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# NFL Week 5 2026: Game-by-Game Breakdown for the Weekend of 8–12 October

Week 5 of the 2026 NFL season has 15 games from Thursday 8 October to Monday 12 October, with Kansas City and Carolina on bye. Model and market disagree most on Baltimore at Atlanta, Minnesota at New Orleans and Green Bay–Chicago. Injury data is thin for most teams.

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2026 season | Week 5 | injury report | model projections | schedule preview

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This is a reference breakdown of the 15 games in NFL Week 5 of the 2026 season, running from Thursday 8 October to Monday 12 October. Records, efficiency ranks, lines and model probabilities come from stats.innerpulse.net, which uses nflverse play-by-play and its own model and reflects games through Week 4[1][2]. News context, betting-market prices and injury notes come from the outlets cited below. All kickoff times are Eastern.

| 15 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 74.5% |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Games in Week 5 | Teams on bye (KC, CAR) | Unbeaten teams in action (MIN 4–0, SF 4–0) | Winless teams in action (TB, MIA, TEN, HOU, LAC) | Model win chance, Dallas vs Tampa Bay |
| `Thu 1, Sun 13, Mon 1` | | | | |

## The slate at a glance

Week 5 runs from a Thursday night game to a Monday night game, with one London game on Sunday morning. Kansas City (4–0) and Carolina are off this week[1][5]. The two unbeaten teams in action are Minnesota (4–0) and San Francisco (4–0), who play each other's divisional rivals this week, not each other[1][2].

Five teams enter the week at 0–4: Tampa Bay, Miami, Tennessee, Houston and the Los Angeles Chargers[2]. Two of those meet on Sunday (Houston at Tennessee), so one 0–4 team is guaranteed to get its first win by the end of the day's games, and the other would have to be the first 0–5 in the matchup on the other side.

| GAME | KICKOFF (ET) | RECORDS (AWAY–HOME) | LINE (HOME) | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buccaneers at Cowboys | Thu 8 Oct, 8:15 PM | 0–4 – 2–2 | DAL -8.5 | 47.5 |
| Eagles at Jaguars (London) | Sun 11 Oct, 9:30 AM | 2–2 – 3–1 | JAX -7.0 | 42.5 |
| Bengals at Dolphins | Sun 11 Oct, 1:00 PM | 2–2 – 0–4 | MIA +6.5 | 42.5 |
| Browns at Jets | Sun 11 Oct, 1:00 PM | 3–1 – 1–3 | NYJ -1.5 | 39.5 |
| Raiders at Patriots | Sun 11 Oct, 1:00 PM | 3–1 – 2–2 | NE -3.5 | 45.5 |
| Vikings at Saints | Sun 11 Oct, 1:00 PM | 4–0 – 1–3 | MIN -1.5 | 42.5 |
| Bears at Packers | Sun 11 Oct, 1:00 PM | 3–1 – 2–2 | CHI -2.5 | 45.5 |
| Colts at Steelers | Sun 11 Oct, 1:00 PM | 2–2 – 2–2 | PIT -2.5 | 44.5 |
| Texans at Titans | Sun 11 Oct, 1:00 PM | 0–4 – 0–4 | HOU -7.5 | 37.5 |
| Giants at Commanders | Sun 11 Oct, 1:00 PM | 3–1 – 1–3 | WAS -3.5 | 42.5 |
| Broncos at Chargers | Sun 11 Oct, 4:05 PM | 2–2 – 0–4 | DEN -3.5 | 41.5 |
| Lions at Cardinals | Sun 11 Oct, 4:25 PM | 2–2 – 1–3 | DET -5.5 | 54.5 |
| 49ers at Seahawks | Sun 11 Oct, 4:25 PM | 4–0 – 3–1 | SEA -2.5 | 45.5 |
| Ravens at Falcons | Sun 11 Oct, 8:20 PM | 3–1 – 2–2 | ATL -3.5 | 43.5 |
| Bills at Rams | Mon 12 Oct, 8:15 PM | 3–1 – 2–2 | LA -3.0 | 54.5 |

Sources: [1] for records, lines and totals; the lines are from the same feed, which also cites FanDuel for the pregame spreads on other pages [3].

The schedule is front-loaded with divisional games: five are on Sunday's 1:00 PM slate alone, and the Browns–Jets and Texans–Titans games carry the lowest totals of the week at 39.5 and 37.5 [1] [4]. The highest total is Detroit at Arizona at 54.5, tied with Buffalo at the Rams on Monday night [1].

## Thursday and the London opener

### Buccaneers at Cowboys (Thursday, 8:15 PM, Prime Video)

This is the only game in the Thursday slot and the most lopsided on paper. Dallas is 2–2 and Tampa Bay is 0–4, and the model gives the Cowboys a **74.5%** chance at home against a market price of 73.6% [1]. The line has moved toward Dallas. CBS Sports reported the opening number at Cowboys -9.5, then -10 by early October, with the moneyline at Cowboys -575 and Buccaneers +425 [5]. Innerpulse lists -8.5 [1].

Tampa Bay's quarterback situation is the story. Baker Mayfield did not practise all week with a dislocated right thumb, and undrafted rookie Jalon Daniels will make his second start [8] [2]. CBS notes that Daniels managed two scoring drives in the previous loss to Green Bay [5]. The Buccaneers' own preview calls their defence the fourth-ranked unit, while innerpulse's efficiency ranks put Tampa Bay's defence fifth and its offence last, at 32nd of 32 [2] [8].

Dallas's profile is the reverse of a strong defence. The Cowboys' offence ranks second in EPA per play, but their defence ranks 31st [2]. The model's three strongest edges for the game all favour Dallas, led by points per drive [1]. Kalshi, a prediction market, priced Dallas at 80 cents to win and projected a 28–20 final [6]. Injury news for Dallas is mostly hamstring: Cobie Durant, DeMarvion Overshown and Drew Shelton did not participate in practice, and guard Tyler Smith was limited with a thumb issue [9].

### Eagles at Jaguars (Sunday, 9:30 AM, London, NFL Network)

Jacksonville is the home side at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, favoured by 7 points on innerpulse and nflschedules.com [1] [3]. CBS's early line from 5 October had the Jaguars at only -4.5, so the number has widened [5]. The model gives Jacksonville a **70.8%** chance against a market price of 69.8% [1].

Jacksonville has the stronger profile: 3–1, a +51 points differential, and 87.1% playoff odds on innerpulse [2]. Philadelphia is 2–2 and ranks 29th on offence after a loss to the Rams in Week 4 [2] [5]. The model's largest flagged edge is ball security against takeaways, which favours Jacksonville [1]. Kalshi priced the Jaguars at 77 cents with a projected 25–17 final [6].

## Sunday's headline games

### Vikings at Saints (1:00 PM, FOX)

This is the game with the widest model-versus-market gap on the Sunday slate that does not involve a 0–4 team. Minnesota is 4–0 and ranks first in defensive EPA. The model gives the Vikings **67.5%** against a market price of 54.4%, a gap of about 13 points[1]. The Saints are 1–3 and rank 30th on defence, but 14th on offence[2]. The market line sits at Vikings -1.5[1][5].

Football Nation's game guide, which was built on Week 3 data and updated for injuries, says Minnesota guard Donovan Jackson has a torn meniscus that will keep him out for the rest of the regular season, and that tackle Christian Darrisaw is in concussion protocol[7]. The guide also says Justin Jefferson was out with an ankle injury in Week 4 against Miami, which the innerpulse feed does not confirm for Week 5[7]. Treat those as the latest reported status rather than confirmed Week 5 declarations.

Kalshi priced Minnesota at 56 cents with a 22–20 projected score[6]. The Saints' offence has been the strength of their season, and the guide's main theme is that New Orleans' passing volume has to avoid short fields against a defence that allows the lowest third-down and red-zone rates in the league through Week 3[7].

### 49ers at Seahawks (4:25 PM, FOX)

San Francisco (4–0) has the top offence by EPA and Seattle (3–1) has the third-ranked defence[2]. The line is Seattle -2.5 on innerpulse and nflschedules.com, and -3 on CBS's early line[1][3][5]. The model gives Seattle **55%** against a market price of 57.4%, so this is one of the few games where the model is less bullish on the home side than the market[1]. Kalshi priced Seattle at 61 cents with a projected 25–22 final[6]. The 49ers' main model edge is the red zone, favouring San Francisco[1].

### Bears at Packers (1:00 PM, FOX)

Chicago is the road favourite at Lambeau Field, at -2.5 on the most recent lines[1][5]. The betting market favours Chicago at **57%**, while the model puts Green Bay at **57.2%**, a difference of about 14 points[1]. Kalshi had Chicago at 56 cents and projected a 24–22 Chicago win[6]. Chicago is 3–1 with the eighth-best offence and sixth-best defence by EPA; Green Bay is 2–2 and ranks 26th on both sides[2]. The model's top edge is third-down efficiency. This is the clearest game where the model and the market point in different directions.

### Lions at Cardinals (4:25 PM, FOX)

Detroit is 2–2, with the sixth-ranked offence by EPA and the weakest defence in the league, 32nd[2]. Arizona is 1–3 and ranks 27th on defence[2]. The line is Lions -5.5 and the total is 54.5, the highest on the Sunday slate[1]. The model gives Detroit **62%** against a market price of 65.8%. Kalshi priced Detroit at 70 cents with a 30–25 projected score[6].

### Ravens at Falcons (8:20 PM, NBC)

Baltimore is 3–1 with the fourth-ranked offence by EPA, and Atlanta is 2–2 with the eighth-ranked defence[2]. Atlanta is the home favourite at -3.5 on innerpulse, with a 43.5 total[1]. CBS's early line had the Ravens at -3.5[5], which conflicts with innerpulse's line. The gap is the largest on the week in innerpulse's own feed: the model gives Baltimore **53%** against a market figure of about 40% for them[1]. The site's own headline calls this its largest model-versus-market gap, at +14 points[1]. Kalshi priced Atlanta at 62 cents[6].

### The rest of the Sunday slate

- **Bengals at Dolphins (1:00 PM, FOX).** Cincinnati is 2–2 and Miami is 0–4, ranked 30th in offensive EPA and 28th on defence, with a points differential of -55[2]. The line is Cincinnati -6.5 and the model gives the Bengals **62%** [1]. Kalshi priced Cincinnati at 75 cents[6].
- **Browns at Jets (1:00 PM, CBS).** Cleveland is 3–1 and New York is 1–3. The Jets are favoured by 1.5 on innerpulse, although CBS's early line had them at -2.5[1][5]. The model gives the Browns a slight edge at about 52.5%, while the market has New York at 54.4%[1]. Kalshi priced the Jets at 55 cents[6].
- **Raiders at Patriots (1:00 PM, CBS).** Las Vegas is 3–1 with the second-ranked defence by EPA, and New England is 2–2[2]. The line is Patriots -3.5 and the model gives New England **68.6%** against a market figure of 60.2%[1]. Kalshi priced the Patriots at 63 cents[6].
- **Colts at Steelers (1:00 PM, CBS).** A 2–2 game between two teams with similar records. Pittsburgh is the home favourite at -2.5 and the model gives the Steelers **54%** [1]. Kalshi priced Pittsburgh at 58 cents[6].
- **Texans at Titans (1:00 PM, CBS).** Both teams are 0–4[2]. Houston is the road favourite at -7.5 with the lowest total of the week at 37.5. The model gives Houston about **66%** [1]. Kalshi priced the Texans at 77 cents[6]. Only one of the two can end the winless streak on Sunday.
- **Giants at Commanders (1:00 PM, FOX).** New York is 3–1 and Washington is 1–3. The Commanders are the home favourite at -3.5, and the model gives Washington **57%** against a market figure of 60%[1]. Kalshi priced Washington at 63 cents[6].
- **Broncos at Chargers (4:05 PM, CBS).** Denver is 2–2 and the Chargers are 0–4, with the 31st-ranked offence by EPA[2]. The Broncos are favoured by 3.5, and the model gives them **55%** [1]. Kalshi priced Denver at 63 cents[6].

## Monday night: Bills at Rams

KEY FINDING

Buffalo at Los Angeles is the one Monday game and the one CBS Sports has framed as a possible Super Bowl preview[5].

| | Bills (3-1) | vs | Rams (2-2) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Offence EPA rank | 3rd | · | 15th |
| Defence EPA rank | 29th | · | 4th |
| Points per game (NFL.com) | 31.8 (1st) | · | 21.2 (19th) |
| Turnover differential | -2 (21st) | · | -5 (27th) |
| Playoff odds (innerpulse) | 68.2% | · | 47.4% |

Sources: innerpulse standings through Week 4 [2]; points per game and turnover ranks from NFL.com's game centre [9].

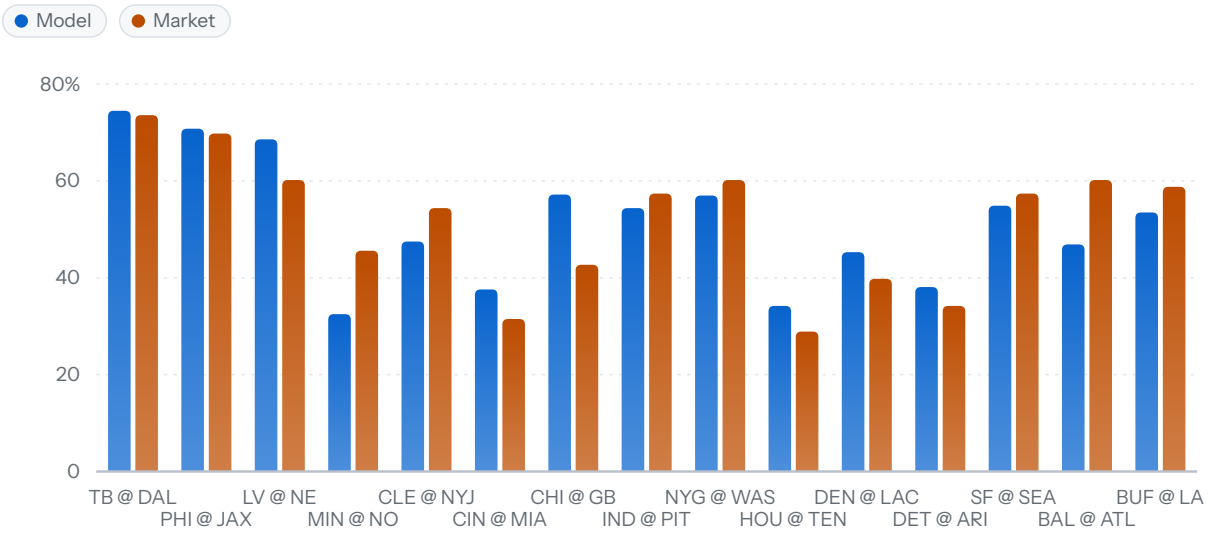
Buffalo has the best scoring offence in the league by points per game but a defence ranked 29th by EPA. The Rams have the reverse profile: a fourth-ranked defence and an offence that ranks 15th by EPA but 2nd by yards per game at 417 [2] [9]. The Bills' quarterback Josh Allen has 1,039 passing yards and six touchdowns with three interceptions on NFL.com's team-leader list, and the Rams' Matthew Stafford has 1,189 yards with six touchdowns and six interceptions [9].

The line is Rams -3.0 on innerpulse, -2.5 on CBS's early line [1] [5]. The market has Los Angeles at 58.8% and the model at 53.5% [1]. Kalshi priced the Rams at 61 cents and projected a 29–26 Rams win [6]. NFL.com lists no active injuries for either team in its game centre, though that page's injury section may not be current [9].

## Where the model and the market disagree

The chart below shows the model's home-team win probability next to the market's for all 15 games. The model is built from play-by-play efficiency and the market from the lines, so a gap is not an error in either; it is a disagreement the reader can test.

**Home-team win probability: model vs market, Week 5**




Home-team win probability from the innerpulse game feed [1]. The model and market columns are the site's own figures; the market figure is its vegas_home_wp field.

Read the chart with the home side in mind. On the raw feed, the largest gaps are:

- **Green Bay (home) vs Chicago:** model 57.2% vs market 42.7%, about 14.5 points in the model's favour [1]. The site's own headline figure for this game is +12 pp, so the two do not match exactly, and this report uses the raw figures.
- **Atlanta (home) vs Baltimore:** the model has Atlanta at 46.9% and the market at 60.2%, a gap of about 13 points toward Baltimore. The site headlines this as +14 pp [1].
- **Minnesota at New Orleans:** the model has the away Vikings at 67.5% against 54.4% in the market, about 13 points [1].
- **Las Vegas at New England:** the model has the Patriots at 68.6% against 60.2% in the market, about 8 points [1].

Where the model sits lower than the market on a home team, the most notable case is Washington. The model gives the Commanders 57% and the market 60%, which is close [1].

CAUTION

The model is built on games through Week 4. Its probabilities will not reflect Week 5 injury news, and the market prices quoted here were taken at different times between 5 and 7 October [1] [5] [6].

## Playoff stakes and standings

Playoff odds on innerpulse's standings are based on 10,000 simulated seasons[2]. The teams in action with the highest odds are Minnesota (94.3%), Seattle (91.3%), Jacksonville (87.1%) and the 49ers (68.3%)[2]. Buffalo is at 68.2% and Baltimore at 63.3%[2].

At the other end, Tampa Bay (8.1%), Miami (6.1%), Tennessee (6.6%) and the Chargers (9.1%) are among the teams with the lowest odds, and all four are in action this week[2]. Houston's odds are 20.5%, and the Texans' Sunday game at Tennessee is between two teams with 0–4 records[2].

On efficiency, the rankings tell a different story from the records. Minnesota has the best defence in the league by EPA and the 28th-ranked offence[2]. San Francisco has the best offence by EPA and the 14th-ranked defence[2]. Dallas has the second-best offence and the 31st-ranked defence[2]. Those splits are the core of several of this week's matchups.

## Injuries and data caveats

The innerpulse injury feed for Week 5 returned players for only two teams, Dallas and Tampa Bay[1]. For Tampa Bay, Baker Mayfield (quarterback, thumb), Antoine Winfield Jr. (safety, rib), Chase McLaughlin (kicker, groin) and Benjamin Morrison (cornerback, quadriceps) did not participate in practice, and Anthony Nelson and Ko Kieft were limited[1]. For Dallas, Cobie Durant, DeMarvion Overshown and Drew Shelton did not participate, and Tyler Smith was limited[1]. The feed does not cover the other 30 teams, so the reader should check each club's own injury report before Sunday.

The Vikings–Saints detail comes from Football Nation, which built its guide on Week 3 data and then added an update on the Minnesota injuries[7]. The Saints' passing statistics in that guide are also through Week 3 and are out of date[7].

Lines differ across sources and times. CBS's early lines are from 5 October, and innerpulse and nflschedules.com show lines updated on 7 October[1][3][5]. The clearest disagreements are:

- Dallas: -9.5 at open, -10 on CBS; -8.5 on innerpulse and -10 on RotoWire[1][4][5][10].
- Ravens–Falcons: CBS lists the Ravens -3.5, while innerpulse and Kalshi have Atlanta as the favourite[1][5][6].
- Bills–Rams: the Rams are -2.5 on CBS and -3.0 on innerpulse[1][5].

Efficiency figures are EPA per play, where a positive number means more expected points per play than average. EPA ranks run from 1 (best) to 32[2].

## Bottom line

The most one-sided game is Thursday's Dallas–Tampa Bay, where the model and the market both put Dallas near 74%. The most consequential Sunday games for playoff picture are Minnesota at New Orleans and San Francisco at Seattle, because the two unbeaten teams are both playing on the road or into a tough environment. The model's most useful disagreement with the market is Baltimore at Atlanta, where the model leans to Baltimore by about 13 points, and Green Bay–Chicago, where it leans to the home side. Monday's Bills–Rams is a toss-up on the model, with the Rams favoured by the market.

Two cautions for anyone using these numbers. The efficiency ranks and model probabilities are through Week 4, so they do not reflect Week 5 injury news. And for most teams, the only current injury data available is the team's own practice report, which was not fully checked for this breakdown.

**Terms used in this document (4)**

- **ATS** — Against the spread, meaning the team covered its point-spread line.
- **EPA** — Expected points added per play, a measure of how much each play moves a team's expected scoring. Positive is good on offence and, reversed, on defence.
- **Kalshi** — A prediction market where contracts pay out if an outcome happens; a price in cents roughly reflects the implied probability of that outcome.
- **pp** — Percentage points — the difference between two percentages, such as a model's win chance and the market's.

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