Nick Pietruszkiewicz,
Assistant Professor of Journalism and
Program Director of Sports Communications
860-983-4555

Brittani Webb, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor of Media Studies
315-317-9881

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SPORTS POLL: AMERICANS TO NFL: MOVE THE SUPER BOWL TO A HOLIDAY WEEKEND, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL SPORTS POLL FINDS; NFL FANS FAVOR EXPANDING REGULAR SEASON TO 18 GAMES

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has talked about the possibility of extending the regular NFL season, which would move the date of the Super Bowl to President's Day weekend, a 3-day holiday weekend. That way, the Super Bowl would always be followed by a federal holiday on Monday. A majority of Americans (56 percent) give the idea of a holiday weekend Super Bowl a thumbs up, while 18 percent oppose it and 26 percent did not offer an opinion, according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University national sports poll of adults released today. The survey was conducted in collaboration with the Quinnipiac University School of Communications.

Support for moving the Super Bowl to President's Day weekend is even higher among NFL fans who 64 – 18 percent support the idea, with 18 percent not offering an opinion.

"There are few things people agree on, but one might be that the Monday after the Super Bowl should be a day off. This makes perfect sense," said Nick Pietruszkiewicz, Assistant Professor of Journalism and Program Director of Sports Communications, Quinnipiac University.

EXTENDING THE REGULAR SEASON

Another idea the NFL is considering: adding a game to what is now a 17-game regular season and removing a preseason game. NFL fans 60 – 21 percent support the idea, with 18 percent not offering an opinion.

Most fans who support extending the regular season to 18 games think the benefits outweigh the risks. Considering that adding a regular season game would increase players' salaries but also increase their risk of injury, 61 percent think it would be worth it, while 33 percent think it would not be worth it.

"It's a matter of time before the NFL goes to an 18-game season. Shortening the preseason works for everyone involved," added Pietruszkiewicz.

BAD BUNNY

Nearly half of Americans (48 percent) approve of the NFL's decision to have the artist known as Bad Bunny perform the Super Bowl halftime show in February, while 29 percent disapprove and 24 percent did not offer an opinion.

There are big gaps when considering political party, race, and age.

Democrats (74 – 10 percent) and independents (52 – 22 percent) approve of the NFL's decision to have Bad Bunny perform the Super Bowl halftime show, while Republicans (63 – 16 percent) disapprove, reflecting recent criticism of the pick by the Trump administration.

A larger share of Black adults (61 – 19 percent) and Hispanic adults (65 – 20 percent) approve of the decision than white adults (41 – 34 percent).

There is a big difference when considering age with 18 to 34 year olds (64 – 17 percent) approving of the decision compared to adults 65 years of age and over who are divided, as 36 percent approve and 37 percent disapprove.

"The NFL chose a global superstar to perform for the Super Bowl Halftime Show, yet the immense popularity of Bad Bunny's music can't escape the political tensions currently felt across the United States. For anyone who still argues that sports are apolitical, the polarized reactions suggest otherwise," said Brittani Webb, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Media Studies, Quinnipiac University School of Communications.

NFL INJURIES

On the topic of injuries to professional football players, 42 percent of Americans think the NFL is doing about the right amount to help avoid serious injuries to professional football players, 30 percent think the NFL is doing too little, and 4 percent think the NFL is doing too much to help avoid serious injuries to professional football players. Twenty-three percent did not offer an opinion.

Among NFL fans, 54 percent think the NFL is doing about the right amount to help avoid serious injuries to professional football players, 30 percent think the NFL is doing too little, and 6 percent think the NFL is doing too much to help avoid serious injuries to professional football players. Ten percent did not offer an opinion.

"The NFL has been deliberate in demonstrating its commitment to player safety and long-term health, implementing stricter concussion protocols, penalizing unnecessarily rough plays, and modifying game rules to minimize injury risks. These efforts appear to be resonating with fans, though football as a sport will likely always face some criticism," added Webb.

DYNAMIC KICKOFF RULE

NFL fans weigh in on the dynamic kickoff rule that was introduced last year and intended to encourage more kickoff returns and reduce the speed of collisions on the field.

Roughly 4 out of 10 NFL fans (42 percent) prefer the dynamic kickoff rule, while 37 percent prefer the previous kickoff rule, with 19 percent not offering an opinion.

1,519 U.S. adults nationwide were surveyed from October 16th – 20th with a margin of error of +/- 3.3 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Doug Schwartz, Ph.D. since 1994, conducts independent, non-partisan national and state polls on politics and issues. Surveys adhere to industry best practices and are based on probability-based samples using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones.

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Email poll@qu.edu or follow us on X @QuinnipiacPoll.

14. Thinking about professional football, would you describe yourself as a super fan, a fan, a casual fan, or not a fan?

	ADULTS						
				AGE IN YRS			
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Super fan	10%	13%	7%	8%	10%	12%	9%
Fan	22	23	20	17	19	27	24
Casual fan	29	30	29	25	33	29	32
Not a fan	38	34	42	51	38	32	34
DK/NA	1	-	1	-	-	-	1

15. Do you think the NFL is doing too much, too little or about the right amount to help avoid serious injuries to professional football players?

	ADULTS						
				AGE IN YRS			
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Too much	4%	6%	2%	2%	7%	6%	2%
Too little	30	28	33	37	33	22	31
About right	42	48	38	41	38	49	43
DK/NA	23	19	27	20	22	24	24

	NFL FAN Q14				
	YES				
	Tot	Super	Fan	Casual	NotAFan
Too much	6%	9%	6%	5%	2%
Too little	30	28	26	33	32
About right	54	60	62	47	25
DK/NA	10	3	6	16	42

16. The NFL is considering moving the Super Bowl to President's Day weekend, so that it's always followed by a federal holiday on Monday. Do you support or oppose this change?

	ADULTS						
				AGE IN YRS			
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Support	56%	60%	53%	63%	64%	57%	42%
Oppose	18	16	20	16	12	17	30
DK/NA	26	24	28	21	23	27	29

	NFL FAN Q14				
	YES				
	Tot	Super	Fan	Casual	NotAFan
Support	64%	61%	71%	59%	46%
Oppose	18	27	17	16	18
DK/NA	18	12	12	25	36

16a. The NFL is considering moving the Super Bowl to President's Day weekend, so that it's always followed by a federal holiday on Monday. Do you support or oppose this change? COMBINED WITH (If support or oppose q16) Do you (support/oppose) this strongly or somewhat?

	ADULTS						
				AGE IN YRS			
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Support strongly	23%	28%	19%	21%	25%	31%	17%
Support somewhat	33	32	33	42	39	26	25
Oppose somewhat	8	8	8	10	6	5	11
Oppose strongly	10	8	12	6	6	11	19
DK/NA	26	24	28	21	24	27	29

	NFL FAN Q14				
	YES				
	Tot	Super	Fan	Casual	NotAFan
Support strongly	31%	43%	41%	19%	12%
Support somewhat	33	18	30	40	33
Oppose somewhat	7	8	9	6	8
Oppose strongly	10	19	8	9	10
DK/NA	18	12	12	25	37

17. Do you approve or disapprove of the NFL's decision to have the artist known as Bad Bunny perform the Super Bowl halftime show in February?

	ADULTS						
				AGE IN YRS			
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	48%	44%	51%	64%	52%	39%	36%
Disapprove	29	30	27	17	27	38	37
DK/NA	24	26	21	20	21	23	27

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	16%	74%	52%	41%	61%	65%
Disapprove	63	10	22	34	19	20
DK/NA	22	16	26	25	20	15

	NFL FAN Q14				
	YES				
	Tot	Super	Fan	Casual	NotAFan
Approve	49%	48%	52%	48%	46%
Disapprove	32	34	31	31	24
DK/NA	19	18	17	21	30

18. (If professional football super fan, fan or casual fan q14) The dynamic kickoff, introduced last year, is intended to encourage more kickoff returns and reduce the speed of collisions on the field. Do you prefer the dynamic kickoff rule or the previous kickoff rule?

	ADULTS						
	NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FANS Q14						
				AGE IN YRS			
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Dynamic	42%	44%	40%	56%	40%	35%	41%
Previous	37	43	31	30	36	46	37
DEPENDS(VOL)	1	2	1	1	3	-	1
DK/NA	19	11	28	12	20	18	22

	NFL FAN Q14		
	Super	Fan	Casual
Dynamic	46%	44%	40%
Previous	47	43	30
DEPENDS(VOL)	1	1	2
DK/NA	6	12	28

19. (If professional football super fan, fan or casual fan q14) The current NFL season has 17 regular season games and three preseason games. The NFL is considering adding another regular season game and removing a preseason game. Do you support or oppose this change?

	ADULTS						
	NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FANS Q14						
				AGE IN YRS			
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Support	60%	63%	57%	65%	63%	66%	51%
Oppose	21	23	20	18	19	17	30
DK/NA	18	14	23	17	19	17	20

	NFL FAN Q14		
	Super	Fan	Casual
Support	70%	66%	53%
Oppose	26	22	19
DK/NA	4	12	27

19a. (If professional football super fan, fan or casual fan q14) The current NFL season has 17 regular season games and 3 preseason games. The NFL is considering adding another regular season game and removing a preseason game. Do you support or oppose this change? COMBINED WITH (If support or oppose q19) Do you (support/oppose) this strongly or somewhat?

	ADULTS.....						
	NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FANS Q14.....						
				AGE IN YRS.....			
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Support strongly	21%	27%	14%	19%	21%	29%	19%
Support somewhat	39	36	43	47	42	36	31
Oppose somewhat	10	10	11	9	12	7	15
Oppose strongly	11	13	9	9	7	10	15
DK/NA	18	14	23	17	19	17	20

	NFL FAN Q14.....		
	Super	Fan	Casual
Support strongly	44%	24%	11%
Support somewhat	26	41	42
Oppose somewhat	6	11	11
Oppose strongly	20	11	8
DK/NA	4	12	27

20. (If support q19) Adding a regular season game would increase players' salaries but also increase their risk of injury. With that in mind, do you think adding a game would be worth it, or not worth it?

	ADULTS.....						
	NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FANS Q14.....						
	SUPPORT ADDING REGULAR SEASON GAME Q19.....						
				AGE IN YRS.....			
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Worth it	61%	69%	50%	54%	70%	63%	49%
Not worth it	33	26	41	42	24	30	43
DK/NA	6	5	9	4	5	7	8

	NFL FAN Q14.....		
	Super	Fan	Casual
Worth it	67%	65%	54%
Not worth it	25	31	38
DK/NA	8	4	8