

Around the Association
Inside the Numbers

By Rob Fischer (Memphis Grizzlies Television Pre / Postgame Host and Sideline Reporter on FOX Sports Southeast)

As the NBA season sets to restart on Thursday, it's time to look at the numbers and the value bets for the upcoming 8 games and playoffs. Odds courtesy of OddsShark and Bovada.

Odds to Win the 2019-20 NBA Championship

Team	Odds
Los Angeles Lakers	200
Milwaukee Bucks	280
Los Angeles Clippers	300
Boston Celtics	1300
Houston Rockets	1300
Toronto Raptors	1600
Philadelphia 76ers	2000
Denver Nuggets	3000
Dallas Mavericks	4000
Miami Heat	4000
Utah Jazz	6600
New Orleans Pelicans	8000
Oklahoma City Thunder	8000
Portland Trail Blazers	8000
Brooklyn Nets	15000
Indiana Pacers	20000
Memphis Grizzlies	25000

Sacramento Kings	50000
Phoenix Suns	75000
San Antonio Spurs	75000
Orlando Magic	100000
Washington Wizards	100000

The Lakers and Bucks are the overwhelming favorites with the Clippers close behind. Any championship bet has good value, but the best value could come from the Rockets (+1300) and Raptors (+1600). The rest gives the fast paced and high octane Rockets a fresh unit heading into the 8 seeding games. A short schedule and the most unguardable player in the league makes Houston dangerous. Toronto, meanwhile, is the defending champion with an old school mentality. They just play the game right. All the distractions in Orlando wont phase the Raptors as they look to defend their title.

Odds To Win NBA Western Conference 2019-20

Team	Odds
Los Angeles Lakers	135
Los Angeles Clippers	180
Houston Rockets	650
Denver Nuggets	1000
Dallas Mavericks	1800
Utah Jazz	2600
New Orleans Pelicans	4000
Oklahoma City Thunder	4500
Portland Trail Blazers	6000
Memphis Grizzlies	10000
Phoenix Suns	20000
Sacramento Kings	20000

San Antonio Spurs	25000
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The Rockets are a solid play again here for the value (+650). The Mavericks could be a sneaky Pick if you're looking for a long shot (+1800). Luka Doncic and a healthy Kristaps Porzingis can give any team matchup problems. Plus, Doncic is already a star who can singlehandedly win a game.

Odds to Win NBA Eastern Conference 2019-20

Team	Odds
Milwaukee Bucks	-185
Boston Celtics	550
Toronto Raptors	600
Philadelphia 76ers	750
Miami Heat	1100
Indiana Pacers	5000
Brooklyn Nets	8000
Orlando Magic	25000
Washington Wizards	25000

The Bucks are a terrible bet with no value (-185). The value comes with Toronto (+600). The defending champs have solid veterans, good scorers, terrific defense, and actually have a better record than they did a year ago. My sneaky long shot would be the Miami Heat (+1100). They play rugged defense, have good young talent that's rested, and a star in Jimmy Butler. And Erik Spoelstra might be the most underrated coach in the NBA.

Will Any NBA Team Go 8-0 After Restart?

Option	Odds
Yes	375
No	-650

2 ways of thinking here- teams will rest players after their playoff position is set, or teams will want to keep guys playing to get them tested for postseason play. +375 is decent value on going "Yes", but I'm staying away from this one. Too many questions and too many unknowns in an 8 game setting.

Will Any NBA Team Go 0-8 After Restart?

Option	Odds
Yes	300
No	-500

There are two teams capable (Washington and Brooklyn). They play each other, so there's one realistic shot. And I think it's a pretty good shot. I'll go with "Yes" for +300.

Will there be an East play-in tournament?

Option	Odds
Yes	400
No	-700

Because I believe the Wizards or Nets go winless, I don't believe there will be a play-in tournament in the East. And -700 is too steep to play "No".

Will there be a West play-in tournament?

Option	Odds
Yes	-800
No	425

Betting "Yes" just isn't a smart play at -800. I like the value of +425 with "No". If the Grizzlies play .500, the teams below them will have to play at least .500 ball which is something none of them did all season. If the Grizzlies play better than .500, I think it's a lock.

Which Eastern Conference Team Will Get 8 Seed?

Team	Odds
Brooklyn Nets	-250

Orlando Magic	200
Washington Wizards	1800

Brooklyn seems like the wise choice. Orlando should jump them, and Washington has no chance of catching anybody. At -250, not too steep to take the shot.

Which Western Conference Team Will Get 8 Seed?

Team	Odds
Memphis Grizzlies	-115
New Orleans Pelicans	200
Portland Trail Blazers	350
Sacramento Kings	1000
San Antonio Spurs	5000
Phoenix Suns	10000

The Grizzlies are a solid bet at -115. A 3.5 game lead is a big fall in just 8 games. New Orleans (+200) and Portland (+350) aren't bad options if you think the Grizzlies will falter. Pelicans are 8-2 vs. teams battling for 8th and the Blazers are finally healthy.

Most Points Scored by any player after restart

Point Total	Odds
OVER 52.5	-115
UNDER 52.5	-115

I like the over. There are so many players capable, especially James Harden. He averaged over 30ppg in the three scrimmages and is always primed for a 50 spot. Damian Lillard can get there as well.

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