

2026 Rookie & Free Agent Draft Overview

Cutdown Deadline

Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, 8 pm CT (9 pm ET, 6 pm PT)

Submit cuts to geoffcooper3000@gmail.com (Commissioner) and pbergovoy@gmail.com (Assistant Commissioner) no later than 8 pm CT on 1/2/2026. Once cuts are submitted you may no longer make trades until the first pick of the draft is “on the clock” at 8 am CT 1/15/2026.

Teams that don’t submit cuts by the deadline will have their cuts made by the Commissioner.

Release of Final Pre-Draft Master DB

Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, 11 pm CT (Midnight ET, 9 pm PT)

Trade moratorium continues until 8 am CT 1/15/2026. (**Note:** GMs can continue to talk trade and agree on deals, but all trades from this point to the completion of the draft can only be reported as FINAL when they involve players-for-players.)

Week 1 of Draft

Weeks 1, 2 and 3 of draft require **Google Docs** and **Slack**. Picks will be announced in Slack by the selecting manager, and the selecting manager must then move the selected player in Google Docs (further instruction forthcoming). Assistance will be available upon request.

If there is a trade, it must be announced in Slack and the draft is on pause (no selections may be made) until the Commissioner has confirmed the trade.

Official Start of Rookie & Free Agent Draft is Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, 8 am CT (9 am ET, 6 am PT)

- Thursday, Jan. 15, and Friday, Jan. 16, 2026 – 1-hour draft slots with picks due every hour beginning at 9 am CT and ending 9 pm CT (13 picks per day – **26 total picks**)
- Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026 – 30-minute draft slots with picks due every 30 minutes beginning at 9 am CT and ending 9 pm CT (26 picks – **52 total picks**)

- Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026 – 1-hour draft slots with picks due every hour beginning at 9 am CT and ending 9 pm CT (13 picks per day – **65 total picks**)

Week 2 of Draft

- Monday, Jan. 19, through Friday, Jan. 23, 2026 – 1-hour draft slots with picks due every hour beginning at 9 am CT and ending 9 pm CT (13 picks per day – **130 total picks**)
- Saturday, Jan. 24, through Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026 – 30-minute draft slots with picks due every 30 minutes beginning at 9 am CT and ending 9 pm CT (26 picks per day – **182 total picks**)

Week 3 of Draft

- Monday, Jan. 26, 2026 – 1-hour draft slots with picks due every hour beginning at 9 am CT and ending 9 pm CT (13 picks per day – **195 total picks**)

Live Draft

For the live draft segment, an optional **Zoom** link will be provided, however, all managers must continue to make selection announcements in Slack and finalize their selections in Google Docs.

- Thursday, Jan. 29, and Friday, Jan. 30, 2026 – 3-minute pick slots beginning at 6 pm CT and ending at 11 pm CT (100 picks per day – **395 total picks**)
- Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026 – 3-minute picks slots beginning at 6 pm CT until ends (Note: Expect 20 to 40 picks total in this round based on past draft with the draft ending likely no later than 10:30 pm CT)

Final post-draft Master DB to be released that night.

Zoomers welcome to stay online for post-draft chat and debrief – always a fun time.

Post Draft and Post-Draft Add/Drop

Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026

- Commissioner will audit Master DB and game site rosters.
- Trading of players and 2027 draft picks is allowed.
- **Each team allowed 1 roster adjustment** – adding a player from ZXFA and replacing a player on their 40-man roster. This is a feature we allowed through the 2021 Draft (Post-Draft Add/Drop) and are restoring this year. This adjustment must be submitted to geoffcooper3000@gmail.com between 9 am and

3 pm CT. Requested changes will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis with the Commissioner's selection (if any) processed at Noon CT.

How the Timed Draft Picks Work

The following applies to all picks beginning Jan. 15, 2026, through Jan. 26, 2026:

- GM must make selection before the PICK DUE date and time logged in the Google Docs Draft Board but not until the prior selection's PICK DUE time has passed.
 - Please note the PICK DUE dates and times are **highlighted in yellow** on the "2026 Draft Results" tab in the Google Doc.
 - At the end of each night, the Commissioner will send an updated MASTER DB to all GMs and update the Dynasty Game Site with all selected players and finalized trades.
 - In the Google Doc, **the GM will recast the pick times for the next day**. GMs should review the pick schedule before the next day's draft and plan accordingly. If you are unable to make your selection, feel free to share names with the Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner, or other trusted GM, and they can make your selection for you. **To text or call the Commissioner, please use this number – 414-331-8374 – or message in Slack when it relates to the draft.**
- AA selection is **made** in the **Slack App** by announcing your pick in this format – "DET picks Justin Verlander, P." Once you've announced the selection in Slack before your PICK DUE time, that player is yours, however, you must finalize the selection in the Google Doc.
- A selection is **finalized** in the **Google Doc** by:
 - For the selected player, copying Columns A-through-J on "ZXFA Free Agents" tab and pasting it in your draft slot on the "2026 Draft Results" tab.
 - **Note:** If you need help with the Google Doc, please indicate so when making your pick in Slack. There are typically people in the Slack chat who can help you finalize the selection.
- For picks during the Zoom portion of the draft (Jan. 29 through Jan. 31, 2026), PICK DUE times are approximate. GMs are expected to actively participate (Zoom optional) to keep track of when their next selection is. The Commissioner, or a proxy, will announce who is "on the clock" and that team will have 3 minutes to make their selection once this post is made.
