

The NHL needs a new point system  
and it needed a new one a decade ago

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Joint Statistical Meetings -Boston



# 2014 World Cup: USA v. Germany

Standings after 2 games

## Group G

#	Country	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	 Germany	2	1	1	0	6	2	4	4
2	 United States	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
3	 Ghana	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
4	 Portugal	2	0	1	1	2	6	-4	1

# 2014 World Cup: USA v. Germany



**Sherman Alexie** ✓

@Sherman\_Alexie



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Germany & USA both advance if they tie?  
A double draw is a good outcome? This is  
not a real sport.

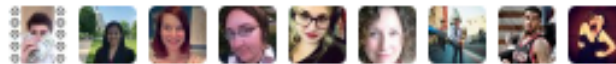
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2014 World Cup: USA v. Germany



Incentives to tie!



Nearly every NHL game since 2005



NHL Regulation: 2 pts, NHL OT: 3 pts

# Results under current point system

1. More OT overall



2. More OT in March & April

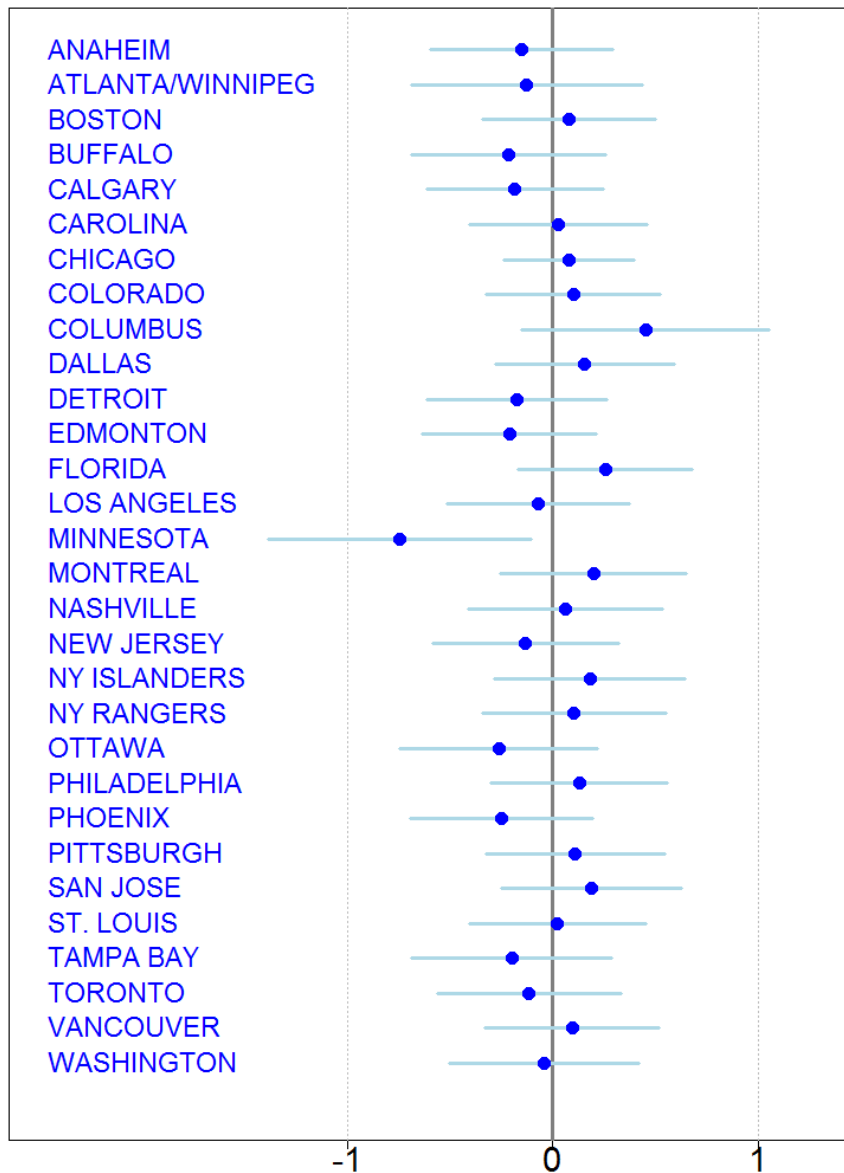
3. More OT in nonconference games

4. Scoring & shooting rates drop

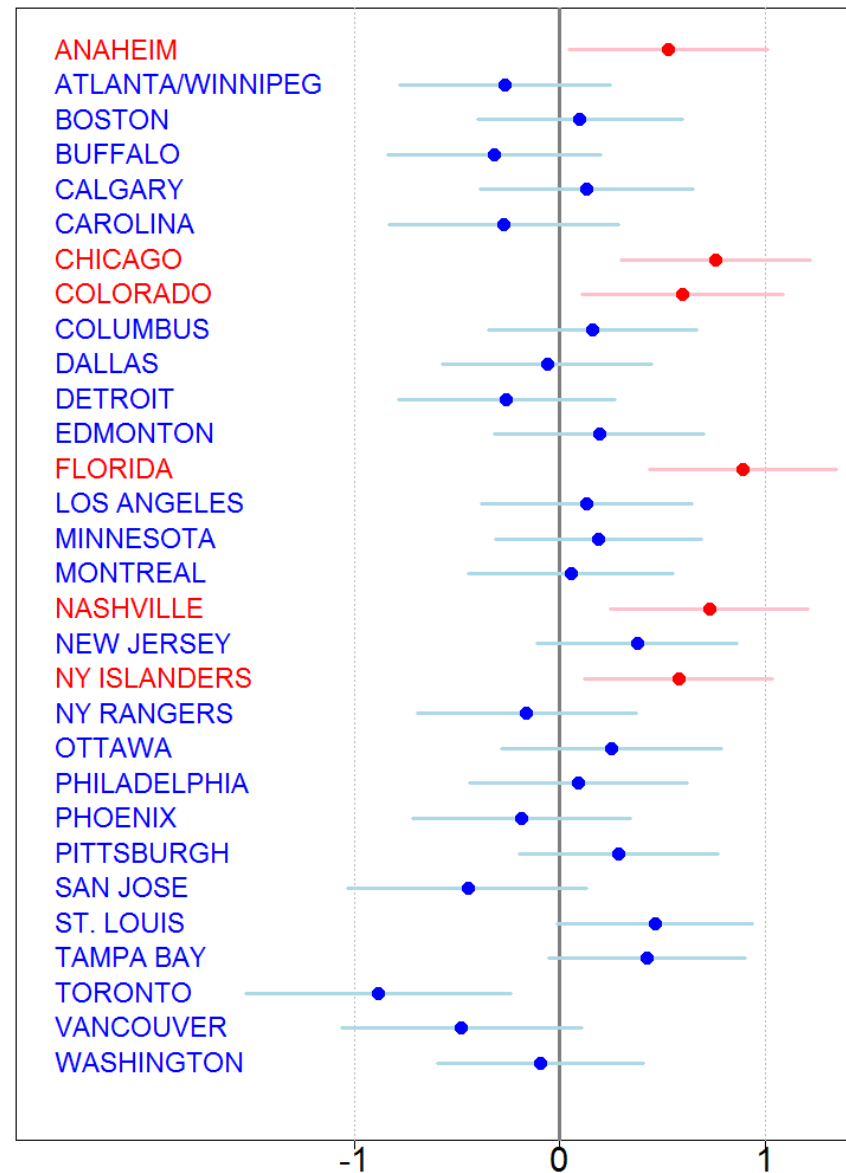


# Log-odds of OT, Nonconference vs. conference games (1997-2012)

## Pre 2004



## Post 2004



## Realignment to make things worse:

WESTERN CONFERENCE		EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Pacific Division	Central Division	Metropolitan Division	Atlantic Division
Anaheim	Chicago	Carolina	Boston
Calgary	Colorado	Columbus	Buffalo
Edmonton	Dallas	New Jersey	Detroit
Los Angeles	Minnesota	NY Islanders	Florida
Phoenix	Nashville	NY Rangers	Montreal
San Jose	St. Louis	Philadelphia	Ottawa
Vancouver	Winnipeg	Pittsburgh	Tampa Bay
		Washington	Toronto

Alternative system: 3 points for a regulation win

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