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Unblocked nfl games

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Professional American football league "NFL" redirects here. For other leagues of the same name and other uses, see National Football League (disambiguation). National Football League (disambiguation). National Football League (disambiguation).
Football Association(1920-1921)SportAmerican footballFoundedSeptember 17, 1920 (104 years ago) (1920-09-17)Canton, Ohio, U.S.[1][2]First season1920CommissionerRoger GoodellNo. of teams32CountryUnited States[A]Headquarters345 Park Avenue (New York City)[3]Most recentchampion(s)Philadelphia Eagles(5th title)Most titlesGreen Bay
 Packers(13 titles)Broadcaster(s)United States:[4]CBSFoxNBCESPN (ABC, ESPN2)NFL NetworkTelemundo DeportesESPN DeportesInternational:DAZNOfficial websitewww.nfl.com The National Football League (NFL) is a professional
 American football league in the United States. Composed of 32 teams, it is divided equally between the American Football Conference (AFC) and the National Football Conference (NFC). The NFL is one of the major professional sports leagues in the United States and Canada and the highest professional level of American football in the world.[5] Each
NFL season begins annually with a three-week preseason in August, followed by the 18-week regular season, which runs from early September to early January, with each team playing 17 games and having one bye week. Following the conclusion of the regular season, seven teams from each conference, including the four division winners and three
wild card teams, advance to the playoffs, a single-elimination tournament, which culminates in the Super Bowl, played in early February between the winners of the AFC and NFC championship games. The NFL is headquartered in Midtown Manhattan. The NFL was formed in 1920 as the American Professional Football Association (APFA) before
renaming itself the National Football League for the 1922 season. After initially determining champions through end-of-season standings, a playoff system was implemented in 1933 that culminated with the rival American Football League (AFL), the Super Bowl
was first held in 1967 to determine a champion between the best teams from the two leagues and has remained as the final game of each NFL season since the merger was completed in 1970.[6] The NFL is the wealthiest professional sports league in the world by revenue, [7][8] and the sports league with the most valuable teams. [9] The NFL also has
the highest average attendance (67,591) of any professional sports league in the world,[12] with the individual games accounting for many of the most watched television programs in American history and
all occupying the top five of Nielsen's all-time most-watched U.S. television broadcasts by 2015.[13] The Green Bay Packers hold the most combined NFL championships with thirteen, winning nine titles before the Super Bowl, the New England Patriots and Pittsburgh Steelersh
are tied for the most Super Bowl victories at six each. The reigning league champions are the Philadelphia Eagles. Main articles: Ohio League, History of American Football Association" redirects here. For the similarly-named minor professional league of the 1930s, see
Midwest Football League (1935-1940). On August 20, 1920, a meeting was held by representatives of the Akron Pros, Canton Bulldogs, Cleveland Indians, and Dayton Triangles at the Jordan and Hupmobile auto showroom in Canton, Ohio.[14] This meeting resulted in the formation of the American Professional Football Conference (APFC), a group
who, according to the Canton Evening Repository, intended to "raise the standard of professional football in every way possible, to eliminate bidding for players between rival clubs and to secure cooperation in the formation of schedules".[15] A second meeting was held on September 17, 1920, with representatives from teams within four states:
Akron, Canton, Cleveland, and Dayton from Ohio; the Hammond Pros and Muncie Flyers from Indiana; the Rochester Jeffersons from New York; and the Rock Island Independents, Decatur Staleys, and Racine (Chicago) Cardinals from Illinois.[16][17] The league was renamed to the American Professional Football Association (APFA).[15] The league
elected Jim Thorpe as its first president, and consisted of 14 teams (the Buffalo All-Americans, Chicago Tigers, Columbus Panhandles and Detroit Heralds joined the league during the year). The Massillon Tigers from Massillon, Ohio was also at the September 17 meeting, but did not field a team in 1920. Only two of these teams, the Decatur Staleys
(now the Chicago Bears) and the Chicago Cardinals (now the Arizona Cardinals), remain in the NFL.[18] The Akron Pros won the first APFA (NFL) Championship in 1920. Although the league did not maintain official standings for its 1920 inaugural season and teams played schedules that included non-league opponents, the APFA awarded the Akron
Pros the championship by virtue of their 8-0-3 record.[19] The first event occurred on September 26, 1920, when the Rock Island Independents defeated the non-league St. Paul Ideals 48-0 at Douglas Park.[14][20] On October 3, 1920, the first full week of league play occurred.[21][22] The following season resulted in the Chicago Staleys
controversially winning the title over the Buffalo All-Americans. [23] On June 24, 1922, the APFA changed its name to the National Football League (NFL). [24][25] In 1932, the season ended with the Chicago Bears (6-1-6) and the Portsmouth Spartans (6-1-4) tied for first in the league standings. [26] At the time, teams were ranked on a single table
and the team with the highest winning percentage (not including ties, which were not counted towards the standings) at the end of the season was declared the champion; the only tiebreaker was that in the event of a tie if two teams played twice in a season, the result of the season was declared the champion; the only tiebreaker was that in the event of a tie if two teams played twice in a season, the result of the season was declared the champion; the only tiebreaker was that in the event of a tie if two teams played twice in a season, the result of the season was declared towards towards the season was declared towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards the season was declared towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards towards towards the season was declared towards towards towards to the season was declared towards towards to the season was declared towards towards towards to the season was declared towards towards to the se
method had been used since the league's creation in 1920, but no situation had been encountered where two teams were tied for first. The league quickly determined that a playoff game between Chicago and Portsmouth was needed to decide the league quickly determined that a playoff game between Chicago and Portsmouth was needed to decide the league's champion. The teams were originally scheduled to play the playoff game, officially a regular-
season game that would count towards the regular season standings, at Wrigley Field in Chicago, but a combination of heavy snow and extreme cold forced the game to be moved indoors to Chicago Stadium, which did not have a regulation-size football field. Playing with altered rules to accommodate the smaller playing field, the Bears won the game
9-0 and thus won the championship. Fan interest in the de facto championship game led the NFL, beginning in 1933, to split into two divisions with a championship game to be played between the division championship game led the NFL, beginning in 1934 season also marked the first of twelve seasons in which African Americans were absent from the league. The de facto ban
was rescinded in 1946, following public pressure and coinciding with the removal of a similar ban in Major League Baseball. [28] The NFL was always the largest professional feagues through the 1930s and 1940s. Rival leagues included at least three separate
American Football Leagues and the All-America Football Conference (AAFC), on top of various regional leagues; the Los Angeles Rams who came from a 1936 iteration of the American Football League, and the Cleveland Browns and San Francisco 49ers, both from the
AAFC. By the 1950s, the NFL had an effective monopoly on professional football circuit, which formally became the Canadian football circuit.
established a niche market in Canada and still survives as an independent league. A new professional league, the fourth American Football League (AFL), began to challenge the established NFL in popularity, gaining lucrative television contracts and engaging in a bidding war with the NFL for free agents and
draft picks. The two leagues announced a merger on June 8, 1966, to take full effect in 1970. In the meantime, the leagues would hold a common draft and Super Bowl II, and the AFL winning Super Bowl III, and Super Bowl III and Super Bowl III
IV.[29] After the league merged, it was reorganized into two conferences: the National Football Conference (NFC), consisting of all of the AFL teams as well as three pre-merger NFL teams. [30] Today, the NFL is the most popular sports league in North
America[31] - with much of the league from 1960 to 1989. Overall annual attendance increased from 3 million at the beginning of his tenure to 17 million by the end of his tenure, and 400 million global viewers watched 1989's Super Bowl XXIII.[32] The
NFL established NFL Properties in 1963. The league's licensing wing, NFL Properties and a national partnership with United Way.[32] Paul Tagliabue was elected as commissioner to succeed Rozelle; his 17-year tenure, which ended in 2006, was
marked by large increases in television contracts and the addition of four expansion teams, [33] as well as the introduction of league initiatives to increase the number of minorities in league and team management roles.
safer, mainly through fining or suspending players who break rules.[35] These actions are among many the NFL is taking to reduce concussions and improve player safety.[36] Prior to 2021, the NFL had utilized race-based adjustments of dementia claims in the $1 billion settlement of concussion claims, which had been criticized by critics before the
NFL decided to end what was called "race-norming".[37][38] On May 21, 2024, the NFL announced the NFL Source initiative, aimed at increasing the number of minority- and women-owned businesses that work with the league throughout the year.[39] NFL Source will be mandatory for teams that host major events, such as the Super Bowl and the
NFL Draft, and their organizing committees, but will be optional for other contracts at the team level.[39] The NFL will partner with the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc to help local businesses across the country obtain the certifications necessary to do business with the league in furtherance of its efforts to increase partnerships with certified and
underrepresented businesses that are 51% owned and operated or led by a veteran, woman, minority, person with disabilities or LGBTQ+.[40] In 2015, a class-action lawsuit was filed on behalf of NFL Sunday Ticket subscribers, alleging that the NFL, its member teams, its broadcast partners, and DirecTV engaged in a conspiracy to violate antitrust
law, by granting DirecTV exclusive rights to sell the Sunday Ticket product, thereby restricting competition and forcing viewers to pay super competitive prices to view out-of-market games.[41][42] On June 27, 2024, a jury in Los Angeles found that the NFL had violated antitrust law in setting the price of the Sunday ticket package and ordered a
penalty totaling more than $4.7 billion. With triple damages allowed under federal antitrust laws, the NFL could ultimately be liable for $14.39 billion. The league said it would ask the judge to set the verdict aside then appeal the verdict if needed.[43] Main article: List of National Football League said it would ask the judge to set the verdict aside then appeal the verdict aside then appeal the verdict if needed.[43] Main article: List of National Football League said it would ask the judge to set the verdict aside then appeal the verdict aside then appeal the verdict if needed.[43] Main article: List of National Football League said it would ask the judge to set the verdict aside then appeal the verdict aside the verdict aside then appeal the verdict aside t
set number of games for teams to play, instead setting a minimum. The league mandated a twelve-game regular season for each team beginning in 1935, later shortening this to eleven games in 1946, and later back to
twelve in 1947. The NFL went to a 14-game schedule in 1961, which it retained until switching to a 16-game schedule in 1978.[44] In March 2021, the NFL officially adopted a 17-game schedule will give half
the teams nine games as the home team, while half the teams have only eight home games. To minimize the perceived benefit on competition of having more home games, the extra home games, the extra home games within the conference
will have played the same number of home games. The NFL operated in a two-conference system from 1933 to 1966, where the conference would meet in a one-game playoff to determine the conference champion. In 1967, the NFL
expanded from 15 teams to 16 teams. Instead of just evening out the conferences and split each into two four-team divisions. The four division champions would meet in the NFL playoffs, a two-round playoff.[46] The NFL also
operated the Playoff Bowl (officially the Bert Bell Benefit Bowl) from 1960 to 1969. Effectively, a third-place game, pitting the two conference runners-up against each other, the league considers Playoff Bowl in 1970 due to its perception as a game for
losers.[47] Following the addition of the former AFL teams into the NFL in 1970, the NFL in 1970, the NFL split into two conferences with three divisions each. The expanded eight-team playoff, the participants being the three division champions from each conference as well as one 'wild card'
team (the team with the best win percentage that did not win its division) from each conference. In 1978, the league added a second wild card teams to ten, and a further two wild card teams were added in 1990 to bring the total to twelve. When the NFL expanded to 32 teams in 2002,
the league realigned, changing the division structure from three divisions in each conference to four divisions in each conference to four divisions in each conference dropped from three to two.[48] The playoffs expanded again in 2020, adding two more wild card teams to bring the total
to 14 playoff teams.[49] See also: List of defunct NFL franchises, Timeline of the National Football League, and NFL franchise moves and mergers Bills Dolphins Patriots Jets Ravens Bengals Browns Steelers Texans Colts Jaguars Titans Broncos Chiefs Chargers Raiders Cowboys Giants Eagles Commanders Bears Lions Packers Vikings Falcons
Panthers Saints Buccaneers Cardinals Rams 49ers Seahawks The NFL consists of 32 teams divided into four divisions of four teams each. During the regular season, each team is allowed a maximum of 55 players on its roster; only 48 of these may be active (eligible to play) on game
days.[50] Each team can also have a sixteen-player practice squad separate from its main roster.[51] Each NFL club is granted a franchise covers "Home Territory" (the 75 miles surrounding the city limits, or, if the team is within 100 miles of another league city, half
the distance between the two cities) and "Home Marketing Area" (Home Territory plus the rest of the state the club operates in, as well as the exclusive right to host professional football games inside its Home Territory and the exclusive right to
advertise, promote, and host events in its Home Marketing Area. There are a couple of exceptions to this rule, mostly relating to teams with close proximity to each other: teams that operate in the same city (e.g. New York City and Los Angeles) or the same state (e.g. California, Florida, and Texas) share the rights to the city's Home Territory and the
state's Home Marketing Area, respectively. [52] According to Forbes, the Dallas Cowboys, at approximately US$8 billion, are the most valuable sports teams in the world; [9] and 16 of the NFL's owners are listed on the
Forbes 400, the most of any sports league or organization. [54] According to an August 2024 Forbes analysis, the average NFL franchise is worth $5.7 billion, with all teams worth at least $4 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion, with all teams worth at least $4 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion, with all teams worth at least $4 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion, with all teams worth at least $4 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion, with all teams worth at least $4 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion, with all teams worth at least $4 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion, with all teams worth at least $4 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion, with all teams worth at least $4 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Meaning * Franchise is worth $5.7 billion. [55] Key Symbol Me
 teams Conference Division[56] Team[56] City Stadium[57] Capacity Firstseason[58] Headcoach AFC East Buffalo Bills Orchard Park, New York Highmark Stadium 71,608 1960 (AFL)1970 (NFL) Mike McDaniel New England Patriots
Foxborough, Massachusetts Gillette Stadium 65,878 1960 (AFL)1970 (NFL) Mike Vrabel New York Jets East Rutherford, New Jersey MetLife Stadium 71,008 1996[C] John Harbaugh Cincinnati Bengals Cincinnati, Ohio Paycor Stadium
65,515 1968 (AFL)1970 (NFL) Zac Taylor Cleveland Browns Cleveland, Ohio Huntington Bank Field 67,895 1946 (AAFC)1950 (NFL)[C] Kevin Stefanski Pittsburgh Steelers Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Acrisure Stadium 68,400 1933 Mike Tomlin South Houston Texans Houston, Texas NRG Stadium 71,995 2002 DeMeco Ryans Indianapolis Colts*
Indianapolis, Indiana Lucas Oil Stadium 63,000 1953 Shane Steichen Jacksonville Jaguars Jacksonville, Florida EverBank Stadium 69,143 1960 (AFL)1970 (NFL) Brian Callahan West Denver Broncos Denver, Colorado Empower Field at Mile High 76,125 1960
(AFL)1970 (NFL) Sean Payton Kansas City Chiefs* Kansas City, Missouri GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium 76,416 1960 (AFL)1970 (NFL) Jim
Harbaugh NFC East Dallas Cowboys Arlington, Texas AT&T Stadium 80,000 1960 Brian Schottenheimer New York Giants East Rutherford, New Jersey MetLife Stadium[B] 82,500 1925 Brian Daboll Philadelphia Eagles Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Lincoln Financial Field 69,176 1933 Nick Sirianni Washington Commanders* Landover, Maryland
Northwest Stadium 62,000 1932 Dan Quinn North Chicago Bears† Chicago, Illinois Soldier Field 61,500 1920 Ben Johnson Detroit Lions* Detroit, Michigan Ford Field 81,441 1921 Matt LaFleur Minnesota Vikings Minneapolis, Minnesota U.S. Bank Stadium 66,860
 Raymond James Stadium 65,618 1976 Todd Bowles West Arizona Cardinals*† Glendale, Arizona State Farm Stadium 63,400 1920 Jonathan Gannon Los Angeles Rams* Inglewood, California Levi's Stadium 68,500 1946 (AAFC)1950 (NFL) Kyle
Shanahan Seattle Seahawks Seattle, Washington Lumen Field 69,000 1976 Mike Macdonald See also: Commissioner of the NFL Roger Goodell, National Football League considers itself a trade association made up of and financed by its 32 member
teams.[66] Up until 2015, the league was an unincorporated nonprofit 501(c)(6) association.[67] Section 501(c)(6) association. [67] Section 501(c)(6) association.
pension fund for football players), not organized for profit and no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. [68] In contrast, each individual team, with the exception of the non-profit Green Bay Packers, [69] is subject to tax because they make a profit. [70] In 2015, the NFL gave up its tax-exempted for profit of the non-profit Green Bay Packers, [69] is subject to tax because they make a profit. [70] In 2015, the NFL gave up its tax-exempted for profit of the non-profit of the non-profit
status following public criticism; in a letter to the club owners, Commissioner Roger Goodell labeled it a "distraction", saying "the effects of the tax-exempt status of the league office have been mischaracterized repeatedly in recent years... Every dollar of income generated through television rights fees, licensing agreements, sponsorships, ticket
no longer required to disclose the salaries of its executive officers. [71] The league has three defined officers the commissioner, secretary, and treasurer. Each conference has one defined officers the president, which is essentially an honorary position with few powers and mostly ceremonial duties, including awarding the conference championship
trophy. The commissioner is elected by the affirmative vote of two-thirds or eighteen (whichever is greater) of the members of the league, while the president of each conference is elected by an affirmative vote of three-fourths or 10 of the commissioner appoints the secretary and treasurer and has broad authority in
disputes between clubs, players, coaches, and employees. He is the "principal executive officer"[73] of the NFL and also has authority in hiring league employees, negotiating television contracts, disciplining individuals that own part or all of an NFL team, clubs, or employees and employees. He is the "principal executive officer"[73] of the NFL and also has authority in hiring league employees, negotiating television contracts, disciplining individuals that own part or all of an NFL team, clubs, or employees, negotiating television contracts, disciplining individuals that own part or all of an NFL team, clubs, or employees, negotiating television contracts, disciplining individuals that own part or all of an NFL team, clubs, or employees, negotiating television contracts, disciplining individuals that own part or all of an NFL team, clubs, or employees, negotiating television contracts, disciplining individuals that own part or all of an NFL team, clubs, or employees, negotiating television contracts, disciplining individuals that own part or all of an NFL team, clubs, or employees, negotiating television contracts, disciplining individuals that own part or all of an NFL team, clubs, or employees, negotiating television contracts, disciplining individuals that own part or all of an NFL team, clubs, or employees, negotiating the analysis of the NFL team, clubs, and the negotiating television contracts are all of an NFL team, clubs, and the negotiating television contracts are all of an NFL team, clubs, and the negotiating television contracts are all of an NFL team, clubs, and the negotiating television contracts are all of an NFL team, clubs, and the negotiating television contracts are all of an NFL team, clubs, and the negotiating television contracts are all of an NFL team, clubs, and the negotiating television contracts are all of an NFL team, clubs, and the negotiating television contracts are all of an NFL team, clubs, and the negotiating television contracts are all of an NFL team, clubs, and the negot
 "conduct detrimental to the welfare of the League or professional football".[73] The commissioner can, in the event of misconduct by a party associated with the league, and award or strip teams of draft picks.[73] In extreme cases, the commissioner can
 offer recommendations to the NFL's executive committee, up to and including the "cancellation or forfeiture"[73] of a club's franchise or any other action, he deems necessary. The commissioner can also issue sanctions up to and including a lifetime ban from the league if an individual connected to the NFL has bet on games or failed to notify the
league of conspiracies or plans to bet on or fix games.[73] The current Commissioner of the National Football League is Roger Goodell, who was elected in 2006 after Paul Tagliabue, the previous commissioner, retired.[74] NFL revenue is from three primary sources: NFL Ventures (merchandising), NFL Enterprises (NFL Network and NFL Sunday)
Ticket, which the league controls), and the television contract. The league distributes such revenue equally among teams, regardless of performance. As of February 2019[update], each team receives $255 million annually from the league's television contract, up 150% from $99.9 million in 2010.[75] Most NFL teams' financial statements are secret.
[76] The Kansas City Star obtained the Kansas City Star obtained the Kansas City Chiefs' tax returns for 2008-2010. According to the Star, the team's revenue came from the league: $99.8 million from NFL Ventures ($55.3 million) and NFL Enterprises ($44.6 million), and the $99.9 million share
of the television contract. The remaining one third was from tickets ($42.4 million), corporate sponsorships ($6.6 million), food sales ($5 million), and miscellaneous sources.[75] The largest Chiefs expense in 2010 was $148 million for players, coaches,
and other employees. Of the $38 million in operating income, Clark, Lamar Jr., two other children, and widow of former team owner Lamar Hunt divided $17.6 million into the team. [75] According to economist Richard D. Wolff, the NFL's revenue model is in contravention of the typical corporate structure. By
redistributing profits to all teams the NFL is ensuring that one team will not dominate the league through excessive earnings. [77] Roger Noll described the revenue sharing as the league through excessive earnings. [77] Roger Noll described the revenue sharing as the league through excessive earnings. [77] Roger Noll described the revenue sharing as the league through excessive earnings.
Main article: List of NFL season The NFL season format consists of a three-week preseason, and a 14-team single-elimination playoff culminating in the Super Bowl, the league's championship game. Main article: NFL preseason The NFL preseason begins with the Pro Football Hall of Fame
Game, played at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio.[78] Each NFL teams must play at least two of these at home in even numbered years and AFC teams must play at least two of these at home in even numbered years. However, the teams involved in the Hall of Fame game, as well as
any team that played in an American Bowl game, play four preseason does not count towards regular-season does not count towards standings, teams generally do not focus on winning games; instead, they are used by coaches to evaluate their teams and by
players to show their performance, both to their current team and to other teams if they get cut.[81] The quality of preseason games has been criticized by some players and coaches, who dislike the risk of injury the games have, while others have felt the preseason
 is a necessary part of the NFL season.[81][82] Main article: NFL regular season 2024 AFC team standings POS AFC East AFC North AFC South AFC West 1st Bills Ravens Texans Chiefs 2nd Dolphins Steelers Colts Chargers 3rd Jets Bengals Jaquars Broncos 4th Patriots Browns Titans Raiders 2024 NFC team standings POS NFC East NFC North NFC
South NFC West 1st Eagles Lions Buccaneers Rams 2nd Commanders Vikings Falcons Seahawks 3rd Cowboys Packers Panthers Cardinals 4th Giants Bears Saints 49ers This chart of the 2024 season standings displays an application of the NFL scheduling formula. The 2024 season standings displays an application of the NFC East. Thus, in
2025, the Eagles will play two games against each of their division rivals (highlighted in light blue), one game against the first-place finishers in the NFC South, NFC West (highlighted in orange), and AFC East (highlighted in pink). Currently, the 14
opponents each team faces over the 17-game regular season schedule are set using a predetermined formula:[83] The league runs an 18-week, 272-game regular season.[84] Since 2021, the season has begun the week after Labor Day (the first Monday in September) and concluded the week after New Year.[85] The opening game of the season is
normally a home game on a Thursday for the league's defending champion.[86] Most NFL games are played on Fridays or Saturdays until late in the regular season, as federal
law prohibits professional football leagues from competing with college or high school football. Because high school football. Because high school football leagues from competing with college teams typically play games on Friday and Saturday, respectively, the NFL cannot hold games on those days until the Friday before the third Saturday in December. While Saturday games late in the season are common, the
league rarely holds Friday games, the most recent one being on Christmas Day in 2020.[87] NFL games are rarely scheduled for Tuesday or Wednesday, and those days have only been used three times since 1948: in 2010, when a Sunday game was rescheduled for Tuesday due to a blizzard; in 2012, when the Kickoff game was moved from Thursday
to Wednesday to avoid conflict with the Democratic National Convention; [88] and in 2020, when a game was postponed from Sunday to Tuesday due to players testing positive for COVID-19. [90] NFL regular season match-ups are determined according to a scheduling formula. Within a division, all four teams play 14 out of their 17 games against
common opponents or each other- two games (home and away) are played against the other three teams in the division, while one game is held against all the members of a division from the AFC as determined by a rotating cycle (three years for the conference they are not
in). Two of the other games are intraconference games, determined by the standings of the previous year - for example, if a team finishes first in its division, it will play two other last-place teams in the conference. The final game is an inter-conference based on a
rotating cycle (four years) and determined by previous season's standings.[91] In total, each team plays 17 games and has one bye week, where it does not play a game.[92] Although a team's home and away opponents are known by the end of the previous year's regular season, the exact dates and times for NFL games are not determined until much
later because the league has to account for, among other things, the Major League Baseball postseason and local events that could pose a scheduling conflict with NFL games. During the 2010 season, over 500,000 potential schedules were created by computers, 5,000 of which were considered "playable schedules" and were reviewed by the NFL's
scheduling team. After arriving at what they felt was the best schedule out of the group, nearly 50 more potential schedules were developed to try to ensure that the chosen schedule would be the best possible one. [93] Main articles: NFL playoffs, a 14-team
single-elimination tournament, is then held. Seven teams are selected from each conference: the winners of each of the four divisions as well as three wild card teams (the three remaining teams with the best overall record, with tiebreakers in the event of two or more teams having the same record). These teams are selected from each conference: the winners of each of the four divisions as well as three wild card teams (the three remaining teams with the best overall record, with tiebreakers in the event of two or more teams having the same record).
and tiebreakers, with the division champions always ranking higher than the wild card teams (seeded 2-7) from each conference are awarded a bye week, while the remaining six teams (seeded 2-7) from each conference compete in the first round of the playoffs, the Wild Card round, with the 2-seed competing against the 7-seed,
the 3-seed competing against the 6-seed and the 4-seed competing against the 6-seed and the two remaining teams against the 1-seed and the two remaining teams against the 1-seed and the two remaining teams against the 1-seed and the 2-seed and the 4-seed competing against the 1-seed and the 4-seed and the 4-seed against the 4-seed and the 4-seed against the 1-seed and the 4-seed against the 4-s
higher remaining seed hosting the lower remaining seed. The AFC and NFC champions then compete in the Super Bowl; in previous years, the
game was held the week following the Super Bowl, but in an effort to boost ratings, the game was moved to the week before.[95] Because of this, players from the teams participating in the Super Bowl are exempt from participating in the game. The Pro Bowl is not considered as competitive as a regular-season game because the biggest concern of
teams is to avoid injuries to the players.[96] Main article: List of NFL awards Main articles: Vince Lombardi Trophy, Ed Thorp Memorial Trophy, and Brunswick-Balke-Collender Cup, was
donated to the NFL (then APFA) in 1920 by the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Corporation. The trophy, the appearance of which is only known by its description as a "silver loving cup", was intended to be a traveling trophy and not to become permanent until a team had won at least three titles. The league awarded it to the Akron Pros, champions of the
inaugural 1920 season; however, the trophy was discontinued and its current whereabouts are unknown.[97] A second trophy, the Ed Thorp Memorial Trophy, was a referee in the league owners; upon his death in 1934, the league created
the trophy to honor him. In addition to the main trophy, which would be in the possession of the current league issued a smaller replica trophy, long thought to be lost, [98] is believed to be possessed by the
Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame. [99] The current trophy of the NFL is the Vince Lombardi Trophy as officially renamed in 1970 after Vince Lombardi Trophy is issued to each
year's champion, who maintains permanent control of it. Lombardi Trophies are made by Tiffany & Co. out of sterling silver and are worth anywhere from US$25,000 to US$300,000.[101] Additionally, each player on the winning team as well as coaches and personnel are awarded Super Bowl rings to commemorate their victory. The winning team
chooses the company that makes the rings; each ring design varies, with the NFL mandating certain ring specifications (which have a degree of room for deviation), in addition to requiring the Super Bowl logo be on at least one side of the rings. [102] The losing team are also awarded rings, which must be no more than half as valuable as the winners
rings, but those are almost never worn.[103] The conference champions receive trophies for their achievement. The champions of the NFC receive the George Halas Trophy,[104] named after Chicago Bears founder George Halas, who is also considered one of the NFC receive the George Halas, who is also considered one of the NFC receive the George Halas Trophy,[104] named after Chicago Bears founder George Halas, who is also considered one of the NFC receive the MFC receive the MFC receive the Lamar Hunt Trophy,[105]
named after Lamar Hunt, the founder of the Kansas City Chiefs and the principal founder of the American Football League. Players on the winning team also receive a conference championship ring.[106][107] See also: Category:NFL trophies and awards The NFL recognizes a number of awards for its players and coaches at its annual NFL Honors
presentation. The most prestigious award is the AP Most Valuable Player of the Year, AP Defensive P
Year award, which recognizes a player's off-field work in addition to his on-field performance.[110] The NFL Coach of the Year award is the FedEx Air & Ground NFL Players of the Week[112] and the Pepsi MAX NFL Rookie of the Week awards.[113] Main article: NFL on
American television See also: List of current NFL broadcasters In the United States, the National Football League is televised on eight networks across seven media partners: ESPN/ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC, Prime Video, Netflix, and NFL Networks across seven media partners. The packages can
vary depending on conference, broadcast time slot, or both. CBS televises afternoon games from the AFC package, and Fox carries afternoon games from the NFC package, and Fox carries afternoon games from the AFC package, and Fox carries afternoon games from the NFC package.
complicated set of rules.[114] Since 2011, the league has reserved the right to give Sunday games that, under the contract, would normally air on one network (known as "flexible scheduling").[115] The only way to legally watch a regionally televised game not being carried on the local network affiliates is to purchase NFL
Sunday Ticket, the league's out-of-market sports package, which is available through YouTube TV starting with the 2023 season.[116] The league also provides NFL RedZone, an omnibus telecast that cuts to the most relevant plays in each game, live as they happen. In addition to the regional games, the league also has packages of telecasts, mostly in
prime time, that are carried nationwide. NBC broadcasts the primetime Sunday Night Football package, which includes the Thursday NFL Kickoff game that starts the regular season and a primetime Sunday Night Football package with ABC airing select games either exclusively or as a
simulcast with ESPN. Amazon, through their Prime Video streaming service, is the exclusive carrier of the Thursday Night Football package. NFL Network, a U.S. pay cable channel owned by the league itself, broadcasts select games under the NFL International
Series games and select Saturday games. In 2023, the NFL occupied the top three rates for a 30-second advertisement: $882,079 for Sunday Night Football, [117] The league, in recent years, has expanded their televised broadcasts to over-the-top streaming services
Since 2022, Amazon holds the exclusive rights to broadcast the Thursday Night Football package. [118] Prior to then, Amazon streamed games from the same package as part of a tri-cast model that saw games aired on broadcast television (initially through CBS and NBC, then later with Fox), cable television (through NFL Network), and digital
streaming (through Prime Video).[119][120][121] Amazon has also streamed games for free on Twitch since 2018.[121] CBS streams its AFC package games on Paramount+ as a simulcast with its CBS broadcasts.[122][123] NBC streams Sunday Night Football and select exclusive games on Peacock.[122][124][125] ESPN streams its games on
ESPN+ in simulcast with the broadcasts on ESPN or ABC.[122][126] ESPN also holds exclusive rights for at least one Christmas Day game every season as part of a three-year deal.[127] The Super Bowl television rights are
rotated on a four-year basis between CBS, Fox, NBC, and ESPN/ABC. The NFL's most recent contract negotiation for the media rights deal was announced on March 18, 2021, to take effect beginning in the 2023 season. The deal renewed previous rights agreements made by the NFL and each of its network partners to air their respective game
packages, while awarding Amazon the Thursday Night Football package. ESPN/ABC is set to return to the Super Bowl broadcast rotation and will broadcast rotation and will broadcast the Super Bowl on U.S. television in 2027, 21 years after airing its last Super Bowl ABC to stream
 games on their respective over-the-top streaming services. For each of the packages the respective network partners currently hold, ESPN/ABC is paying US$1 billion a year; The current deal runs through the 2033 season.[122][128][129]
The league also has deals with Spanish-language broadcasters NBC Universo, Fox Deportes, and ESPN Deportes, which air Spanish language dubs of their respective English-language sister networks' games.[130][131] The league's contracts do not cover preseason games, which individual teams are free to sell to local stations directly; a minority of
preseason games are distributed among the league's national television partners. Through the 2014 season, the NFL had a blackout policy in which games were 'blacked out' on local television in the home team's area if the home stadium was not sold out. Clubs could elect to set this requirement at only 85%, but they would have to give more ticket
revenue to the visiting team; teams could also request a specific exemption from the NFL for the games were blacked out in 2013 and none in 2014.[133] The NFL announced in March 2015 that it would
suspend its blackout policy for at least the 2015 season.[133] According to Nielsen, the White States and 69% of all potential viewers in the United States. NFL regular season games accounted for 31 out of the top 32
most-watched programs in the fall season and an NFL game ranked as the most-watched television show in all 17 weeks of the time.[134] Super Bowls account for the 22 most-watched programs (based on total audience) in US history, including a
record 167 million people that watched Super Bowl XLVIII, the conclusion to the 2013 season.[135] In addition to radio networks run by each NFL team, select NFL games are broadcast nationally by Westwood One (known as Dial Global for the 2012 season). These games are broadcast on over 500 networks, giving all NFL markets access to each
primetime game. The NFL's deal with Westwood One was extended in 2012 and continued through 2017.[136] Other NFL games are nationally distributed by Compass Media Networks and Sports USA Radio Network under contracts with individual teams. Some broadcasting innovations have either been introduced or popularized during NFL
telecasts. Among them, the Skycam camera system was used for the first time in a live telecast, at a 1984 preseason NFL game in San Diego between the Chargers and 49ers, and televised by CBS.[137] Commentator John Madden famously used a telestrator during games between the early 1980s to the mid-2000s, boosting the device's popularity
[138] The NFL has licensing agreements with X, Reddit and Meta Platforms to serve as authorized social media outlets for the league and its teams. The New England Patriots' attempt to launch a Bluesky account was met with a cease and desist order from the NFL headquarters. [139] Main article: NFL draft Tennessee Titans quarterback Cam Ward,
the first overall pick of the 2025 NFL draft Each April (excluding 2014 when it took place in May), the NFL holds a draft of college players. The draft consists of seven rounds, with each of the 32 clubs getting one pick in each round. [140] The draft order for non-playoff teams is determined by regular-season record; among playoff teams, teams are
first ranked by the furthest round of the playoffs they reached, and then are ranked by regular-season record. For example, any team that reached the divisional round will be given a lower pick than any team that did not make the divisional round. The Super
Bowl champion always drafts last, and the losing team from the Super Bowl always drafts next-to-last.[141] All potential draftees must be at least three years removed from high school to be eligible for the draft must write an application to the NFL by January 15 renouncing
their remaining college eligibility.[143] Clubs can trade away picks for future draft picks, but cannot trade the rights to players they have selected in previous drafts.[144] Aside from the seven picks each club gets, compensatory draft picks are given to teams that have lost more compensatory free agents than they have gained. These are spread out
from rounds 3 to 7, and a total of 32 are given.[145] Clubs are required to make their selection within a certain period, the exact time depending on which round the pick outright. This happened in the 2003 draft, when
the Minnesota Vikings failed to make their selection on time. The Jacksonville Jaguars and Carolina Panthers were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their selection on time. The Jacksonville Jaguars and Carolina Panthers were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make their picks before the Vikings were able to make th
[147] Under the current collective bargaining contract, all contracts to drafted players must be four-year deals with a club option for a fifth. Contracts themselves are limited to a certain amount of money, depending on the exact draft pick the player was selected with. [148] Players who were draft eligible but not picked in the draft are free to sign
with any club.[140] The NFL operates several other drafts in addition to the NFL draft. The league holds a supplemental draft annually. Clubs submit emails to the league stating the player. The exact order is determined by a lottery held
before the draft, and a successful bid for a player will result in the team forfeiting the rights to its pick in the equivalent round of the next NFL draft. [149] Players are only eligible for the supplemental draft after being granted a petition for special eligibility. [150] The league holds expansion drafts, the most recent happening in 2002 when the
Houston Texans began to play as an expansion team. [151] Other drafts held by the league include an allocation draft in 1950 to allocate players from several teams the rights to players who had been eligible for the main draft but
had not been drafted because they had signed contracts with the United States Football League or Canadian Football
they could draft one from a team with at least three quarterbacks. In the event of a 'disaster' (15 or more players killed or disabled) that results in a club's season being canceled, a restocking draft would be held. Neither of these protocols has ever had to be implemented.[154] Free agents in the National Football League are divided into restricted
free agents, who have three accrued seasons and whose current contract has expired, and unrestricted free agents, who have four or more accrued season is defined as "six or more accrued season and whose current contract has expired, and unrestricted free agents, who have four or more accrued season is defined as "six or more accrued season is defined as "six or more accrued season and whose current contract has expired, and unrestricted free agents, who have four or more accrued season is defined as "six or more accrued season is defined as "six or more accrued season and whose current contract has expired, and unrestricted free agents, who have four or more accrued season is defined as "six or more accrued season and whose current contract has expired, and unrestricted free agents, who have four or more accrued season is defined as "six or more accrued season and whose current contract has expired, and unrestricted free agents, who have four or more accrued season account of the season account of
Restricted free agents are allowed to negotiate with other clubs besides their former club, but the former club, are given one
franchise tag to offer to any unrestricted free agent. The franchise tags: exclusive tags, which do not allow the player to negotiate with other clubs,
and non-exclusive tags, which allow the player to negotiate with other clubs but gives his former club the right to match it.[156] Clubs also have the option to use a transition tag, which is similar to the non-exclusive franchise tag but offers no compensation if the former club refuses to
match the offer.[157] Due to that stipulation, the transition tag is rarely used,[158] even with the removal of the "poison pill" strategy (offering a contract with stipulations that the former club would be unable to match) that essentially ended the usage of the tag league-wide.[159] Each club is subject to a salary cap, which is set at US$188.2 million
for the 2019 season, [160] US$11 million more than that of 2018. [160] Members of clubs' practice squads, despite being paid by and working for their respective clubs, are also simultaneously a kind of free agent and are able to sign to any other club's active roster (provided their new club is not their previous club's next opponent within a set number
of days) without compensation to their previous club; practice squad players cannot be signed to other clubs' practice squads, however, unless released by their original club first. [161] American football in the United States List of NFL champions (1920–1969) List of Super Bowl champions (1966–present) National Football League (1902) National
Football League All-Decade Teams National Football League Cheerleading National Football League controversies National Football League 75th Anniversary All-Time Team National Football League 75th Anniversary All-Time Team NFL Europe NFL Films
Timeline of the National Football League List of CTE) International Player Pathway Program (IPPP) All teams are based in the United States, but several preseason and regular season games have been held
internationally. ^ a b The New York Jets and New York Jets and New York Jets and New York Giants share MetLife Stadium. [59] ^ a b Due to an agreement with the city of Cleveland Browns name, colors, and team history/records were left in Cleveland, while the team, personnel, and staff were allowed to move to Baltimore what
was considered a new franchise.[60] As such, the Ravens are considered to have begun play in 1996 while the current Cleveland Browns are considered to have been founded in 1946, joined the NFL in 1950, became inactive from 1996 to 1998, and resumed play in 1999.[58][61] ^ The Jacksonville Jaguars began playing one home game each season
at Wembley Stadium in London, England in 2013, and will continue to do so through 2020. In 2020, the Jaguars were originally scheduled to play two home games at Wembley Stadium, but the plans were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.[62][63][64] and The Los Angeles Chargers and Los Angeles Rams share SoFi Stadium.[65] and England in 2013, and will continue to do so through 2020. In 2020, the Jaguars were originally scheduled to play two home games at Wembley Stadium.
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