

Yahoo Defensive Scoring Overview, 2022 Review, and 2023 Preview

So the new hotness is adding individual defensive players (or IDP) to the lineup. You probably play in other leagues where you draft an entire team's defense and receive points for the entire team's worth of sacks and turnovers forced, and lose points for giving up a lot of yards and points. IDPs are very different in that you draft players from different teams and only get points for the plays they make specifically. For some of you this may be old news if you already play in another league that has defensive players. You have my permission to skip the explanations and go straight to the review/preview section. For the rest of us, I'll go over Yahoo's scoring and roster formats before giving an analysis on how this could effect the league.

First lets go over the default roster designations. Yahoo designates players as DT/DE/LB/CB/S. We can set a Defensive Player (D) slot in your line up and all positions can start in that spot. Defensive Players can not start in our current SuperFLEX spot. We can set up Defensive Line (DL) slot and DT and DE can start in that spot. We can set up a Defensive Back (DB) slot and can start CB and S in that slot. LBs are designated by their position on their specific defense. As an example TJ Watt is an OLB in the Pittsburg Steelers' 3 man front defense. However he is primarily a pass rusher. If he were on the Cheifs' 4 man front defense, he would play DE. But on Yahoo, because he plays 3-4 OLB he is considered a LB and can only start in the LB position and not the DL or DE position. My recommendation for our first season of IDP is to have just a single D (essentially a defensive flex) slot in our line-up, if we decide we like the effect that IDPs have then we could add a DL, LB, and DB slot to the starting lineup for 4 IDP slots total. We probably would want to add some roster spots so we aren't dropping valuable offensive players to make room for IDPs.

Default Yahoo Scoring for IDPs are as follows

Solo Tackle is 1pt

Assisted Tackle is .5pt

Sack is 2pt

Int is 3 pt

Pass Deflected is 1pt

Fumble Forced is 2pt

Fumbe Recovered is 2pt

Defensive TD is 6pt

Safety is 2pt

Defensive Conversion is 2pt

Blocked Kick is 2pt

By default a Tackle for Loss does not give any extra point but we can set a bonus.

We also can award points for return yardage on turnovers but that's off by default.

Fantasy Pros defensive scoring gives full credit for an assisted tackle as well as giving credit for return yardage and QB hits (not supported on Yahoo) as well as a 1pt bonus for a TFL.

If you have other leagues that do scoring in another way, let us know and we can consider them as well. Those boost defensive line

Since we have no experience with IDP, I'd recommend no change to the defaults but that is also something we can revisit after the season after implementing IDP

Here are the top 10 of each DL, LB, and DB eligible positions for 2022 based on Yahoo defaults

All

Rank	Name	Position	Fantasy Points
1	Foyesade Oloukun	ILB	173 pts
2	Roquan Smith	ILB	160 pts
3	Nick Bolton	ILB	159 pts
4	Zaire Franklin	ILB	152.5 pts
5	Jalen Pitre	S	148 pts
6	Jordyn Brooks	ILB	143 pts
7	CJ Mosely	ILB	142.5 pts
8	TJ Edwards	ILB	142 pts
9	Dru Tranquil	ILB	139.5 pts
10	Bobby Okereke	ILB	138 pts

DL

Rank	Name	Position	Fantasy Points
1	Maxx Crosby	DE	112.5 pts
2	Christian Wilkins	DT	97.5 pts
3	Myles Garret	DE	88.5 pts
4	Nick Bosa	DE	88 pts
5	Cam Heyward	DT	85.5 pts
6	Deforest Buckner	DT	84 pts
7	Demarcus Lawrence	DE	83 pts
8	Quinnen Williams	DT	81 pts
9	Daron Payne	DT	80 pts
10	Jonathan Allen	DT	79.5 pts

LB

Rank	Name	Position	Fantasy Points
1	Foyesade Oloukun	ILB	173 pts
2	Roquan Smith	ILB	160 pts
3	Nick Bolton	ILB	159 pts
4	Zaire Franklin	ILB	152.5 pts
5	Jordyn Brooks	ILB	143 pts
6	CJ Mosely	ILB	142.5 pts
7	TJ Edwards	ILB	142 pts
8	Dru Tranquil	ILB	139.5 pts
9	Bobby Okereke	ILB	138 pts
10	Alex Singleton	ILB	137 pts

DB

Rank	Name	Position	Fantasy Points
1	Jalen Pitre	S	148 pts
2	Rayshawn Jenkins	S	129.5 pts
3	L'Jarius Sneed	CB	126.5 pts
4	Julian Love	S	118.5 pts
5	Jalen Ramsey	CB	118 pts
6	Talanoa Hufanga	S	116.5 pts
7	Richie Grant	S	115.5 pts
8	Derwin James	S	113.5 pts
9	Minkah Fitzpatrick	S	113 pts
10	Jonathan Owens	S	110.5 pts

IDP scoring is heavily biased towards Inside Linebackers due to the fact they rack up nearly 100 tackles a year and usually have a few sacks and turnovers as well. The other positions don't show up on the stat sheets in as many categories and so though they get more sacks or INTs they end up lagging behind LBs anyway. There was only 1 DB in the top 10 of IDP and the highest DL was Maxx Crosby who wasn't even top 50. There isn't really a way around this as devaluing tackles is not really an option as then defensive players basically become pointless as they score so little per game. We could try Fantasy Pros scoring but that boosts the top ILBs even more but at least rounds out the top 10 a bit better. In comparison to offense, the top defensive player Oluokun (173 pts) would be ranked 67 just ahead of Jimmy Garapollo (QB25) and George Kittle (TE3). The 10th best defensive player Bobby Okereke (138 pts) would be ranked just ahead of Dionte Johnson (WR40) and Baker Mayfield (QB28)

Top 5 performances for the seasons were...

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As you can see there weren't even 5 20+ point games in 2022 based on Yahoo's default scoring. Players tend to get big games by either getting massive (10+) tackle numbers or by housing a turnover. If you are in another league with IDPs let us know how you do scoring and I will rerun these rankings with those settings

Now onto the season preview, the top 10 ranked players according to Fantasy Pros include 8 Linebackers, a Defensive End and a Safety. Here is the top 15 according to fantasy pros.

[OBJ]

I will be updating you all on each week's top 5 defensive players . Hopefully this information gives us a complete picture on implementing IDP next offseason.