

# Congressional Record

FantasyLaw Edition



United States  
of America

SELECTED PROCEEDINGS, DEBATES, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES  
OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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PREPARED BY THE GREEN BAG EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE USE OF  
PARTICIPANTS IN FANTASYLAW LEAGUES AND FOR THE  
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# Congressional Record

FantasyLaw Edition

*a supplement to*

## THE GREEN BAG

AN ENTERTAINING JOURNAL OF LAW

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**PARTICIPATION:** Beginning in November 2009 – and probably NOT before – you should be able to visit [www.fantasylaw.org](http://www.fantasylaw.org) to download the forms necessary to organize and register a FantasyLaw League or (if you are already an Owner) to download the form necessary to request a drop/add or trade. Registration of a Team in a *Green Bag* FantasyLaw League entitles the Owner of that Team to some impossible-to-predict-or-promise combination of the joys and sorrows of participation in the League of which that Team is a part, and nothing more. Anything else the *Green Bag* may produce in the course of FantasyLaw operations will take the form of gifts that we may or may not bestow on some Leagues or Owners (*e.g.*, a Blackmun Trophy) or a product you may purchase separately (*e.g.*, a subscription to the *Green Bag*, which may from time to time contain a FantasyLaw supplement).

**PARTICIPANTS:** We do not want to know who the Owners of FantasyLaw Teams are, and we will ignore all efforts to corrupt our useful ignorance. For purposes of FantasyLaw, we only want to know the identity and contact information for your League’s Commissioner, and the names of the League and the Teams in it. We will communicate only with the League Commissioner about the business of a League or any of its Teams. Anyone other than a Commissioner who attempts to communicate with us about a League or any Team or Owner in that League will be ignored. So, if you are one of those for whom fantasy sports are of deep importance, you should make sure that your Commissioner has made testamentary arrangements for the passing-along of his or her responsibilities as Commissioner.

**EDITORIAL POLICY:** This supplement is subject to the same rules and standards as the rest of the *Green Bag*. For details please see the masthead of the issue of the *Bag* in which this supplement appears.

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# FANTASYLAW COMMENTARY

## SCORING SUMMARY

*Daniel Klionsky*

Scoring in FantasyLaw is calculated using a rotisserie method.<sup>1</sup> Each week the total number of points awarded will equal the number of scoring categories within a league multiplied by the number of teams in the league. So, during the FantasyLaw preseason, the total number of points awarded within a league will be 11 (the number of scoring categories) times 5 (for those leagues with 5 teams) or times 6 (for the league with 6 teams).

For each of the 11 scoring categories in FantasyLaw, the number of points awarded to the highest scoring team will equal the number of teams in the league, with each successive team receiving 1 point less than the team before. For example, for a league with 5 teams, there will be a total of 15 points awarded per category ( $5+4+3+2+1=15$ ). The team with the highest score in a particular category will get 5 points, while the team with the second best

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*Daniel Klionsky is an editor of FantasyLaw and a student at the George Mason University School of Law.*

<sup>1</sup> To become an expert – or at least a book-learned expert – on rotisserie sports, read SAM WALKER, *FANTASY LAND* (Viking Adult 2006).

score in the category would get 4 points and so on with the lowest scoring member receiving 1 point. If 2 teams are tied within a category, each will be awarded the same rank and each tied team will receive an average of the total points normally allocated to the spots those teams occupy. For example, if 3 teams are tied for first place in a 5-team league, each member would receive 4 points  $((5+4+3)/3=4)$ .

Once this scoring is completed for each category, each team's scores in the 11 categories are summed to determine the team's weekly point total. At the end of the season, the weekly scores are summed and the team with the highest number of points is declared the winner.

For example, for the Galloping Gophers (the league with 6 teams), the week 2 raw data for Press Releases Issued ("PRI") was: Benchwarmers had 14, A Senatorless Clerk had 18, Snack Cakes had 15, Harmless Error had 2, Wilmot Provisos had 1, and Gavel Gazers had 2.<sup>2</sup> A Senatorless Clerk, with 18 PRI, wins the category. Since there are 6 teams in the league, A Senatorless Clerk – which has the most PRI – gets 6 points. Snack Cakes, with 15 PRI, comes in second place and gets 5 points. Benchwarmers comes in third and gets 4 points. Harmless Error and Gavel Gazers are tied for fourth place with 2 PRI each. They each get 2.5 points, which is the average of the fourth and fifth place points  $((3+2)/2=2.5)$ . Wilmot Provisos is in last place with 1 PRI and gets 1 point.



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<sup>2</sup> For a complete picture of the statistics and standing for the Galloping Gophers league – and every other FantasyLaw league, team, and player, for that matter – visit [www.fantasylaw.org](http://www.fantasylaw.org).

# THE MAKING OF MY FANTASYLAW MVP

*Brian Rock*

John F. Kerry (D-MA) has served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a U.S. Senator for 24 years. He has spent 19 years on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, currently serves as its chairman, and is a member of eight other committees and subcommittees. He is ranked fourteenth in Senate seniority, and was the 2004 Democratic nominee for President of the United States.

He was also not picked by a single team owner in any league participating in the FantasyLaw preseason.

And it's too bad – a little research shows that several teams could have benefited from having Kerry round out their rosters in the past two weeks. For instance, Harmless Error from the Galloping Gophers League would be in the number one spot if only it had drafted Kerry instead of Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO), and Speech and Debate Claws in the Stimulus Spending League could have had a second-place showing last week if Senator Arlen Specter (D for now-PA) were benched in favor of Kerry.

Granted, it is early in the season, and hindsight is always 20-20. Kerry's value as a team member may diminish as the year goes on, but for the week of July 19 he was a rock star by FantasyLaw's measures. And, his unappreciated productivity highlights a limitation of our FantasyLaw reporting system: as of now only drafted congressmen and -women get recognition for their legislative accomplishments. But, being a thorough, thoughtful, and slightly nerdy editor (perhaps not uniquely, at FantasyLaw), I have created a system to ensure that top Senators and Members of the House of Representatives get the glory they deserve from week to week, regardless of whether they were popular enough to get drafted by any FantasyLaw owners.

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*Brian Rock is an editor of FantasyLaw and a student at the University of Virginia School of Law.*



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*Senator John F. Kerry (D-MA), FantasyLaw MVP.*

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In addition to publishing each league's statistics and standings, FantasyLaw will be posting my "MVP" list of the top ten Senators and Representatives for every week (or at least every week I get around to delivering my picks). The list will rank top congressmen and -women, show their stats in each category for the week, and assign them a grade that will roughly reflect how valuable they were (or, as in Kerry's case, should have been) to a team owner, given that week's data.

I realize that providing a single formula for "most valuable player" will probably over-emphasize some players' accomplishments, under-emphasize others, and reveal some elements of my own brand of arbitrariness.<sup>1</sup> Despite these limitations, I couldn't resist providing our gracious preseason team owners with the joy of knowing their clairvoyant drafting strategies paid off, or, in some cases, with the regret of realizing the value of forgone opportunities.

MVP scoring works like this: I construct two new imaginary leagues – one with 100 teams made up of only sitting Senators (let's

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<sup>1</sup> So do not be surprised if other FantasyLaw editors eventually chime in with their own rankings.

## *The Making of My MVP*

call it “Senators League”), and one with 441 teams consisting solely of Members of the House of Representatives (“Representatives League”).<sup>2</sup> Each team has exactly one player, and no two teams have the same player. So, effectively, each Representative or Senator is the owner of, and sole player on, his or her own FantasyLaw team, and is competing in a league made up of only his or her colleagues. Each week I will run our normal scoring algorithms<sup>3</sup> for both of these imaginary leagues and post the top ten performers in each chamber of Congress.

Our actual leagues in the 2009 preseason have only 5 or 6 teams right now (although leagues are permitted to have as many as 9 teams), so the most points a team in one of those leagues can earn in a given category (recall that there are 11 performance categories in FantasyLaw) is a 5 or 6. The Senators League, however, has 100 teams and thus the top-performing legislator in each category in the Senators League earns a maximum of 100 points. In the Representatives League, with 441 teams, I will dole out a magnificent 441 points to the high scorer in each category.<sup>4</sup> And, just as in the actual FantasyLaw leagues, the tie-breaker formula will split points among those legislators who tie in a given category for that week.<sup>5</sup>

After all the calculations are run, Senators and Representatives who perform highly in multiple categories will receive more points than their colleagues (*i.e.*, receive a higher grade) and will rise in the standings of their respective imaginary leagues. Those lucky few who reach the top ten for their respective chamber will earn the enviable honor of being an MVP for that week of the season and will

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<sup>2</sup> FantasyLaw includes representatives of federal territories.

<sup>3</sup> For a thorough explanation of the FantasyLaw scoring system, see Daniel Klionsky, *Scoring Summary*, 12 GREEN BAG 2D 487 (2009), [www.fantasylaw.org](http://www.fantasylaw.org).

<sup>4</sup> Consequently, and until I choose to do something about it, the grades I give representatives will be much higher on an absolute scale than their senatorial counterparts. More accurately, grades will be about 4.41 times as high on average since there are 4.41 times the number of teams in the Representatives League as in the Senators League, and thus 4.41 times the number of points given to its top performers.

<sup>5</sup> See Klionsky, 12 GREEN BAG 2D at 488.

*Brian Rock*

be recognized on FantasyLaw.org for their accomplishments.

At the bottom of each week's MVP page you'll also find tables showing the "Season Leaders" from both houses of Congress. Season Leaders are those Senators and Representatives who have the highest average MVP grade ("GPA") for the entire preseason. GPA is calculated by adding up each Senator's or Representative's total grade points and dividing by the number of weeks played so far.

It is my hope that the MVP lists will not only aid and abet polite bragging between team owners, but also will be used as references for well-informed add/drop/trade decisions and as tools for future FantasyLaw drafters.

You can access the MVP .pdf files on the FantasyLaw website at [www.fantasylaw.org](http://www.fantasylaw.org).

