

THE SPORTIER

XFL Gone, Again

With the destructive path of COVID-19 comes another victim. The XFL, a newly reintroduced football league with rules that made games more intense, played during the NFL's offseason. This year was the first year of the new XFL, with more structured rules and widespread broadcasting on ESPN and Fox. The league, which had allowed for former NFL players and young players seeking for NFL spot to continue playing football, has laid off all of its workers and has suspended all operations, with no plans to return for the 2021 season. The XFL most likely lost massive amounts of money due to the virus, as their playoffs were to begin this weekend. Another reason why the XFL may be facing trouble has to do with its owner, Vince McMahon. McMahon is also the chairman and CEO of WWE. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, WWE was in the midst of many issues. The WWE was bringing in amounts of revenue that were below expectations, which has led to their stock value to drop 42% this year. As this loss has dented McMahon's personal earnings, with his net worth fell \$1 billion this year and sits at \$1.9 billion, he may not want or be able to fund the league any longer. Either way, the XFL brought about a newer, faster-paced game that intrigued many. The XFL had a short stint, but they made the best of it.

MLB Still On?

With all sports leagues suspended across the globe, there have been serious talks to reopen one of these leagues. The MLB has discussed moving all games to Arizona. This plan, which has been supported by public health officials, would require the use of many fields, which would include the Arizona Diamondbacks' Chase Field and many other smaller facilities. These games would be played with no fans, and the players would have to live in Arizona, isolated, most likely in hotels and such, with travel restricted to only the stadiums and back. Though this sounds ideal, the players are not all in on this plan, for a good reason. The players would most likely be without their families for up to four and a half months, which would be an enormous sacrifice for many players. The leagues would be realigned to accommodate for the changes, as the Spring Training Grapefruit and Cactus leagues would be divided into divisions for play to resume, which could help or hurt many contending teams. Another genuine possibility is that the MLB continues play in Japan. ESPN's Tim Kurkjian was told by an MLB source that the league was going to start back up in Japan. With the Japan league preparing to play at the end of April, with games at night, the idea is that the MLB will play their games during the day. We may not be seeing any sports for a while, as the safety of the staff and players is paramount in situations like these. Even if the MLB does not continue, they have made significant strides to infuse sports into the world again.

Did You Know?

In the NFL, though it is considered a penalty if a team puts more than 11 players on the field, you are not penalized for having less than 11 on the field? Though there is no minimum number of players explicitly stated in the NFL's rules, during the 2017 NFL Playoffs in a game between the Saints and Vikings, the Saints had less than 11 players on the field. After the Vikings scored a game-winning touchdown as time expired, they were required to kick the PAT to finish the play, and the Saints had only 8 players on the field.



Sources:

[ESPN](#), [ESPN](#), [ESPN](#), [Bleacher Report](#), [Bleacher Report](#), [NFL Rules](#), [YouTube](#)