

Keeper Rules – 2025-26 Season

Keeper Limits

- Max 2 keepers per team, no minimum.
- Max 3 consecutive years for drafted player. Max 2 consecutive years for undrafted player.

Ineligible Players

- Players drafted in Rounds 1–2 are ineligible, except:
→ *Rookies drafted in Round 2 may be kept for up to 3 years at a fixed Round 1 cost.*

Keeper Costs

Non-Rookies (Standard Escalation)

- Year 1 = Original Draft Round – 1
- Year 2 = Original Draft Round – 3
- Year 3 = Original Draft Round – 6

✗ Ineligible if resulting cost would fall above Round 1

Rookies Drafted in Round 3 or Later (Rookie Escalation)

- Year 1 = Original Draft Round – 1
- Year 2 = Original Draft Round – 2
- Year 3 = Original Draft Round – 4

✓ Year 3 allowed even if cost reaches Round 1

✗ Ineligible if Year 1 or 2 cost would fall above Round 1

Rookies Drafted in Round 2 (Rookie Exemption)

- Keeper cost is fixed at Round 1 each year
- Eligible for full 3-year keeper term
- Applies only in cases where player was drafted in their true rookie year in the NFL

Waiver / Free Agent Adds

- Year 1 = Round 8
- Year 2 = Round 5
- Year 3 = ✗ Not allowed

Undrafted Players

- Any player not selected in the draft is considered a Free Agent, regardless of when acquired.
- If rostered by Week 17, they may be kept using FA escalation rules:
→ Year 1 = Round 8, Year 2 = Round 5, Year 3 = ✗ not allowed

Dropped Drafted Players

- If a player is drafted and later dropped, the original team loses keeper rights.
- If another team picks up the player:
→ Default keeper cost = FA rules (Round 8 → 5 → ✗)

Additional Rules

- A player must be on your roster in Week 17 to be keeper-eligible.
- Traded players retain keeper eligibility and cost.

Commissioner Oversight Clause

- In rare cases where the default outcome creates what is deemed a clearly unreasonable advantage (e.g., midseason drop, pickup of an elite player), the commissioner may assign a different keeper cost or deny eligibility entirely.

Roster Inheritance — “New Manager” Rule

A first-year manager may:

- Keep up to **two players from their inherited roster**, OR
- Keep up to **one inherited player and one player** from another manager’s end-of-year roster, provided:
 - That player is **not a selected keeper**
 - Was **not a Round 1–2 pick**

New managers may not benefit from the rookie exception. Any non-inherited rookie selected as keeper will be treated as a non-rookie for keeper eligibility and annual cost-escalation purposes.

Keeper Costs, Eligibility Matrices

Non-Rookie Draftee Keeper Matrix

RD	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Eligible?
1	—	—	—	✗
2	—	—	—	✗
3	R2	—	—	Y1
4	R3	R1	—	Y1–2
5	R4	R2	—	Y1–2
6	R5	R3	—	Y1–2
7	R6	R4	R1	Y1–3
8	R7	R5	R2	Y1–3
9	R8	R6	R3	Y1–3
10	R9	R7	R4	Y1–3
11	R10	R8	R5	Y1–3
12	R11	R9	R6	Y1–3
13	R12	R10	R7	Y1–3
14	R13	R11	R8	Y1–3
15	R14	R12	R9	Y1–3

Rookie Draftee Keeper Matrix

RD	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Eligible?
1	—	—	—	✗
2	R1	R1	R1	Y1–3
3	R2	R1	—	Y1–2
4	R3	R2	—	Y1–2
5	R4	R3	R1	Y1–3
6	R5	R4	R2	Y1–3
7	R6	R5	R3	Y1–3
8	R7	R6	R4	Y1–3
9	R8	R7	R5	Y1–3
10	R9	R8	R6	Y1–3
11	R10	R9	R7	Y1–3
12	R11	R10	R8	Y1–3
13	R12	R11	R9	Y1–3
14	R13	R12	R10	Y1–3
15	R14	R13	R11	Y1–3

Undrafted / Dropped+Added Keeper Matrix

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Eligible?
	R8	R5	—	Y1–2