

# 2022 NFC South Futures Betting Guide



This document breaks down the NFC South for 2022. I have spent countless hours studying the tape, predicting the impact of changes, and running simulations to accurately predict each team's range of outcomes in 2022. I do not use the market to value the teams; this is a completely independent exercise. To maximize its value, let me briefly explain some of the key numbers I use:

## Adjusted 2021 Wins

11.15

**Adjusted Wins** represent how many regular season games, on average, the team should have won in 2021 based purely on Effectiveness, if facing an average schedule. It factors in strength of schedule, playoff performance, and hidden schedule factors, but does not account for the team's own injuries. In other words, I don't guess how good a team *would have been* if healthy. I just tell you how good the team really was on the year.

**Projected Wins** represents how many regular season games the team should win, on average, in 2022 against its actual schedule. To get this number, I used last year's Effectiveness Ratings as a baseline, then adjusted for changes in health, roster, and situation. From there, I ran simulations of the schedule using my numbers (which obviously factors in actual strength of schedule) to determine the average number of wins.

## Projected 2022 Wins

10.64

## Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)
<b>Best Odds</b>	10 (+100) (DK)
<b>True Odds</b>	-139
<b>Value</b>	Yes (Medium)

The **Betting Cheatsheet** provides true value, based on my simulations, of every Season Win Total, Division, and Super Bowl bet. I used the best available odds (**Best odds**) from a set of five books: Draftkings (DK), FanDuel (FD), Circa, Caesar's (CZ), and BetMGM (MGM). If you find better odds, great!

**True odds** represents the true probability of the bet translated to odds. So, my price in the example for Over 10 Wins would be -139. That means the +100 price has value, because -159 represents 58.2% implied odds and +100 represents 50% implied odds.

But you don't need to do the math yourself, because I tell you in the **Value** row whether the bet has value. My confidence level - on the range from Very Low to Very High - factors in variance and uncertainty, as well as the anticipated true odds. Best bets for each team are highlighted in green.

## Other Contents:

This PDF also contains links to my in-depth 2021 Team Studies for each team, breaking down performance after watching every snap of every game. At the end, I project out how I think the division could finish, along with any relevant playoff results. Finally, I include **every Futures bet I've placed** relevant to AFC East teams so you can see how my process has led to +EV bets already.

# Tampa Bay Buccaneers

## 2022 Season Preview

### 2021 Performance

#### The Numbers

Record: **14-5 (13-4)**  
 (Lost in Div. Round)  
 Rank: **5th**  
 Offense: **4th**  
 Defense: **8th**

#### Context

- Faced **8th-most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **31st-most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **21st in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

#### Adjusted 2021 Wins

**11.76**

[View Full 2021 TB Team Study](#)

### 2022 Projection

#### Key Offseason Changes

- Promoted HC Todd Bowles to replace Bruce Arians.
- Experienced some offensive line turnover, losing Gs Ali Marpet and Alex Cappa, but adding G Shaq Mason.
- Lost WR Antonio Brown, TE Rob Gronkowski, and DT Ndamukong Suh, but added DT Akiem Hicks.

#### Projected 2022 Wins

**10.68**

### Defining Narrative

The Bucs' roller-coaster offseason saw Tom Brady retire, then promptly un-retire following Bruce Arians' decision to step down and let Todd Bowles take over as head coach. This offense has relied on elite line play and stud wideouts for the last few years, and both could see a decline. Chris Godwin is coming off a major injury and Antonio Brown famously quit. Stud Guard Ali Marpet retired and Shaq Mason replaces Alex Cappa. Todd Bowles will likely let Brady run the offense, but these question marks portend a tougher season with the Bucs facing a tougher schedule. They are still rightly one of the NFC favorites, but are more fragile (on both sides of the ball) this year than in 2020 or 2021.

### Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
<b>Best Odds</b>	11.5 (+115) (Circa)	11.5 (-110) (MGM/FD)	-290 (FD)	+750 (FD/CZ/MGM)
<b>True Odds</b>	+155	-155	-151	+1053
<b>Value</b>	None	Yes (Medium)	None	None



# New Orleans Saints

## 2022 Season Preview

### 2021 Performance

#### The Numbers

Record: 9-8  
(Missed Playoffs)  
Rank: 12th  
Offense: 22nd  
Defense: 1st

#### Context

- Faced 27th-most difficult schedule of defenses.
- Faced 13th-most difficult schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked 14th in relative strength due to Covid/injury absences.

#### Adjusted 2021 Wins

9.62

[View Full 2021 NO Team Study](#)

### 2022 Projection

#### Key Offseason Changes

- Promoted HC Dennis Allen to replace Sean Payton.
- Added rookie WR Chris Olave and WR Jarvis Landry.
- Lost T Terron Armstead, S Marcus Williams, and S Malcolm Jenkins, but gained S Tyrann Mathieu and S Marcus Maye.

#### Projected 2022 Wins

9.46

### Defining Narrative

You could argue that no team was more negatively impacted by injury and Covid absences than the Saints last year. After a promising 5-2 start, things fell off the rails with four different starting quarterbacks, three different starting running backs, offensive and defensive line injuries, and arguably the worst set of receivers in the NFL. Their defense still punished opposing offenses, including an impressive shut-out against Tom Brady and the Bucs. All they need is an average offense and this team can make noise in the NFC. With Winston returning from injury, Dalton as back-up, and better receivers, they should be significantly better on offense. If their defense can keep it up, the Saints are live in the NFC South.

### Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
<b>Best Odds</b>	8.5 (+100) (FD/MGM)	8.5 (-110) (Circa)	+400 (FD)	+4500 (DK)
<b>True Odds</b>	-175	+175	+204	+5404
<b>Value</b>	Yes (Medium)	None	Yes (High)	None

# Carolina Panthers

## 2022 Season Preview

### 2021 Performance

#### The Numbers

Record: 5-12  
(Missed Playoffs)  
Rank: 25th  
Offense: 29th  
Defense: 17th

#### Context

- Faced **20th-most difficult** schedule of defenses.
- Faced **30th-most difficult** schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked **23rd in relative strength** due to Covid/injury absences.

#### Adjusted 2021 Wins

6.14

[View Full 2021 CAR Team Study](#)

### 2022 Projection

#### Key Offseason Changes

- Replaced OC Joe Brady with Ben McAdoo.
- Lost DE Haason Reddick, but added some defensive pieces, including DT Matt Ioannidis and S Xavier Woods.
- Obtained QB Baker Mayfield and drafted T Ikem Ekwonu.

#### Projected 2022 Wins

6.81

### Defining Narrative

It's unclear where the Panthers are headed. They faced a tough choice during the draft and made the right call using their number 6 pick on a tackle instead of a so-so quarterback prospect. But the move for Baker Mayfield signifies an intention to win this season despite low expectations. They have the pieces on both sides of the ball to win games with Mayfield and prevent them from getting a top quarterback prospect in next year's draft. Ownership has shown patience with Matt Rhule, but this team has been spinning its wheels for years. They will need to win on the offensive line and keep McCaffrey healthy to have a chance. But if Mayfield doesn't get help, he is not the type of quarterback to put a team on his back.

### Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
<b>Best Odds</b>	6.5 (+115) (Circa)	6.5 (-120) (CZ)	+1325 (Circa)	+12500 (Circa)
<b>True Odds</b>	-115	+115	+1500	+66667
<b>Value</b>	Yes (Low)	None	None	None

# Atlanta Falcons

## 2022 Season Preview

### 2021 Performance

#### The Numbers

Record: 7-10  
(Missed Playoffs)  
Rank: 30th  
Offense: 20th  
Defense: 31st

#### Context

- Faced 4th-most difficult schedule of defenses.
- Faced 32nd-most difficult schedule of offenses.
- Opponents ranked 1st in relative strength due to Covid/injury absences.

#### Adjusted 2021 Wins

4.56

[View Full 2021 ATL Team Study](#)

### 2022 Projection

#### Key Offseason Changes

- Replaced QB Matt Ryan with Marcus Mariota and rookie Desmond Ridder.
- Replaced WRs Calvin Ridley and Russell Gage with rookie Drake London and Bryan Edwards.
- Lost LB Foye Oluokun.

#### Projected 2022 Wins

4.08

### Defining Narrative

Matt Ryan was really the only thing holding this team together last year. They did not deserve 7 wins, but Ryan delivered some solid clutch performances as he has done throughout his career. He was constantly under pressure and had no run game. Now he has gone to Indianapolis and it's up to a rusty Marcus Mariota and rookie Desmond Ridder to salvage the pieces. Pressure will once again be a problem given the strength of the defensive lines they must face. With some exciting offensive talent, you can't completely rule out this team. But their already-bad defense may have gotten worse and will face a tougher slate of opponents this year. This team is basically in full-on rebuilding mode.

### Betting Cheatsheet

	Win Total (Over)	Win Total (Under)	Division	Super Bowl
<b>Best Odds</b>	5 (+125) (DK)	5 (-130) (CZ)	+3750 (Circa)	+50000 (Circa)
<b>True Odds</b>	+204	-204	+14000	+200000
<b>Value</b>	None	Yes (Medium)	None	None

# 2022 NFC South Preview and Placed Bets



## Final Standings Prediction

Team	Record	Playoff Result
NO	11-6	Loss in Wildcard
TB	10-7	Loss in Div. Round
CAR	7-10	Miss
ATL	3-14	Miss

## Official SharpClarke Futures

Bet	Odds	Units	Date Placed	CLV*
ATL U 5.5 Wins	+100	2	3.25.22 (DK)	+14.9%
NO O 8 Wins	-110	1.5	5.12.22 (DK)	+5.1%
NO to win NFC South	+500	0.4	5.12.22 (CZ)	+4.2%
TB U 10.5 Wins	+200	0.6	7.14.22 (DK)	0%

\*CLV is measured here in terms of the change in implied win probability using the current line at the book where I placed the bet.

I gave all of these picks out to Members in real time. For my NFL betting content throughout the 2022 season (and more), get the Betting package on 4for4.com, using the promo code SharpClarke for 10% off:

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