

1086-K5-2408 **Nicholas Gorgievski*** (nick.gorgievski@nichols.edu), Center Road, PO Box 5000, Dudley, MA 01571, and **Thomas C. DeFranco** (tom.defranco@uconn.edu), 249 Glenbrook Road, Unit 2064C, Storrs, CT 06269. *The NFL Overtime Rule Change: Was it really necessary?*

Over the past decade, football fans, sportscasters, writers, and mathematicians had all weighed in on whether the NFL “sudden death” overtime rule was fair to both teams. Many had claimed that the winner of the coin toss had an advantage in winning the game. As a result of all of the debate, the NFL owners accepted a proposal to alter the overtime rule for postseason games beginning in the 2010-2011 football season and for regular season games beginning in the 2012-2013 season. However, was this rule change really necessary? In this session, we use logistic regression to examine the coin toss and its effect on the outcome of “sudden death” overtime games prior to the 2012-2013 season. Additionally, we describe how the NFL kickoff rule change, initiated at the beginning of the 2011-2012 NFL season, may have a greater impact on overtime games. (Received September 25, 2012)