



## Here Comes The Sun... Dream Team

Haven't you heard? Dream Team's new fantasy game is available to play right now!

In many ways, pre-season is the best time of the year for Dream Team managers. Now is the time for unbridled optimism. Fantasise about inspired transfers, profitable captaincy selections, and perfectly-timed Boosters. Tell yourself: this will be my year!

With unlimited transfers available prior to Gameweek 1, there's no reason to delay. Register today and get tinkering like Claudio Ranieri in the early-to-mid noughties. Ploughing through endless drafts is all part of the fun. If you play Dream Team via our app, make sure it's up to date and get cracking.

**Play Now!**



We have made a few improvements to the game from last season so allow me to highlight the most important changes.

Goal involvements are more valuable than ever with an extra point for each goal and assist. It's now six points per goal and three points for every assist. Your team should possess plenty of firepower at all times.

Elsewhere, we've replaced Park the Bus with Goal Bonus. This new Booster adds a further three points to each goal scored by your players during the relevant Gameweek. This means each goal will be worth NINE points each when Goal Bonus is activated.

Needless to say, combining this Booster with an optimal captaincy choice has huge potential. A hat-trick from your skipper during Goal Bonus week would result in 54 points and that's before the additions of shots on target, appearance points, etc.

Please be aware that the deadline for each Gameweek will now fall 90 minutes before the first fixture gets underway, with the exception of Gameweek 1. To ensure as many people register to play before the new campaign begins, the deadline for Gameweek 1 (8pm) will coincide with kick-off between Manchester United and Fulham on Friday August 16th.

Speaking of Gameweek 1, we're offering up £5,000 to the gaffer who earns the most points from the first round of Premier League games! Talk about starting the season in style.

Come May, the overall winner will bank £50,000 with ten runners-up pocketing £1,000 each. There's also £250 for each weekly winner from Gameweek 2 onwards. All this prize money up for grabs from a free-to-play game, we really do spoil you.

Another addition to the season game that we're taking from our Euros offering is the introduction of a vice captain. This player will have their score doubled if your first-choice captain doesn't play for any reason. Think of it as a safety net.

I would also encourage you to make use of the fixture calendar available in the Stats Centre this season. It gives an overarching view of the upcoming games, segregated by Gameweeks, which should help you plan long-term strategies with greater clarity.



This Coach newsletter will be crammed full of stats, facts, tips and tricks in the coming weeks with a view to guiding you towards a competitive XI for Gameweek 1.

At this early stage, I can't help but notice a Euros hangover of sorts. Naturally, many gaffers were caught up in England's run to the final but I would encourage everyone to revert to their Premier League mindset when delving back into the world of Dream Team.

Take Marc Guehi (£3.5m) and Kobbie Mainoo (£3m) for example. The pair won plenty of admirers for their efforts for the Three Lions this summer and both are very fine players but their immense popularity doesn't quite align with their prospects for the season ahead, in my humble opinion.

Guehi's ownership of 14.7% makes him the fourth-most popular defender at present but those keen on Crystal Palace clean sheets should consider Joachim Andersen (£3m) and/or Daniel Munoz (£3m) instead. Both are cheaper than the England centre-back for starters; the former averaged more points-per-game last season while the latter offers an attacking threat.

As for Mainoo, he appears in 19.1% of teams right now, making him the sixth-most selected midfielder. He's more popular than Eberechi Eze (£4.5m), Bruno Fernandes (£6m), Rodri (£4.5m) and several other players who tend to rack up plentiful points. Granted, the talented Mainoo is affordable at £3m but I'm not sure he'll provide the returns needed to justify his presence in almost a fifth of all teams.

Elsewhere, it's interesting that Cole Palmer (£6m) is twice as popular as Phil Foden (£6.5m) at this stage. Both are top-tier options but I can't help but feel many Dream Team bosses are still looking at the latter as somebody struggling to find his place in England's set-up rather than the Manchester City superstar who finished top of the Dream Team rankings last season. Foden came ever so close to a quadruple century of points in 2023/24. He should not be easily overlooked.

**DREAM TEAM**

