

# **College Football Pool: Rules of Engagement**

## **Purpose:**

**The pool was established in the fall of 1972 as a weekly competition among Westminster classmates during college football season. It has continued in some form or fashion since that time. Presently, the pool serves as a means of friendly competition and an excuse to socialize with old friends.**

## **The Commissioner:**

Each season, a pool member is responsible for facilitating the process of friendly competition each week during the regular season and Bowl season. This individual is referred to as “The Commissioner.” The Commissioner chooses and inputs into a highly sophisticated Excel spreadsheet 20 games each week (more during Bowl season) that will be emailed or faxed or delivered in some manner to the other pool members. The Commissioner will choose games involving at least one Division 1-A (FBS) team. The Commissioner may insert a game from time to time involving two non-FBS teams; however, no more than five per season. One game will be designated as the 3-point game, 12 games as 2-point contests, and 7 games as 1-point contests.

## **The Spread**

Each game will include a spread with a half point attached to it. For example, if Alabama is a three point favorite over LSU, the Commissioner may choose to set the line at LSU -2.5 or LSU-3.5, or 4.5, 10.5, etc. A spread will always have a .5 attached to it.

## **Distribution of the Games**

The distribution of the games is normally completed by the Monday or Tuesday of the week of the games; however, situations may arise that dictate distribution later in the week. The pool members must be given at least 24 hours to make their picks, including a “Lock of the Week,” and return to the Commissioner. The “Lock of the Week” is the one game a member feels confident of the winner. The winner is defined as the team the member chooses to cover the spread as either the favorite or the underdog. The Lock may be on the three-point game, any

2-point game, or any 1-point game. The corresponding point(s) will be added or deducted based on whether the game is picked correctly or incorrectly.

The Commissioner sets the date and time for the return of the picks; e.g., Thursday at Noon or by the end of business—5 p.m.—on Friday. The Commissioner can decide whether to accept picks after this time. Also, the Commissioner will enter each member's picks in the spreadsheet and distribute the completed spreadsheet, or grid, to all. Pool members should give the Commissioner their picks in a timely manner so that the grid can be delivered in a timely manner.

### **Emergency Picks**

When pool members are out of town a particular week or otherwise indisposed, it is their responsibility to give the Commissioner a means to distribute the games to them for the week. The Commissioner will ask each pool member before the first week of games to submit emergency picks in case a member's picks are not received for a specific week. Pool members are not required to submit such picks; however, the emergency picks could benefit the member during the season. They can be used one time, assuming members give such picks to the Commissioner. A second failure to submit a week's picks ( the first time if no emergency picks were given) to the Commissioner will result in that member's weekly point total amounting to two points less than the lowest point total for the week. The Commissioner may use a member's emergency picks if that member misses a rigid deadline for returning picks for the week.

### **The Bowl Season**

For the Bowl grid, the process is essentially the same as above. Besides the number of games and the time length of the Bowl season, the difference between a regular season grid and the Bowl grid is the number of "Locks" (2 instead of 1), the addition of three tiebreakers, and the number of points associated with the Bowl grid (40 instead of 20). After the Bowl results, the winner for the Bowl season, the Overall Points winner and the Commissioner for the next season will be determined. The Overall Points winner is that pool member who has accumulated the most points from the first week of competition through the Bowl season. The Overall Points winner's award is calculated on 40 points instead of 20. The Commissioner decides how to divide the point distribution among the winners and losers.

## **The Next Commissioner**

The member who accumulates the most points at season's end is the Commissioner for the subsequent season. In case of a tie, the member with the longest time away from the Commissionership will have the honor of serving as the new Commissioner. The new Commissioner's duties begin with the organization of the March Madness pool.

### **Other Items:**

- a. Each week, the winner receives 20 points from the other pool members. In order to change that amount, any of the members may propose a change in the weekly points prior to the upcoming season, which will then be voted on by the other members (See "b." below). The majority vote rules. A tie dictates that the previous point amount remains the same.
- b. Each member will have an opportunity to vote on all proposals. Each member will have the right to abstain from voting on any proposal. If all members are in attendance at a meeting, then the vote can be taken and concluded at that meeting. Otherwise, the voting process should be conducted by email. Proposals can be voted on at a meeting without the full membership in attendance. In such instances, the Commissioner or his designee will email the proposals to the absent member(s). Voters will have one week to vote on a proposal from the date the proposal is submitted by email. No response after one week will be considered an abstention.
- c. In the case of one or more members tying for the week's award, a Rollover will be declared and the points will carry over to the next week. If another tie ensues that week, the total points will rollover to the next week, and so forth until a single member wins all the points. It is possible that a Rollover could carry through the Bowl season and the tiebreaker system would then come into play.
- d. The tiebreaker system will be used to clarify a single winner if a tie exists after the results are in for the Overall Points winner and/or the Bowl season winner. The first tiebreaker is the combined points scored by each team in the BCS national championship game. The member closest to the final score wins. If a tie still exists, the next tiebreaker is the combined points scored by each team in the Sugar Bowl. The member closest to the final score wins. If a tie still exists, the final tiebreaker is the combined points scored by each team in the Chick-fil-A Bowl. Again, the member closest to the final score wins. If a tie still exists, the Commissioner will wait for a sign from Zeus, then announce the winner.
- e. Locks of the Week are not required.

f. Members are not required to pick every game; however, an unpicked game will be considered a loss for the member.

g. The Commissioner cannot unilaterally change any of the rules above or add or delete any rules. The Commissioner must propose any change to all of the members. The members will vote on the change (See the voting system under "b." above). The majority of the vote determines the outcome of the proposal. In case of a tie, the rule remains as is or is not added.