

FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

A HEAD COACH'S GUIDE

TO THE COLLEGE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE



THE COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MISSION

The College Advisory Committee (CAC or Committee) was created in 1994 at the request of the American Football Coaches Association. The CAC serves in a limited advisory capacity for underclassmen who are seriously considering early entry into the NFL Draft.

The Committee is comprised of senior personnel evaluators from the NFL's clubs, together with directors from the League's two sanctioned scouting organizations (National Football Scouting and BLESTO).

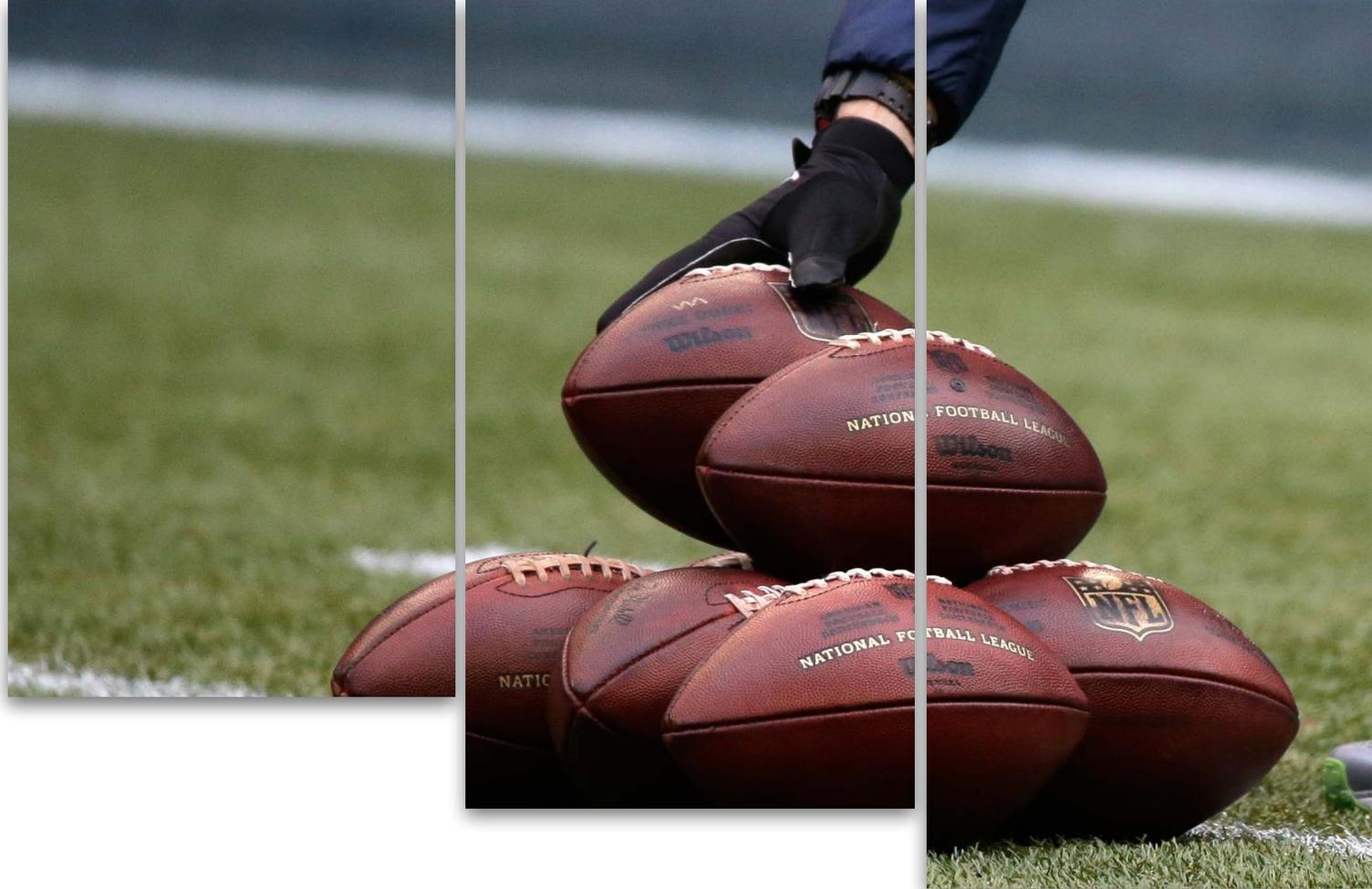
The Committee's evaluation is only an opinion. It is NOT to be considered binding in any way. Nor does it constitute a guarantee that a player will be drafted in a certain round, or that he will be drafted at all. It is an objective evaluation by experienced professionals who offer an informed assessment of a player's draft potential.

The CAC actively encourages underclassmen to maintain an open dialogue with their college head coaches throughout the Advisory and Special Eligibility process. The Committee will provide head coaches with player evaluation results to facilitate those discussions.

Only five requests for evaluations will be accepted per school. Additional players on your team may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, subject to Committee approval. Players will be advised whether the CAC believes they have the potential to be drafted in the first or second round, OR whether they should remain in school to develop further as a potential professional prospect while continuing their education.

Because of the many factors that can bear upon a player's selection in the NFL Draft, the Committee strongly recommends that underclassmen remain in school to complete their educations and college football eligibility. Statistics indicate that the vast majority of student-athletes benefit by completing their eligibility and obtaining their college degree.





ELIGIBILITY

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A CAC EVALUATION?

- Underclassmen for whom at least three full college football seasons have elapsed since their high school graduations.
- Underclassmen who are eligible to return to college for the upcoming season.
- Only underclassmen who are **seriously** considering petitioning for special eligibility for the NFL Draft may request evaluations.

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A CAC EVALUATION?

- Players who do not have remaining eligibility or who are no longer enrolled in college.
- Players who are interested in obtaining an evaluation solely for insurance reasons.

- FOR INSURANCE INFORMATION, players should contact the NCAA's Exceptional Student-Athlete Disability Insurance Program at: <http://www.ncaa.org/>, or by writing to the Program Administrator at:

HCC Specialty Underwriters
401 Edgewater Place, Suite
400 Wakefield, Massachusetts
01880 Phone: 800-927-6306
Fax: 781-994-6001

REQUESTING AN EVALUATION

DATES & DEADLINES

Eligible underclassmen may request a CAC Evaluation after the conclusion of their respective college football regular seasons.

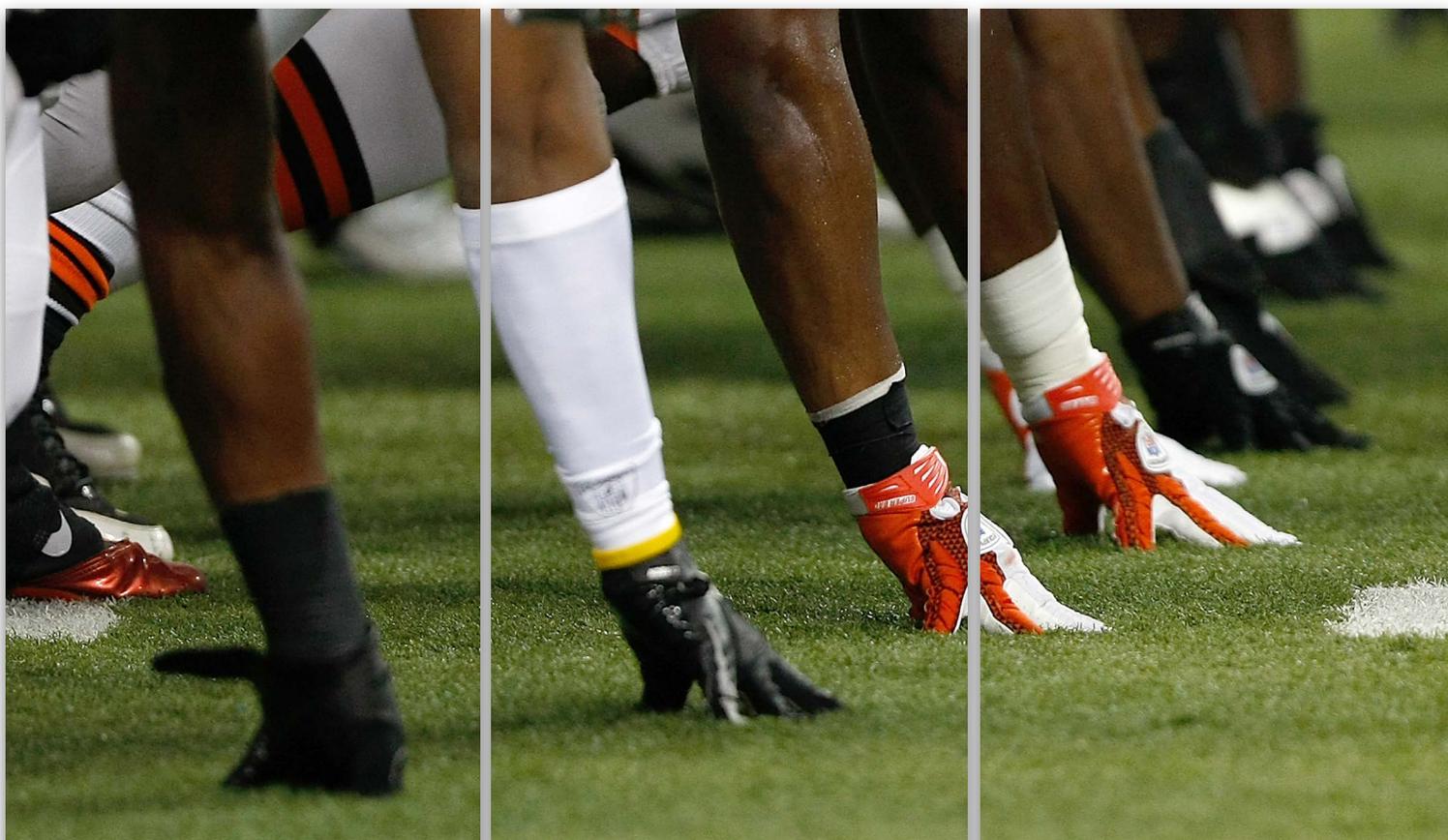
To ensure a timely evaluation, requests should be received no later than Monday, December 18, 2015. Although requests will be accepted until Monday, January 4, 2016, there is no guarantee that an evaluation can be completed and returned to the player prior to Monday, January 18, 2016, the deadline for applying for special eligibility.

Evaluation requests should be submitted exclusively through the school's Head Coach, Pro Liaison or Director of Football Operations. If a player calls the NFL office to request an evaluation, he will be directed to contact his college head coach.

All requests for evaluation must include an **official** copy of the player's transcripts from every college that the player has attended. Requests may be submitted

through the **College Relations Website: (apps.nfl.net/CollegeRelations)**. In certain cases, permission may be granted to submit a request via hard copy.

Completed requests may also be emailed to nflplayerpersonnel@nfl.com, or faxed to the NFL Player Personnel Department at 212-847-1881. Please confirm receipt on all submissions. Calls may be directed to the NFL Player Personnel Department at 212-450-2215.





THE CAC EVALUATION

The evaluation will be based on the Committee's best estimate of the player's potential to be drafted. Again, the CAC's response is non-binding and does not constitute a guarantee that the player will be drafted.

Players will be given one of the following:

- (a)** they have the potential to be drafted as high as the first round;
- (b)** they have the potential to be drafted as high as the second round; or
- (c)** they should remain in school to develop further as potential professional prospects while continuing their education.

The CAC's evaluation is based solely upon demonstrated football ability. It does not take into account injuries, the perceived strength or weakness of a particular year's draft class, performances at the scouting combine or pro timing days, or any other factor that may influence a player's draft status.

When an evaluation has been completed, a member of the CAC or a representative of the NFL Commissioner's office will contact each player and head coach by telephone. The player and head coach will also receive a written copy of the CAC's evaluation.

The evaluation is confidential. Only the player and his head coach will be notified of the result. The evaluation will not be provided to or discussed with agents, family members, media, or NFL clubs.

Each player is strongly encouraged to discuss the results of his evaluation as well as his decision regarding application for special eligibility with his college head coach.





HOW COLLEGE HEAD COACHES CAN HELP

The CAC limits requests for evaluations to five players per school. Additional players on your team may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, subject to approval of the CAC. We ask for your assistance to enable us to provide a thorough, comprehensive and timely evaluation for your players.

- **Encourage players to COMPLETE their education and college football eligibility.** There are no guarantees that a player will be selected in the NFL Draft. Statistics indicate that the vast majority of student-athletes benefit by completing their eligibility.
- **Submit your evaluation requests EARLY.** Although evaluations are completed on a rolling basis, by submitting your school's requests in a timely manner you will ensure the earliest possible response from the CAC.
- **Submit all evaluation requests TOGETHER.** Submitting all of your school's evaluation requests together will expedite the evaluation process. Please do not forget to submit all required academic transcripts for your players.
- **Submit your GAME VIDEO.** Please confirm that the Dub Center at NFL Films has received all of your school's game films. Any delay in receiving game films may preclude the CAC's ability to evaluate your players prior to the January 18, 2016 deadline for special eligibility applications.
- **Verify LEGITIMATE evaluation requests.** The Head Coach should consult with every potential applicant to verify that the request is appropriate. Requests by players who have no intention of applying for special eligibility place an unnecessary burden on the CAC and delay the response time for players who are seriously considering entry into the NFL Draft.



FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

Dear NFL Draft Prospect,

As an underclassman considering giving up your final year of college eligibility to turn pro, you are about to make one of the most important decisions in your life.

It will change your future forever. Now, more than ever, make sure you know all the facts.

In my junior year of college, I was projected to be drafted in the second or third round. After receiving a lot of sound advice from family, friends, coaches and teammates, I knew that an extra year of maturity, more reps on the field and, most importantly, finishing my education would serve me better than rushing into the unknown. After considering all the facts, I stayed in school and it paid off. I was selected in the first round of the following year's draft and played in the League for 15 years.

My degree has served me well. It has motivated me to pursue a lifetime of learning. Long after your playing experience ends, your education will remain. It is often the degree of separation between opportunity and disappointment. Your education is your key to financial freedom.

Know the facts and get an objective evaluation from the NFL's College Advisory Committee. Don't change your life forever without having all the relevant information. Share the results of your CAC evaluation with the people you trust the most. Discuss your decision with your parents, friends, advisors, coaches and teammates.

The CAC can assist you in making an informed decision by evaluating your football skills at this point in your playing career. The Committee will advise you whether you have the potential to be drafted in the first or second round, OR whether you should remain a student-athlete, maturing as a potential professional prospect while continuing your education.

The choice you are about to make will have life-long consequences. Request an evaluation. Seek sound advice. Know your facts. Make an informed decision.

God's Best,

Troy Vincent, Sr.
Executive Vice President
NFL Football Operations

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE/ KNOW THE FACTS

Entering the NFL Draft as an underclassman poses significant risks. **Before making any decisions, be sure that your player has all the facts.**

- There are no guarantees in the NFL Draft.
- If a player declares for the Draft but is not selected, he will lose his remaining college eligibility.
- A player's draft position can improve significantly by continuing to play in college, maturing both physically and mentally, and receiving his college degree.

WHY THE NFL WANTS ATHLETES TO STAY IN SCHOOL

The majority of underclassmen are not physically or mentally prepared to enter the NFL. Most would benefit significantly from another year of college football. An additional year of experience and competition at the college level may improve your player's position in the draft and enable him to enjoy a longer, more successful NFL experience.

Even if they are drafted, underclassmen may have a more difficult time adjusting to the myriad pressures of an NFL career: the rigors of training camp; mastering an NFL playbook; the struggle to make the roster; the increased expectations for on-field performance; the significantly elevated level of competition and the length of the playing schedule. It takes a great deal of maturity, commitment and talent to thrive in the NFL environment.

If your student-athlete's goal is to play in the NFL, his best chance of enjoying a long and successful playing experience may be to complete his undergraduate education and his college football eligibility.



OF THE 149 STUDENT-ATHLETES WHO RECEIVED CAC EVALUATIONS IN 2015, 53 DECLARED FOR THE DRAFT (35.6%):

YEAR	TOTAL CAC PLAYERS EVALUATED	CAC PLAYERS DECLARED	% OF CAC PLAYERS DECLARED
2015	149	53	35.6%
2014	214	70	32.7%
2013	195	66	33.8%
2012	168	48	28.6%
2011	181	44	24.3%
2010	151	39	25.8%

20 STUDENT-ATHLETES WHO WERE GIVEN A 1ST OR 2ND ROUND EVALUATION DECLARED FOR THE 2015 DRAFT:

EVALUATION	TOTAL STUDENT-ATHLETES DECLARED	ROUND	TOTAL DRAFTED
1 ST	6	1 ST	4
		2 ND	2
2 ND	14	1 ST	6
		2 ND	6
		3 RD	2

THE COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS EXTREMELY ACCURATE WHEN EVALUATING THE 1ST OR 2ND ROUND PROSPECTS WHO DECLARE FOR THE DRAFT:

YEAR	CAC EVALUATION ACCURACY
2015	90.0% (18/20 drafted in first two rounds)
2014	90.9% (20/22)
2013	85.7% (18/21)
2012	82.4% (14/17)
2011	93.3% (14/15)
2010	72.2% (13/18)

In 2015, 18 of the 20 of student-athletes who were evaluated as 1st or 2nd round prospects and declared for the Draft were selected in the first two rounds (90.0%).

Since 2010, student-athletes who received a 1st or 2nd round evaluation and declared for the Draft have been selected in the first two rounds 85.8% of the time.

33 STUDENT-ATHLETES WHO WERE ADVISED TO REMAIN IN SCHOOL ALSO DECLARED FOR THE 2015 DRAFT:

Only 6 of the 33 student-athletes who were advised to remain in school and declared for the Draft were selected in the first two rounds (18.2%).

The remaining 27 student-athletes who were advised to remain in school and declared for the draft were selected in the 3rd round or later, or were not drafted (81.8%).

A student-athlete who is advised to remain in school and who declares for the Draft is 4.5 times more likely to be drafted in the later rounds (3-7) or to go undrafted than to be drafted in the first two rounds.

A student-athlete who is advised to remain in school and who declares for the Draft is just as likely to go undrafted as to be drafted in the first two rounds.

ROUND	ADVISED TO REMAIN IN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETES SELECTED
1 ST	2
2 ND	4
3 RD	8
4 TH	5
5 TH	2
6 TH	5
7 TH	1
UNDRAFTED	6



IN 2015, 1ST AND 2ND ROUND EVALUATIONS HAD A DRAFTED ROUND AVERAGE OF 1.60; NO PLAYER WAS DRAFTED LATER THAN THE 3RD ROUND:

	GRADE	PLAYERS
	1 ST /2 ND	20
ROUND SELECTED	1	10
	2	8
	3	2
	4	0
	5	0
	6	0
	7	0
	FA	0
WEIGHTED AVG.		1.60

IN 2015, “REMAIN IN SCHOOL” EVALUATIONS HAD A DRAFTED ROUND AVERAGE OF 4.52, WITH MUCH GREATER DRAFTED ROUND DISPERSION:

	GRADE	PLAYERS
	REMAIN IN SCHOOL	33
ROUND SELECTED	1	2
	2	4
	3	8
	4	5
	5	2
	6	5
	7	1
	FA	6
WEIGHTED AVG.		4.52

A RISKY DECISION

In a typical year there are only 256 draft slots, including compensatory draft selections. Underclassmen may be drafted lower than expected, or not at all. The greater the number of players who enter the Draft, the greater the likelihood that a player may be selected in the later Draft rounds, or not drafted at all.

Bear in mind that the supply of potential middle-round players exceeds the demand.

Each year there are hundreds of players who fail to receive a phone call during the Draft informing them that they have been selected. Many of those undrafted college players will never have the opportunity to make an NFL team.

A recent “Bleacher Report” stated, **“Darrington Sentimore is full of regret. He was a defensive tackle at Tennessee in 2012. A good one. He passed up his senior season in 2013 because an agent told him he would be a middle round draft pick. He wasn’t drafted.”**

“I made a bad decision. A lot of guys like me are sitting at home wishing they had that degree.”
— Darrington Sentimore, Defensive Tackle, University of Tennessee

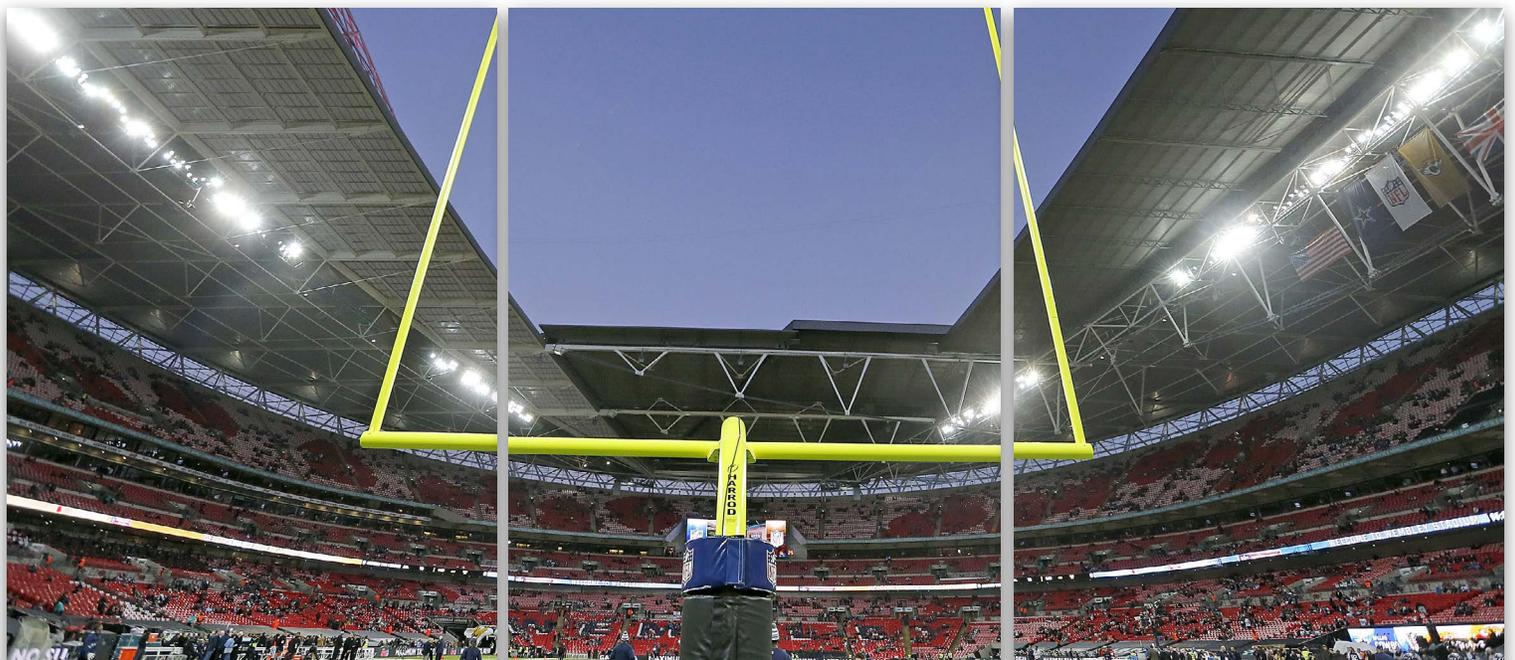
ODDS OF MAKING IT IN THE NFL

Only 1.6% of all NCAA football players make it to a professional level.

For players who do make an NFL roster, the average length of playing experience is 4.74 years. That is just the average. Some positions are higher, others are lower. For example, over the past 20 years the average playing careers by playing position are as follows:

- **Running Back, 4.25 years,**
- **Wide Receiver, 4.16 years,**
- **Defensive Back, 4.60 years,**
- **Offensive Line, 5.04 years,**
- **Quarterback, 5.10 years,**
- **Linebacker, 4.85 years,**
- **Defensive Lineman, 4.74 years,**
- **Kicker, 5.07 years**

Although there are 53 spots on each NFL team’s roster, only a limited number of those are spots open to competition each preseason. Last year, 928 players who were attempting to make rosters were cut before the NFL season even started. That’s an average of 29 players per club. Undrafted free agents are even less likely to make an NFL roster.



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Everyone has an opinion as to where a player will be selected in the draft. But rankings from the media, “draft analysts,” and agents don’t reflect the intricate and comprehensive scouting work performed by NFL teams, don’t influence the Draft selection process in any way, and are often extremely misleading, disappointing and inaccurate.

Student-athletes should not believe the hype. The only evaluations that matter are those by NFL teams.

COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Players will receive a more realistic and confidential estimate of their draft potential from the NFL College Advisory Committee. The Committee is comprised of senior personnel talent evaluators from the NFL teams, who will offer an objective evaluation of a player’s draft potential.

The Committee’s evaluation is a preliminary evaluation since it is based solely upon demonstrated football ability. When it comes to the Draft, NFL teams take a variety of additional factors into consideration including injuries, medical conditions, strength of character, and other intangible qualities such as work ethic,

intelligence and ability to compete. A player with exceptional physical talent may receive a positive Draft evaluation by the Committee, but may fall on NFL team Draft boards because of other considerations identified later in the process.

The Committee is most accurate when projecting first and second round talent. By contrast, it is more difficult to predict the round in which other players may be selected.



THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

Players who remain in college for their senior seasons often assume leadership roles on their teams, a quality that NFL teams value greatly when selecting players.

Having a college degree is also a significant asset. Chip Kelly, Head Coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, recently said, “Number one, intelligence is a huge part of what we’re looking for in every aspect of what we do, whether it’s offense, defense, or special teams. So the fact that they have a degree proves where they are at from an intelligence standpoint. College graduates show you the intelligence factor.”

“Number two, it shows that they are committed to establishing goals and following through on their goals,” Kelly said. “We look at the player’s accomplishments. It’s always a plus when you have a degree. Teams that are really successful seem to have the most college graduates.”

“You’ve faced some adversity, whether it’s in school or on the football field. It’s evidence that you are driven. It shows what we’re looking for here, that combination of mental toughness and that high intelligence. A college degree is just another indication.”

In addition, very few NFL contracts are guaranteed. Players with college degrees have longer NFL experiences and earn higher average salaries. Financial freedom results from education, not from the uncertain prospect of an NFL career.

A student-athlete should not underestimate the importance of having a college degree or allow short-term, often unrealistic, incentives to lead to long-term regrets.





THE MYTH OF “STARTING YOUR CLOCK”

Every year, some college players are persuaded to enter the NFL Draft by misguided advice or self-imposed pressure to “start their clocks” in the NFL. Presumably this is a reference to procuring successive NFL contracts of escalating rates of salary, as well as years of NFL service for pension and other benefits.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with that – people in other industries have the very same goals. However, in the NFL even those underclassmen who are in fact drafted must still make an NFL roster and play for at least three years to achieve those goals. Remember, if a prospect doesn’t make the team, his clock doesn’t start.

The average NFL career lasts only 4.74 years. Many NFL players will not remain in the League long enough to receive a second NFL contract.

Entering the NFL Draft is a calculated risk and does not ensure a secure future. By remaining in college, a prospect improves his chance of achieving a longer and more sustainable NFL career. The higher a prospect is drafted, the more likely he is to receive a second or third NFL contract.



FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

CONTACT INFORMATION:

College Advisory Committee

Attention: Player Personnel Department

National Football League

345 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10154

Phone: 212-450-2215

Fax: 212-847-1881

Email: nflplayerpersonnel@nfl.com

2015-2016 COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE