

## 2010 Football Depth Chart & Free Agent Instructions

1) At the top of your chart please write your league and team number (shown on your league roster), your name, your team name, and the date you are sending in the chart. Please do not forget that new depth charts/free agent lists must be submitted (postmarked, faxed, e-mailed or sent in from your league's web site) by before kickoff of the first NFL game each week to take effect for that week's Scoresheet games. Please **send in your first week's depth chart** by/before Wednesday, September 9th if possible, but **at the very latest by 5 PM Thursday Sept 9th, to have it used for the first week's game/draft**. List players on the depth charts/free agent lists by both **Scoresheet player number and last name**. If you are listing a player that you do not have a number for please include his full name, NFL team, and position.

2) **Offense:** Under this section you should list the players you want to start for your offensive unit. List one QB; one TE; and either 3 WR's and 1 RB; or 2 WR's and 2 RB's. **\*\*NOTE:** The last WR/RB slot in the offense section can be filled by either a WR **or** by a RB. If one of your higher listed starting WRs or RBs is out we will move the guy you listed in that last WR/RB slot up to replace the missing player, if he plays that position. To try and use your highest listed backups, if the player you listed in that WR/RB spot does not play that week, or is moved up into one of the first 2 WR spots or first RB slot because of injury, then that last spot will be taken by your top listed backup who plays either WR or RB. For example, if you have a WR in that last spot, and one of your first 2 wide receivers is out, the WR you listed in the WR/RB slot will move up to fill the missing WR slot, and then your top backup who plays either WR or RB will move into the WR/RB slot. So, **if you want a backup WR to play ahead of a backup RB make sure you list that backup WR ahead of the backup RB on your bench, and vice-versa!**

**NOTE: Players MUST be listed at the same position on the depth chart as they are listed at on our player lists!** Also, you **can** list players as starters even if they are injured or have a bye; in either case your backup will automatically be used, and when the starter is back playing in the NFL then he will start for you.

3) **Defense:** List the players you want as defensive starters here. List 2 each at DL, LB, and DB. Just as in offense, you should list whomever you would like to start if healthy, and in case a player is out the backup will automatically take over.

4) **Special teams:** List one kicker, one punter, and one special team.

5) **Backups:** In this section you can list up to 15 players, including: 1) any players you have rights to but are not using as a starter; or 2) any players you think you might get this week in the draft (you could even list those potential free agent pickups as a starter). Backups will play in case the minimum number of plays, as listed in the draft packet, are not met by a starter. A QB must have at least 12 plays (pass attempts plus rushes) to qualify to play. Similarly, a RB must be involved in 5 plays (total of rushes plus receptions), a WR and TE must have at least one catch, and a defensive player must have at least one non-zero stat, to qualify that week. If a listed starter does not meet these numbers we will use your backup. (Though if the guy you listed as a starter plays in the NFL that week and scores more points than the backup we'll go ahead and use the starter, even if the starter does not have enough plays to 'qualify!') To replace a starter we go thru the backups in the order listed, using the top listed player who plays that position. If none of your backups played either, then we look at your roster for any unlisted players you may have rights to, but were not listed as one of the 30 on the depth chart. If none of your players qualifies at that position we go back to your starter, and then thru your backups, using the first guy listed who earned more non-zero points at that position. **If a starter has enough plays to qualify we simply use his points** - even if they are less than your backup's points that week. These rules are mostly designed to automatically replace injured players. If your starters qualify according to the above minimum number of plays, then your backups won't score for you at all that week.

6) **Free Agents Wanted:** Each week, just before that week's games are played, we'll hold a 1-round free agent draft for all teams (new this year - every team gets a free agent each week.) Teams will pick in reverse order of the standings. Ties will be broken by team number. **In the first week, since every team is 0-0, the draft will simply be in reverse order of team number - meaning team 12 will get the first pick.** In the second week, ties will be broken with the lowest numbered team going first. In each week after that the tie breaking will reverse. You should rank up to 10 players - that should be **more** than enough. If somehow all the players you list are already taken, then we'll draft for you automatically, giving you the player with the highest season's total points through games one week

earlier. **\*\*NOTE:** Since we use the player rankings from the previous week, if we have to assign a free agent for you **in the first week of the season we simply use LAST YEAR'S total points** - which is the player number order. So, **in the first week, if you do not fill out a free agent wanted list, you will get the player with the most points from LAST season** who remains undrafted in your league - **you will NOT automatically get the guy who scores the most points in the first week of the season!** You can certainly list less than 10 players on your free agent wanted list - almost all owners get a player from the first 3 or 4 they list. For instance, the first week team 12 will get his first free agent listed, so he only needs to list one player! If you list a free agent and you do not yet know his player number, please give us his NFL team, position and full name so that we can assign him a number. Players not on our draft list may have already been put by us at a different position than the one you are looking to fill. If you want that 'un-numbered' player no matter what position he is assigned then do not put a position by his name.

On your free agent wanted list, along with writing actual player names, you can also just write a position. What that tells us (if everyone above that on your list is already taken) is to give you the available player at that position that has the most points thru games of a week ago. For instance, if on the free agent wanted list you turn in for week 4 you list a couple of players, and then say QB, if the players you've listed are already gone, the computer will draft the QB for you that had the most points thru the previous week's games. As mentioned above, since we use points from the previous week, **if you just list a position on your free agent list in week 1 you will get the available guy who had the most points LAST YEAR!**

We hold the free agent draft just before we play that week's games, and then add the new player to your roster. This means a new player will automatically be used as soon as you get him if needed (meaning they will be used if you have no other players available at that position.) In addition, you can even list players as starters or backups on the same week's depth chart that you try and draft them (meaning you are listing them before you know for sure if you got them.) If you list a player and you did not get him then he will just be skipped over - but by listing a player you hope to acquire then if you do get him you will have him where you want him on your chart. **\*Special:** On your depth chart, along with listing the name of a player you think you may be drafting, you can also simply write in the words 'Free Agent'. What this does is tell the computer to put whomever you got in that week's free agent draft in that spot on your depth chart. (Of course, if you put the word free agent in the starter section, and if the new player does not play that position, then he will not go there, and we will just move your top listed backup at that position into the starting role.) Sorry, but the only thing the computer program can do is to place that week's free agent pickup in wherever you've written the words 'free agent' - notes such as 'put last week's free agent here' do get ignored by the computer. **If you are listing a guy you are trying to draft as either a starter or backup you must still list him on your free agent wanted list so we know to draft him for you!** Also, please make sure that you list players in the correct order on your chart so that the program knows where to put your free agent! The order to list starters is: QB, TE, WR, WR, RB, WR/RB, DL, DL, LB, LB, DB, DB, K, P, KRT.

**Trades:** Please, if you make a trade do report it that week (before the first NFL game starts that week.) The way to report a trade is to send in a trade report from your league's web page, or if not using the web please include a brief note with your new depth chart that lists the players traded away, received, and the number of the team you traded with. If you just make a minor trade and don't want to change your depth chart you can just send in a trade notice and no new depth chart - though that does mean you will not take part in that week's free agent draft. If you don't send in a new depth chart we'll just take any players you traded away off of your depth chart, and put your new players on your taxi squad. And please include player numbers and the team number you traded with!

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We have probably made this sound a lot more complicated than our football game really is. **In general, all you have to remember is:** send in any new depth charts/free agent lists before kickoff of the first NFL game each week to have them take effect that week; list players by Scoresheet number and name in the order you want them eligible to play if healthy, and report any trades you make the same week you make the trade. And **make sure you send in your first week's chart well before kickoff on Thursday, September 9th**, and by Wednesday Sept. 8th if possible.

**P.S.** As noted in point 6 above, if you do not include any players in your 'free agent wanted list' on your week 1 chart you will receive the player who had the **most points from LAST season** who remains undrafted in your league - **you will NOT automatically get the guy who scores the most points in the first week of the season!**