

Basketball Depth Chart/Free Agent Instructions

1) List your league and team number, your name, your team name, and the date you are sending in the chart. List players on the depth charts/free agent lists by both **player number and last name**. Please do not forget that depth charts/free agent lists must be submitted (postmarked, faxed or e-mailed) by 4 PM (Pacific time) Monday, **before** the week's NBA games begin, to take effect for the upcoming week's *Scoresheet* games and draft! Your **initial depth chart** needs to be **postmarked, faxed or e-mailed by Monday, November 1st**.

2) Each week your team will play 3 *Scoresheet Basketball* games (only 2 games during the all-star week). Each of your players is limited to playing no more games for you than he did in the NBA that week (if he's injured in real life, he's injured for you!), and also each player can only play as many minutes per game as he averaged in the NBA that week. Our computer does juggle things a bit so that if each of your starting forwards, or each of your starting guards, only played in 2 games in the NBA that week, then they won't both sit out the same *Scoresheet* game for you.

3) In each game, your team will use a total of 265 minutes from your players, with a minimum of 110 minutes and a maximum of 130 minutes of playing time from your guards, between 25 and 50 minutes from your centers, and the remainder (between 85 and 130 minutes) from your forwards. The 5 players you list as starters (2 guards, 2 forwards, and a fifth player from any position) will play their full amount of allowed minutes in each game. To fill the remaining minutes we go down your backups, using players in the order they are listed, except that the minimum and maximum number of minutes for each position must be met. A player's game points are derived by figuring his *Scoresheet* points **per** minute played that week in the NBA, then multiplying that figure by how many minutes he played in that *Scoresheet* game.

4) **Starting Guards:** In this section you will list the 2 guards you want to start each game. If a starter can not play in a game then we will move up your top listed backup to take his place. You **can** list players as starters even if they are injured; the backups will automatically be used while your starter is out, but when the starter is back playing in the NBA then he will start for you.

5) **Starting Forwards:** Same rules as for guards - except this is the section you list your 2 starting forwards in. **Once again - players listed as starters at guard or forward must be listed at the same position they are shown at on our drafting packet!**

6) **Fifth Starter:** This can be a player from any position. Reminder - please include both player number and name (for **all** the players you list).

7) **Top Backups:** In this backup section you can list up to 12 players, including: 1) any players you have rights to but are not using as a starter; 2) players you think you might get this week in the free agent draft; 3) players you may have gotten in the previous week's free agent draft. Backups will be used to fill the minutes your starters do not account for. We use your backups in the order listed, subject to the minimum and maximum number of minutes allowed at each position. (Of course, backups, just like starters, are limited by how many games they played in the NBA that week, and can only play as many minutes in a single *Scoresheet* game as they averaged that week in the NBA.) If you have additional players on your team that you did not list as a backup - maybe a recent free agent pickup, or someone you don't have room to list in your top 12 backups - they **will** be automatically used if necessary (appearing in order of points scored last year.)

* NOTE: Filling out a depth chart is probably a lot simpler than our explanations make it sound. Your fifth starter should just be your most valuable player that you have not already listed as a starter at guard or forward, and your backups should be listed in the order you'd like their minutes used. You do NOT have to worry about positions when listing backups - just list the players in the order you think they'll score the most points (per minute) for you, and then the computer will use them in that order, subject to the minimum and maximum minutes allowed. If you do not have enough minutes of playing time to get the minimum at a position than you will simply get zero points for those missing minutes! For instance, your guards and forwards combined can only play a maximum of 240 minutes, so you will use at least 25 minutes of time from your center position.

8) **Free Agents Wanted:** Each week, just before that week's games are played, we'll hold a 1-round free agent draft among teams who've submitted a new depth chart/free agent list that week. Teams that chose not to submit a depth chart that week will just be skipped over for that week's free agent draft. 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 - and if not we'll automatically give you the available player with the most season total points through games one week earlier. 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 - in a 12 team league - will get his first free agent listed, so he only needs to list one player! If you list a free agent and he does not yet have a player number, please give us his NBA 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 who 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 Center, if the players you've listed are already gone, the computer will draft the Center for you that had the most points thru the third week 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. We do have a voice mail system you can call so that you always know who you got in the previous week's draft before filling out your new week's depth chart/free agent list. **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!**

9) **Trades:** If you make a trade, please report it by the very first Monday following the trade! The way to report a trade is to 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. Make sure both you and the owner you trade with are turning in a new chart and trade notice by Monday, as we do need to get trade confirmation from all owners involved in your leagues' trades that week. **(Please include player numbers and the team number you traded with!)**

Between the Final Rosters letter and this explanation there are an awful lot of rules mentioned. I have probably made this sound a lot more complicated than our basketball game really is. **In general, all you have to remember is:** turn in new depth charts/free agent lists by Monday before any NBA games start to have them take effect that week; list players by number and name in the order you want them eligible to play if healthy; and report trades by the very first Monday following the trade. **And Have Fun!**

P.S. As noted 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 week 1 of the season!**