

NFL : National Football League

Topic: Player Safety in the NFL: A Critical
Issue Shaping the Future of Football
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Candanosa



Letter to Presidents:

Hello, dear delegates. It's a pleasure to have you in this SPIS MUN. I'm Andres Martinez, and I'll be your moderator in this SPIS MUN 2025. Let me introduce you to your director, Eugenio Candanosa. Together, we'll be your chair for this SPIS MUN 2025 in this special committee of the NFL.

As your director and moderator, we hope that you do your best effort for this debate, and we also wish you the best of luck. We hope that you have a great time on this committee and have fun. As your moderator and director, we'll do our best for you delegates. Presidents, we want you to do your best to have a chance of winning an award.

We're excited, and we hope you're as excited as we are about this SPIS MUN! Remember, every time you participate brings you closer to the chance of having an award. Participate with confidence, share your ideas, and enjoy. If you have any questions, ask us; we're here to help you.

Thank you, and once again, welcome!

Andres Martinez & Eugenio Candanosa
SPIS MUN 2025 Chairs, NFL Committee

Closing Statement:

As the chair of the NFL committee, we sincerely hope this background paper provides valuable information to help address the issue presented within the NFL. As the committee's director and moderator, we look forward to seeing you at the conference and hope you find it both interesting and enjoyable.

Our best wishes,
Your Chair



History of the Committee:

The NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle was who founded the NFL Competition Committee in 1968. It replaced the original Rules Committee. The Rules Committee was formed in 1932 to develop rules for professional play as the NFL moved away from using college football's rulebook.

The committee's work is guided by feedback from many sources. Each year after the season ends, all 32 NFL teams fill out a survey on topics like player safety, officiating, fair competition, and technology. Before the National Scouting Combine, NFL Football Operations also meets with coaches, players, general managers, and NCAA representatives to discuss possible rule changes and review data on injuries, technology, and instant replay.

The committee meets before and after the combine to gather feedback, watch videos, and prepare rule proposals. At the league's annual meeting, it presents these proposals to all 32 team owners, who then vote. A new rule or rule change needs a 75% majority (24 out of 32 owners) to be approved.

During the season, the committee holds occasional meetings to discuss any immediate issues and start planning for the following year. The NFL commissioner selects the members of the committee, which currently includes co-chairs Rich McKay and Stephen Jones, along with other top executives, general managers, and head

coaches.

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History of the Topic:

The NFL Health and Safety Committee was created in 2016 because players were getting seriously injured, especially with concussions. These injuries affected their health for the rest of their lives. Over time, more retired players started to have serious problems, like a brain disease called chronic traumatic encephalopathy in 3 words CTE, which comes from getting hit in the head many times. This made legal actions that forced the league to make changes.

In 2007, the NFL began taking stronger steps to protect players. New tests were made to detect concussions faster. Studies showed that getting hit in the head again and again, without proper treatment, could seriously affect players' mental and physical health. In the 2017 season alone, the NFL reported 291 cases of concussions. This made the NFL, along with doctors and the Players Association, improve helmets, create systems to monitor players and make new rules to stop dangerous hits. These changes helped detect concussions more quickly and accurately.

The committee didn't only just improve equipment and create rules, they also spent a lot of money on research to prevent more injuries. Millions of dollars have been spent on studies to better understand the impact of head injuries. By working with experts from universities and medical institutions, the NFL has collected valuable information that guides more changes. For example, they developed new helmets that reduce the force of hits to players' heads. This creation shows the effort of the NFL's commitment to protecting players, even as the game stays physically tough.

In short, thanks to legal pressure, scientific research, and the need to keep players healthy, the NFL formed safety committees, used better technology, and made rules to protect players. Over time, these efforts have helped make American football safer for athletes.

Introduction of the Topic:

The Committee on Health and Safety of the NFL was established to deal with these problems. In particular, it hurts the poor, inadequate players who have little or no health benefits left. And now we move to something that is beginning to draw our attention. To this day many retirees have faced serious problems because of brain disorders such as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). As a result, in 2012 former players took legal action against the NFL, forcing them to make major changes to their rules and policies that are designed for player safety.

Questions about the health and welfare of players have become increasingly loud, particularly regarding possible concussions or head injuries during games. To meet these questions, the NFL took several steps.

The NFL set up a team called the NFL Health and Safety Committee to deal with things like injuries, especially concussions as seen in Super Bowls. Such traumas can affect a player's health for the remainder of his life--even to death. At one time, many ex-players had serious problems resulting from head injuries. Among them were well-known diseases like CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy), and this caused them to seek justice through legal means. Consequently, the NFL had to change its rules.

Player safety is now a big deal because of the danger from concussions and other head injuries during games. Last year the NFL agreed to fund medical help and check-ups for ex-players until they reached the age of 60. This has enabled players with bad brain problems to receive attention they wouldn't have gotten otherwise.

The NFL has broadened its relationship with medical experts and the NFL Players Association to enhance player safety, especially when it comes to concussions in general and on top of a head injury in particular. Steps include a "Use of the Helmet" rule that penalizes players for leading with their helmets; and new rules for kickoffs designed to lessen high-pact crashes.

Cutting-edge technology is also deployed the new mouth guard with sensors in it can record hits in real time and therefore provide feedback to improve safety measures. To help former players with afflictions like CTE, the NFL introduced a scheme in 2016.

Current Status:

As of 2024, the NFL has made good progress in keeping players safer. They've reduced concussions by 24% during preseason games compared to recent years.

These improvements are thanks to stricter rules and better helmet designs. The new helmets use stronger materials and have sensors that spread out the impact to protect players.

This is important because repeated hits to the head can lead to CTE, a serious brain condition. In the past, over 300 former players were found to have CTE after they died. But now, with better safety measures, brain injuries have gone down, with only 72 cases reported during the latest preseason.

The NFL is working hard to make the game safer. They are teaching players about safety and improving medical care to help lower injury risks and keep players healthier.

Guiding Questions:

1. Why is the main reason why NFL players get injured?
2. What are the main injuries?
3. How much is the time of recovery?
4. Are the injury effects for the rest of their lives?
5. How do teams in the NFL work on preventing injuries?



Quorum:

1. Jerry Jones (Dallas Cowboys)
2. Robert Kraft (New England Patriots)
3. Stanley Kroenke (Los Angeles Rams)
4. Mark Murphy (Green Bay Packers)
5. Joel Glazer (Tampa Bay Buccaneers)
6. Jody Allen (Seattle Seahawks)
7. Stephen Ross (Miami Dolphins)
8. Denise DeBartolo York (San Francisco 49ers)
9. Steve Bisciotti (Baltimore Ravens)
10. Clark Hunt (Kansas City Chiefs)
11. Kim Pegula (Buffalo Bills)
12. Sheila Ford Hamp (Detroit Lions)
13. Jeffrey Lurie (Philadelphia Eagles)
14. Mark Davis (Las Vegas Raiders)
15. Austin Knowlton (Cincinnati Bengals)
16. John Mara (New York Giants)
17. Arthur Joseph Rooney (Pittsburgh Steelers)
18. Zygi Wilf (Minnesota Vikings)
19. Gael Benson (New Orleans Saints)
20. Robson Walton (Denver Broncos)
21. Woody Johnson (New York Jets)
22. Dean Alexander Spanos (Los Angeles Chargers)
23. Jalen Reeves-Maybin (NFLPA President)
24. Arthur Blank (Atlanta Falcons)
25. Roger Goodell (NFL Commissioner)



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