

“The Shack” College Football Pool Official Rules -2026/27

Entry Fee \$200 – pay by September 1st, 2026 (Venmo @Michael-Ahlbrandt, Ca\$hApp \$MichaelAhlbrandt mail check (preferred) to: **Michael Ahlbrandt 4493 Village Gate Drive Arlington TN 38002**. Cash can be given in person (do not mail cash). I will still pay winners \$300 via Venmo or Cash App. I’m trying to stay under the \$2,500 threshold for 2026 so send old school check if you have one.

Determining the Winners new changes from 2024 in red:

This year we will have the same format as last year. There will still be a weekly payout of **\$300** to the person with the most points each week (there will be a tie breaker in place). The weekly payout will start on Week 1 and continue through Week 14 (No payout for Week 0 and Army/Navy Week). **There will be two sets of winners (Regular Season and then the CFP Playoffs)**

“The Shack” pool winner(s) will be determined based on which player(s) have accumulated the most points after the conclusion of:

- The first 15 weeks games (Conference Championship Games & Army/Navy) **\$300** paid to the person with the most points each week
- CFP First Round, Quarterfinals, Semi-Finals and Championship Game determines winners for CFP Playoff Round

There will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th, all the way to 10th place winners for the College Football season and also 10 winners for the CFP Playoffs (see Tiebreakers below). Winnings will be distributed as follows:

1st – First pick of prize pool. 2nd – Second Pick of remaining prizes 3rd – Third pick of remaining prizes, etc, until 9th who gets to pick from 2 remaining prizes, 10th gets final prize. (Last year’s prizes were Samsung 75” TV, Turtle Box Speakers, Yeti 65 + Cash, Ninja Slushi Machine + Cash, \$400 Bottle of Whiskey + Cash, Yeti M20 & M12 Backpack Coolers and also \$1000 Cash)

How to Accumulate Points for a Prize at the end of the Regular Season * Points are accumulated by the following:

- o Weekly picks (1-14)
- o Conference Championship Games (SEC, ACC, BIG-10, BIG-12) and Army/Navy

After the conclusion of Army/Navy, the Top 10 people will win a prize and everyone will start back zero points.

Weekly picks will run during the regular season from **August 28th - December 12th** (including the conference title games, as applicable) for all FBS (I-A) teams.

1) The weekly picks games will include games with at least one Top 25 team, the weekly ‘Lame Game’ (see details below) and the weekly ‘*Shack Crap*’ games (see details below). We will use the AP Poll to determine the top 25 teams until the CFP standings are released during the season, at which time we will use the CFP Top 25 teams).

Weekly picks points are awarded as follows, based on picking the winner (no spread, straight-up winner) **new changes in red**:

Top 25 games - 2 points for lower ranked team, 1 point for higher ranked team (e.g., if no.15 team beats no.18 team you get 1 point; if no.18 team wins you get 2 points). However, if an unranked team wins it’s worth 3 points. If unranked beats Top 10 it’s worth 4 points and if unranked beats Top 5 it’s worth 5 points

Top 10 vs. top 10 game - 4 points for lower ranked team, 2 points for higher ranked team

Top 5 vs. top 5 game - 6 points for lower ranked team, 3 points for higher ranked team

Weekly ‘Feature Game’ - doubles the point values of the selected game (e.g., Normally 4pts and 2pts for Top 10 game; Feature would be 8 pts and 4 pts for top 10 vs. top 10 game; 12 pts and 6 pts for top 5 vs. top 5 game). The feature game will be selected by the weekly ‘Swami’ – which will rotate among participants each week based on random drawing prior to start of the second week of the season (CFP Championship games excluded). The Feature Game total points chosen (without going over) will be the tie breaker for the **weekly \$300 payout**. If more than one person chooses the same point total, the **\$300** will be split between these players. If both players go over then the lowest person would be the winner.

Weekly ‘Lame Game’ - includes 2 non-top 25 teams (3 points); this game is also selected by the weekly ‘Swami’.

Weekly ‘Personal Pick’ – Select winner of any (Top 25 team game) each week that you consider a “lock win” to gain an additional 2 points.

Cannot pick the same team for your personal pick more than once during the season. No “Lame Game” or “Shack Crap” teams

Weekly ‘Shack Crap’ – “The Shack” proprietor (me) will pick three games not included in the Top 25 or the Swami’s selections each week (regular season only); you pick the winner of any one of the games for an additional 3 points.

Perfect Week - 5 bonus points if you get ALL picks correct in a particular week (regular season only, excluding Army-Navy week & Playoff Rounds)

Official picks and standings can be found online at <http://theshackarlington.com>. **Picks will be posted each week only after everyone has submitted them. This is why you need to try and get the survey completed the day before our games start so I have time to post the picks. This is a lot of data entry and is quite time consuming.** Weekly results will normally be posted the following Sunday or Monday, along with the current week’s schedule. The new schedule won’t be available until after the Top 25 Rankings are released on Sunday or when CFP Rankings are released (usually on Tuesday @ 6:00 p.m.)

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How to Accumulate Points for a Prize at the end of the CFP Playoffs

CFP First Round Bowl games – **3** points for higher seeded team, **6** points for lower seeded team.

CFP Quarter-Final Bowl games – Fiesta, Cotton, Rose, Peach - **4** points for higher seeded team, **8** points for lower seeded team.

CFP Semi-Final Bowl games – Orange, Sugar - **6** points for higher seeded team, **12** points for lower seeded team.

CFP Championship Game - **16** points

This year will be picking CFP First Round, Quarterfinals, Semi-Finals and Championship Game (not all Bowl Games). These points will **not** be added to the Regular Season point total since they are a separate pool. The Pre-Season Picks points will **not** add to the season total either, they just pay **\$300** to the person with the most correct guesses.

There will be Pre-Season picks for the following:

- o Top 2 Final Teams: Big12/ Big 10/ ACC/AAC/ SEC (**2** points each)
- o Conference Champion for: Big 12/ Big 10/ ACC/AAC/ SEC/ (**4** points each)
- o Heisman Trophy winner (**5** points)
- o CFP Championship teams (**7** points each)
- o CFP Champion (must be one of the two championship teams selected above) (**12** points)

Pre-Season Picks are due prior to the kick-off of the September 3rd games (a link will be emailed for this survey)

Deadlines

A. Weekly picks must be submitted electronically according to these guidelines:

Games played during the upcoming week (Monday-Sunday) - must be submitted by the posted game time (**try to have them in the day before**) of the first game of the week (*weekly Swami must submit selections to "The Shack" proprietor by Sunday night after the updated rankings are posted*). I will text you and remind you it's your week.

B. If for some reason you cannot access the games for the week via internet, make sure to contact me prior to the kickoff of the first game of that week for assistance with submitting your picks

C. IF YOU DO NOT GET YOUR PICKS IN ACCORDING TO THE ABOVE DEADLINES, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE GIVEN AWAY TEAMS FOR EACH GAME ("Shack Crap Game" & "Personal Pick" games won't be chosen) and you will NOT ELLIGIBLE FOR \$300 PAYOUT

College Football Season Prize Winner Selection Rules

Tie-Breakers

At the conclusion of the Regular Season and CFP games, if a tie exists for 1st Place, the following tie-break rules determine the winner:

- 1 The greatest number of weeks won during the regular season, if no winner go to 2
2. Pre-season Pick's Conference Champions (most points); if no winner, go to 3
3. Total of Weekly "Feature" Game points won during the regular season, if no winner see 4 below
4. Tied players flip a coin to decide the winner who gets to pick first from the prize pool. If more than two are tied for a place then these individuals would play odd man out with coins until one winner remains (Winner picks first)
6. A tie for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and following places will also use this formula (1-4 above); winners pick from best remaining prizes
7. If no ties exist except for 10th then the 10th place winners will flip a coin to decide the winner. If more than two are tied for 10th place, then these individuals would play odd man out with coins until one winner remains(exclusive odd man wins prize)

Miscellaneous

• To contact the "The Shack" proprietor, make sure to use this email address: mahlbrandt69@gmail.com or call/text to (901)647-8695

• Picks are submitted using www.shout.com formerly kwiksurveys.com; a link will be emailed to each contestant once the schedule is set for the upcoming week for you to submit your picks. You must submit all your picks for the week at once prior to the posted kickoff time for the first scheduled weekly game that we are picking.