

ROY ULTIMATE POOL PROSPECTUS

"Respectus the prospectus"

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The Ultimate Pool

The Pool

It spans fourteen months and all the major sports, sure to provide daily satisfactions and frustrations, encouraging endless anticipation and speculation, and in the end separating the cognoscenti from the dilettantes.

The Season

It begins with the first stage draft (NFL football, Premiership Soccer, Champion's League Soccer, NCAA Football) in early September, and concludes with the World Series of the following year.

The Contestants

Fourteen team owners vie for the prizes and prestige. Teams are expected to create a team name for identification purposes.

The System

Each owner drafts two representatives in each featured sport, except in NCAA football, Champion's League Football and Premiership Football, where a single team is drafted. In NCAA basketball, one school is selected at season's start, and the second before the NCAA tournament.

The Scoring

Scoring is designed to reflect ultimate success, not regular season success. Ergo, championship winners are awarded full points; playoff participants always outpoint non-playoff participants; and one Major championship victory usually exceeds four final eight appearances. Teams are rewarded for making the playoffs. The two lowest scorers in each 'major' sport carry a significant penalty, (minor sports are exempt) which is intended both as a spur to the free agent process, and as a discouragement to the minimum bid strategy in any sport.

Tiebreaking scheme for team sports: In the four major team sports, any teams that finish with equal records (or total points, in Hockey) will be ordered by scoring differential. The team with the better margin between points (or runs/goals) for and against will be judged the higher finishing team. Where the margin is equal between teams, they will be split the points for their respective spots.

The Cost

\$750 (paid entirely in advance by early October)

The Prizes

Total pot is $14 \times \$750 = \$10,500$ plus F Agents less domain fees

First Place:	\$6000 (+free agent fees) (- cost to maintain web domain)
Second Place:	\$1800
Third Place:	\$1350
Fourth Place:	\$900
Fifth Place:	\$450

The Pool in Detail

The Sports

NBA Basketball; NHL Hockey; NFL Football; Major League Baseball; Prestigious Golf Championships; Prestigious Tennis Championships; NCAA Basketball Tournament; Premiership Soccer; Champion's League Soccer; NCAA Football. (Golf and tennis championships to be included are determined by the convenor, and indicated before the draft for that sport)

Premiership and Champion's League Soccer, NCAA Basketball and NCAA Football are treated as minor sports under the scoring system.

Selections

Each ownership faction acquires two teams from each major team sport; two male golfers; and two tennis players (either gender). Two teams are acquired in NCAA Basketball, one at season's start and one at the start of the NCAA Tournament. One selection is made in NCAA Football, Premiership Soccer, and Champion's League.

The Drafts

The drafts are meant to be conducted in person. The site and date for each draft are chosen by the convenor and are not subject to negotiation. If an ownership group cannot attend the draft, it is their responsibility to ensure that a proxy attends.

Given that this pool is undoubtedly the most important item on everyone's agenda, it is assumed that owners will make the time for the four draft meetings throughout the year.

Now, in light of COVID, we have been forced to consider alternatives. It was a pleasant surprise that a 'Zoom Auction' was a success – and affords us some relief if another pandemic emerges. Nevertheless, we will continue to have in-person draft whenever we can.

The Timeline

1st week in Sept: NFL Football, NCAA Football, Premiership, Champion's League

Early/mid October NHL Hockey, NBA Basketball, NCAA Basketball (first team)
Initial Fee of \$750 must be paid

Early-January, (before Aussie Open): Tennis, Golf

Mid-March: NCAA Basketball (second team), Baseball

End of World Series: Payouts to winning teams

As the times near, exact dates are provided.

The Draft is an Auction

Owners bid in minimum \$1 increments (exception: absent owners will automatically bid \$5 on every nominated team until they have acquired their teams). Each team begins the season with *150 bidding dollars*. This imaginary fund is the entire budget per team, to be used to complete the drafts for all the sports. Therefore, if ten dollars are used in the football draft, the ownership faction is left with \$140 to draft for the remaining sports.

The draft in each sport begins with the convenor choosing an ownership group at the convenor's discretion (usually with an eye on last season's winner in that sport). That group is required to make an opening bid on a selection of their choice. Bidding ensues.

When a group has won a bid, the ownership group seated to their right begins the next round of bidding. Once a group has acquired both of its representatives, it can no longer partake in the bidding, nor is it permitted to nominate a new selection. There is no ceiling on the bidding and the floor is a \$1 bid. If a selection is introduced and nobody else bids, the faction that introduced the selection is forced to take it for the bid made (unless there is an absent owner in need of a team, in which case \$5 will be automatically bid). No bids can be retracted.

Once all the roster spots have been filled in each sport (generally 2 per sport) the draft ends. Unselected teams and individuals in each sport are eligible for free agent acquisition once the season starts.

In absentia bidding system

When an ownership group fails to attend a draft, they will be subject to the ***in absentia bidding system***. They will be assumed to bid \$5 (subject to their remaining budget) for every team introduced until they have acquired their teams. Thus, they will get their teams at a price of \$5, and will have no choice in the matter (i.e. they will not get to pick up their preferred choices of those teams that go unselected, at a price of \$1). If someone nominates the worst franchise in the league, an absent owner will automatically make a bid of \$5, and get that team. Thus, missing a draft will cost draft dollars, and likely (though not certainly) necessitate entering the free agent pool, at the usual \$75 cost. Gentlemen, attend the drafts or send a proxy.

The Convenor

The convenor collects the money and cares for it. He handles the logistics of each draft. The convenor oversees the free agent process and arbitrates any disputes. His decision is law. He can keep any interest earned on the principal as payment for his dedication and selfless service.

The Free Agent Process

An ownership group is allowed to drop any of its choices and pick up any available choice in its stead. Success in the individual sports is not applied retroactively. Therefore, free agents commence earning points only from their time of acquisition. (Eg: If Mackenzie Hughes is acquired as he wins a tournament, that tournament and any before it will not count towards that team's points) Free agents are picked up on a first-come, first-serve basis by emailing the entire ownership group, and it must be confirmed by the convenor before it is official.

The cost for a free agent is \$75.00 – this is real money, not draft dollars.

The money earned through free-agent acquisitions will be added to the winner's portion of the pot.

Free Agent Deadlines

NFL	Before week eight
NHL	February 1
NBA	February 1
MLB	July 1
Tennis	before French Open
Golf	before PGA (now in spring)
NCAA Foot.	October 1st
Premiership	December 1st
NCAA Basketball	Feb 1st
Champions:	no free agents in this sport

Scoring System

	NHL Hockey	NBA Basketball	NFL Football	MLB Baseball		Tennis	Golf
Winner	40	40	40	40		40	40
finalist	36	36	36	36		36	36
Semifinalist 1	31	31	31	31		31	31
Semifinalist 2	29	29	29	29		29	29
Quarterfinalist 1	24	24	24	24		24	24
Quarterfinalist 2	22	22	22	22		22	22
Quarterfinalist 3	20	20	20	20		20	20
Quarterfinalist 4	18	18	18	18		18	18
9th	12	12	12	12		12	12
10th	11	11	12	12		11	11
11th	10	10	11	12		10	10
12th	10	10	11	11		10	10
13th	9	9	9	7		8	8
14th	8	8	9	7		8	8
15th	7	7	5	6		6	6
16th	6	6	4	6		6	6
17th	3	3	3	3		4	4
18th	3	3	3	3		3	3
19th	1	1	1	1		2	2
20th	1	1	1	1		1	1
places 21-26	0	0	0	0		0	0
27th (second last)	-10	-10	-10	-10		-10	-10
28th (last)	-10	-10	-10	-10		-10	-10
	281	281	281	281		281	281

In the NBA, teams in the 17th-20th slots are part of the Play-In format adopted in 2021. Those eliminated in the play-in tournament will receive less points (effectively, they will be considered the 9th- and 10th- ranked teams in their respective conference).

Golf – we score (and then rank) with money won (us\$) in the chosen tournaments. For the Major tournaments, we use 100% gross up on those dollars won: multiplying their winnings by 2 (this is new in 2024...it used to be a 50% gross up). We will also be adding a 1.25 factor to the Player's Championship (what many call the '5th major').

The convenor will select the tournaments each year with an eye a range of 10- 12 total (including 4 majors).

LIV Tour complications are currently not an issue – this is a PGA based tournament selection. LIV players can be selected (you might believe they will come back to the PGA...or will be allowed at different tournaments) – but those players will be severely hamstrung by only participating in the Majors. (given what we know at this point (March/24).

Tennis – Given the difficulty in finding the money lists for the lesser tournaments that we follow, we use our own method of scoring. This allows us to draft women and men and not care how many of each are drafted.

We will use two separate point systems, one for majors and one for the lesser tournies.

Majors:

Winner – 50 points
Finalist – 30
Semis – 20
Quarters – 12
Rnd of 16 – 8
Rnd of 32 – 5
Rnd of 64 – 3
First Round – 1

Not Majors:

20 points
10
7
5
3
2
1

(Should a player withdraw from the tournament, and he/she IS replaced in the draw, then that player is not eligible for any points (that is not a 1st round loss). If the player IS NOT replaced in the draw, then that player gets the points as a loss in the round in which they withdrew.)

This system clearly puts the onus on the major tournies (2.5X as valuable) while maintaining a reasonable reward for the 'other events'. Essentially, making the major semis is comparable value to winning the non-major tournies. Tournaments are selected by the convenor, but will include 6 Masters 1000 events to accompany the majors. There is an effort to consider the season in 3 thirds that revolve around the respective majors + Wimbledon (uniquely the grass surface; there are not enough quality grass events to support a 4th grouping with multiple events).

Minor Scoring Sports:

Scoring for NCAA Basketball and Football, and Premiership and Champs League, reflects their more modest place in the pantheon:

NCAA Basketball and Champions League

Champion: 20 points

Finalist: 15

Semi-Finalist: 12

Quarter-Finalist: 9

Final Sixteen: 5

Loss in 1st or 2nd round: 0 points

Failure to make the tournament: -5

New rule (starts with '23-24 season): if an NCAA basketball team is selected that FAILS to qualify for the March Madness tournament, there is a -5 charge for that team.

Champions League (soccer)

Winner: 20 points

2nd place: 15 points

3rd and 4th place: 12 points

5th-8th place: 8 points

9-12th place: 3 points

13th - beyond : 0 points

NCAA Football (new system to accommodate the 12-team playoff)

1st: 20 points

2nd: 15 points

3rd and 4th: 12 points

5th – 8th: 9 points

9th – 12th: 5 points

13th – beyond: 0 points

example: if the 3rd (or any) playoff team is not selected, those points are not earned...as in: this is NOT a ranking of the teams selected in the Ultimate Pool. This means that not all drafted teams will earn points.

Premiership

1st: 15 points

2nd: 12 points

3rd: 10 points

4th: 9 points

5th: 8 points

6th: 6 points

7th: 5 points

8th: 4 points

9th: 3 points

10th: 2 points

Same as above (for NCAA football) – Ultimate Teams selected need to earn the points above...if the 4th place team is not selected, those points are not given to anyone..

What Else?

That's it.

Simple

Greatest pool ever created.

Odd if you don't feel some pride just by being involved.