

01 WHAT IS AN "RFA"?

A restricted free agent (RFA) is a player who has completed the term of his contract but does not have enough NHL service to become an unrestricted free agent (UFA). A player will remain an RFA until he either reaches the age of 27 or has played a minimum of 7 NHL seasons.

02 CRITICAL DATES

DATE	EVENT
23-JUN-19	UFA interview and discussion period begins.
25-JUN-19	RFA qualifying offer deadline. Any player not qualified becomes an UFA.
26-JUN-19	RFA interview and discussion period begins.
01-JUL-19	UFA offers, qualifying offers and offer sheets can be accepted by the NHL.
15-JUL-19	Unsigned qualifying offers expire.
20-JUL-19	Salary arbitration hearings begin.
01-DEC-19	Signing deadline before the RFA is ineligible for the 2019-20 season.

03 WHAT IS A QUALIFYING OFFER?

A qualifying offer is a contract offer extended to an RFA by his current team. By making a qualifying offer, the NHL team maintains the player's status as a restricted free agent. If the qualifying offer is not made by the current team, the player becomes an Unrestricted Free Agent.

04 HOW DOES AN OFFER SHEET WORK?

An "offer" does not become an "offer sheet" until it is agreed upon between the separate NHL team and the RFA. When a player signs an offer sheet with a new team, his current team is advised that they have seven days to either "match" the negotiated contract with an identical contract, or it can decline and let the player join the new team. Once an offer sheet is signed by the player and the new team, the contract becomes irrevocable.

05 OFFER SHEET COMPENSATION

2019-20 PLAYER COMPENSATION		COMPENSATION PAID TO FORMER TEAM
Below	\$1,395,054	None
\$1,395,054 To	\$2,113,716	3 rd round draft selection
\$2,113,717 To	\$4,227,437	2 nd round draft selection
\$4,227,438 To	\$6,341,152	1 st and 3 rd round draft selections
\$6,341,153 To	\$8,454,871	1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd round draft selections
\$8,454,872 To	\$10,568,589	1 st , 1 st , 2 nd and a 3 rd round draft selection
Above	\$10,568,590	Four 1 st round draft selections

06 NO TRADE PROVISION

If the original team chooses to "match" the offer sheet, the player cannot be traded for one year.

07 SALARY ARBITRATION

Salary arbitration is a tool used to settle contract disputes. A player and his team will each propose a salary to a third-party arbitrator who is responsible for setting the player's salary. However, a player must have a minimum of four years of NHL experience before they are eligible for salary arbitration.