

2020 RULES

This page will be permanently posted on the website, and cover a variety of issues that affect the Pool throughout the entire year, everything from Wednesday's lines to Loser Pool situations.

Pending changes

There is a real possibility we will be prevented from holding the Banquet this year, for the first time in 40 years, but that decision will be made near week 8. If that happens, we will likely add a 4th place winner beginning Week 9.

THE LINES

Initially, years ago the Plain Dealer was used as the standard for the Pool.

It was then changed to Tuesday's USA Today to accommodate people that were out of town on business and couldn't get the local paper. This worked well for years, but was finally moved to Wednesday's USA Today to cut down on the number of NL, (NO LINE) games early in the week due to pending injury reports.

But in this day and age, being dependent on *printed media* seems almost archaic. This brings us to what should be the final adjustment we'll have to make concerning the lines.

The official line will be posted on the League website on Wednesday mornings before noon. They will be an aggregate of information gathered across the internet by the League secretary.

All lines will have ½ points to prevent ties. Any game listed as Pick, Even or NL, the home team will be minus -½ point.

Wednesday may still have a few NL games, but they should be cut down considerably, since we'll have more resources to consider.

POSTPONED GAMES

There was an instance in 2013 where a game was not played on Sunday, and moved to Monday due to a storm. Therefore the following rule will apply.

Any game postponed to a later day and not completed by 6:00 am Tuesday morning will be eliminated from the weekly contest, unless the game in question is a Monday Night Game. In that case, the results for the week will be delayed until that game is played. The MNF game and its tie-breaker is too important to delete altogether.

ERRORS

Many of you know that I have a minor obsession with accuracy. But no one is infallible.

After over 20 years of typing X's and nicknames onto the sheet each week, I finally passed the one million entries mark in 2015 – but I also completely missed a new member's text of his games a few years ago – I can only say that with the addition of the website several years ago – fixing a mistake before game time is now possible, but I have to know about it before I can.

Which is why the Rule below is so important.

The weekly printout has been available on Saturday evening for over three decades.

THE RULE - *It is each player's responsibility to check their games for accuracy. If they find a possible discrepancy, they have until one hour prior to the start of that week's first game to email, text, or call me, at which time I will double check it, or make a change if a mistake has been made. If a change has been made to the sheet, I will note the change on the website no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of that week's first game.*

The weekly Deadline is still 4 pm Saturday afternoon.

In summary, the Printout posted by kick-off of the 1st game is OFFICIAL.

LOSER POOL

This circumstance occurred twice in the last few years, and required the following rule to be implemented.

The Loser Pool requires players to pick two teams to LOSE.

If a game ends in a tie, players that had either team as their teams in the Loser Pool are out. The logic being "You didn't pick a loser, you picked a tie".

No Thursday games (or Saturday games with a start time earlier than 4 pm) will be part of the Regular Pool or the Loser Pool. Games postponed to a later day will be part of the Loser Pool as long as they are completed by 6 am the following Tuesday morning.

There are no tie-breakers in the Loser Pool. To advance, players must correctly pick two teams to lose.

Loser Pool Schedule (Week 1, 4, 7, 10, and 13).

BONUS POINTS

A few years ago, we made the switch to 4 Bonus weeks after several years of having just 3. The change was received well almost unanimously. Bonus Points will be awarded after weeks 4, 8, 12 and 17 for the player(s) with the most Total Wins after those weeks. If two or more players have the same number of Total Wins, the 1st tie-breaker will be the player with the most wins THAT week, (4, 8, 12 and 17). [The reason for this being the 1st tie-breaker is simple – it provides the opportunity for a member to have a massive windfall – should someone close to the top to actually win the WEEK – which causes them to also win the BONUS – case in point – DJ-200 in 2017]. The 2nd tie-breaker is the player closest to the Total Points scored in the Monday Night Game. If a tie still remains after this, they will split the Bonus Points evenly. Everyone resets to zero after weeks 4, 8, and 12. (Based on the last few years, the Bonus Points should be roughly 2,200 2,200, 2,200 and 2,700 for weeks 4, 8, 12 and 17 respectively – (Week 17 being higher because that section has 5 weeks, while all the others have 4).

HR (High Roller) BONUS POINTS

There is no tie-breaker for HR Bonus Points. If two or more players are tied after weeks 4, 8, 12 and 17, they will divide the HR Bonus Points evenly. HR entries will be finalized Week 2.

Membership Breakdown

Possible changes for 2020. The Membership Breakdown is as follows:

70% Weekly (70%, 20%, 10% - for 1st, 2nd, 3rd respectively, possibly 4th place beginning week9)
12% Bonus weeks (4, 8, 12 and 17), Secretary, Website, Supplies, Miscellaneous.

PED's (Performance Enhancing Drugs)

Players caught using PED's will receive a one-year ban for their 1st offense and a lifetime ban after that. In 2012, FinMan was suspected of using PED's due to the performance he turned in down the stretch, but was eventually cleared after testing negative by two League doctors. Reno , Pickem-Dun-Right and N.D. were also suspected in 2013, but they too were cleared.

All 4 players remain on the "Random Testing List".