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*What would eliminating the kickoff in the NFL mean?* Preliminary report.

The concern for the safety of NFL players has risen significantly lately due to increasing evidence of long-term consequences to head injuries sustained by players. Kickoffs account for 15-20% of all concussions with the highest rate of concussions of any type of play with 7-9 concussions per 1000 kickoffs. As a result, the NFL has been looking for ways to decrease head injuries to players, while maintaining the integrity of the game. While the league has currently only modified kickoff rules, continued pressure to make the game safer may result in an elimination of the kickoff altogether. In this talk we explore how an elimination of the kickoff could potentially affect drive success and specifically overtime outcomes, considering multiple replacements for the kickoff including the Schiano Proposal of teams starting at their own 30 with fourth down and 15 yards for a first down. (Received September 24, 2018)