

# Rule Changes in the NFL

*Field Trip/Video Conference Program*



## **Fieldtrip / Video Conference Experience Outline:**

10 minutes – Welcome/Mission/Vision/Values

30 minutes – Discussion/Videos on History of the NFL scoring system

10 minutes – Question and Answers

## **Instructions:**

Please use the following lesson to help prepare your students for a more meaningful and interactive educational experience.



# **Subject:** Mathematics, Language Arts

## **Lesson Title:** Rule Changes in the NFL

### **Goals/Objectives:**

- Students will:
  - Review addition facts
  - Practice problem solving skills
  - Read and interpret a chart
  - Demonstrate knowledge of language structure and conventions

### **Common Core Standards:**

- **Mathematics:**
  - Measurement & Data: Represent and Interpret Data
  - Statistics and Probability: Summarize and Describe Distributions
- **Language Arts:** Reading: Informational Text; Reading: Foundational Skills; Speaking and Listening
  - Reading Informational Text (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.[grade level].1-3,5-9)
  - Reading Foundational Skills (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.[grade level].4)
  - Speaking and Listening (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.[grade level].1-2,5)

### **Methods/Procedures:**

#### **Prior to Program**

- Students will:
  - Read *The NFL Scoring System chart* and use problem solving to determine the potential different outcomes of Super Bowl V.
  - Use *The NFL Scoring System Chart* and use problem solving skills to determine the various combinations of how teams could arrive at different point totals.
  - Compile a list of questions to be asked during the program.
  - Be encouraged to research other rule changes that have been a part of the NFL's history.

#### **During the Program**

- Students will:
  - Learn about the Mission/Vison/Value of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
  - Learn about the rich history of professional football.
  - Learn about why different rules changes occurred and how it affected the growth of professional football.



### **After the Program**

- Students will complete writing assignments following the lesson.
- Students can create algebraic equations to help determine scores of games played in various years.

### **Materials:**

- The NFL Scoring System Chart
- Super Bowl V Worksheet
- Scoring Combinations Worksheet
- ProFootballHOF.com

### **Assessment:**

- Teachers can assess from the written assignments.



## The NFL Scoring System *From 1892 – to Present*

The values of scoring have undergone several changes since the birth of professional football in 1892. So much so that if the scoring values that were in place close to 110 years ago were still the standard, it would have a dramatic effect on the outcome of many of today's games.

In fact, had an older scoring system been in place in the early '70s, the outcome of Super Bowl V would have been completely different. Baltimore Colts' first-year kicker Jim O'Brien booted a 32-yard field goal in the waning seconds of that title matchup against the Dallas Cowboys. His kick broke a tie game and gave the Colts a 16-13 victory for their first Super Bowl championship. Use the chart to determine how the outcome of the game would have been different.

	<u>1892</u>	<u>1897</u>	<u>1904</u>	<u>1909</u>	<u>1912</u>	<u>1994</u>
Field Goal	5	5	4	3	3	3
Touchdown	4	5	5	5	6	6
Point after Touchdown	2	1	1	1	1	1
Two-point Conversion	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
Safety	2	2	2	2	2	2

- 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. – Clark 14 yard field goal (Dallas)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. – Clark 30 yard field goal (Dallas)  
 Unitas 75 yard touchdown pass to Mackey (Baltimore)  
 Extra point was blocked  
 Morton 7 yard touchdown pass to Thomas (Dallas)  
 Extra point was made
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. – Neither team scored
- 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. – Nowatzke with 2 yard touchdown run (Baltimore)  
 Extra point was made  
 O'Brien 32 yard field goal (Baltimore)
- FINAL:  
 Baltimore 16  
 Dallas 13



Are there other ways the teams could have achieved the same scores? If so, please explain.

---

---

If no, please explain

---

---

What would the score be if the game had been played in 1892?

---

1904?

---

1909?

---

1912?

---



### Scoring Combinations

The 2019 AFC Wild Card round of the NFL playoffs placed the Buffalo Bills against the Houston Texans. The Texans won the game 22-19 in overtime, but if the scoring system from 1892 was used, would the result have changed? Would they have even needed to play overtime? Could the Bills have won their first playoff game since 1995?

	<u>1892</u>	<u>1897</u>	<u>1904</u>	<u>1909</u>	<u>1912</u>	<u>1994</u>
Field Goal	5	5	4	3	3	3
Touchdown	4	5	5	5	6	6
Point after Touchdown	2	1	1	1	1	1
Two-point Conversion	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
Safety	2	2	2	2	2	2

- 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. – Josh Allen 16 yard touchdown pass from John Brown (Buffalo)  
Hauschka extra point was good
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. – Stephen Hauschka 40 yard field goal (Buffalo)  
Stephen Hauschka 40 yard field goal (Buffalo)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. – Stephen Hauschka 38 yard field goal (Buffalo)  
Deshaun Watson 20 yard rushing touchdown (Houston)  
Watson 2 point conversion run is good
- 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. – Ka’imi Fairbairn 41 yard field goal (Houston)  
Carlos Hyde 5 yard touchdown pass from Deshaun Watson (Houston)  
Deandre Hopkins pass from Deshaun Watson good for 2 point conversion  
Stephen Hauschka 47 yard field goal (Buffalo)
- OT – Ka’imi Fairbairn 41 yard field goal (Houston)

FINAL:  
Houston 22  
Buffalo 19

Texans Field Goals = 2 for 6 points  
Texans Touchdowns = 2 for 12 points  
Extra Point = 0 for 0 points  
2-Point Conversions = 2 for 4 points  
Texans total = 22 points

Bills Field Goals = 4 for 12 points  
Bills Touchdowns = 1 for 6 points  
Extra Point = 1 for 1 point  
2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points  
Bills total = 19 points



Are there other ways the teams could have achieved the same scores? If so, please explain.

---

If no, please explain

---

What would the score be if the game had been played in 1892 (assuming the Texans would kick extra points instead of 2-point conversions)?

---

1904?

---

1909?

---

1912?

---



**Writing Assignment:**

Using the NFL Scoring System chart choose a year and write about a game that was played in that year. What teams played? Where was the game played? Were there any great plays? Then research the game and the scoring for the game and describe the difference if it was scored in a different era.

**A Memorable Game in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Year)**

Lined writing area consisting of 25 horizontal lines for student response.







## **Answer Key**

Super Bowl V (1971):

**Baltimore - 16**

**Dallas - 13**

Baltimore Field Goals = 1 for 3 points  
Baltimore Touchdowns = 2 for 12 points  
Extra Point = 1 for 1 point  
2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points  
Baltimore total = 16 points

Dallas Field Goals = 2 for 6 points  
Dallas Touchdowns = 1 for 6 points  
Extra Point = 1 for 1 point  
2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points  
Dallas total = 13 points

Are there other ways the teams could have achieved the same scores? If so, please explain

*Student responses will vary.*

If no, please explain

*Student responses will vary.*

What would the score be if the game had been played in:

1892? Baltimore 15 - Dallas 16

1904? Baltimore 15 – Dallas 14

1909? Baltimore 14 – Dallas 12

1912? Baltimore 16 – Dallas 13



## **Answer Key**

The 2019 NFC Wild Card

**Texans – 22**

**Bills – 19**

Texans Field Goals = 2 for 6 points

Texans Touchdowns = 2 for 12 points

Extra Point = 0 for 0 points

2-Point Conversions = 2 for 4 points

Texans total = 22 points

Bills Field Goals = 4 for 12 points

Bills Touchdowns = 1 for 6 points

Extra Point = 1 for 1 point

2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points

Bills total = 19 points

Are there other ways the teams could have achieved the same scores? If so, please explain

*Student responses will vary.*

If no, please explain

*Student responses will vary.*

What would the score be if the game had been played in:

1892? Texans 22 – Bills 26

1904? Texans 20 – Bills 22

1909? Texans 18 – Bills 18

1912? Texans 20 – Bills 19

