

LA Galaxy: Roster Efficiency & Player Value Report

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LA Galaxy's roster shows a concerning profile, with a net-positive average percent change indicating the team is generally better without its players – a significant red flag. The single greatest strength is the 2024-2025 Designated Forward group, where multiple players show elite negative percent change values (-34% to -53%). The most urgent roster need is the pervasive inefficiency across the rest of the roster, including several severely harmful TAM, U22, and supplemental players who make the team substantially worse when on the field.

2. PLAYER ABSENCE IMPACT METRIC

The *Player Absence Impact* metric, derived from the Lasso regression model, quantifies an individual player's marginal contribution to team performance. The process simulates the team's Pythagorean Expectation (PE) score with the player on the roster and then recalculates it after removing that single player.

The resulting **percent change** (% change) is the key indicator:

- **Negative percent change** (e.g., -53.9%) means the team's PE score *decreases* without the player, identifying a **valuable** asset.
- **Positive percent change** means the team's PE score *increases* without the player, identifying a **replaceable** or potentially harmful contract.

This metric allows the front office to evaluate roster construction efficiency by isolating each player's true on-field impact.

3. ROSTER HEALTH OVERVIEW

- **Genuinely Impactful (Percent change < -5.0%): 15.2%** (21 of 138 player-seasons). These players significantly hurt the team if removed.
- **Not Impactful / Replaceable (Percent change > 5.0%): 17.4%** (24 of 138 player-seasons). The team performs better without these players.

Team Summary (from team_summary.csv):

- Total player-seasons analyzed: 138
- Percentage of roster that is valuable (percent change < 0): **41.3%**
- Average percent change across all players: **+1.64%** (net-positive – the team is on average better without its players, a concerning sign)
- Average impact magnitude: **9.08%** (highest among teams analyzed, indicating high volatility in player impact)

4. DESIGNATED PLAYER ROI AUDIT

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change	Value Verdict
2021 F	2021	\$6,000,000	-39.34%	Elite Core
2021 M	2021	\$2,000,000	+0.78%	Marginal
2021 F (Intl.)	2021	\$1,440,000	-17.94%	Core
2022 F	2022	\$6,000,000	-39.63%	Elite Core
2022 F	2022	\$3,000,000	-29.13%	Elite Core
2022 M	2022	\$1,695,000	-0.06%	Core (Marginal)
2022 F (Intl.)	2022	\$1,650,000	-26.24%	Elite Core
2023 F	2023	\$7,443,750	-45.13%	Elite Core
2023 F	2023	\$4,508,333	-30.86%	Elite Core
2023 M	2023	\$1,732,500	+0.15%	Marginal
2024 M (Intl.)	2024	\$4,642,188	+1.67%	Marginal
2024 F (Intl.)	2024	\$4,182,000	-42.04%	Elite Core
2024 F (Intl.)	2024	\$2,459,000	-34.95%	Elite Core
2025 M (Intl.)	2025	\$5,779,688	+4.56%	Marginal
2025 F (Intl.)	2025	\$4,182,000	-53.97%	Elite Core
2025 F (Intl.)	2025	\$2,459,000	-44.73%	Elite Core

- **Flagged (Percent change < 0 - Valuable):** 11 of 16 Designated Player seasons show negative percent change. The forward DPs are consistently elite.
- **Flagged (Percent change > 0 - Harmful):** 5 players – all midfield DPs. 2021 M DP (+0.78%), 2022 M DP (-0.06% - *valuable, exception*), 2023 M DP (+0.15%), 2024 M DP (+1.67%), 2025 M DP (+4.56%). This represents a persistent failure to extract value from DP midfielder slots.

5. ALLOCATION MONEY EFFICIENCY (TAM / U22-INITIATIVE)

- **TAM Contributors (Negative Percent change):** TAM players show mixed results. Valuable TAM contributors include a 2022 M TAM (-0.24%), 2022 M TAM (-0.26%), 2023 M TAM (-0.12%, -0.32%), 2024 M TAM (-0.60%, -0.66%, -0.05%), 2024 D TAM (-10.15%), 2024 D TAM (-5.28%), 2025 F TAM (-18.81%), 2025 M TAM (-0.68%), 2025 D TAM (-12.53%, -0.50%). However, several TAM players show severely positive percent change: 2023 F TAM (+41.63%), 2024 F TAM (+10.32%).
- **U22-Initiative Impact:** U22 slots are generally ineffective to harmful:
 - 2021 F U22: +10.34% (harmful)
 - 2022 F U22: +11.90% (harmful)

- 2023 F U22: +64.86% (catastrophic)
- 2023 D U22 (Intl.): +1.82% (marginal)
- 2024 F U22: +19.45% (severely harmful)
- 2024 D U22 (Intl.): +1.67% (marginal)
- 2025 M U22 (Intl.): -0.86% (valuable)
- 2025 F U22 (Intl.): +24.51% (severely harmful)
- 2025 D U22 (Intl.): -1.20% (valuable)

Top 3 TAM "Steals" (Most Negative Percent change):

1. **2025 F TAM** (\$1,310,000, -18.81%)
2. **2025 D TAM** (\$844,667, -12.53%)
3. **2024 D TAM** (\$893,334, -10.15%)

6. HOMEGROWN PLAYER EVALUATION

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change
2025 F Homegrown	2025	\$80,622	+5.84%
2025 D Homegrown	2025	\$168,500	+3.49%
2025 D Homegrown	2025	\$80,622	+3.70%
2024 D Homegrown	2024	\$178,625	+2.40%
2024 D Homegrown	2024	\$143,500	+2.40%
2023 D Homegrown	2023	\$138,625	+2.99%
2023 D Homegrown	2023	\$118,500	+3.55%
2022 D Homegrown	2022	\$113,625	+3.06%

- **Ready for Roster Promotion (Negative Percent change + Low Salary):**
 - **None.** Every homegrown player in the dataset shows positive percent change. This is a critical failure of the homegrown player pipeline. LA Galaxy's academy is not producing first-team contributors.

7. INTERNATIONAL SLOT OPTIMIZATION

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2021 F	2021	F	\$1,440,000	-17.94%	Yes
2022 F	2022	F	\$1,650,000	-26.24%	Yes
2023 D U22	2023	D	\$492,000	+1.82%	No

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2023 F	2023	F	\$67,360	+52.18%	No
2024 M	2024	M	\$4,642,188	+1.67%	No
2024 F	2024	F	\$4,182,000	-42.04%	Yes
2024 F	2024	F	\$2,459,000	-34.95%	Yes
2024 M TAM	2024	M	\$1,216,667	-0.66%	Yes
2024 D TAM	2024	D	\$616,667	-5.28%	Yes
2024 D U22	2024	D	\$335,000	+1.67%	No
2024 D TAM	2024	D	\$238,000	+1.21%	No
2024 GK	2024	GK	\$150,000	+0.22%	No
2025 M	2025	M	\$5,779,688	+4.56%	No
2025 F	2025	F	\$4,182,000	-53.97%	Yes
2025 F	2025	F	\$2,459,000	-44.73%	Yes
2025 M TAM	2025	M	\$1,136,667	-0.68%	Yes
2025 D TAM	2025	D	\$844,667	-12.53%	Yes
2025 M U22	2025	M	\$694,800	-0.86%	Yes
2025 F	2025	F	\$600,000	+24.43%	No
2025 F U22	2025	F	\$571,250	+24.51%	No
2025 D	2025	D	\$526,281	-3.65%	Yes
2025 D TAM	2025	D	\$468,000	-0.50%	Yes
2025 D U22	2025	D	\$360,000	-1.20%	Yes
2025 GK	2025	GK	\$175,000	+0.26%	No

- **Flagged Slot Misuse (Percent change > 5%):**
 - **2023 F (\$67,360, +52.18%)** – catastrophic misuse of a supplemental international slot
 - **2025 F (\$600,000, +24.43%)** – severe misuse
 - **2025 F U22 (\$571,250, +24.51%)** – severe U22 slot misuse
 - **2024 M DP (\$4.64M, +1.67%)** – marginal but inefficient

8. POSITIONAL DEPTH AUDIT

Position	Senior Count	Supplemental Count	Critical Upgrade Need?	Strength Area?
F (Forward)	16	7	No	Yes (DP forwards are elite; TAM)

Position	Senior Count	Supplemental Count	Critical Upgrade Need?	Strength Area?
				forwards also valuable; U22 forwards are harmful)
M (Midfielder)	16	6	Yes	No (DP midfielders are consistently marginal/harmful; TAM midfielders are neutral)
D (Defender)	18	4	Yes	No (Most defenders show positive percent change; TAM defenders are the exception)
GK (Goalkeeper)	6	3	Yes	No (Most GKs show neutral to positive percent change; no elite impact)

- **Critical Need:** Midfielder position (DP level), Defender position (senior level), Goalkeeper position, and Homegrown pipeline across all positions.
- **Strength:** Forward position at the DP level is an elite organizational strength.

9. SALARY vs. VALUE MATRIX

Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
CORE ASSET	% change < 0 & Salary > \$500K	2025 F DP (\$4.18M, -53.97%), 2025 F DP (\$2.46M, -44.73%), 2024 F DP (\$4.18M, -42.04%), 2024 F DP (\$2.46M, -34.95%), 2023 F DP (\$7.44M, -45.13%)
HIDDEN GEM	% change < 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	Very few. 2024 GK (\$111K, -0.20%) and 2025 GK (\$104K, -0.76%) are marginal. LA Galaxy struggles to find value at lower salary bands.
OVERPAID	% change ≥ 0 & Salary > \$500K	All in this quadrant: 2023 F TAM (\$1.06M, +41.63%), 2023 F U22 (\$651K, +64.86%), 2024

Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
		F TAM (\$1.31M, +10.32%), 2024 F U22 (\$684K, +19.45%), 2024 F (\$496K, +17.63%), 2025 M DP (\$5.78M, +4.56%), 2025 F (\$600K, +24.43%), 2025 F U22 (\$571K, +24.51%)
REPLACEABLE	% change ≥ 0 & Salary \leq \$500K	Most senior midfielders and defenders, the majority of homegrown players, U22 players, and a large portion of the supplemental roster.

10. YEAR-OVER-YEAR TRENDS

- **Designated Player ROI: Bimodal excellence and failure.** Forward DPs have been consistently elite across 2021-2025 (-17% to -54%). Midfielder DPs have been consistently marginal to harmful (+0% to +5%). This suggests positional scouting excellence at forward and systemic failure at midfield.
- **TAM Efficiency: Bimodal.** Some TAM players are elite (-10% to -18%). Others are catastrophically harmful (+10% to +41%). This indicates inconsistent TAM allocation.
- **U22 Efficiency: Poor to catastrophic.** Most U22 players show strongly positive percent change (+10% to +65%). This roster mechanism is being severely misused.
- **Homegrown Impact: Concerning failure.** Every homegrown player in the dataset shows positive percent change. The academy pipeline is not producing first-team contributors.
- **Goalkeeper Trend: Mediocre to poor.** Most GKs show neutral to positive percent change. No elite impact from this position.

11. SUMMARY FIGURES

Figure 1 - Designation Analysis
 (Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

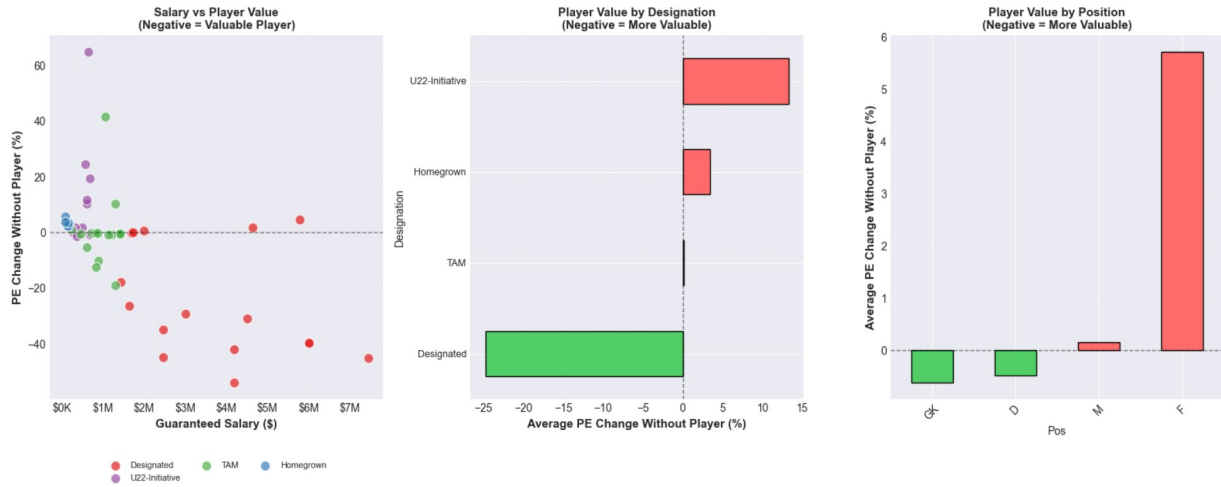


Figure 2 - International Analysis
 (Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

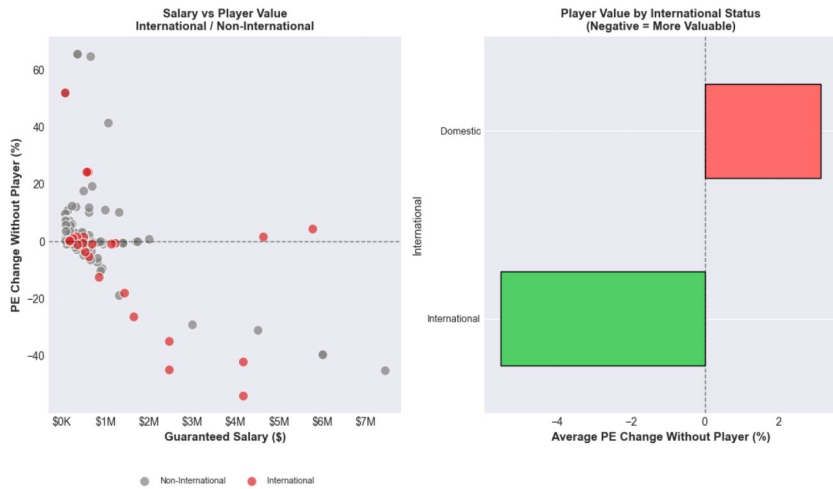


Figure 3 - Senior/Supplemental Analysis
 (Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

