

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 2026/27 entry deadline will be midnight on Monday, August 31.

It is very important that you read the rules very closely as I am making some major changes to the competition this season.

Before we get into the nitty gritty of this season's competition, I must tell you that Fantasy Non-League has reached a very special milestone.

This season FNL celebrates its 30th anniversary. Yes, this game was originally launched in the 1996/97 season in a football matchday programme.

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 the team that finished in third place entered the game before the season started so it does go to show that you still stand a chance even if you enter the game before a ball is kicked.

So, how does the Early Entry Bonus work? Well, if you enter the competition before 3pm on Saturday, August 8, you will receive those EARLY ENTRY BONUS points.

I still get emails and calls commenting on the fact that we allow people to enter the competition nearly four weeks into the season. 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.

My normal answer to everyone that asks this question? Everyone can enter either before the season starts or before the deadline at the end of August.

In fact, I know that many players enter at least two teams – one before the season starts and one before the August 31 deadline when they have an early indication of who might be the main performers of the new season. Let's face it, £5 an entry for a full nine months of football is pretty good value.

FANTASY NON-LEAGUE 2026-27

PRIZE MONEY 2026-27

OVERALL WINNER
£700!
2ND £350, 3RD £125,
BOTTOM £350

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

There will again be Manager of the Month awards. In total, there will be eight of them. The first will be for September and the last in April.

At the end of the season there will be cash prizes for the top three places and once again we will have my personal 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 to 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 two major changes, so please make sure to take note of them:

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 used to be split into three sections. I have decided to bring this back. So, each league is split into three 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 Au-

gust 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 make a change is if, unfortunately, a team folds and leaves a league. If this does happen, I will inform you of the teams that are available to replace the lost team).

THE RULES FOR FNL 2026/27

(Please read these very carefully).

1 You will need to choose 3 teams from each of the ten leagues. As stated previously, each of the leagues have been split into 3 sections and you must pick 1 team from each section. This will give you a total of 30 teams.

Then you will need to nominate your 5 FNL JOKER TEAMS from the 30 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. You will receive treble points for that team. The SUPER JOKER could well 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 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 ten leagues. (Note, there are some changes from last season).

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 = -1pt (Win & Defeat only).

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.

- For reaching the quarter-finals and each round beyond in all the other cup competitions that are involved in the competition which are listed = 25pts.

LEAGUE LEADERS & BOTTOM CLUB

BONUS:

- At the end of each month up to and including April, the top three teams leading each of the ten leagues will be awarded 40pts, 20pts & 10pts respectively.

- The bottom three teams of the ten leagues will be awarded -40pts, -20pts & -10pts 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 remember, and this is important, 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 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 FNL Season in May).

- 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.
- 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 150pts.
- New this season, the team that goes the furthest in the FA Cup will receive 100pts. If there is more than one team, each 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, if your Super Joker is a league champion that team will gain you 750pts.

The Mixture Leagues will be awarded the End of Season Bonuses based on their respective league positions in the league that make up the Mixture leagues. However, if any of the clubs in The Mixture win their respective leagues or get relegated, they will also receive 150pts or -150pts respectively.

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

National League
FA Cup and FA Trophy. (The National League Cup does not feature).

National League North
FA Cup and FA Trophy.

National League South
FA Cup and FA Trophy.

Northern Premier
FA Cup, FA Trophy.

Isthmian Premier
FA Cup, FA Trophy and League Cup.

Southern Premier Central
FA Cup, FA Trophy.

Southern Premier South
FA Cup, FA Trophy.

The Mixture Leagues
FA Cup, FA Trophy and League Cup.

Ian White

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

2026/27 ENTRY FORM

NATIONAL LEAGUE			NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH			NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH			NORTHERN PREMIER			ISTHMIAN PREMIER		
Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick
Barrow	1		Brackley Tn	25		Braintree Tn	49		Alfreton Tn	73		AFC Whyteleafe	95	
Boreham Wood	2		Chester	26		Dorking Wanderers	50		Ashton Utd	74		Aveley	96	
Carlisle Utd	3		Macclesfield	27		Hemel Hempst'd T	51		Avro	75		Brentwood Tn	97	
Forest Green Rovers	4		Merthyr Tn	28		Maidenhead Utd	52		Bamber Bridge	76		Burgess Hill Tn	98	
Harrogate Tn	5		Morecambe	29		Maidstone Utd	53		Bury	77		Carshalton Athletic	99	
Hartlepool Utd	6		South Shields	30		Torquay Utd	54		Cleethorpes Tn	78		Chatham Tn	100	
Scunthorpe Utd	7		AFC Telford Utd	31		Truro City	55		Curzon Ashton	79		Cheshunt	101	
Southend Utd	8		Buxton	32		Weston-s-Mare	56		Emley	80		Cray Wanderers	102	
Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick
Aldershot Tn	9		Chorley	33		AFC Totton	57		FC United	81		Dartford	103	
Altrincham	10		Darlington	34		Chelmsford City	58		Gainsborough T	82		Dulwich Hamlet	104	
FC Halifax Tn	11		Scarborough Ath	35		Chesham Utd	59		Guiseley	83		Eastbourne Boro	105	
Gateshead	12		Spennymoor Tn	36		Dag & Red	60		Hyde Utd	84		Enfield Tn	106	
Soliuhll Moors	13		Harborough Tn	37		Ebbsfleet Utd	61		Ilkeston Tn	85		Leatherhead	107	
Wealdstone	14		Hebburn Tn	38		Farnborough	62		Lancaster City	86		Lewes	108	
Woking	15		Hereford	39		Horsham	63		Leek Tn	87		Maldon & Tiptree	109	
Yeovil Tn	16		King's Lynn Tn	40		Tonbridge Angels	64							
Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick
AFC Fyde	17		Marine	41		Billericay Town	65		Quorn	88		Ramsgate	110	
Boston Utd	18		Southport	42		Dover Athletic	66		Redcar Athletic	89		St Albans City	111	
Eastleigh	19		Bedford Town	43		Farnham Town	67		Stockton Town	90		Stanway Rds Comm	112	
Hornchurch	20		Hednesford Town	44		Folkestone Invicta	68		Warrington Rylands	91		Three Bridges	113	
Kidderminster H	21		Oxford City	45		Hampton & R	69		Warrington Town	92		Welling Utd	114	
Sutton Utd	22		Radcliffe	46		Salisbury	70		Whitby Town	93		Whitehawk	115	
Tamworth	23		Spalding Utd	47		Slough Town	71		Workington	94		Wingate & Finchley	116	
Worthing	24		Worksop Town	48		Walton & Hersham	72							

SOUTHERN PREMIER CENTRAL			SOUTHERN PREMIER SOUTH			THE NORTHERN MIXTURE			THE ISTHMIAN MIXTURE			THE SOUTHERN MIXTURE		
Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick
Alvechurch	117		Basingstoke Tn	139		Beverley Tn	161		Buckhurst Hill	185		Barton Rovers	209	
Anstey Nomads	118		Bath City	140		Blyth Spartans	162		Cambridge City	186		Biggleswade	210	
Banbury Utd	119		Berkhamstead	141		Consett	163		Canvey Island	187		Biggleswade Tn	211	
Bishop's Stortford	120		Bracknell Tn	142		Guiseborough Tn	164		Fakenham Tn	188		Didcot Tn	212	
Bromsgrove Sp	121		Chertsey Tn	143		Lincoln Utd	165		Grays Athletic	189		Flackwell Heath	213	
Bury Tn	122		Chichester City	144		Morpeth Tn	166		Little Oakley	190		Hadley	214	
Halesowen Tn	123		Chippenham Tn	145		Silsden	167		Mulbarton W	191		Haringey Borough	215	
Hitchin Tn	124		Evesham Utd	146		West Auckland Tn	168		Tilbury	192		Leverstock Green	216	
Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick
Kettering Tn	125		Frome Tn	147		1874 Northwich	169		AFC Stoneham	193		Royston Tn	217	
Leamington	126		Gloucester City	148		Atherton Collieries	170		Ascot Utd	194		Thame Utd	218	
Leighton Tn	127		Gosport Borough	149		Clitheroe	171		Cobham	195		Ware	219	
Leiston	128		Hanwell Tn	150		Hanley Tn	172		Hartley Wintney	196		Winslow Utd	220	
Needham Market	129		Hanworth Villa	151		Nantwich Tn	173		Hayes & Yeading	197		Barnstaple Tn	221	
Peterborough Sports	130		Havant & W'ville	152		Padiham	174		Littlehampton Tn	198		Dorchester Tn	222	
Racing Club Warwick	131		Malvern Tn	153		Prescot Cables	175		Westfield	199		Falmouth Tn	223	
						Vauxhall Motors	176		Windsor & Eton	200		Hungerford Tn	224	
Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick	Pick One	Code	Tick
Real Bedford	132		Plymouth Parkway	154		AFC Rush & Diam	177		Ashford Utd	201		Paulton Rovers	225	
Redditch Utd	133		Poole Town	155		Barwell	178		Cray Valley PM	202		Portland Utd	226	
Rushall Olympic	134		Sholing	156		Boston Town	179		Horley Town	203		Shaftesbury	227	
Stamford	135		Taunton Town	157		Coleshill Town	180		Margate	204		Slimbridge	228	
Stourbridge	136		Uxbridge	158		Coventry Utd	181		Punjab Utd	205		Tiverton Town	229	
Stratford Town	137		Wimborne Town	159		Long Eaton Utd	182		South Park (Reigate)	206		Westbury Utd	230	
Worcester City	138		Yate Town	160		Nuneaton Town	183		Steyning Town	207		Weymouth	231	
						St Ives Town	184		Whitstable Town	208		Worcester Raiders	232	

PLEASE PUT A TICK AGAINST EACH OF YOUR CHOSEN TEAMS.

A 'J' INSTEAD IF YOU ALSO WANT THAT TEAM TO BE ONE OF YOUR JOKERS AND 'SJ' AGAINST THE TEAM THAT YOU WANT AS A SUPER JOKER

SEE RULES ABOVE

Deadline for entry is midnight Monday, August 31.

WHICH TEAM DO YOU SUPPORT IN THE REAL WORLD?

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
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