

THE ONE-PAGE PLAYBOOK

SURVIVOR POOL STRATEGY CHEAT SHEET

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01 THE NON-NEGOTIABLES

- **Survive this week first.** You can't win in Week 14 if you're out in Week 2. Don't over-save.
- **One team, one time.** Track every team you burn — re-picking is an automatic elimination.
- **It's straight up.** Your team only has to win, not cover the spread.

03 THINK WEEKS AHEAD

- Map a tentative path 2–3 weeks out, then re-check it weekly as spreads move.
- Save 2–3 strong teams for the brutal late-season weeks (15–18).
- Note bye weeks so you don't plan a team that isn't playing.
- **Watch public pick %.** In big pools, a smart contrarian pick separates you from the field.

02 PICK-QUALITY RULES OF THUMB

- Home teams win roughly **57%** of NFL games — lean home in close calls.
- Teams favored by **7+** points win about **75%** of the time. That's your survivor sweet spot.
- **Avoid divisional matchups** — rivals play tighter than the records suggest.
- **Respect the weather.** Wind and cold flatten pass-heavy favorites in December.
- A backup QB or key injury can erase a favorite's edge — check inactives before you lock.

04 POOL SIZE CHANGES EVERYTHING

SMALL POOL · UNDER ~25

PLAY IT CHALKY

Stay safe — you only need to outlast a few people.

LARGE POOL · HUNDREDS+

DIFFERENTIATE

Calculated contrarian picks gain value as the field shrinks.

05 WEEKLY CHECKLIST — BEFORE YOU LOCK

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home favorite of 7+? | <input type="checkbox"/> Already used this team? | <input type="checkbox"/> Key injuries or weather? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divisional or trap game? | <input type="checkbox"/> Needed more in a later week? | <input type="checkbox"/> What is the crowd doing? |