

FANTASY FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2026/27

INTRODUCTION and RULES

Welcome to the fourth season of Fantasy Football League. It will cost you only £5 to enter and that is for the whole of the 2026/27 Season. The FFL 2026/27 entry deadline will be midnight on Monday 31st August 2026. Fantasy Football League is based on the very successful Fantasy Non-League competition that I have run in the Non-League Paper for over twenty years.

You will be able to view your teams progress throughout the season in The Football Paper and on my website with weekly updates on either Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

My website can be found at <https://iwfantasyfootball.yolasite.com/>

Once again, the **EARLY ENTRY BONUS** will be in play. Those of you who play the Fantasy Non-League competition will be very familiar with this concept.

So, how does the Early Entry Bonus work? Well, if you are brave enough to enter the competition before **NOON** on Saturday 8th August 2026 you will receive an **EARLY ENTRY BONUS** of 500 points. The game starts on that Saturday, and all players start accumulating points from that Saturday whether they have entered before the start of the season or just before the deadline on the 31st of August 2025. Hence the 500pts if you enter before a ball is kicked.

I still get emails and calls from Fantasy Non-League players commentating on the fact that we allow people to enter the competition nearly four weeks into the season. The reason for this is that The Football Paper does not appear until early August 2026. Ideally, it would be better to start the competition before the season starts but if we did, we would miss a lot of possible players. My normal answer to everyone that asks this question is everyone can either put their entry in before the season starts and gain an extra 500pts or before the deadline at the end of August 2026. In fact, I know that many players in the Fantasy Non-League enter at least two teams one before the season starts and one before the 31st of August deadline when they have had a chance to study the form of the first three weeks or so of the season.

There will be Manager of the Month awards, through the season. The top three teams and the bottom team each month will receive a cash prize. In total, there will be eight Manager of the Month awards with the last one being April 2027. The first Manager of the Month will be September 2026.

At the End of the Season there will be cash prizes for the top three places and a prize which is personally my favourite, and that prize will be for finishing in bottom spot, so why not enter two teams one to win it and one to lose it. I have discovered in Fantasy Non-League that it is in fact harder to finish bottom than it is to finish in first place.

Every season I like to make a few changes to the competition and this season is no different. This season there will be just two changes. *(So please make sure to take note of the changes).*

1. The first change is to do with how you select your teams on the entry forms. For those of you who are veteran FNL players and have been with me from the start you will remember that the leagues use to be split into sections. I have decided to bring this back. So, each league will be split into four sections, and you will need to pick one team only from each section.
2. The second change is quite controversial and many of you may be annoyed with me, but it is a decision I have been contemplating for a few seasons now. I have decided to remove the substitutions from the game. So, the choices you make in August 2026 will be with you for the whole 2026/27 season. This will mean you will really need to study your teams, and I know many of you do this anyway. (The only way you will be able to change a team is if unfortunately, any teams fold and leave a league. If this does happen I will inform you of the

teams that are available to replace the lost team).

The Rules for Fantasy Football-League 2026/27: - (Please read these very carefully).

1. You will need to choose 4 teams from each of the six leagues. As stated above each of the leagues have been split into 4 sections and you must pick 1 team from each section. *(Which will give you a total of 24 teams)*. Then you will need to nominate your 5 FFL JOKER TEAMS from the 24 teams you have already picked. Those five teams will mean that you will receive double points throughout the season. That will include all bonuses awarded during the season it will also include the End of Season bonuses. Then you will need to pick your SUPER JOKER which must be 1 of your original 5 jokers. This will mean that you will receive treble points for that team. The SUPER JOKER could will be key to you either finishing top or bottom so pick wisely. (On the entry form in the paper please put a tick against each of your chosen teams. A "J" instead of the tick if you also want that team to be one of your jokers and "SJ" against the team that you want as a Super Joker).

2. Points allocation, in all six Leagues.

(There are some changes from last season, these changes are in red).

League & Cup games:

Home win = 10pts + goals Away win = 20pts + goals

Home Draw = 2pt + goals Away Draw = 4pts + goals

Home Defeat = -10pts Away defeat = -5pts

Every goal scored = 1pt (This counts if your team wins, draws or loses).

Every goal conceded (Win & Defeat only) -1pt.

Goal Bonus Points = 5pts (This is awarded if your teams score 4 or more goals).

Goal Bonus Points = 5pts (This is awarded if your teams score 8 or more goals).

Clean Sheet Bonus = 5pts (This is awarded for both wins and 0-0 draws).

Concede 4 goals = -5pts (This does not apply to drawn games).

Concede 8 goals = -5pts (This does not apply to drawn games).

(Two-legged ties count as two separate games. Cup replays that go to penalties. The penalties are only used to decide the winner. No points are awarded for the penalties scored).

Bonus points for reaching various rounds in each Cup competition:

For reaching the FA Cup 1st round proper and each round beyond = 25pts. (National Premier/National North & South).

At the third round proper of the FA Cup not only will National League teams get the bonus so will League One and Two teams. For reaching the Quarterfinals and each round beyond in all the other cup competitions that are involved in the competition which are listed below = 25pts.

League Leaders & Bottom Club bonus:

At the end of each month up to and including April 2027 the top three teams leading each of the six leagues will be awarded **40pts, 20pts & 10pts** respectively. The bottom three teams of the six leagues will be awarded **-40pts, -20pts & -10pts** respectively. (Please remember and this is important these bonus points will only count towards the main FFL season total and not the Manager of the Month points).

Manager of the Month Bonus Points.

Each month the best and worst team in each of the ten leagues will be awarded **40, 20 & 10pts** and **-40, -20 & -10pts** respectively. (These bonus points only count in the Manager of the Month calculations).

Play-Off Games:

The actual Play-Off games themselves will be awarded points as if they were league games. The Play-Off Final winners will be awarded 150pts for gaining promotion. The defeated team in each play-off

final will be awarded 50pts. *(All these points will be awarded at the end of the season).*

End of Season Bonus Points: *(These points will be awarded at the end of the FFL Season in May 2027).*

All League Champions will receive 250pts for winning their respective leagues. Second place will get 125pts and third place will receive 60pts. The bottom team in each league at the end of the season's Fantasy Football-League will be awarded -250pts. Second from bottom -125pts and third from bottom -60pts.

Cup Winners will receive 250pts for the FA Cup/EFL Cup/FA Trophy and 150pts for the other Cups. Play-Off Winners will receive 150pts.

New this season, the team that goes the furthest in the FA Cup & EFL Cup will receive 100pts if there is more than one team each will receive 100pts.

Remember if your FFL Joker team get these bonuses they will be doubled, for example a league champion picked in August 2026 at the start of the FFL Season will win you 500pts. Also, if your Super Joker is a league champion that team will gain you 750pts.

The following Leagues and Cup competitions will be involved in this season's Fantasy Football League: -

The Championship - FA Cup & EFL Cup

League One - FA Cup, EFL Cup & EFL Trophy

League Two - FA Cup, EFL Cup & EFL Trophy

National League - FA Cup and FA Trophy.

National North - FA Cup and FA Trophy.

National South - FA Cup and FA Trophy.

Please note the National League Cup is not included in the competition.

Entry this season will be the same as normal either via the Non-League Paper (in July)/Football League Paper (from August) or on-line via the FFL website. If you can enter on-line I would suggest you do as this is the easiest way.

FFL HELPDESK - 07909993854/EMAIL - iwfantasy@btinternet.com

My Fantasy Website - [FANTASY FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2023/24 \(iwfantasyfootball.yolasite.com\)](http://FANTASY FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2023/24 (iwfantasyfootball.yolasite.com))