

## PUZZLER RULES – 2023 SEASON

WELCOME BACK PUZZLERS! As is tradition, we have given last year's players first priority to play the 2023 season but we also have a good roster of new players for this season.

**In honor of our 50<sup>th</sup> SEASON and for the first time ever**, we will bestow an additional award to the player with the best overall score for the entire 2023 season as well as a lesser award to the player with the worst overall score (see #11 & 12 below). Aside from that, the other prizes and rules are unchanged.

This is the greatest football pool in the world, here's why:

**\$250 (one-time entry fee per player) to play the entire 2023 season.**

**\$1,000 prize per week to the player with the best score for that week**

**\$5,000 prize at season end to the player with the BEST score for the entire regular season**

**\$250 prize to the player with the WORST score for the entire regular season**

**\$375 prize to the winning squares randomly selected for the bonus Super Bowl Squares & Mini-Pool**

Here are the PUZZLER rules:

1. As with last season, all player picks must be submitted on the website (except for a handful of Puzzler-faithful who are grandfathered in via telephone entry). The website is basic & simple – this is by design and we would like to keep it that way. It is also a private website intended for use only by the current players. That said, it has been designed by non-professionals and, as with any website, technical glitches may occur from time to time (apologies in advance). We may update/improve the website periodically and we're open to ideas/suggestions from the players going forward. Explore the website to familiarize yourself with it and feel free to email us with any questions.
2. **All players must register on the website with their name, email address and username - even if you played last season. Your username is your PLAYER NAME.** Whichever way you spell your username on the login page will be the way your player name appears on the website. Any combination of letters (upper or lowercase) or numbers can be used (with or without spaces) but do not use punctuation. **It is extremely important for each player to regularly check their email inbox for the email account that has been registered on the website. This is vital because all Puzzler communication throughout the season will be via email.**
3. **Once you are logged in, your player name will be listed on each page of the website. Before entering your picks for any given week, be sure to check that you are currently logged in under the correct player name. If for any reason a different player name other than your own is displayed on the website as currently being "logged in", please log out of the website and then log back in to fix the problem. If this does not fix the problem, contact us immediately. In fact, it is always best to manually log out of the website and then log back in each time & before entering your picks.**
4. We tried to design the website so that it is impossible for any player to incorrectly submit his/her picks. If you incorrectly enter the values for your picks on any given week, the website

will not accept your entry and you must go back to fix your error(s). Once your picks are error free, they will be accepted by the website. **There is no changing your picks once they have been submitted & accepted by the website.**

5. **We try to post the master sheet that lists all player picks for each week by noon Pacific time on the Wednesday after each deadline.** The winning player will be announced on the master sheet for each week. Each player's *current* picks for that week will also be viewable on the website but viewable only by that player. For reference purposes, the master sheets for previous weeks will be viewable by all players. Please note that the website is not viewable by the general public and only registered players will have access to anything beyond the login page. We will email all of the winning players as they are determined to arrange for payment instructions.
6. Total cost to play the 2023 season is \$250 which covers the entire 18 weeks of regular season plus the bonus Super Bowl Squares & Mini-Pool. Once you pay your entry fee and begin the first week, you must play and submit picks for all 18 weeks as they occur (each player is allowed *one* mulligan in case you miss the deadline for any week). We only want players who are dedicated to playing the entire season of the El Dogo Puzzler. If you drop out of the Puzzler for any reason, you'll be out for good and you will forfeit all chances to win the weekly prize money (#7 below) as well as the season-ending bonus prizes for best & worst player (#11 & 12 below); however, you will still be allowed to play the bonus Super Bowl Squares & Mini-Pool (#13 below). There are no refunds for any drop-outs.
7. **Weekly entries must be submitted by the deadline or your picks will not count for that week. The weekly deadline is Tuesdays at 7:00 PM Pacific time.**
8. The winning prize each week is \$1,000.00 and subject to the tie-breaker (which is used ONLY in the event that multiple players have the same winning score for that week). Note that when submitting your picks, you must also submit your tie-breaker value which is whatever number you think will be the combined final score of both teams for that week's Monday night game. The player with the closest score wins the tie-breaker (no over/unders) & the \$1K weekly prize. *In the unlikely event that there is a tie in the tie-breaker*, the \$1K will be split evenly among the tied players.
9. The 2023 NFL schedule is subject to change and we will follow it as best we can. The NFL also likes to get cute with its scheduling every now & again so note the following (also subject to change but we will try to advise all players accordingly):
  - (a) There are 18 regular weeks of games this season. The first 4 weeks will be the full schedule of 16 games per week. The number of games played per week will vary after week 4.
  - (b) There are Thursday night games scheduled for each week except for week 18.
  - (c) Weeks 2, 3, 14 & 16 have *multiple* Monday Night games. For purposes of the Puzzler tie-breaker, the last of each of those Monday night games will control the tie breaker for that week and are currently set as follows:
    - Week 2 tie-breaker game: Cleveland vs Pittsburgh
    - Week 3 tie-breaker game: Rams vs Cincinnati
    - Week 14 tie-breaker game: Green Bay vs Giants
    - Week 16 tie-breaker game: Baltimore vs San Francisco

(d) There are no Monday night games at all for weeks 17 & 18 so the tie-breaker game for these weeks are as follows:

Week 17 tie-breaker game: Green Bay vs Minnesota

Week 18 tie-breaker game: Pittsburgh vs Baltimore

10. **FOR ALL PLAYERS, any games that end in a tie count as a “loss” for all players (i.e. each player loses the value of the points placed on that game regardless of which team was picked to win). However, if a game is (a) cancelled; (b) rescheduled beyond the final regularly scheduled Monday night game for that week; or (c) forfeited for any reason, points placed on either team will be considered a “win” for all players.**
11. **Season End Best Player Award.** \$5000 awarded at season end to the player with the BEST score for the entire regular season (picks must have been submitted for a minimum of 17 weeks & the lowest weekly score for each player will be dropped). In the event one or more players have the same season ending best score, the winner will be determined as follows (in this order): (a) the player that won the most weeks of the 2023 Puzzler; (b) if no player won any weeks or if players still tied after factoring in the number of winning weeks, the player that won the most games (or lost the fewest games); and if still tied (c) the \$5K prize will be split evenly among the tied players.
12. **Season End Worst Player Award.** \$250 awarded at season end to the player with the WORST score for the entire regular season (picks must have been submitted for a minimum of 17 weeks & the HIGHEST weekly score for that player will be dropped). In the event of a tie, the \$250 prize will be split evenly among the tied players.
13. **Bonus Super Bowl Squares & Mini-Pool Awards.** The Super Bowl bonus pool will have a prize of \$375 per quarter (which covers a square for each of the randomly drawn 100 players) plus a \$375 prize for the mini-pool winner (covering the first randomly drawn 10 players). Here's how it works:

Because there are 110 Puzzler players but only 100 squares on the “main” Super Bowl squares card, the first 10 names randomly drawn will be put into a “mini-pool” (instead of the “main” pool) in which they will each receive a number from 0 to 9.

The “main” Super Bowl card will then be filled from the remaining 100 players. The first name drawn will be in square one (row 1, column 1), the next name drawn will be in square two (row 1, column 2) and so on down the line. When the entire card is filled, the numbers will be drawn.

The bonus Super Bowl Squares and Mini-Pool will be emailed to all players prior to the start of the Super Bowl.

**Mini-Pool Super Bowl Prize:** The total final score of both Super Bowl teams will be added together and the player having the last digit of that total will be declared the winner of the “mini-pool” and will be awarded \$375.

**Main Pool Super Bowl Prize:** \$375 to the winning square for each of the 4 quarters.

**GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL!**