**Game Scenario 1:**

With 20 mph winds expected at Arrowhead, we conducted a data-driven analysis to guide 4th-and-2 decisions. Using our field goal model — adjusted for weather and distance — we compared the expected points (EP) of attempting a field goal to the EP of going for it, assuming a 50% conversion rate. This gives us a clean, objective framework to support situational decision-making throughout the game.

A graph with a red line and blue line

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

The chart shows where the expected value of a field goal exceeds that of going for it and where it does not. Below is the recommended approach, broken down by yardline range:

**Inside the 16 (Go For It):**

* These are high-percentage field goals, but also high-probability conversions.
* A successful 4th-and-2 keeps the drive alive inside the red zone, offering a much higher scoring ceiling (EP > 3.5). For example: At the 7-yard line, EP is 3.33 (go) vs. 2.90 (kick).
* The downside risk is slightly higher, but the upside of a touchdown, especially early in the game makes this a good decision.

**Summary: Avoid settling for 3 for 7 is realistically on the table**

**16 to 31 Yardline (Field Goal):**

* From here, the field goal remains makeable (35–47 yards), and the scoring upside from a conversion diminishes significantly.
* Even with a 50% conversion rate, the expected value from going for it is now slightly lower than just taking the 3 points. For example: At the 25-yard line, EP is 2.09 (kick) vs. 1.83 (go).
* This range offers the cleanest value from a field goal — supported by both the data and league-wide tendencies.

**Summary: Take the Points**

**31+ Yardline (Go For It):**

* Wind and distance cause FG success rates to fall sharply (especially in KC in December).
* A 48+ yard field goal in wind has real miss risk and a miss hands the opponent strong field position (spot of the missed kick).
* At that point, even a 50% shot at continuing the drive is more valuable than a risky 3-point try.

**Summary: A coin-flip or below kick in the wind is not worth the field position risk.**

**Final Recommendation Summary**

* Inside the 16 → Go for it
* 16–31 yard line → Kick the field goal
* 31 yard line and beyond → Go for it

**Game Scenario Two:**

With our regular kicker unavailable for Week 7, we simulated expected field goal success rates for a typical replacement-level kicker using league-wide data. These kickers convert at a rate approximately 11.4 percent lower than the average NFL kicker. We adjusted our league-average model accordingly and simulated kicks from every yard line under typical October conditions in Los Angeles.

We identified two key decision points:

* Target Line (25-yard line): This is where the adjusted make probability remains above 75 percent. Historically, field goals with a predicted make rate above 75 percent are converted 90 percent of the time. This is considered a confident zone.
* Stretch Line (37-yard line): This is where the adjusted make probability falls to 50 percent. Kicks predicted between 50 and 75 percent are made approximately 73 percent of the time. Once probability drops below 50 percent, success rates fall to 28 percent. This defines the low-confidence zone.

Based on this analysis, any attempt inside the 25-yard line (42-yard field goal or shorter) is considered high-confidence. Kicks between the 25 and 37-yard lines (43 to 54 yards) fall into a stretch zone. These attempts should be evaluated based on pre-game warmup range and overall game context. Attempts beyond the Stretch Line are not recommended unless the situation absolutely requires it.

A graph of a football game

AI-generated content may be incorrect.