

The NFL Should Adopt the College Overtime Rules

Say goodbye to the dreaded tie and hello to electrifying finishes; adopting the college overtime rules in the NFL could transform the game into a scoring spectacle. If the NFL introduced the college overtime rules there would be no more games ending in a tie and leaving a bad taste in everyone's mouth. Every team gets a shot, instead of one three-and-out, a bad punt, and a chip-shot field goal. While the NFL has had the same overtime rules since 1940, 84 years, the NFL should make the change to the college overtime rules because the game won't end in a tie, there would be more interesting finishes, and games having more scoring.

The first and probably most important reason is games will no longer end in ties. Ties are the worst in any sport, but more so in football because of the limited games. The NFL is one of the only leagues that have ties: in basketball they keep going until someone wins, in soccer and hockey they go to shootouts, and even in baseball they will add extra innings, so it's about time that the NFL hops on that train. The biggest problem is, in college every team gets a possession starting on the 25 yard line no matter what, leading to explosive plays and aggressive calls, but in the NFL there is a ten minute timer and once that ends or one team scores a touchdown the game ends, usually leading to very conservative play-calling.

Furthermore, changing the rules would lead to more intense finishes. A perfect example of this would be the 2022 Rhode Island vs. Monmouth, game that ended with seven overtimes. The fans were on the edge of their seats for seven whole overtimes, ending with Rhode Island defeating Monmouth 48-46. If this were the NFL, then the game would have ended when the first touchdown was scored, and while the result may have been the same, the enjoyment of the game would not have been the same. For the opposite, in 2008 the Bengals and Eagles played in what many consider to be one of the worst games ever. Each team traded 13 points, but then they

remained tied for about four hours. The game finished with the score of 13-13. If it had gone by the college overtime then they would have started on the 25 yardline and someone would have kicked and made a field goal, leading to at least a winner.

Moreover, the college overtime would lead to more points being scored, which would boost the ratings. An egregious example would be the 2018 LSU vs. Texas A&M where Texas A&M would win 74-72 in seven overtimes. This is praised to be one of the best football games ever. Now I understand that implementing the college football overtime rules will not make every game end with this ridiculous score, but it will definitely up it. One could say, “But I like good defense and low scoring games”. The answer to this would be only 5.5% of games go to overtime and of those not all of them last much longer than that, so there will still be a plethora of good defense and low-scoring games. Even if the game goes to overtime, the defense can still make plays.

Ultimately, adopting college overtime rules in the NFL could turn the game into a scoring extravaganza, bidding farewell to the unwelcomed tie and giving a warm welcome to exciting finishes. By allowing each team an equal opportunity to possess the ball, regardless of what happens during the first possession, this rule would promote fairness and increase the chances for thrilling comebacks. According to the presented evidence, others should believe the overtime rules should be changed as it would eliminate the possibility of ties and enhance the overall fan experience. In college football, this system has led to more dynamic and unpredictable outcomes, engaging viewers from start to finish. To put into a nutshell, the rules should be changed because they eliminate ties, lead to intense finishes, and result in higher scores, all of which would overall create a more entertaining and competitive product for fans and players alike.

Word Count: 696

Dante de la Fe – 10th grade