

Rule Change Proposal 2101

The following rule change was proposed by Commissioner Jeff on 14-April-2021 and passed by a 4-0 vote of the Fantasy Board of Governors on 22-April-2021. All governors voted in favor except Governor Seipel who abstained.

This proposal is a modification to the Official ESFFL Rules which were previously revised following the acceptance of RC2009.

Change Section 4 of the Official Rules for 2021 to read as follows:

Section 4 – Preseason Roster Formation (Expansion Teams)

- A. Expansion Teams will be included at the end of the PREFARD Draft.
 - 1. Draft Order among expansion teams will be determined by a random draw.
 - 2. Each expansion team will be given ~~3~~2 draft slots. The order will be the same for each draft slot.
 - 3. Teams can select two players from each slot. No more than one player per slot can be from the Reserve List.
- B. Prior to making their first pick in the draft, teams must inform the commissioner of ~~two-four~~ at large players they wish to add.
 - 1. ~~These two four~~ players can be ~~two any players in the league, previously drafted or not. any four players with the following limitations based on PREFARD draft position:~~
 - a. ~~No more than one player selected within the Top 10 reserve list picks.~~
 - b. ~~No more than two players selected within the Top 20 reserve list picks.~~
 - c. ~~No more than three players selected within the Top 30 reserve list picks.~~
 - ~~-d. The fourth of these players cannot be a player drafted within the Top 30 reserve list picks.~~
 - 2. ~~All~~ ~~The four PREFARD~~ draft picks can be only previously undrafted players.
- C. Once expansion teams have made their ~~6~~4 draft picks to bring their roster to 8 players, they will select another 8 players from the Non-Reserve List to complete their initial roster in the same manner as returning teams as defined in Section 3, beginning at line F.
- D. Expansion teams will continue to follow the same process as returning teams for initial roster submission and the 4-round pre-season auction.

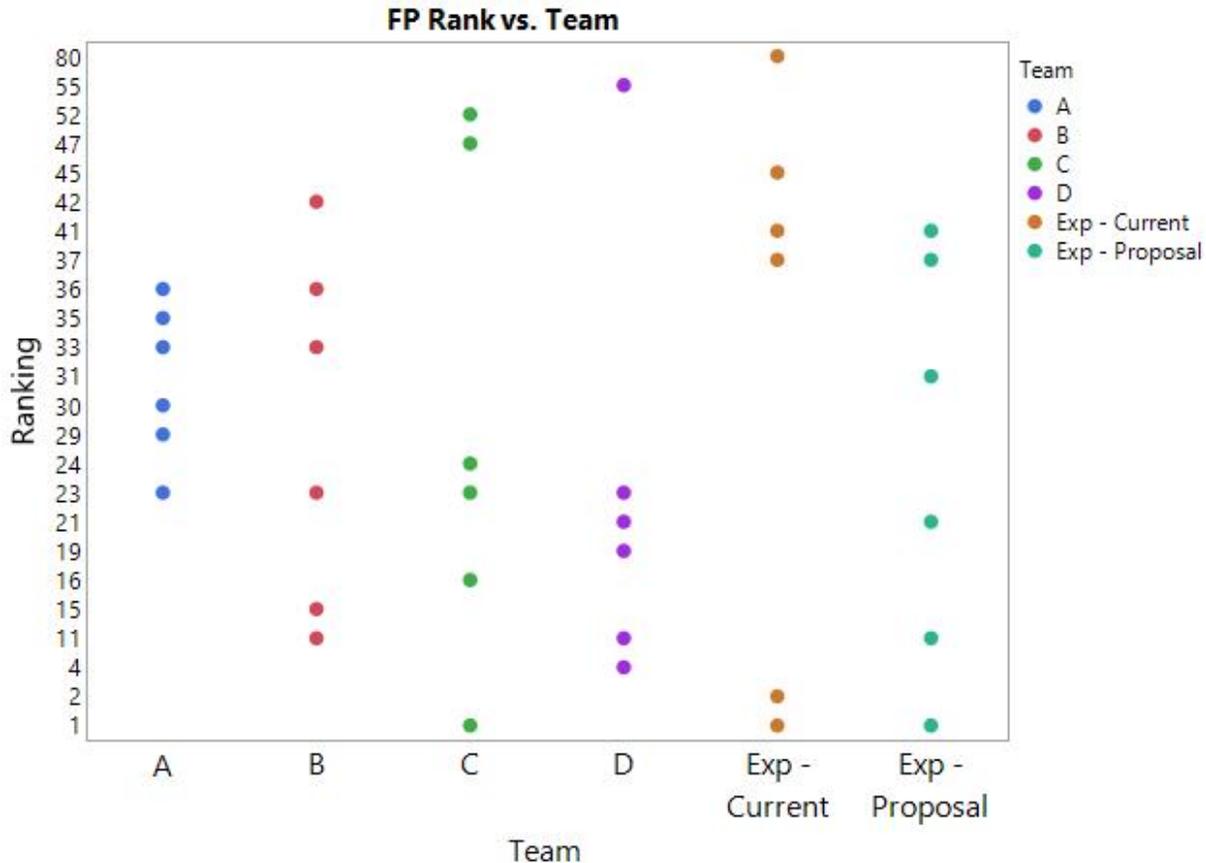
Commentary from Commissioner Jeff:

With this change, the expansion teams will have a broader range of reserved players to select from. Rather than getting the two best players in the league, and no others in the Top 30ish, they now get four players somewhat evenly spread out among the Top 30.

To give a little more perspective on this, my main concern with the rule as originally written was giving an expansion team 2 players who could be any player. In doing this, teams are going to automatically pick the best 2 players according to whatever criteria they use. In the past, expansion teams started with any 3 players, but in that case their salary came with them, so if they took the best players, typically they paid for it with less remaining salary cap room.

Also, via the rule as currently written, after those first two players, the expansion teams wouldn't get another player until 30+ picks into the draft. We did talk about letting expansion teams draft higher up in the draft order, but I have several reasons for not wanting to do that, with the biggest being that the recruitment of new teams often doesn't happen until we are well into the draft. So the modified rule would allow the players to be spread out a little better.

To help you picture this, I put together the graph below. To make the graph I took the 4 teams ranked 16 through 19 in the MFL Power Rankings to represent "average" ESFFL returning teams. I used a 2021 player ranking from an internet source and ranked all the players on their final roster. The ranking of those 4 teams' Top 6 ranked players are plotted on the graph below (to represent the 6 players they are likely to reserve). The fifth series on this graph represents what an expansion team could select under the current rule and the last series represents what an expansion team could select under my proposal. When you consider overall value, I think the two expansion options are similar and probably in-line with the four average teams. However, the player rankings are definitely more varied with the proposed rule than the with the current rule, which is what I was going after.



Commentary from the Governors:

Governor Sidoriak: Yea

Governor Johnson: I vote yeah. I don't like an expansion team having the opp to have the 2 best players essentially pro bono.

Governor Perlmutter: I think with the explanation I understand more. So, I vote yea.

Governor Temple: I have gone over this rule and honestly my only concern is, when is the league too big? We have implemented rule changes this year because we have so many teams that the player pool cannot support them at its current state. I wonder if we should think about putting a hold to increasing the size of the league? The last thing I want is a league where we have 36 teams who all have basically the same roster and I fea we are growing toward that. I will vote yes on the rule change, but I do ask we consider limiting the size of the league.