

WELL, here we go again. It only feels like yesterday that we were finishing last season's competition.

This season's Fantasy Non-League will again only cost you £5 to enter. The FNL 2025/26 entry deadline will be midnight on Sunday, August 31. It is very important that you read the rules very closely as there are a few changes to the competition this season.

Again, this season the EARLY ENTRY BONUS is in play, which again will be 1,000pts. This subject is always a difficult one and gauging what this should be is not easy.

Last season, both our end-of-season champion and second-placed team entered the competition before a single ball had been kicked. Yet in the 2023/24 season, the nearest Early Entry team finished in 52nd position. Last season's champion finished 1,970pts ahead of the second placed team so had he not received the Early Entry Bonus he would have still finished in the top spot.

So, how does the Early Entry Bonus work? Well, if you enter the competition before 3pm on Saturday, August 9th you will receive those EARLY ENTRY BONUS points. (The FA Cup does start the weekend before, but this will feature only a few of the Mixture teams).

The reason for this is that a lot of our players don't buy *The Non-League Paper* until the season has started. Ideally, I would love to start the competition before the season starts but if we did, we would only have around half the players we normally have. This way, everyone can start either before the season starts or before the deadline at the end of August. In fact, many players enter at least two teams, one before the season starts and one before the August 31 deadline.

There will again be Manager of the Month awards. There will be eight in total with the last one being April 2026. The first Manager of the Month will be September only, meaning none of the games that feature in the August will feature in a Manager of the Month.

At the end of the 2025-26 season, there will be cash prizes for the top three places and once again we will have my personal

FANTASY NON-LEAGUE 2025-26

PRIZE MONEY 2025-26

OVERALL WINNER
£1,000!
2ND £500, 3RD £250,
BOTTOM £500

MANAGER OF THE MONTH
1ST £25, 2ND £10,
3RD £5, BOTTOM £10

favourite - a prize for finishing bottom, so why not enter two teams: one to win it and one to lose it?

If you have never tried to finish bottom then give it a go, it is not easy! Again, this season you will be competing for the Barrie New Bottom Spot. If you are planning to try and finish bottom, can I suggest that you enter after the season starts so there is no chance of me accidentally giving you the Early Entry Bonus.

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 the introduction of a Super Joker. As it stands, you have to pick five jokers – five teams that you originally picked as your original 30. These five jokers give you double points for those five teams. Now, you need to pick your Super Joker which must be one of your original five jokers. This will mean that you will receive treble points for that team. However, there is a caveat to this and that is the team that you pick as your Super Joker cannot be substituted. So that team will stay with you for the whole season so pick wisely.

2 The second change concerns the play-offs. Each team that makes the play-offs will receive 50 bonus points. Then, the play-off winners in each division will receive 100pts. (These points are awarded whether you have substituted a team in or not).

THE RULES FOR FNL 2025/26

(Please read these very carefully).

1 You will need to choose three teams from each of the ten leagues, giving you a total of 30 teams.

Then you will need to nominate your five FNL JOKER TEAMS from the 30 teams. Those five teams will give you double points throughout the season. These 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 one of your original five jokers. This will mean that you will receive treble points for that team. However, there is a caveat to this and that is the team that you pick as your Super Joker cannot be substituted. So that team will stay with you for the whole season so pick wisely.

Also, if you wish, you can pick five substitute teams, but these five teams must be on your FNL 2025/26 Entry Form at the start of the season. (More on the substitutes later in this season's rules).

2 Points allocation, in all 10 leagues (same as last season) are as follows:

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
(Counts if your team wins, draws or loses).

Every goal conceded = -1pt.

(Win & Defeat only)

Goal Bonus Points = 5pts
(Awarded if your teams score 4 or more).

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

Concede 4 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 first round proper and each round beyond is 25pts. For reaching the quarter-finals and each round beyond in all the other cup competitions is also 25pts.

LEAGUE LEADERS & BOTTOM CLUB BONUS

At the end of each month, up to and including April 2026, the top three teams leading each of the ten leagues will be awarded 30pts, 15pts & 7pts respectively.

The bottom three teams of the ten leagues will be awarded -30pts, -15pts & -7pts respectively. The Mixture bonus points will be allocated based on the top three and worst three teams over the leagues that are included in The Mixture Leagues. (Please note, these bonus points will only count towards the main FNL

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 30, 15 & 7pts & -30, -15 & -7pts respectively. (These bonus points only count in the Manager of the Month calculations).

PLAY-OFF GAMES

A new feature for this season is that every team that qualifies for the play-offs will be awarded 50pts. The actual Play-Off games themselves will be awarded points as if they were league games. The Play-Off Final winners will be awarded 100pts for gaining promotion. (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 FNL Season in May 2026).

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 Non-League will be awarded -250pts with second from bottom -125pts and third from bottom -60pts.

Cup Winners will receive 250pts for the FA Trophy and 150pts for the other cups. Play-Off Winners will receive 100pts.

Remember, if your FNL Joker team get these bonuses they will be doubled. For example, a league champion picked in August at the start of the FNL season will win you 500pts. Also new for this season the Super Joker will gain you 750pts if

that team wins their respective league. The Mixture Leagues will be awarded the End of Season Bonuses based on the FNL Points scored over the season. However, if any of the other clubs in The Mixture wins their respective league or get relegated, they will receive 150pts or -150pts. This will be halved if you sub the respective teams in the transfer window.

Substituted teams will be awarded half the End of Season bonus points and the Full Play-Off bonus points.

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

National League FA Cup and FA Trophy
National League North FA Cup and FA Trophy
National League South FA Cup and FA Trophy
Northern Premier League FA Cup, FA Trophy and League Cup
Isthmian Premier FA Cup, FA Trophy and League Cup
Southern Premier Central FA Cup, FA Trophy and League Cup
Southern Premier South FA Cup, FA Trophy and League Cup
The Mixture Leagues FA Cup, FA Trophy, League Cup

4. USE OF SUBSTITUTIONS

As stated earlier, you can select five substitutes on your FNL 2025/26 Entry Forms and out of those five substitutes you can use all five substitutes.

Again, this season there will be only one substitution window and that will be during the month of December with your selected changes taking effect from January 1, 2026.

Details on how to use your substitutions will be released nearer the time during the month of November. Please also note you can change your FNL Joker teams (not the Super Joker) on January 1, 2026 if you wish, but this will count as one of your substitutions.

IAN WHITE, Fantasy Non-League

ENTER ONLINE @ <http://www.thenonleaguefootballpaper.com/fantasy-non-league>

2025/26 ENTRY FORM

NATIONAL LEAGUE			NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH			NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH			NORTHERN PREMIER			ISTHMIAN PREMIER		
Pick Three	Code	Tick	Pick Three	Code	Tick	Pick Three	Code	Tick	Pick Three	Code	Tick	Pick Three	Code	Tick
Aldershot Tn	1		AFC Fylde	25		AFC Totton	49		Ashton Utd	73		Aveley FC	95	
Altrincham	2		AFC Telford Utd	26		Bath City	50		Bamber Bridge	74		Billericay Town	96	
Boreham Wood	3		Alfreton Town	27		Chelmsford City	51		Cleethorpes Town	75		Brentwood Town	97	
Boston Utd	4		Bedford Town	28		Chesham Utd	52		FC United of Man	76		Burgess Hill Town	98	
Brackley Town	5		Buxton FC	29		Chippenham Town	53		Gainsborough T	77		Canvey Island	99	
Braintree Town	6		Chester FC	30		Dagenham & Red	54		Guiseley	78		Carshalton Ath	100	
Carlisle Utd	7		Chorley	31		Dorking Wanderers	55		Hebburn Town	79		Chatham Town	101	
Eastleigh	8		Curzon Ashton	32		Dover Athletic	56		Hednesford Town	80		Cheshunt FC	102	
FC Halifax Town	9		Darlington Fc 1883	33		Eastbourne Bor	57		Hyde Utd	81		Chichester City	103	
Forest Green Rvrs	10		Hereford Fc	34		Ebbsfleet Utd	58		Ilkeston Town	82		Cray Valley Pm	104	
Gateshead FC	11		Kidderminster H	35		Enfield Town	59		Lancaster City	83		Cray Wanderers	105	
Hartlepool Utd	12		King's Lynn Town	36		Farnborough	60		Leek Town	84		Dartford FC	106	
Morecambe Fc	13		Leamington	37		Hampton & Rich	61		Morpeth Town	85		Dulwich Hamlet	107	
Rochdale	14		Macclesfield Fc	38		Hemel Hempst'd T	62		Prescot Cables	86		Folkstone Invicta	108	
Scunthorpe Utd	15		Marine	39		Hornchurch FC	63		Rushall Olympic	87		Hashtag Utd	109	
Solihull Moors	16		Merthyr Town	40		Horsham FC	64		Stockbridge P S	88		Lewes FC	110	
Southend United	17		Oxford City	41		Maidenhead Utd	65		Stockton Town	89		Potters Bar Town	111	
Sutton Utd	18		Peterborough Sp	42		Maidstone Utd	66		Warrington Ry	90		Ramsgate Fc	112	
Tamworth	19		Radcliffe FC	43		Salisbury Fc	67		Warrington Town	91		St Albans City	113	
Truro City	20		Scarborough Ath	44		Slough Town	68		Whitby Town	92		Welling Utd	114	
Wealdstone	21		Southport	45		Tonbridge Angels	69					Whitehawk	115	
Woking	22		South Shields	46		Torquay Utd	70		Workington AFC	94		Wingate & Finchley	116	
Yeovil Town	23		Spennymoor Town	47		Weston-s-Mare	71							
York City	24		Worksop Town	48		Worthing	72							

SOUTH PREMIER CENTRAL			SOUTH PREMIER SOUTH			THE NORTHERN MIXTURE			THE ISTHMIAN MIXTURE			THE SOUTHERN MIXTURE		
Pick Three	Code	Tick	Pick Three	Code	Tick	Pick Three	Code	Tick	Pick Three	Code	Tick	Pick Three	Code	Tick
AFC Sudbury	117		Basingstoke Town	139		Ashington FC	161		AFC Portchester	185		Aylesbury Utd	209	
Alvechurch	118		Berkhamstead	140		Blyth Town	162		Bedfont Sports	186		Beaconsfield Town	210	
Banbury Utd	119		Bracknell Town	141		Bridlington Town	163		Bognor Regis Tn	187		Enfield FC	211	
Barwell	120		Chertsey Town	142		Dunston FC	164		Fareham Town	188		Hertford Town	212	
Bishop's Stortford	121		Dorchester Town	143		Heaton Stannington	165		Harrow Borough	189		Hitchin Town	213	
Bromsgrove Sp	122		Evesham Town	144		Matlock Town	166		Kingstonian FC	190		Leighton Town	214	
Bury Town	123		Farnham Town	145		North Ferriby	167		Leatherhead FC	191		London Lions	215	
Halesowen Town	124		Gloucester City	146		Redcar Athletic	168		Metropolitan Police	192		Marlow FC	216	
Harborough Town	125		Gosport Borough	147		Bootle FC	169		Brantham Athletic	193		Milton Keynes Irish	217	
Kettering Town	126		Hanwell Town	148		Bury FC	170		Downham Town	194		Rayners Lane	218	
Leiston FC	127		Havant & W'ville	149		Lower Breck FC	171		Heybridge Swifts	195		Stotfold FC	219	
Needham Market	128		Hungerford Town	150		Runcorn Linnets	172		Newmarket Town	196		Welwyn Garden City	220	
Quorn FC	129		Plymouth Parkway	151		Shifnal Town	173		Redbridge FC	197		Bishops Cleeve	221	
Real Bedford	130		Poole Town	152		Stafford Rangers	174		Takeley FC	198		Bristol Manor Farm	222	
Redditch Utd	131		Sholing FC	153		Stalybridge Celtic	175		Waltham Abbey	199		Brixham FC	223	
Royston Town	132		Taunton Town	154		Witton Albion	176		Walthamstow FC	200		Exmouth Town	224	
Spalding Utd	133		Tiverton Town	155		Bedworth Utd	177		Broadbridge Heath	201		Frome Town	225	
St. Ives Town	134		Uxbridge FC	156		Bourne Town	178		Crowborough Ath	202		Hartpury FC	226	
Stamford AFC	135		Walton & Hersham	157		Corby Town	179		Erith Town	203		Mousehole FC	227	
Stourbridge	136		Weymouth FC	158		Lichfield City	180		Hastings Utd	204		Portishead Town	228	
Stratford Town	137		Wimborne Town	159		Loughborough St	181		Hassocks FC	205		S C Inkberrow	229	
Worcester City	138		Yate Town	160		Shepshed Dynamo	182		Jersey Bulls	206		Swindon S'marine	230	
						St Neots Town	183		Sevenoaks Town	207		Willard Rovers	231	
						Sutton Coldfield Tn	184		Sittingbourne FC	208		Winchester City	232	

PICK THREE TEAMS FROM EACH LEAGUE (30 TEAMS) AND FIVE JOKERS. THE JOKERS MUST BE FIVE TEAMS YOU HAVE ALREADY PICKED

MY FIVE SUBSTITUTE CLUBS ARE:

-
-
-
-
-

WHICH TEAM DO YOU SUPPORT IN THE REAL WORLD?

You Should Have 30 Teams In Total. (Three From Each Of The 10 Leagues)
Then You Need To Pick 5 Joker Teams. Instead Of A Tick Put A J Against The Team.

The 5 Jokers Must be Teams You Have Already Picked

Finally New This Season You Need To Select 1 Super Joker. (The Super Joker Must Be One Of The 5 Selected Jokers And to Show That On The Entry Form Put SJ)"

Deadline for entry is midnight Sunday, August 31, 2025.

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Telephone:

Email Address:.....

Team Name (max 15 letters)

**Please send form to: Fantasy Non-League,
The Non-League Paper, Tuition House,
St George's Road, Wimbledon SW19 4EU**

ONLY £5 PER ENTRY

**Payment by Cheques payable to
The Football Paper Ltd or by Postal Order**

Please tick here if you do not want to be contacted by The NLP ☐

**FNL HELPDESK – FNL07544@BTINTERNET.COM
PHONE NUMBER – 07909993854**