**Committee:** National football league 2016 November 10th to 14th 2016

**Assigned character:** Rex Ryan

**Delegate name:** Klara V-Neuwirth

# National Football League 2016

## *Topic 1: Expansion*

American Football is the most lucrative sport in the world for a simple reason: people love watching and/or playing it.[[1]](#footnote-2) Since it is such a loved sport that has growing revenues year after year, expansion becomes an important question to consider. All of the NFL teams may be located in the United States, but fans of American Football exist in countries all around the world. This multiplies the potential revenues and the exciting possibilities.

As a member of the National Football League Coaches association, Rex Ryan has had an influence on the decisions of the league in matters of expansion. While there are many different potential venues all around the United States and also the world, the National Football League has to take into consideration many different aspects such as the effects of jet lag, plane ticket prices, installations, and the quantity of fans in the area. Even after taking all of these criteria in consideration, the perfect expansion venue does not exist, so compromises must certainly be made. The main goal of many important faces in the National Football League, such as Rex Ryan, is to find a city where a the majority of fans will be satisfied, and one that will result in the best revenue for the league.

With all of this information, economically, the best expansion venue would be Mexico City. Being the 7th metropolitan area with the most fans, and the local demographic’s economical situation being very similar to that of most American cities, tickets should sell fairly easily. Also, since the furthest NFL team is located only 5 hours away, the price of the plane tickets for the athletes is much cheaper for the league than if the venue was in London. In addition, there is already a stadium in place, so there is no need to invest millions of dollars into building one as they would have to do in other cities such as Toronto.

## *Topic 2: Concussions and head safety*

Concussions are very common in contact sports such as football, “they occur after an impact to the head or a whiplash of injury that causes the head and brain to shake quickly back and forth”[[2]](#footnote-3). Normally, they are not life threatening, and if they are well treated they will not bring any lifetime consequences. The reason why they are one of the most important issues in many sports such as football is that, for a long time, concussions have been neglected. There has not been enough emphasis on the importance of protecting the athletes, as opposed to a title or a win.

Rex Ashley Ryan was an assistant coach for 22 years until he was named head coach of the New York jets in 2009. He has seen many of his athletes get removed of games and put into protocol which is a four-stage process players follow as they recover , depending on the severity of the injury the recovery time can extend from less than a week to several months.[[3]](#footnote-4) Even though this procedure has proven to be frustrating, he believes that it is the right thing to do, as one of the main tasks of the NFL is to ensure the safety of its athletes. Adam Stites, a journalist that covers the NFL for SB Nation explains that “The "NFL Game Day Concussion Protocol" was first implemented in 2009, adjusted in 2011 and tweaked in the last five years, including the [introduction of disciplinary action in 2016](http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000676669/article/nfl-nflpa-announce-policy-to-enforce-concussion-protocol) for teams that do not adhere properly”[[4]](#footnote-5). Rex Ryan is supportive of the instalment of these measures and hopes that they will help reduce the number of athletes diagnosed with Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE).

Taking all of this in consideration, Ryan believes that the NFL has to continue investing funds into research with the goal of one day having a perfect protocol that leads to no long term symptoms or diseases. Also, the issue of concussions does not just affect the NFL players; it also touches young or amateur players, so there should be a similar protocol and disciplinary action for every single team, regardless of the level of the players. However, physical contact for amateur players should not be banned because, like Rex Ryan said in a interview “[concussions] does happen occasionally, but I truly think everybody’s working to try to get this thing minimized. We’ve got to protect our players, protect our athletes, without question. I think we’ve tried to do that with the helmets, with the way the trainers are and everything else”.[[5]](#footnote-6)

## *Topic 3: Players and Criminal Offences*

For the past sixteen years, there have been 713 NFL players arrested for different criminal offences. This makes American football the sport with the most reported violence and domestic abuse in the world. For the past couple of years, the public has been putting a lot of emphasis on how many athletes, that are supposed to be an inspiration for much of the youth, are promoting illegal behavior and the league isn’t doing anything significant to help improve the situation. This is a very important issue for the NFL league because their reputation is rapidly deteriorating, and public scrutiny is ever-growing.

Rex Ryan was once a little boy who aspired to become an NFL player. He idolized many great athletes and therefore he understands the importance of the public image. In a society where children and teenagers are easily influenced through the reach of social media, letting public figures such as the NFL players have a criminal and irresponsible comportment while not delivering any significant form of punishment is an unacceptable position from the National Football League. Being ranked the ninth sport in the world with the most fans, American Football evidently has a lot of power and influence. [[6]](#footnote-7)Also, not only do criminal offences affect the image of the athletes but it also affects the reputation of the league, which can eventually lead to a diminution of the popularity of the sport that result in a diminution of revenues.

With all of this said, Rex Ryan strongly believes that the rules and the policies for criminal offences should be readjusted. Since criminal offences and violence give a bad image to the NFL and the sport in general, players or public faces accused of those unacceptable behaviours should get their salary reduced for a certain amount of time. By reducing their salaries by a minimum of 25% for minimum of 3 years after their first offence, with the percentage increasing in the case of every further offence, players will be more careful of their actions. Also, players should be banned for a minimum of 10 games, since it is 62,5 percent of their season; this would have a strong impact on their careers and could potentially deter illegal behaviour. However, those consequences wouldn’t apply for domestic abuse. For this offense, they would have to deal with a direct lifetime ban from de league. By giving a second chance to those who commit such a disgraceful act, one can encourage a terrible influence for the younger generation of fans. Those strict actions will prove to the world and the fans that the NFL is against violence and any kind of criminal activity.

1. 25 world’s most popular sports , <http://www.totalsportek.com/most-popular-sports/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. What is a concussion ? , <http://www.healthline.com/health/concussion> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. WEINFUSS, Josh, What exactly is the concussion protocol? , <http://www.espn.com/blog/nflnation/post/_/id/108223/what-exactly-is-the-concussion-protocol> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. # Explaining the NFL’s concussion protocol , <http://www.sbnation.com/nfl/2016/9/18/12940926/nfl-concussion-protocol-explained>

   [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Associated Press , Rex Ryan OK with kid playing football , <http://www.espn.com/new-york/nfl/story/_/id/7894558/rex-ryan-ok-son-playing-football-concussion> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. 25 world’s most popular sports , <http://www.totalsportek.com/most-popular-sports/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)