



2025 MLP Competition Structure Overview

Updated: Apr. 11, 2025 (most recent updates in blue; previous updates in red)

2025 MLP Events

The 2025 MLP by Margaritaville season schedule will consist of **14 total weeks of events**:

- Ten (10) Regular Season events (April–August), all hosted in MLP team markets for the first time
- 2025 Mid–Season Tournament (July)
- Two (2) weekends for 2025 MLP Playoffs (August)
- 2025 MLP Cup (November)

Levels

MLP's 22 teams will be split into two levels – Premier (**16 teams**) and Challenger (**6 teams**), with all 22 teams featuring an equal number of men and women on their roster.

Player Keepers

Players must meet these requirements in order to be eligible to be kept by a team for the 2025 MLP season: was one of the 88 originally drafted players by either a Premier or Challenger team in 2024, ended the 2024 MLP season on a team roster, **was not waived during the 2024 season**, AND is under UPA contract through at least 2025.

Teams may keep eligible players under the following parameters: two (2) players can be kept for up to three (3) years and one (1) player can be kept for up to two (2) years. For the sake of clarity, every team will be required to drop at least one player from their 2024 season–ending roster by the keeper deadline of **Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025**.

- A player's draft year counts as the first year of their keeper status (i.e., 2024 draftees kept for three years would play for their team in 2024, 2025, and 2026)
- As noted above, in order to be eligible to be kept, a player **MUST** have been drafted by either a Premier or Challenger Level team in 2024 (among other qualifications)
 - Players that were drafted and traded – either during the 2024 MLP season or the 2024–2025 MLP offseason – and meet all of the above eligibility requirements **CAN** be kept by their acquiring team (i.e., Jane Doe was drafted by a Challenger Level team and traded to a Premier Level team during the 2024 season; Jane may be kept by the team that traded for her).
 - For the sake of clarity, a player that was drafted in 2024, waived during the season, later claimed by and finished the 2024 season with a new team, and is under UPA contract through at least 2025 can not be kept. Once a player was dropped by a team via the waivers – they are ineligible to be kept (as covered in the bullet below)
- All 2024 season waiver wire pickups of players that were not originally drafted are not eligible to be kept and can count as a team's dropped player (i.e., Mary Smith went undrafted last April, was claimed during Waiver Period #3, and finished the 2024 season with the team that claimed her; she may **NOT** be kept as she wasn't drafted)
- Teams will have to pay 50% of the 2024 Draft Points used for the slot with which the player was drafted, in order to keep that player for additional years (i.e., the same keeper fee for Years 2 and 3).
 - For example, if a team spent 400,000 Draft Points for a draft slot and selected John Doe, they will need to pay \$200,000 in Year 2 and an additional \$200,000 in Year 3 if they want to keep John Doe

- Players that were originally drafted by a 2024 Challenger Level team will carry a keeper cost of \$0, even if the team whose roster they are on at the time of the keeper deadline earned promotion to Premier for 2025 and/or the Challenger-drafted player was traded to a Premier team

Any player with a top-15 [PPA Tour Doubles ranking](#) ("The Rank" in either gendered or mixed) is ineligible to be traded from a Premier Level team to a Challenger Level team.

- Players on a Challenger Level roster who are currently ranked in the top-15, or enter the top-15 after this rule has gone into effect, may remain on a Challenger Level roster

Free Agency

Premier & Challenger Level Free Agency will be operated by dynamic bidding for each selection slot (minimum bid amounts to be shared at a later date), giving teams the chance to utilize whatever bidding strategy that they see fit in order to build the best full roster, in a process similar to the 2024 Premier Level Draft.

- Team free agent spending will not be capped; however, there will be a minimum of 10,000 draft points for every draft slot **until all teams have four (4) players. Once all teams have two men and two women, bid minimums will then lower to 1,000 for each of the final 32 picks (each Premier team's 5th and 6th roster slot).**
- Premier Free Agency will have teams will draft a roster of six on **Sunday, Mar. 2**
 - All Premier Level teams will acquire between three (3) and six (6) players during Free Agency - depending on how many players they keep - and all teams must maintain a roster of three (3) men and three (3) women at all times
 - **All teams must have four (4) players rostered - two (2) men and two (2) women - before any team is allowed to bid on a draft selection slot for their fifth player**
- Challenger Free Agency will take place on **Monday, Mar. 3** - the day following Premier Free Agency - and teams will fill out their rosters of four; for the sake of clarity, Challenger teams will not have rosters of six
 - All Challenger Level teams will acquire between one (1) and four (4) players during Free Agency - depending on how many players they keep - and all teams must maintain a roster of two (2) men and two (2) women at all times
- All players acquired via 2025 Free Agency will be eligible to be kept for up to three years, with 2025 counting as Year 1
 - Players acquired via 2025 Free Agency can be kept in eligible future years for a dollar amount equal to the number of Free Agency points spent on their selection (note that this is different than the 50% rule for 2024 drafted player keepers), **as long as they are on an MLP team roster throughout the season without ever having been dropped and going unclaimed by another team**
 - **Scenario 1:** John Doe is drafted by Team A in the Premier Free Agent Draft and stays on their roster for the entire season; he IS eligible to be kept
 - **Scenario 2:** Jane Doe is drafted by Team B in the Premier Free Agent Draft, listed as Team B's 5th player during Premier Waiver period #2, claimed by Team C, and spends the rest of the season with Team C; she IS NOT eligible to be kept
 - **Scenario 3:** John Doe is drafted by Team D in the Challenger Free Agent Draft, dropped as the corresponding move for a waiver claim during Challenger Waivers, and NOT claimed by any other team; John is NOT eligible to be kept

Player Pool

Only UPA contracted players are eligible to be kept, drafted, and/or play in MLP events in 2025.

- A full UPA-signed player list will be provided to MLP teams ahead of the February 16 keeper deadline

- Supplemental updates will be made as additional players reach contract agreements and new signings will be shared with teams accordingly
- UPA will no longer allow any unsigned players to compete in MLP; in order for a player to compete on an MLP team, they must be signed to a UPA contract for 2025
 - In regards to player keepers, a player who played MLP in 2024 but is no longer on a UPA contract for 2025 can be designated as a team's dropped player at the keeper deadline

Any player with a top-15 **PPA Tour Doubles ranking** ("The Rank" in either gendered or mixed) is ineligible to be traded from a Premier Level team to a Challenger Level team.

- **Players on a Challenger Level roster who are currently ranked in the top-15, or enter the top-15 after this rule has gone into effect, may remain on a Challenger Level roster**

Trade Window #1

The first trade window of the season will commence from **Wednesday, Jan. 22** through **Saturday, Feb. 15, at 10 p.m. ET**. All teams must maintain two (2) men & two (2) women on their roster at all times until the Player Keeper deadline of **Sunday, Feb. 16**.

One trade partner must email UPA/MLP staff including Samin Odhwani and representatives from Competition (Courtney Johnson), Owner Relations (Maddie Moeke), and Communications (Jay Moskowitz) – also copying in a representative from the other team involved in the transaction – with the full and agreed to trade parameters. The league will need to approve the full trade, and all details (players **and/or** cash) **MUST** be included in the email.

Once approved, the teams will contact their player(s) to inform them of the transaction (teams should be responsible for first contacting the player(s) they are trading away, then should reach out to the player(s) they are acquiring, once all players have been informed). **MLP will then coordinate with all involved teams to share the news internally and externally, following the players being informed.**

Teams will be allowed to trade any of the following with another team and *all trades will be subject to league approval and will be executed in a timely manner:*

- **Players:** Can be traded – either within or between Premier and Challenger – so long as teams maintain two (2) men and two (2) women on their roster at all times
- **Cash Compensation:** Up to \$200,000 per trade; any financial compensation as part of a trade goes straight to a team (no allocation to the league)

A player traded during Trade Window #1 is not eligible to be re-acquired via trade by the team that traded them away until AFTER Challenger Level waivers are completed (Wednesday, Jun. 11**), unless the player was first dropped during either Player Keepers or Waivers**

- **Scenario 1:** John Doe is traded from Team A to Team B during Trade Window #1 and kept by Team B. Team A cannot trade for that player until after waivers are completed (**Wednesday, Jun. 11**) and before the trade deadline (**Monday, Jul 14**)
- **Scenario 2:** John Doe is traded from Team A to Team B during Trade Window #1 and dropped by Team B at the Player Keeper deadline. John is then picked up in free agency by Team C. Team A may work out a trade for John with Team C at any time before the trade deadline (**Wednesday, Jul. 16**)
- **Scenario 3:** John Doe is traded from Team A to Team B during Trade Window #1, kept by Team B until waivers – where he is dropped – and then claimed on waivers by Team C. Team A may trade for John from Team C, after Challenger Level waivers are completed (**Wednesday, Jun. 11**) and before the trade deadline (**Wednesday, Jul. 16**)

For the sake of clarity, these examples may help to illustrate what teams are allowed to do during Trade Window #1, assuming all teams maintain two (2) men and two (2) women on their roster at all times until they make at least one (1) mandatory drop at the Player Keeper deadline:

- **Scenario 1:** All four of Team 1's players currently on their roster are not signed by UPA. They may trade any of those players and cash compensation to another team (or teams) in exchange for an equal number of same-gendered players that are on signed contracts and eligible to be kept in 2025. Both teams will have to drop at least one (1) player at the Player Keeper deadline.
- **Scenario 2:** One of Team 2's currently rostered players was selected on waivers in 2024. Team 2 may trade that player and cash considerations to Team 3 in exchange for a player that is eligible to be kept. Team 3 will be required to drop the acquired player, since they were not drafted and are therefore not eligible to be kept. Team 2 will be required to drop at least one player on their roster at the Player Keeper deadline.

Trade Window #2

Following the conclusion of both Premier and Challenger Free Agency, teams will be allowed to execute trades at any point from then **until Wednesday, Jul. 16, at 10 p.m. ET**. *Trade exceptions due to injury and/or pregnancy for a player will be allowed after this date - subject to league approval.*

One trade partner must email UPA/MLP staff including Samin Odhwani and representatives from Competition (Courtney Johnson), Owner Relations (Maddie Moeke), and Communications (Jay Moskowitz) - also copying in a representative from the other team involved in the transaction - with the full and agreed to trade parameters. The league will need to approve the full trade, and all details (players **and/or** cash) **MUST** be included in the email.

Once approved, the teams will contact their player(s) to inform them of the transaction (teams should be responsible for first contacting the player(s) they are trading away, then should reach out to the player(s) they are acquiring, once all players have been informed). **MLP will then coordinate with all involved teams to share the news internally and externally, following the players being informed.**

- Teams will be allowed to trade any of the following with another team and *all trades will be subject to league approval and will be executed in a timely manner*:
 - Players: Can be traded - either within or between Premier and Challenger - and teams must maintain three men and three women on their roster at all times
 - Cash Compensation: Up to \$200,000 per trade; any financial compensation as part of a trade goes straight to a team (no allocation to the league)
 - Waiver Wire Selections Slots: Only **Challenger Level** waiver selection slots for the current season are eligible to be traded **between Challenger teams**
 - **Premier Level waiver selection slots are ineligible to be traded**
- **A player traded during Trade Window #2 is not eligible to be re-acquired via trade by the team that traded them away until AFTER Challenger Level waivers are completed (Wednesday, Jun. 11)**

Starting Lineups

As a result of expanded Premier Level rosters, those teams will have optionality on which two males and which two females will play on a given match day.

- Premier Level teams must set their daily lineup on the day before each match day (i.e.: if a team is playing on Thursday, they must set the lineup on Wednesday; they would repeat the process on Thursday for Friday matches, etc.)
 - The process for daily lineup setting will be shared closer to the start of the 2025 MLP season

- In the case of an injury during an event, a Premier Level team is to use their bench player of the same gender as an injury replacement (more in **Injuries** section)
 - In this scenario, the injury replacement must play in all team matches for the remainder of that day, in addition to all team matches on the following day (i.e.: a player serving as a mid-match injury replacement on Thursday must also play all Friday matches, but the originally injured player is eligible to be in the team's Saturday and Sunday lineups, if applicable)

Regular Season (Ten (10) Events; April-August)

The 2025 MLP schedule will consist of ten (10) different regular season events, each featuring a collection of the 22 MLP teams playing multiple matches.

- **ALL TEAMS** will participate in five (5) of the ten (10) total regular season events
- Every team will be scheduled to play a total of 25 regular season matches over their five (5) events
 - Teams should expect to be scheduled to play 4-6 matches at each participating event

Regular Season Standings

A total of three standings points will be earned in every regular season match. The cumulative season-long standings will be calculated at both levels.

- Standings points are earned in every match as follows:
 - 3 Points: Regulation win (i.e.: 3-1 or 4-0 win; no DreamBreaker needed)
 - 2 Points: DreamBreaker win (i.e.: 3-2 win)
 - 1 Point: DreamBreaker loss (i.e.: 2-3 loss)
 - 0 Points: Regulation loss (i.e.: 1-3 or 0-4 loss; no DreamBreaker needed)
- **For the Premier Level, the 10 teams with the most points at the end of the regular season will earn entry into the 2025 MLP Playoffs**
 - If there is a tie between two (2) or more teams with the same number of points, the tiebreaker will be Matches Won %, followed by Games Won %, from regular season matches
- **For the Challenger Level, all six (6) teams will earn entry into the 2025 MLP Playoffs**
 - If there is a tie between two (2) or more teams with the same number of points, the tiebreaker will be Matches Won %, followed by Games Won %, from regular season matches

2025 MLP Mid-Season Tournament

For the second straight year, the Mid-Season Tournament will feature all 22 MLP franchises competing in double elimination brackets at their respective level to crown both a Premier Level and Challenger Level event champion.

- Teams will be seeded for each bracket based on Points per Match for the season to date, with Matches Won % serving as tiebreaker
- The winner of the Mid-Season Tournament will earn six (6) additional regular season standings points, second place will earn four (4) additional standings points, and third place will receive two (2) standings points

2025 MLP Premier Level Playoffs

The top 10 Premier Level teams will qualify and be seeded No. 1-10, based on regular season standings points earned

- First Round (San Diego): Seeds 7-10 will play a **single-elimination** match against one opponent, with the winning teams advancing to the Second Round
 - The higher seeds (starting with the No. 7 seed) will have the ability to select their opponent from the No. 9-10 seeds, make all four selections for the coin toss, and respond to the lineup for the DreamBreaker.

The No. 8 seed will play the remaining opponent, make all four coin toss selections, and respond to the lineup for the Dreambreaker. The two teams advancing from this round will be seeded No. 7 and No. 8 and the team with the higher number of regular season standings points will be the higher seed.

- Second Round (San Diego): Seeds 1-6 and the two (2) teams to advance from the First Round (now seeded 7 and 8) will play a **best-of-three** match series against one opponent, with the winning teams advancing to the Semifinals
 - The higher seeds (starting with the No. 1 seed) will have the ability to select their opponent from the No. 5-8 seeds, make all four selections for the coin toss, and respond to the lineup for the DreamBreaker for the first two matches of a series
- Semifinals (New York): The four teams that advance from the Second Round will play a **best-of-three** match series against one opponent, with the winners advancing to the Finals
 - The higher seeds (starting with the highest remaining seed) will have the ability to select their opponent of the two lowest remaining seeds that advanced from the Second Round, make all four selections for the coin toss, and respond to the lineup for the DreamBreaker for the first two matches of a series
- Finals (New York): The Semifinals winners will play for the 2025 Premier Level Championship in a best-of-three match series, with the higher seed making all four selections for the coin toss and responding to the lineup for the DreamBreaker for the first two matches of a series

2025 MLP Challenger Level Playoffs

All six Challenger Level teams will qualify and be seeded No. 1-6, based on regular season standings points earned

- First Round (San Diego): Seeds 3-6 will play a **single-elimination** match against one opponent, with the winning teams advancing to the Semifinals
 - The higher seeds (starting with the No. 3 seed) will have the ability to select either the No. 5 or No. 6 seed as their opponent, make all four selections for the coin toss, and respond to the lineup for the DreamBreaker for the first two matches of a series
- Semifinals (San Diego): Seeds No. 1, No. 2, and the teams to advance from the First Round will play a **best-of-three** match series against one opponent, with the winning teams advancing to the Finals
 - The higher seeds (starting with the No. 1 seed) will have the ability to select their opponent from the group of teams that advanced from the Second Round, make all four selections for the coin toss, and respond to the lineup for the DreamBreaker for the first two matches of a series
- Finals (New York): The Semifinals winners will play for the 2025 Challenger Level Championship in a **best-of-three** match series, with the higher seed making all four selections for the coin toss and responding to the lineup for the DreamBreaker for the first two matches of a series

Match Scoring

- MLP will switch to a side out scoring system for the doubles format of MLP (e.g., Gender & Mixed)
 - Games will be played to 11 points, with a winning margin of at least two points
- DreamBreakers will be played under the rally scoring format and played to 21 points, with players switching out every four (4) points
 - The freeze will remain at game point; the DreamBreaker must be won on serve
- **NOTE:** UPA/MLP is evaluating match scoring to maximize sports betting and may introduce changes in the future

Waiver Wire - Premier Level

Premier Level teams will be allowed to participate in **two** waiver wire periods to make changes to their rosters during the 2025 season; this updated Premier Level Waivers schedule will replace previously announced Premier Waivers dates:

- **Mon, May 12 - Premier Level Waivers #1** (following MLP Columbus - event ends Sun, May 4)
- **Mon, June 16 - Premier Level Waivers #2** (following MLP Salt Lake City - event ends Sun, June 8)

Teams will designate their top four (4) players on the Tuesday following the most recent event ahead of that Premier Waiver period, and all teams' fifth and sixth players will be available to be claimed on waivers

- In order for another team to claim another team's fifth or sixth player, they must drop one of their own top four players as the corresponding move.

Before the waiver period, teams potentially interested in making a waiver claim will submit a bid in the amount of at least \$1,000 for the upcoming waiver period

- Each waiver period's selection order will be shared with teams the Friday before selections are to be made
- Selections will go in descending order from the highest bid
 - If the team makes a waiver claim, they will then need to **pay the bid amount to the team from which that player was claimed**
 - If a team decides not to make a waiver claim, they will not owe their bid amount, and may not make any selection for that waiver period
- If a team's 5th or 6th player gets claimed, they will immediately replace that player with the dropped player from the team OR a same-gendered UPA-signed player who is not on an MLP roster

There will be only one (1) round of waiver selections for each Premier Waivers period

- **Only players under UPA contract are eligible to be claimed on waivers; teams may no longer claim a player not under UPA contract**
- **Players that were not drafted in 2024 or signed during 2025 MLP Free Agency - but were selected on waivers - will not be eligible to be kept in future years**
- **Waiver slots may only be used by the team picking in that slot and are no longer eligible to be traded**
- Premier teams will participate first in the waiver wire and any player dropped by a Premier team will be eligible for another Premier team to pick up
 - If that player goes unclaimed, they will be eligible for the Challenger waiver wire process

2025 Premier Waivers important dates are as follows:

- **Tue, May 6** - Premier teams declare 5th and 6th players by Noon ET
- **Wed, May 7** - MLP to share available player pool with Premier teams by Noon ET
- **Thu, May 8** - Premier teams submit waivers bids via Dutch Auction by noon ET
- **Fri, May 9** - MLP shares waiver selection order by Noon ET (picks cannot be traded)
- **Mon, May 12** - Premier Level Waivers #1, beginning at Noon ET (one round)

- **Tue, June 10** - Premier teams declare 5th and 6th players by Noon ET
- **Wed, June 11** - MLP to share available player pool with Premier teams by Noon ET
- **Thu, June 12** - Premier teams submit waivers bids via Dutch Auction by Noon ET
- **Fri, June 13** - MLP shares waiver selection order by Noon ET (picks cannot be traded)
- **Mon, June 16** - Premier Level Waivers #2, beginning at Noon ET (one round)

Waiver Wire - Challenger Level

Challenger teams will be allowed to participate in **one** waiver wire process to make changes to their rosters during the 2025 season. That waiver wire period will take place after MLP Salt Lake City (regular season event #5), on **Wednesday, Jun. 11.**

- Challenger Level waiver order will be shared with teams on **Monday, Jun. 9**, with the selection order determined by points earned per match played to date (the team with the fewest points per match will select first, etc.)
 - Match Win % will serve as first tiebreaker

- Games Won % will serve as second tiebreaker
- Teams can make up to two (2) waiver selections; Round 1 and Round 2 selection order will stay the same
 - **Only players under UPA contract are eligible to be claimed on waivers; teams may no longer claim a player not under UPA contract**
 - **Players that were not drafted in 2024 or signed during 2025 MLP Free Agency – but were selected on waivers – will not be eligible to be kept in future years**
- Waiver slots can be utilized in trades **between Challenger teams** or used to make a selection
- Premier teams will participate first in the waiver wire and any player dropped by a Premier team will be eligible for another Premier team to pick up
 - If that player goes unclaimed, they will be eligible for the Challenger waiver wire process

Injuries

The Premier & Challenger injury process will operate as follows:

- If an injury is to occur during an MLP event, a Premier Level team will first be required to use one of their bench players as a replacement
 - If the bench players are not in attendance, teams can select from an available pool of alternates provided by the league; that list will be made available one week prior to each event
- If a team needs to replace a player between MLP events and they are unable to execute a trade to replace the injured player, they will be allowed to make a selection from the available waiver wire player pool if they are unable to utilize an additional player on their roster
- Challenger & Premier Level teams will have one “Injured Reserve” slot where a player can be placed and the team will maintain the rights to keep that player
 - **If a player is placed on “Injured Reserve”, they are ineligible to be traded or return to play for the remainder of the season**
 - Teams can pick up a player as an IR replacement – though that player must come from the player pool of UPA contracted players not currently on an MLP roster
- **In 2025, the player loan system that was in place for the 2024 season will no longer exist, as it is now unnecessary with the expansion of Premier Level team rosters from four players to six**