How to Run a Draft In StatsLab

The online draft portion of StatsLab has been completely rewritten in the new version to make the draft more flexible and with that flexibility comes added complexity. In the end, the entire draft experience will hopefully be more enjoyable for all the draft participants.

Enabling The Draft Module

1. Log in to StatsLab with a commissioner account
2. Go to the Admin section of StatsLab.
3. In the nav bar, click on the Pages link.
4. Click the checkbox for the draft module and league you want it enabled for, and click save.

Quick Guide To Draft Configuration

1. Go to the Draft Admin page.
2. Click "Purge Last Draft".
3. Configure draft settings and save.
4. Generate the draft pool.
5. Generate the auto draft list.
6. Enable the draft.

Detailed Guide to Draft Configuration

Initializing the draft

The first thing that needs to happen each time you wish to run a draft for a league is to go the draft admin page for that league and click the "Purge Last Draft" button. StatsLab can only have information for one draft per league at a time. Clicking this button will have the following effects:

- Clear the draft order and schedule
- Clear the draft pool and auto draft list
- Clear all team draft lists

If you don't click this button after previously running a draft in StatsLab for the same league, you run the risk that StatsLab will be confused by picks made in the previous draft or try to draft players that are not eligible for your new draft.

General Draft Settings

On the left side of the draft admin page are a series of settings for configuring the draft. The top section contains general settings that should be carefully reviewed before your draft.

Enable Draft: The enable draft checkbox determines whether or not picks can be made in your draft. Check this only when you are ready to allow GM's to start making picks.

Pause Auto Picks (manual only): This check box will prevent the draft from automatically making draft picks even if a team is placed on auto pick.

Set Team to Auto After Auto Pick: This check box will update a team's settings to auto draft if they are auto picked by StatsLab. Note that if the commish manually clicks the auto pick option from the draft board, this setting will be ignored.

Auto Open Teams (no human GM): This check box will consider any team not managed by a human GM as on auto pick.

Autopick Delay (sec): This setting allows the commish to enter the time to wait before making an auto pick after another selection has been made. This applies to any team that is on auto pick or on auto pick from their draft list. Set this to 0 to have auto picks processed immediately following the previous pick being made.

Additionally, near the bottom of the left side of the draft admin page are two settings related to email notifications.

Send Email To: This selection list determines whether or not StatsLab sends email notifications after draft picks are made, and to whom the email should go:

- *None* – No email will be sent
- *All* – Emails will be sent to all GM's in the league as well as commissioners regardless of subscription settings.
- *Commish* – Emails will be sent only to commissioners and the active pick's GM, if subscribed.
- *Subscribed* – Emails will be sent only to GM's in the league who have subscribed for draft updates.
- *Active Pick* – Emails will be sent only to the GM of the active pick.

Email Reply-to Field: This selection determined the draft notification's reply-to field.

- *All* – All email addresses of GM's in the league as well as commissioners will be included.
- *Commish* – Only commissioner email addresses will be included.
- *Subscribed* – Only emails of GM's in the league who have subscribed to the draft will be included.

Creating the Draft Order

The draft order in StatsLab can be modified in three different ways, via the Draft Creation settings, via the Import/Export feature, and via the Draft Order page.

The recommended method for creating the draft is to first use the Draft Creation settings to create the draft, then modify the order using the Import/Export feature and/or the Draft Order page.

Draft Creation Settings

The Draft Creation settings are found on the left side of the Draft Admin page and contain the following fields:

Number of Rounds: This should be the number of draft rounds in your draft. Do not include an additional round for supplemental draft rounds.

> e.g. *If you have a 5 round draft with a supplemental round after Round 1, enter 5.*

Supplemental Round After Round X: This should be a semicolon delimited list of the rounds which have supplemental draft rounds following them.

> e.g. *If you have supplemental rounds after each of the first two rounds, enter "1;2".*

Alternate Round Length: By default, StatsLab generates each draft round with one pick per team in the league. This field allows you to tell StatsLab that not all of your rounds have the exact same number of picks as there are teams in your league. The format for the field is the round number and number of picks for that round, separated by a comma. Each round should be separated by a semi colon, and supplemental rounds should be designated with an "S" in front of the round number.

> e.g. *If you have 24 teams in your league, but 26 picks in round 1, 5 picks in the supplemental round after round 1, and 27 picks in round 2, enter the following:*

> *1,26;S1,5;2,27*

> *All rounds after round 2 will have 24 picks.*

Draft Order: By default, StatsLab will populate draft picks in order of worst record to first. This setting allows you to specify whether or not that default order should be modified to alternate leagues when having multiple sub-leagues. In the case of alternation, the draft order within each league will still be worst to first.

- *Worst to First* – Choose this to have all teams order by previous season's record regardless of league affiliation
- *Alternating: AL First* – Choose this setting to have draft picks alternate by league, with the American League picking prior to the National League (or whatever your leagues are called).
- *Alternating: NL First* – Choose this setting to have draft picks alternate by league, with the National League picking prior to the American League (or whatever your leagues are called).

Draft Pattern: This setting allows you to tell the draft order to populated in Linear or Serpentine fashion.

- *Linear* – Each round will be populated with teams in the same order.
- *Serpentine* – Odd rounds will be populated with the same draft order, while even rounds will be populated in the reverse order of the even rounds.

(Re)Create draft order: This checkbox MUST be checked in order for StatsLab to adjust your draft order when you save settings. Otherwise, the settings will just be saved and your draft will not be modified. Note that checking this box will lose all draft picks currently made and the draft schedule associated with your current draft. If you need to modify the draft order after the draft has begun, use the Import/Export feature or the Draft Order page.

Import/Export Draft Order

The right side of the Draft Admin page contains a section where you can import and export the draft order to a CSV file. The format of the file is important, so if you aren't sure what format you need, use the Draft Creation settings to create an initial draft order, then use the Export Draft Order feature to create a sample CSV file for you.

When importing the draft order, please note that the import will likely fail if you have the import file open. Be sure to close Excel, Open Office, or whatever program you use to modify the CSV file before importing.

Draft Order Page

The Draft Admin nav bar contains a link to the Draft Order page where the draft order and schedule can be modified. The draft order page will show one draft round at a time (including the supplemental round associated with that round).

From here, you can quickly and easily change who a pick belongs to, or the scheduled time for that pick. Be careful not to schedule picks out of order.

Proper format for the pick due time is: "YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS".

You can also delete picks from the draft order here, however you cannot add them back in, so only use this feature if you know you don't want that pick anymore. If you delete a pick and need to add it back in while the draft is running, your only option is the Import/Export feature.

Scheduling the Draft

StatsLab has the ability to schedule your draft with set due times for picks to be made, and then optional enforce that schedule. If you plan to use the timer, please read this section carefully.

Enable Draft Timer: If this box is checked, StatsLab will process the draft according to your draft schedule and the associated settings.

Adjust Pick Time With Each Pick: If this box is checked, every time a draft pick is made, the remaining draft picks will be rescheduled according to the settings defined here.

Current Server Time: The current server time is displayed as the draft schedule will be generated in accordance with the time zone setting defined on the main StatsLab admin page. Make sure that the times you enter are appropriate for the time zone StatsLab thinks you're in. If you change the time zone setting on the StatsLab admin page, you'll want to reschedule your draft.

Start Date: The date on which you wish your draft to start. Enter as MM/DD/YYYY. Enter a date in the past if you want your draft to be scheduled starting immediately.

> *e.g. 7/12/2012*

Start Time: The time at which you want the draft to begin on the Start Date. Enter in 24 hr time format.

> *e.g. 1400*

Time Per Pick (min): Enter the number of minutes between each pick, starting with the first pick. The first pick of you draft will be due on the Start Date at the Start Time plus this many minutes.

> *e.g. 120*

- Through Round: Enter the round through which you want the first Time Per Pick setting to apply. If you want to apply it to your entire draft, enter a number higher than the total number of rounds in your draft. You cannot enter supplemental rounds here, so if you enter 1 and have a supplemental round after the first round, the time per pick will apply to the first round and the supplemental round associated with it.

Time Per Pick After (min): Enter the number of minutes between each pick, starting with the first pick of the normal round following the Through Round setting. Commissioners often allow teams more time for the first few rounds than later rounds, so this setting accomplishes that.

> *e.g. 30*

Timer Starts At: Enter the time of day that the draft timer commences on each subsequent day of the draft. This setting does not apply on the Start Date of the draft. Enter in 24 hr time format.

> *e.g. 0800*

Timer Ends At: Enter the time of day that the draft timer stops at on each day of the draft. Enter 2400 to stop at midnight. Enter in 24 hr time format.

> *e.g. 2200*

Pause Timer On Weekends: Check this box if you don't wish to have picks scheduled to be due on Saturday or Sunday.

(Re)Schedule Picks: This checkbox MUST be checked in order for StatsLab to adjust your draft schedule when you save settings. Otherwise, the settings will just be saved and your draft will not be modified.

Understanding the Draft Timer

The draft timer has a few quirks of design that are important to understand before using it.

First, the draft timer isn't a true timer that runs in the background while you're off doing other things. It's only checked when someone accesses the draft board, so if you want it to run constantly, you'll need to leave a browser window open to the draft board.

In addition, the draft timer always schedules teams with enough time per pick during the timer's active period. This means that if the schedule results in a draft pick that goes past the timer stop time, the pick will then be scheduled after the timer start time with enough time to get the full remaining time per pick.

Because of these conditions, the Autopick Delay setting can have some interesting effects if people aren't actively in the draft while the scheduled times are passing by. The Autopick Delay is processed from the time the last pick was made, even if that pick was taken long after the current pick was due.

Creating the Draft Player Pool

There are two ways to create the draft pool. One is to generate the draft pool automatically, and the other is the Import/Export feature.

Auto-Generating the Draft Pool

The right side of the Draft Admin page contains a button which can be used to auto-generate the draft pool. If you have feeder leagues, you'll first want to set the appropriate graduation age on the left side of the Draft Admin page for each feeder league and save the setting.

Import/Export Feature

The right side of the Draft Admin page contains a section where you can import and export the draft pool to a CSV file. The format of the file is important, so if you aren't sure what format you need, use first auto-generate the pool, then use the Export Draft Pool feature to create a sample CSV file for you.

When importing the draft pool, please note that the import will likely fail if you have the import file open. Be sure to close Excel, Open Office, or whatever program you use to modify the CSV file before importing.

Creating the Auto-Draft List

After creating the draft pool, it's imperative that you generate the auto draft list if you plan on having StatsLab make autopicks for teams. Simply click this button after you're satisfied that your draft pool is

correct. If you make any chages to your draft pool, you MUST click this button again to avoid autopick errors.

Managing the Draft

Once you've enabled the draft and configured the timer, you have a few other tools available to help manage the draft as it progresses.

User Configuration

At the bottom of the Draft Admin page is a section that shows you the user configuration for each team in the league. You'll see the team name, GM, email, subscription status, and auto draft settings. You can enable or disable auto draft settings from here.

Commish Picks

There are three simple ways for a commissioner to make a pick for a team.

- *Commish Auto Pick*

When logged in as a commissioner, the draft board will display an "Auto Pick" hyperlink next to each unmade selection. Clicking this link will select the top player off that team's draft list if any players are on it, or the top player off of StatsLab's auto draft list. This will not place the team on auto pick.

- *Commish Manual Pick*

When logged in as a commissioner, the draft board will display a "Manual Pick" hyperlink next to each unmade selection. Clicking this link will take the commissioner to the draft's Manual Pick Editor page where you can choose a player from all the remaining players in the draft pool.

- *Act As GM*

From either the main StatsLab admin page, or from the draft's Team Warroom page, commissioner's can log change their login so that they're logged in as another GM. You can then make a draft selection for the active team from their Team Warroom. This is the only way for a commish to review a team's draft list prior to making a commish pick.

Fixing Mistakes

Did StatsLab pick the wrong player, or a GM make a mistake that needs to be corrected? There are three simple options for modifying a pick that has already been made, all available from the Draft Board when logged in as a commissioner.

- *Clear*

When logged in as a commissioner, the draft board will display a "Clear" hyperlink next to each made selection. Clicking this link will remove that pick, reschedule the draft, and take the team off of auto pick. The auto draft settings are cleared to avoid the draft timer remaking an overdue pick immediately.

- *Edit*

When logged in as a commissioner, the draft board will display an "Edit" hyperlink next to each made selection. Clicking this link will take the commissioner to the draft's Manual Pick Editor page where you can choose a player from all the remaining players in the draft pool. This link works just like the Manual Pick link, except that the already made selection will be pre-selected for you.

- *Rollback*

When logged in as a commissioner, the draft board will display a "Rollback" hyperlink next to each made selection. Clicking this link will remove that pick, reschedule the draft, and take the team off of auto pick. This link works exactly as the Clear link except that all picks from that point forward will be removed. Note that only the very first team (the one for which you clicked the link) will have their auto draft settings cleared.

- *Export/Re-Import Draft Order*

The fourth way to make picks or fix mistakes is a bit more involved, but can be useful if you need to make significant changes. From the Draft Admin page, you can export the draft order, input, change, or remove player ID's for the teams you wish modify, and then reimport the draft order.