# 2024 NFL Pick'em Plus Founder's League League Rules & Prizes

	League Summary & Pools						
The Pick'em Plus League spans the	The Pick'em Plus League spans the regular NFL season and extends into the Playoffs for a full season of picking						
and rooting for prizes. The league consists of a variety of unique pools that sets it apart from others out there!							
Regular Season Pool	Playoff Squares Matrix	Survivor Pool					
Pick the winners of all games	The 5 places just out of the \$ (#4-	All players select one team they					
straight-up each week and score	#8) each week and the 5 end of	think will win/tie each week. Once a					
bonuses if underdog picks win (1 +	season places just out of the \$ (#6-	team is selected, it cannot be					
spread/10). The Top 3 win prizes	#10), along with 5 low \$ winners win	selected again. If the team selected loses, a "strike" is counted against					
	weekly and the next 5 ranks win a  a Playoff Square. These 100						
second chance in a Playoff Squares	the player. 5 strikes and the player						
Matrix. Top 5 overall season	every day of the NFL Playoffs & SB	is eliminated. Tie breaker based on					
pickers win prizes + next 5 Squares.	to win in a 100 Square Matrix.	spread to encourage gutsier picks.					
Playoff Confidence Pool	Playoff Spread Pool	Playoff Head-to-Head Pool					
Everyone assigns a unique	All players pick playoff winners	Top 48 players qualify for (3) 16					
confidence rank 14 to 1 to each of	against the spread along with	player single elimination head-to-					
the 14 NFL Playoff teams at the	over/under line as a tie breaker for	head brackets. Pick the winners of					
beginning of the playoffs and scores	all playoff games prior to each	each Playoff game against the					
points based on Playoff wins and	playoff week. Super Bowl total	spread along with over/under line.					
the confidence assigned to each	points are used as an additional tie	Beat your opponent to move on to					
winning team. Top 5 overall scores	breaker. Top 5 overall scores win	the next round. 3 prizes awarded					
win prizes.	prizes.	for each of the 3 pool brackets.					

# **Prize Calculations & Distribution**

Entry fee is \$100 for the season and the chart below depicts all 186 possible chances to win with 96 cash prizes along with calculations in a pool with 60 players. Refer to the sections that follow for detailed explanations.

Overall Pool Prize Distribution						
Number of Players	60 Pool Management 5%					
Pool Entry Fee/Player	\$100.00	Prize Distribution \$95.				
Total Prize Distribution	# Prizes	% Per Player		Total		
Regular Season Pick'em Prizes	159	80.0%	\$76.00	\$4,560.00		
Playoff Pick'em Prizes	17	10.0% \$9.50		\$570.00		
Survivor Pool Prizes	5	5.0% \$4.75		\$285.00		
Playoff Confidence Pool Prizes	5	5.0% \$4.75 \$285		\$285.00		
Total Overall Pool Prizes	186	100%	\$95.00	\$5,700.00		

Regular Season Prize Distribution	# Prizes	%	% Total	Season
Weekly Prizes (#1-#3)	54	80.0%	64.0%	\$3,648.00
Overall Season Prizes (#1-#5)	5	10.0%	8.0%	\$456.00
Playoff Squares (#4-#8)	100	10.0%	8.0%	\$456.00
Total Regular Season Pick'em Pot	159	100.0%	80.0%	\$4,560.00

Playoff Pick'em Prize Distribution	# Prizes	%	% Total	Season
Playoff Spread Pool	5	40.0%	4.0%	\$228.00
Playoff Head-to-Head Pool	12	60.0%	6.0%	\$342.00
Total Playoff Pick'em Pot	17	100.0%	10.0%	\$570.00

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## What's New This Year? 2024 is our 10<sup>th</sup> online season (14<sup>th</sup> overall) at www.pickemplus.com We changed the source for pulling spreads this year from www.oddsshark.com to ESPN. This was due to OddsShark changing their HTML format every year and hopefully the ESPN feed will be more stable going forward. This season, we will allow late submissions for those who miss the weekly Thursday deadline so that players would still have a slightly handicapped chance to win that week and most importantly, it doesn't destroy their overall season chances by getting a 0 that week with the following conditions: Thursday's pick (and any that have already passed). Survivor pick and Monday night tie breaker points are forfeited Picks for the remaining games that week will be emailed to the Pool Administrator for manual entry A \$5 administration fee will be paid electronically for the labor intensive decoding and **New Rules** encoding of pick data to insert into the database. The fee is an admin processing fee **Features** and will not increase any pool payouts. Deadline for emailed picks and \$5 electronic admin fee is due by that Saturday 11:59pm ET. If both are not received by then, the week's picks are forfeited. Players who picked but missed one or more picks are also eligible to submit the \$5 fee and email their missed pick(s) in but any existing picks cannot be changed. Thursday and Survivor picks are not eligible as "missed picks". Late submissions are allowed for the entire regular season except for Week 18, the last week of the season where a player can potentially gain an unfair advantage knowing the picks of the season leaders despite forfeiting the first game. For transparency, all manually added late submission picks will be announced to the entire pool prior to the start of Sunday's games. We welcome any and all feedback throughout the season to help us make the league even better.

	Pick'em Plus Founder's League Rules & Logistics
General Pool Logistics	<ul> <li>Sign up for the entire season as there are no partial season options or refunds.</li> <li>\$100 Entry fee must be received within the first 2 weeks of the season or else a \$5/week late fee is assessed starting Week 3 for players who have not paid in full.</li> <li>95% of the entry fee funds all of the 183 chances to win prizes</li> <li>80% of the prize pool funds the 3 weekly prizes, the 5 regular season overall prizes and the 100 2<sup>nd</sup> chance Playoff Squares Matrix with 9 prizes</li> <li>10% of the prize pool funds the 2 Playoff pick'em pool formats with 9 prizes for the 3 qualifying Head-to-Head pools &amp; 5 prizes for the Playoff Spread pool which everyone is eligible for</li> <li>5% of the prize pool funds the regular season Survivor Pool</li> <li>5% of the prize pool funds the Playoff Confidence Pool</li> <li>5% is a management fee to operate and maintain www.pickemplus.com throughout the entire NFL season &amp; playoffs.</li> <li>A mailing list nfl pickem@moukki.net is used to communicate with all Pool participants</li> <li>By default, replies to emails sent from the mailing list is sent to the entire list</li> <li>Feel free to respond to the group for friendly banter, trash talking, etc.</li> </ul>
	All prize winnings are accumulated and paid out the week after the Super Bowl
Pool Website & Tracking	<ul> <li>The Pick'em Plus pool can be accessed at <a href="https://www.pickemplus.com">www.pickemplus.com</a></li> <li>The website was designed with mobility in mind and is very mobile-friendly. Picks can be made with a tap of large buttons that allow users to easily make their picks while on the go.</li> </ul>
Pool Integrity	<ul> <li>The Pool Administrator takes precautions to ensure the Pool is run honestly and fairly.</li> <li>League owners and all players in Pick'em Plus will not have the ability to see any other player picks until the deadline has passed.</li> <li>All picks for the entire week are due by kick-off of the week's first game (usually Thursday evenings). If the deadline is missed, the system locks the picks and they cannot be entered by the player afterwards. With the ubiquity of smart phones, set a weekly</li> </ul>

- reminder to submit your picks and with Pick'em Plus designed to be mobile-friendly, there's no excuse for missing the deadline.
- Any errors or disputes should be brought to the attention of the Pool Administrator the
  week that it occurs and data from previous weeks cannot be disputed or modified once
  play for the following week has begun
- The Pool Administrator makes any judgment calls and has the final say in any irregularities or disputes, and reserves the right to correct any system or automation errors at any time as long as they are communicated to all pool participants
- This is a friendly and fun pool with the hope that everyone has a lot of fun with prizes as an added bonus. Happy picking and best of luck!

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Weekly Picks, Reminders & Submission	<ul> <li>Pick the winners straight-up for every game each week and submit a tie-breaker guess for the score of the last game of the week</li> <li>A player scores 1 point for picking a favorite correctly and 1 + (Spread/10) points for an underdog correctly to reward gutsier picks.</li> <li>Knowledge of the spread is not necessary to make the picks as a player only scores points if the pick wins with a little bonus if the underdog wins. No points are awarded if a pick is wrong.</li> <li>The spread is pulled from an ESPN source and are pulled at 12pm ET on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week and are locked after the Thursday update.</li> <li>The administrator reserves the right to set any game spreads that do not have an active line from the spread source by researching other websites to arrive at an average value.</li> <li>The difference between the last game's combined score and each player's</li> </ul>
	combined guess with a 0.5 point penalty for guessing over is used as the Tie Breaker difference.  • Picks can be made and updated any time up until kickoff of the first game of the week.  • The League Owner and all players in the league do not have access to anyone's picks except their own before the weekly deadline.  • If a player fails to submit their picks before kickoff of the week's first game, all of their picks are blank and a 0 tie-breaker score is assigned
Weekly Picks Summary	<ul> <li>Once the weekly deadline has passed, all players can see everyone else's picks and the percentages that each team was picked within the league.</li> </ul>
Scoring, Weekly Results & Prizes	<ul> <li>Each game outcome is scored using the following criteria:         Favorite wins: 1 point         Underdog wins: 1 + (Spread/10) points         <ul> <li>The weekly results are sorted by:</li></ul></li></ul>
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Here are some likely scenarios and the percentage distributions amongst the Top 3

Base	Case	2 Top F	Points	Uncont	ested	Solo W	inners
Rel Pts	% Pot	Rel Pts	% Pot	Rel Pts	% Pot	Rel Pts	% Pot
n	57.1%	n + 1	60.0%	n + 1	66.7%	n + 2	69.2%
n	28.6%	n + 1	30.0%	n	22.2%	n + 1	23.1%
n	14.3%	n	10.0%	n	11.1%	n	7.7%

- The 5 players who are ranked 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> every week receive a "Playoff Square" and are automatically entered into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Playoff Squares pool
- The Overall Season Results are sorted by:
  - Total Score (including bonus points for correct underdog picks)
  - # Correct Picks
  - Lowest Average Tie Breaker Difference throughout the season
- If there is still a tie after the tie-breakers, the prizes are split amongst those who tied
- The split between the Top 5 is based on the "strength-of-win" separation between the player totals for the season. Similar to the weekly split, a player who dominates is rewarded more. At a minimum, each rank wins 25% more than the previous rank and the "base case" where all 5 ranks are each separated by a point, is set for each rank to win 50% more than the previous with bonuses built-in for scoring more relative points.
- Here is the formula with Rank Multiplier = 0.25 and Point Diff Multiplier = 0.25

Rank	Weight Formula:
1st	(1 + Rank Mult + (Pts(1st) - Pts(2nd)) * Pt Diff Mult) * Weight(2nd)
2nd	(1 + Rank Mult + (Pts(2nd) - Pts(3rd)) * Pt Diff Mult) * Weight(3rd)
3rd	(1 + Rank Mult + (Pts(3rd) - Pts(4th)) * Pt Diff Mult) * Weight(4th)
4th	(1 + Rank Mult + (Pts(4th) - Pts(5th)) * Pt Diff Mult) * Weight(5th)
5th	1

## Season-end Results & Prizes

• Here are some possible scenarios with differing percent allocations

5-way	y Tie	Base	Base Case 2 Step Ties 2 Per Rank Wi		2 Step Ties		nk Win
Rel Pts	% Pot	Rel Pts	% Pot	Rel Pts	% Pot	Rel Pts	% Pot
n	29.7%	n + 4	38.4%	n + 4	40.0%	n + 8	45.6%
n	23.8%	n + 3	25.6%	n + 2	22.9%	n + 6	26.1%
n	19.0%	n + 2	17.1%	n + 2	18.3%	n + 4	14.9%
n	15.2%	n + 1	11.4%	n	10.5%	n + 2	8.5%
n	12.2%	n	7.6%	n	8.4%	n	4.9%

- The 5 players who are ranked 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> at the end of the Season receive "Playoff Squares" and are automatically entered into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Playoff Squares Matrix pool
- 4 "pity squares" are allocated to the 4 highest ranked players with the lowest overall \$ winnings
- 1 "futility square" is allocated to the highest ranked player who didn't win anything, including Playoff Squares, but if not enough qualify, additional pity squares are allocated instead

#### **Survivor Pool Play Format**

# Survivor Pool Rules & Prizes

- The Survivor Pool is played during the Regular Season and runs concurrently with the weekly pool
- The player specifies one team to win each week and is "alive" as long as they keep picking a team that doesn't lose each week. A player "survives" if the game ends in a tie. Once a team is picked, it cannot be picked again the rest of the season.
- Each player is allowed 5 wrong picks or strikes before they are "dead" and eliminated from the Survivor Pool.
- No default picks are used so a missed pick counts as a strike against the player
- To encourage gutsier picks, the cumulative spread of each team picked is used as a tie breaker criterion.

- Picking a 7 point favorite adds -7 to the player's Survivor spread total.
- Picking a 1 point underdog adds +1 to the player's Survivor spread total
- While still alive, the spread of the player's pick is added to their spread total regardless of whether the pick is correct or incorrect.
- Final ranking is determined by:
  - Weeks survived
  - Strikes against
  - Total combined spread of all picks
  - Season rank during week ousted from Survivor pool
- 5 prizes are awarded based on rank and strength-of-win (SoW) of strikes/weeks survived
  - SoW formulas are the same as the ones used in the season prize calculations
  - SoW Multiplier = 100% which means the weight is doubled for each less strike/extra week survived compared to the next rank
  - Rank Multiplier = 50% which means each rank is weighted 50% more than the previous rank
  - Sample values depicted below with a pool of 60 players

# Players	SoW Crit	Prize \$	SoW Mult	Rnk Mult
60	Strk/Wks	\$285.00	100.0%	50.0%
Rank	SoW Diff	Weight	%	\$
1	2	14.0625	45.8%	\$130.60
2	2	9.375	30.5%	\$87.07
3	1	3.75	12.2%	\$34.83
4	1	2.5	8.1%	\$23.22
5	0	1	3.3%	\$9.29
Total	6	30.6875	100.0%	\$285.00

	Post-Seaso	on Playoff Pools Sumi	mary Chart	
Playoff Pool Type	Playoff Squares	Playoff Confidence Pool	Playoff Spread Pool	Playoff Head-to- Head Pool
Quick Summary	Using the Playoff Squares collected during the regular season, win \$ based on scores during the playoffs	Rank all playoff teams on confidence to win SB and score points based on confidence weights	Pick all games against the spread and over/under line as tie breakers	Pick against spread and compete head- to-head against an opponent in elimination brackets
Qualification	90 – 5/week #4-8 5 – Season #6-10 4 – Pity Squares 1 – Futility Squares	Everyone	Everyone	Pool A #1-16 Pool B #17-32 Pool C #33-48 Pool D #49 - #64 Remainder
Prize % of Total Pot	8%	5%	4%	6%
# Prize Winners	Wildcd A (1&2) 10% Wildcd B (3&4) 10% Wildcd C (5&6) 10% Divisional Sat 10% Divisional Sun 10% Championship 10% Super Bowl/Qtr 10%	5 with each rank winning 25% more	5 based on strength- of-win of # correct Each rank wins 50% more + strength-of- win 100% per point bonus	12 with each bracket allocated 100% more. Within each pool bracket (A,B,C,D), win 50% more per final rank
Entry Submission	None Determined during regular season	Once before playoffs start	Weekly during playoffs	Weekly for those who remain where picks pulled from Playoff Spread Pool

#### Post-Season Playoff Pools & Play Format

- The Playoff Squares consists of 100 squares in a 10x10 Matrix, similar in concept to a Super Bowl Squares matrix, but with several twists and opportunities
- The idea is to give those players close to being "in the money" each week and at season's end a second chance at winning prizes and keeping their hopes alive throughout the NFL Playoffs regardless of how they performed during the regular season

To qualify for a Playoff Square:

# Playoff Squares Matrix 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Opportunity & Prizes

Weekly Squares	Season Squares	Pity Squares	Futility Squares
5 squares for 4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	5 squares for 6 <sup>th</sup> -	4 squares for the	1 square for the
places each week.	10 <sup>th</sup> overall ranked	highest ranked low	highest ranked
90 squares over	players	\$ winners	nothing winner (no
the 18 week			\$ and no squares)
regular season			

- The X-Axis of the Matrix represents the last digit of the score for the AFC Team (or matchup) and the Y-Axis represents the last digit of the score for the NFC team (or matchup)
- For the 3 weeks of the NFL Playoffs leading up to the Super Bowl, there are 5 playoff days & 6 winners:
  - Super Wildcard Weekend: 6 playoff games where each of the winning scores' last digit will determine the winners from the Matrix.
    - Matchup A: Games 1 & 2
    - Matchup B: Games 3 & 4
    - Matchup C: Games 5 & 6
  - Divisional Round: the AFC and NFC winners of the Saturday and Sunday games represent the AFC and NFC in using their winning scores to determine winners from the Matrix.
  - Championship Round: the AFC and NFC champions will use their winning scores to

determine winners from the Matrix.

- For the Super Bowl, the AFC and NFC champions represent the X and Y axis respectively and the scores after each Quarter are used to determine the winners. If the game goes into Overtime, the Final score is used in lieu of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter score.
- The digits 0 through 9 are used along each axis in the Matrix and are randomized based on the total score of the final game of the regular season multiplied by the NFL season year. This calculation is used as the randomizer seed which creates a reproducible randomization as each seed generates its own unique set of digits.
- 2 sets of random numbers are generated, one for the Playoffs and the other for the Super Bowl to mix things up so that a player who receives unlikely numbers (for example 2-2) for one set, are not stuck with them throughout both the Playoffs and the Super Bowl

There are 9 chances to win and the opportunities are detailed as follows:

Playoff Squares Prize Distribution	%
Wildcard Winners Games 1 & 2	10.0%
Wildcard Winners Games 3 & 4	10.0%
Wildcard Winners Games 5 & 6	10.0%
Sat AFC / NFC Divisional Winners	10.0%
Sun AFC / NFC Divisional Winners	10.0%
AFC / NFC Championship Winners	10.0%
Super Bowl End of Q1	10.0%
Super Bowl Halftime	10.0%
Super Bowl End of Q3	10.0%
Super Bowl Final Score	10.0%
<b>Total Playoff Squares Prizes</b>	100%

• The Playoff Confidence Pool is available to all players regardless of their performance during the Regular season which has no bearing on this pool except to break unlikely ties

- Each player ranks all 14 NFL Playoff teams on a scale of 1 to 14 with 14 representing the team that is most likely to win the Super Bowl and 1 being the least confident
- Team confidence levels are submitted before the playoffs begin and used throughout
- There are 4 Playoff rounds that correspond to each week of the NFL Playoffs and each subsequent week has a higher round weight associated with the week.

# Playoff Confidence Pool Play Format

Playoff Round	Round Weight	# Winning Teams
1 – Wildcard	2	4
2 – Divisional	3	4
3 – Championship	4	2
4 – Super Bowl	5	1

- Each player's score for each round is calculated by multiplying the confidence (1 14) assigned to the playoff winners by the round weight and summing up the totals.
- Each player's Confidence pool total score is the sum of the scores for all 4 rounds
- Bear in mind that the #1 seed in both the AFC and NFC conference have a bye week for the Wildcard Playoff round which means they score 0 points for that round
- There are no defaults. A player who fails to submit on time forfeits their confidence entry.
- Final Playoff Confidence Pool Ranking for all players are ranked by:
  - Total Playoff Confidence Score
  - Total Confidence Round 1 Score
  - Total Confidence Round 2 Score
  - Better overall Season final rank
- Prize details can be found in the Post-Season Playoff Pools Summary Chart

# Playoff Spread

 The Playoff Spread Pool is available to all players regardless of their performance during the Regular season which has no bearing on this pool except to break unlikely ties

## Pool Play Format

- Picks are selected against the point spread (to help vary the limited picks) and underdog bonus scoring does not apply during the Playoffs. A pick for the favorite is correct only if the favorite wins by at least the point spread. Otherwise, the pick is incorrect and a pick for the Underdog is awarded a point.
- Tie-breakers are based on the total points for each game.
  - For Rounds 1 3, players pick Over (+) or Under (-) against the Over/Under line. If the total score is exactly the Over/Under line, no tie breaker points are awarded.
  - For Round 4, players provide the total points for the single Super Bowl game
- There are no defaults. A player who fails to submit on time forfeits all games for that week but that does not exclude them from picking in a future playoff week.
- Final Playoff Spread Pool Ranking for all players are ranked by:
  - Total Playoff games picked correctly against the spread (11 total games)
  - Total Over/Under games chosen correctly against the Over/Under line (10 games)
  - Super Bowl total points difference with 0.5 point penalty for guessing over
  - Final Regular Season Rank
- Prize details can be found in the Post-Season Playoff Pools Summary Chart
- The prizes for the Head-to-Head Playoff pool is limited to the Top 64 overall ranked players at the end of the regular season
- There are n Playoff brackets of 16 players each:
  - Bracket A consists of the top 16 players ranked #1–#16
  - Bracket B consists of the next 16 players ranked #17–#32
  - Bracket C consists of the next 16 players ranked #33 #48
  - Bracket D consists of the next 16 players ranked #49 #64
  - Bracket n consists of the remaining players that do not form a full bracket
- A full playoff bracket consisting of 16 teams is eligible for prizes. The last bracket with remaining players will not win prizes.
- Each Bracket consists of 4 playoff rounds of head-to-head play with predetermined initial matchups based on qualifying ranked seed (#1 vs #16, #2 vs #15, etc).
  - The first 2 rounds are single elimination where winning players advance and losers are out. 8 players in Round 1 & 4 players in Round 2 from each pool are eliminated.
  - Starting Round 3 (Championship Round) where 4 players remain in each Playoff bracket, players are no longer eliminated.
  - Round 4 (Super Bowl Round) pits the winners of Round 3 against each other to determine the Champion as well as the losers to determine final bracket ranking.
- For those players who are alive in the Head-to-head playoff pool, the same picks from the Playoff Spread pool are used as their picks against their opponent.
  - Picks are selected against the point spread
  - Ties are based on the Over/Under line and Super Bowl total points
- No defaults, a player who fails to submit on time forfeits against their opponent.
- Winner of each matchup is determined by (playoff rounds the criteria is applied):
  - Games chosen correctly against the spread that week (Rounds 1-4)
  - Over/Under chosen correctly against the Over/Under line that week (Rounds 1-3)
  - Lowest difference in combined score with a 0.5 penalty for going over (Round 4)
  - Higher (better) starting playoff seed (Rounds 1-4)
- Final Playoff Bracket Ranking for all players in each bracket are ranked by:
  - Total Playoff head-to-head wins
  - Total Playoff games picked correctly against the spread
  - Total Over/Under games chosen correctly against the Over/Under line
  - Higher (better) starting playoff seed
- Prize details can be found in the Post-Season Playoff Pools Summary Chart

## Head-to-Head Playoff Pool Qualification & Play Format