

## **Gore Fantasy Cycling - Tour de France Fantasy League Official Rules for 2026**

- 1) The entry fee for the contest is \$10. Winnings will be divided as follows:
  - a) First place will win approximately 60% of the final pot.
  - b) Second and third place win each win approximately 20% of the final pot.
- 2) If two divisions are utilized, the winnings will be adjusted as follows:
  - a) Pinnacle Division winner will win approximately 50% of the final pot.
  - b) Pinnacle Division second and third place will each win approximately 15% of the final pot.
  - c) Intermediate Division winner will win approximately 20% of the final pot.
- 3) Each contestant will select a team of 8 riders via a live auction.
  - a) Each rider will be available multiple times depending on the total number of contestants as follows:
    - i) 6 or less contestants – each rider available once
    - ii) 7 to 12 contestants (per Division) – each rider available twice
    - iii) 13 or more contestants (per Division) – each rider available three times
  - b) The Commissioner of the contest reserves the right to lock in the number of times riders are available based on the projected number of contestants one week prior to the auction.
  - c) The live auction will take place on a date prior to the start of the Tour as chosen by the Contest Commissioner. (For 2026, the live auction is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30, beginning at 3:00 PM).
  - d) For the auction, each contestant will be given a budget of 100 auction dollars which they can use to bid on riders. Bids must be in whole dollar amounts.
  - e) The Commissioner, or a designee will act as Auctioneer.
  - f) The contestant order (the priority order contestants are given for making an initial bid in the event of a dollar amount tie) will be determined by a randomized method selected by the Commissioner a few days prior to the Rider pre-selection process (June 20 for 2026).
    - i) To be included in the random draw, contestants must have submitted their entry fee (\$10) prior to the time of the draw.
    - ii) A contestant who does not pay their entry fee prior to the random draw may still participate in the contest provided sufficient space remains for contestants remains and they pay prior to the start of the auction. Those paying after the random draw will be added to the bottom of the contestant order based on the order in which their entry fee was received.
    - iii) If two divisions are being used, contestants paying their entry fee after the random draw will be placed in the Intermediate Division.
  - g) Prior to the Auction, contestants will be required to pre-select riders for the opening bid. The process for this will be as follows:
    - i) Contestants must submit a list of riders for pre-selection. Along with the rider's name, an initial bid must be included. The list will be due 2-3 days prior to the Auction (by 1:00 PM on June 27 for 2026).

- (1) The sum of a contestant's pre-selection bids must equal 96 or 97 total auction dollars.
  - (2) The most you can bid on any one rider is 90 auction dollars. The least you can bid on any one rider is 1 auction dollar.
  - (3) There is no limit on the number of riders a contestant may pre-select as long as the total of their bids equals 96 or 97 total auction dollars.
  - (4) The same rider cannot be bid on more than one time per contestant.
  - (5) Bids of similar dollar amounts will be prioritized based on which rider is listed first.
  - (6) A contestant not submitting initial bids will have default bids assigned to them based on the UCI Standings. The top 32 riders in the standings will be assigned a bid of \$3 each.
- ii) The contestant with the highest initial bid on a rider will win the initial bid for that rider. They also win the right of final refusal for that rider (i.e., when bidding for that rider ends, they retain the right to bid 1 auction dollar more and be awarded that rider without further bidding).
  - iii) The right of final refusal will only apply for the overall winning bid. There is no right of final refusal for a rider going up for bid a second or third time.
  - iv) Any ties in the pre-selection process will be broken via the Contestant Order (the contestant higher in the Contestant Order is granted the tie-breaker).
  - v) The Final Pre-Selection List will be populated with pre-selected riders sorted by highest bid to lowest bid (ties will be broken by Contestant Order).
  - vi) If insufficient riders are pre-selected to fill all teams, then the rider order for the remainder of the auction will be completed based on the current UCI standings (highest ranked to lowest ranked) first, and then by alphabetical order by last name.
  - vii) Riders will be listed multiple times (up to the number of times they are eligible to be selected) on the Pre-Selection List if multiple contestants made bids on them.
- h) The Auction will open with the first rider on the Pre-Selection List at the initial bid made the contestant who won the pre-selection of that rider. Other contestants may bid higher on the rider.
    - i) If no one bids on the rider he will be awarded to the contestant making the initial bid.
    - ii) If there is bidding on the rider, the bidding will end either after the bid timer expires or the auctioneer calls "going going gone," at which point the rider will be awarded to the final bidder, or by the initial bidder if he or she had the highest initial bid and are willing to pay one additional auction dollar above the final bid. If the rider is being auctioned for the second or third time, the rider will be awarded to the final bidder with no right for final refusal for the initial bidder.
    - iii) The bid clock will be set at 40 seconds for the first 20 riders up for bid. It will be shortened to 30 seconds for all remaining riders following the first 20.
  - i) Official bidding will be done via the chat function in the Teams Meeting (unless otherwise approved by the contest commissioner).
  - j) A bid made in the chat it cannot be rescinded.

- k) A contestant must maintain at least 3 auction dollars for rider waivers and 1 dollar for each open spot on their team during the auction.
  - l) If a contestant does not have enough auction dollars to cover an initial bid, or if they already have a full roster, or if they already have that rider on their roster, then that rider can be bid on by anyone with no contestant having a right of final refusal.
  - m) If the contestant making the initial bid does not have enough remaining auction dollars to cover the cost of the final bid plus one auction dollar, then they lose the right for final refusal.
  - n) A contestant may not bid on a rider they already have on their roster.
  - o) If confirmation that a rider will not start the Tour is received prior to the start of the auction, that rider will be removed from the list of initial bids.
  - p) If a contestant cannot attend the auction, they may have a proxy attend the auction in their place or select their riders solely via waiver during the Pre-Race Waiver Period.
  - q) Once a contestant reaches 8 riders on their team, they may no longer bid in the auction.
  - r) If a contestant leaves the auction before reaching 8 riders, then that contestant must bring their team to 8 riders via the Pre-Race Waiver Period (Period 1). A contestant may also choose to stop bidding on riders at any point without physically exiting the auction and complete their team of riders during the Pre-Race Waiver Period (Period 1).
- 4) There will be four waiver periods during the contest.
- a) The four waiver periods will be defined as follows:  
(Note: A transfer day within the first few days of the Tour is not a Rest Day)
    - i) Period 1 will run from the close of the auction until 8 AM the morning of the first day of the race (whether that be the Prologue or Stage 1).
    - ii) Period 2 will run from the end of Period 1 through 8 AM the day following the first rest day.
    - iii) Period 3 will run from the end of Period 2 through 8 AM the day following the second rest day.
    - iv) Period 4 will run from the end of Period 3 through 8 AM the day of the final stage.
  - b) Each contestant will be able to make one waiver move per period.
  - c) If a contestant wishes to add a rider via waiver, they must submit an email to the commissioner at [jrogers@wlgore.com](mailto:jrogers@wlgore.com) before the waiver period deadline with the rider they wish to add along with the dollar amount of their bid.
    - i) Contestants may submit their waivers in a password protected email if they are concerned about the commissioner seeing their waivers prior to him making his waivers. In such circumstances, the password would need to be emailed to the commissioner by Noon on the day of the deadline.
    - ii) For the purposes of ensuring fairness, the commissioner will email his waivers in a password protected file to the vice-commissioner and/or deputy commissioner (or post the file in the Tour de France Teams chat).
  - d) When submitting waivers, contestants may bid on multiple riders. Each rider needs be listed with their own bid amount.

- e) Rider eligibility for being added via waiver:
  - i) For Waiver Period 1, a rider remains eligible to be added via waivers if they were not taken the maximum allowed number of times.
  - ii) For Waiver Periods 2, 3, and 4, a rider remains eligible to be added via waivers if they were not taken the maximum allowed number of times or two times, whichever number is lower.
- f) A contestant may not submit a waiver for a rider they already have on their roster.
- g) Contestants may not bid more than they have in auction dollars remaining on any singular rider (except in Period 4, where they may bid all their remaining dollars plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the auction dollars of the rider they are dropping).
- h) Contestants must indicate which rider they intend to drop as part of the waiver move.
  - i) For waiver periods 1, 2, and 3, contestants will receive back  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the auction dollars (rounded up) they spent to acquire the dropped rider.
  - ii) For waiver period 4, contestants may spend all their remaining auction dollars plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the auction dollars (rounded up) they spent to acquire the dropped rider.
- i) All points (current and future) are lost from a rider who was dropped via waiver.
- j) All points (current and future) are gained from a rider added via waiver.
- k) Riders will be awarded to the contestant who bid the highest. If two or more contestants bid the same amount on the same rider, then that rider will be awarded to the contestant who is ranked the lowest in the contest standings at that point in time.
- l) Contestants whose rosters include fewer than 8 riders at the end of the auction, will be able to add multiple riders during waiver period 1.
  - i) Riders will be awarded to the highest bidder in all cases (waivers will NOT be processed in rounds). In the event a contestant bids the same amount on multiple riders, priority will be given to the rider ranked higher on their list.
  - ii) In the case the same amount is bid on the same rider by multiple contestants, priority will be given to the contestant with the higher position in the contestant order.
  - iii) Should such contestants not submit sufficient waivers to bring their team to 8 total riders, then after all waiver claims are processed for that period, those contestants will be assigned riders at the cost of one dollar each based on the current UCI standings to bring their roster to 8 total riders.
  - iv) If multiple contestants fail to submit sufficient waivers, the assignment of riders for those contestants will take place in the contestant order.
- 5) The winner of the contest is the person whose team accumulates the most total points over the course of the Race.
  - a) Points are awarded for each stage and the final overall General Standing according to Table 1.
  - b) Points are multiplied by a factor such that each stage is equal to roughly 3% of the final total score and the final General Standing is worth roughly 40% of the final total score.
  - c) 25 bonus points are awarded each stage to the rider that holds the yellow jersey at the end of the stage.

- d) A rider abandoning the tour or otherwise leaving the tour will retain all stage points and yellow jersey bonus points scored in the race.
  - e) Doping – Any rider disqualified for doping or any other infraction during the race will lose all points scored during the stage in which they were disqualified and any stage thereafter. Other riders will not be “moved up” positions.
  - f) All results become final at 8 AM the day following the last stage.
  - g) Standings will be periodically updated on the contest website (<https://esffl.com/tour-de-france-fantasy-league/>)
  - h) The GC portion of the daily standings will be pro-rated.
  - i) The daily contest leader is awarded the “PMRSS Yellow Jersey.” If and when the leader drops from the #1 position, they are responsible for passing on the jersey to the new leader.
  - j) The daily female contest leader is awarded the “PMRSS Pink Jersey.” If and when the leader drops from the #1 position, they are responsible for passing on the jersey to the new leader.
  - k) The daily contest leader among first time contest participants is awarded the “PMRSS White Jersey.” If and when the leader drops from the #1 position, they are responsible for passing on the jersey to the new leader.
  - l) The contestant who has spent the fewest auction dollars compared to the mean dollar cost of the 8 riders on their roster (at any given time during the contest) is awarded the “Thriftiness Grey Jersey.” If and when the leader drops from the #1 position, they are responsible for passing on the jersey to the new leader.
  - m) The contestant who displays the most aggression (without being unsportsmanlike) during the contest is awarded “the Most Combative Contestant Award.” If and when the leader drops from the #1 position, they are responsible for passing on the Most Combative Award to the new leader. The competition for the Most Combative Contestant Award will begin prior to the start of the race on a date determined by the Commissioner.
- 6) Relegation Rule for 2027 and beyond. (The contest field will be limited to no more than 15 contestants for 2026)
- a) If there are more than 15 contestants in a given year (2027 or beyond), the field will be split into 2 individual divisions.
    - i) The top division will be known as the Pinnacle Division. It will contain half the field (or one more contestant than the lower division if there are an odd number of contestants).
    - ii) The lower division will be known as the Intermediate Division. It will contain half the field (or one fewer team than the upper division if there are an odd number of contestants).
  - b) Division determination for 2027 (and any year following a year with just one division).
    - i) For 2027 the contestants playing in the Pinnacle Division will be highest finishing contestants from 2026.
    - ii) For 2027 the contestants playing in the Intermediate Division will be any new contestants along with the lowest finishing contestants from 2026.
  - c) Division determination beyond 2027 if there were 2 divisions the prior year.

- i) The highest finishing contestants from the prior year will compete in the Pinnacle Division.
- ii) The Top 3 contestants in the Intermediate Division from the prior year will be promoted to the Pinnacle Division. Additional contestants may be promoted as well if additional spots are open.
- iii) Lower finishing contestants in the Pinnacle Division may be relegated to the Intermediate Division to open the necessary spots in the Pinnacle Division for the Intermediate Division promotions.
- d) Contestants not participating the prior year will be placed in the Intermediate Division in any year where two divisions are in play.

Table 1:

Stage wins and final General Classification (GC) finishing position earns points for a rider. See table below for ranking values:	
Rank	Points
1	250
2	215
3	180
4	145
5	115
6	90
7	75
8	65
9	50
10	45
11	40
12	35
13	30
14	25
15	21
16	17
17	12
18	10
19	8
20	6
21	5
22	4
23	3
24	2
25	1

Contest Website: <https://esffl.com/tour-de-france-fantasy-league/>