



MAVERICK AIR

Personal Bid Strategy

PBS BIDDING CHEAT SHEET

A clearer bid starts with a clear order.

A short, plain-language guide for pilots and flight attendants preparing a monthly PBS bid.

01

Protect the must-haves

Put the dates or limits you cannot accept losing at the top of your plan.

02

Add flexibility on purpose

Know what can bend next. Every backup should protect the priorities above it.

03

Check the current month

Use the active bid package and transparency report. Do not rely on old menu wording.

THE ONE-MINUTE PLAN

Before you open PBS

- Write down your top three goals in order. If two goals conflict, choose which one wins.
- Mark the exact dates you must protect and the dates that are only preferred.
- Know your current seniority number and the total number of people in your bid group.
- Choose the trip lengths, report times, release times, work-block length, and stand-up preference that actually fit this month.
- If you commute, write down your usual inbound flight and the minimum buffer you need. If you live in base, leave commute rules out.
- Gather the current bid package, transparency report, prior award, and any screenshots that show the full heading and nearby context.

Keep this in mind

This is a planning guide, not an official SkyWest rulebook. Exact PBS names, limits, and choices can change. Confirm them in the current bid package and official PBS screen before submitting.

Use a simple protection ladder

A strong bid has a clear order. Start with what must hold. Then add controlled choices that make the bid easier to award without quietly giving away a higher priority.

ORDER	WHAT TO DO	THE QUESTION TO ASK
1	Protect the non-negotiable dates and limits.	What result would make this month unworkable?
2	Add the next-most important schedule goal.	If the first goal holds, what matters next?
3	State the pairing or duty patterns you prefer.	Which trip length, report time, or work block fits best?
4	Add one controlled backup at a time.	What can I give up while protecting priorities 1 and 2?
5	Review the final combined logic.	Did an earlier choice stay relaxed? Did I create a conflict?

COMMON TROUBLE SPOTS

A Too many hard limits When everything is required, there may be no workable pairing left. Protect what is truly essential; rank the rest.	B A vague backup "Be flexible" is not a plan. Name the first thing you will allow to change and what must still remain protected.	C Old instructions Screenshots and advice from another month can help explain an idea, but the current package controls the exact choice.
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How to write a useful backup

Use this sentence: **If my higher priorities cannot all hold, allow [one specific change], but continue protecting [the goals above it].** Then check whether PBS treats the change as cumulative. Do not assume a restriction relaxed earlier can be restored later.

What to collect and what to compare

DOCUMENT OR DETAIL	WHY IT HELPS	WHAT TO CHECK
Current bid package	Shows the actual month's available pairings, choices, and limits.	Bid period, role, equipment, domicile, and complete page context.
Transparency report	Shows where prior requests held or failed and can reveal pressure points.	Match the same bid group and read the notes, not only a single number.
Seniority this month	Helps set realistic expectations and decide where flexibility may be needed.	Use position and total group size; do not treat it as a guarantee.
Prior award or bid receipt	Shows what you entered and the schedule that resulted.	Separate the bid logic from changes in staffing or pairing supply.
Screenshots	Helpful when a menu or report is hard to export.	Include the heading, labels, nearby rows, and bid month. Crop out passwords.

10-POINT FINAL REVIEW

- The correct bid month, workgroup, equipment, and domicile are open.
- Must-have days and limits appear first in the plan.
- Preferences are ranked; they are not all treated as equal.
- Commuting choices are included only when the crew member actually commutes.
- Trip length, report time, release time, work block, and stand-up goals do not conflict.
- Each backup says exactly what changes and what remains protected.
- Exact menu names or values were checked against the current package or live PBS screen.
- The combined bid still makes sense after every added entry.
- The confirmation or receipt is saved after submission.
- A human reviewed the final bid before the official deadline.

Write the month before you build it

Fill this out before opening PBS. If an answer is uncertain, mark it for review instead of guessing.

1. My top goal	The one result I most need this month is...
2. Dates to protect	Must-have days off are... Preferred days off are...
3. Pairing shape	I prefer 1 / 2 / 3 / 4-day trips because...
4. Duty timing	Reports and releases that work best are...
5. Work pattern	My ideal and maximum work-block lengths are...
6. Commute plan	I commute from... My usual flight arrives... I need a buffer of...
7. First backup	If the bid gets tight, I can give up... while protecting...
8. Question to verify	The current package or PBS screen must confirm...

Need help?

Use the Maverick dog chat on maverickairpbs.com for general questions. For a personal plan, submit the full beta intake and current documents. Never enter a SkyWest password on Maverick Air.

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