale. We will team up with current and former NFL Pro Bowlers by offering them a five million dollar stipend and the option to promote their personal sponsorships and brand when travelling around to teach the young children how to play football. These players will run four day mini camps in various cities and countries. The youth of these cities and countries will be able to learn firsthand from an NFL Player how to properly play American Football and ensure further growth of the game.

[i]http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/14892319/building-new-nfl-team-expansion-draft-nfl

[ii]http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/14892319/building-new-nfl-team-expansion-draft-nfl

[iii]<http://www.thesportster.com/football/top-15-cities-the-nfl-should-consider-for-expansion-or-relocation/>

[iv]<http://bleacherreport.com/articles/2612006-raiders-exploring-move-to-las-vegas-latest-details-comments-reaction>

[v]<http://bleacherreport.com/articles/413268-nfl-expansion-cities-that-could-host-a-team-and-team-names/page/7>

[vi]<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/09/08/we-optimized-the-nfl-by-moving-teams-to-new-cities-sorry-cleveland/>

[vii]<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/09/08/we-optimized-the-nfl-by-moving-teams-to-new-cities-sorry-cleveland/>

[viii]<https://nflabor.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/collective-bargaining-agreement-2011-2020.pdf>

[ix]<https://nflabor.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/collective-bargaining-agreement-2011-2020.pdf>

[x]http://jobelate.com/job/337129/NFLMC_-_Legal_Fellow-NFL_-_National_Football_League-New_York-NY

[xi]<http://www.nfl.com/international>

[xii]<http://www.nfl.com/international>

[xiii]<http://www.nytimes.com/1987/03/23/sports/nfl-expansion-selection-difficult-decisions.html>

[xiv]<http://www.nytimes.com/1987/03/23/sports/nfl-expansion-selection-difficult-decisions.html>

[xv]http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/14892319/building-new-nfl-team-expansion-draft-nfl

[xvi]<http://www.thesportster.com/football/top-15-cities-the-nfl-should-consider-for-expansion-or-relocation/>

[xvii]<http://www.thesportster.com/football/top-15-cities-the-nfl-should-consider-for-expansion-or-relocation/>

[xviii]<http://www.thesportster.com/football/top-15-cities-the-nfl-should-consider-for-expansion-or-relocation/>

Committee: National Football League

Topic: Concussions in the NFL

Team: Kansas City Chiefs

Solving the Concussion Issues

The National Football League was established in 1920 originally known The American Football League.[i] In 1994, the NFL hired Paul Tagliabue as the head of the Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Committee.[ii] Following this, a doctor from the University of California, Irvine named Dr. Bennet Omalu examined former a NFL Player for the Steelers named Mike Webster.[iii] According to Omalu, Webster played for seventeen years in the NFL through several concussions that went unidentified.[iv] He was found to be the first NFL player with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).[v] The evidence of CTE was used during the settlement between the NFL and over four thousand former players who came forward demanding compensation from the NFL for major head injuries they sustained.[vi] Long term effects include major depression, dementia, lack of anger management and in the worst circumstances, suicidal thoughts and actions.[vii]

Players such as the former San Diego Chargers Linebacker Junior Seau committed suicide as the result of depression that came from suffering from CTE.[viii] In response to players like that of Seau committing suicide, we, the Kansas City Chiefs of the NFL attended the annual Spring Owner's Meeting in March of last year represented by our owner, Clark Hunt.[ix] The meeting specifically covered the increase in concussions throughout the league from the 2014 season to the 2015 season.[x] Fellow owners in the league along with the Chiefs have proposed a change in rules on field as they have observed that players are getting concussions as the result of helmet to leg contact and direct hitting on kick off plays.[xi] The NFL changed rules to push the touchback spot back to the twenty-five-yard line to encourage more players to take a knee and avoid aggressive tackling that comes when players attack.[xii]

In 2012, five former players from the Chiefs filed a lawsuit against the organization looking for financial compensation for head trauma injuries sustained during their years playing in the early 1990s.[xiii] As an organization, we believe players should hold the entire National Football League accountable for injuries sustained while playing in the league seeing that athletes will play for multiple teams during their careers.[xiv]

Understanding the spike in Concussion awareness, as well as, national demand to properly treat these traumatic brain injuries, we, the Kansas City Chiefs propose the creation of a law known as Tackle Football PG-14, the forward action plan known as STARS, and the creation of a new football helmet.

First, we propose the creation of a law known as Tackle Football PG-14. This law will prohibit the youth of America from playing tackle football until the age of fourteen. Before fourteen, they will only be allowed to play flag football. From birth until the age of fourteen, their brain goes through 80% of its major development.[xv] If a child begins playing tackle football before high school, they are four times more likely to sustain a concussion in high school[xvi] and as they move up the ranks of the sport to college and the NFL, these players concussion rates increase exponentially.[xvii] Tackle Football PG-14 is a piece of legislation we believe must be implemented across the United States with the intentions that a player's safety is the priority. The President of the United States, Barack Obama came out in 2012 following the death of Junior Seau saying that unless the country begins combatting the issue of concussions in the sport, he can see the sport imploding, thereby voicing his support for the passing of the law Tackle Football PG-14.[xviii]

Second, we, the Kansas City Chiefs propose the forward action plan which is known as STAR. This stands for severity, treatment, awareness, regulation, and safety in the sport of football. Severity refers to the development of new and improved testing to understand how severe each player's concussion is to determine the proper way to help the player heal. We will test the severity of a player's injury by a blood test known as the GFAP Blood Test. GFAP stands for the glial fibrillary acidic protein.[xix] Per the American Medical Association of Neurology, when a player sustains a traumatic brain injury, this protein located in the brain seeps out into the bloodstream.[xx] A simple blood test that detects this protein automatically tells doctors that the athlete has sustained a concussion.[xxi] The blood test is much cheaper than a CT Scan, 98% accurate, and can identify if an athlete has sustained a concussion up to a week after it happens.[xxii] This severity testing process then leads into the T of STAR which is treatment. We propose the creation of a new treatment option to replace the number of electrolytes inside the body.[xxiii] This will be a pill made up of body supplements such as magnesium and calcium to help replace electrolytes lost in the body when a player sustains a traumatic brain injury. The next step of the STAR plan is awareness. We will create mandatory classes NFL prospects must attend to properly understand the risks concussions pose to them in the short and long term. The last step in our plan is proper regulation through new technology. New technology will include chips which will be located inside the helmets of all NFL players. When a player sustains a blow to the head, the chip will send alerts to the coaching staff and health professionals on the sideline warning them that the player needs to be immediately removed from the game for observation.

Last, we propose the creation of a new football helmet. We will partner with the company Xenith to grow their invention of a new venting air bladder system.[xxiv] Simply said, this system literally creates thicker cushioning inside helmets that is better equipped to cushion the skull of a player when they sustain a head injury. The Xenith creation has already been tested on high school football teams in Massachusetts and proven to be successful.[xxv] The helmet will specifically combat the major issue of acceleration brain injuries.[xxvi]

[i]<http://mmqb.si.com/mmqb/2015/11/24/high-school-football-deaths-2015>
[ii]<http://mmqb.si.com/mmqb/2015/11/24/high-school-football-deaths-2015>
[iii]<http://operations.nfl.com/football-ops/league-governance/the-nfl-competition-committee/>
[iv]<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/07/opinion/dont-let-kids-play-football.html>
[v]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kyu-WKyB7Gc>
[vi]<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/the-nfls-concussion-problem-still-has-not-gone-away/>
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[xxiv]<http://www.popsci.com/science/article/2013-08/helmet-wars-and-new-helmet-could-protect-us-all>
[xxv]http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/17098980/robots-invading-nfl-training-camps
[xxvi]http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/17098980/robots-invading-nfl-training-camps

Committee: National Football League

Topic: Stopping Player and Criminal Offenses

Team: Kansas City Chiefs

Stopping Player and Criminal Offenses in the NFL

Domestic violence has been prevalent historically in the National Football League.[i] The most common reasons for NFL players to commit domestic violence is either when suffering from financial instability, or due to the effects of years of traumatic brain injuries.[ii] Financial instability puts direct pressure on the player to perform at a high level so their family can live an expensive lifestyle which indirectly causes an angry husband and father to takes out their anger and frustration on their wives and children.[iii] One example of this is when former New York Giants Kicker, Josh Brown, was cut by the organization last month as the result of admitting to over fourteen years of domestic violence to his wife, Mollie Brown.[iv] He claims that his anger and aggression toward his family sprouted from financial struggles.[v] Drug abuse has also been very prevalent in the league because players would use painkillers in order to ease headaches and knee pains that came with playing during the long season.[vi] Outside the lines reported a story about former NFL player, Kyle Turley, who said that accessing drugs in the league was not only easy, but encouraged, especially for players in pain.[vii] Outside the lines found that more than 52% of players in the league had access to opioids and other drugs.[viii] Turley told outside the lines that he believes there needs to be more monitoring for these drugs to combat the issue.[ix] The NFL also predicts that only 37% of all drugs given to players were prescribed by a doctor.[x] Some of these prescription drugs include Vicodin and Oxycodone.[xi]

The Kansas City Chiefs have directly tried to combat the issue in accordance with the NFL guidelines regarding domestic violence and drug abuse.[xii] For domestic violence, on the first offense, we suspend players for six weeks and on the second offense, we immediately terminate a player's contract.[xiii] Our owner, Clark hunt, has also come out and said that there needs to be more prevention in the fight against domestic violence rather than simply action in response to a player who commits such an act.[xiv] In the abuse of Drugs, the Chiefs also follow the NFL guidelines for drug abuse which is a one game suspension for players who violate the substance abuse policy.[xv] We also believe though that there must be harder surveillance in locker rooms as to watch out for these prescription drugs.[xvi]

With the current situation of player and criminal offenses in mind, we the Kansas City Chiefs propose the following solutions in order to properly combat the issues at hand, We propose the creation of new support centers for women, the implementation of the RAINN Initiative,[xvii] the creation of a Dove Tail Action Plan between the league, the National

Domestic Violence Hotline, and the RAINN Initiative,[xviii] the formation of an annual meeting between the national police force, players, and manager known as the Families First Initiative, and lastly, a rule implemented known as Drug Surveillance safety.

First, we propose the creation of support centers for both drug abusers and women in relationships with these young men which will be named Hope For Us. They will provide monthly meetings for families of NFL Players and counseling for women who are in relationships with these players. They will be able to bond with one another as many of them are living far away from home as they follow these young men who continue to shift teams. They will also provide financial advice for families as they are trying to decide how to properly invest money, counseling for couples, and support for men or women who may end up still suffering from violence. In the event that these people may need legal assistance, “Hope For Us” will work directly with the state department to provide proper legal guidance.

Second, we propose the implementation of the RAINN Initiative which stands for the Rape Abuse and Incest National Initiative.[xix] RAINN is the number one national center around the country for people to go to when they need help.[xx] They go beyond simply providing support for abused individuals, they offer treatment, provide direct legal assistance, and make connections with the National Domestic Violence Hotline.[xxi] RAINN also provides safety plans for people at risk of being assaulted, treatment options for them, and believes in justice for all people who suffer from violence and assault.[xxii] We believe RAINN is the primary nonprofit organization the NFL must partner with to attack the issue of sexual violence head on.[xxiii]

Third, we propose furthering involvement with RAINN and the National Domestic Violence Hotline to set up the Dove Tail Action Plan. RAINN operates specifically with the national Domestic Violence Hotline to provide the proper care and help for individuals suffering from domestic violence.[xxiv] The NFL and RAINN will team up together to create the Dove Tail Action plan. This plan will allow people suffering from abuse to gain proper access to support facilities we plan to implement and RAINN directly provides the proper legal representation if these individual’s cases need to be tried in court regarding financial compensation or when a child’s custody is involved.

Next, we propose the creation of new meetings known as the Families First Initiative. These meetings will occur annually and will include a portion of the nation’s police force, the players of the NFL, and the front office of the teams. Starting before the athletes play their rookie game, the prospects will join their teams every July at the Families First Initiative team meeting. This meeting will highlight law enforcement and how they handle domestic violence and drug abuse cases. It will also include a financial class for the young men and women who need advice and guidance on how to handle the large sums of money they are earning, and lastly, chances for communication for women with league officials and law enforcement officers.

Lastly, we propose a new rule in the NFL known as Drug Surveillance Safety. This rule will specifically target the lax rules of NFL locker rooms and the prescription drugs they have.

This rule will clearly state that players will not be allowed to have prescription drugs unless they are given to him by a doctor or other certified medical professional.

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- [i] <http://fivethirtyeight.com/datalab/the-rate-of-domestic-violence-arrests-among-nfl-players/>
 - [ii] <http://fivethirtyeight.com/datalab/the-rate-of-domestic-violence-arrests-among-nfl-players/>
 - [iii] <https://www.nflpa.com/active-players/drug-policies>
 - [iv] <https://www.nflpa.com/active-players/drug-policies>
 - [v] <http://www.espn.com/espn/eticket/story?page=110128/PainkillersCurrentUse>
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 - [xxi] <https://www.nflpa.com/active-players/drug-policies>
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