



Football Trading Room

The Football Trading Club



FTR: Friday, 14 August 2026

Good day,

I hope this message finds you well. The 2026/27 English Championship season begins this evening as relegated Wolverhampton Wanderers host Blackburn Rovers at Molineux.

Match: Wolverhampton Wanderers vs Blackburn Rovers

Date: Friday, 14 August 2026

Time: 20:00 GMT

Competition: English Championship

Venue: Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton

 [Previous-Season Form](#) | [Head-to-Head](#)

Wolverhampton Wanderers

- **Previous-Season Position:** 20th – Premier League
- **Previous-Season Record:** W3 D11 L24 | 20 Points
- **Goals:** 27 scored / 68 conceded
- **Previous-Season PPG:** 0.53
- **2026/27 Competitive Start:** Wolves 3–0 Port Vale – EFL Cup

Wolves endured a very difficult Premier League campaign, winning only three of their 38 matches and finishing bottom of the table with 20 points. They scored only **27 goals**, while conceding 68.

Those numbers need to be treated carefully when assessing them at Championship level. Wolves spent last season facing significantly stronger opposition and retain a squad containing considerable second-tier quality.

Their early signs under César Peixoto have also been encouraging. Wolves comfortably beat Port Vale **3–0** in their EFL Cup opener and have kept **five clean sheets across seven pre-season and competitive matches**.

Blackburn Rovers

- **Previous-Season Position:** 20th – Championship
- **Previous-Season Record:** W13 D13 L20 | 52 Points
- **Goals:** 42 scored / 56 conceded
- **Previous-Season PPG:** 1.13
- **2026/27 Competitive Start:** Burton Albion 1–2 Blackburn – EFL Cup

Blackburn narrowly avoided relegation last season, finishing 20th with **52 points**. Their principal weakness was attacking production: only **42 goals in 46 league matches**, an average of 0.91 per match, while they conceded 56.

However, their performances improved considerably towards the end of the campaign. After Michael O'Neill's appointment they recorded five wins and five draws from a 14-match spell which ultimately secured survival.

Blackburn have since enjoyed a reasonably encouraging summer under Tony Mowbray, recording **two wins and three draws from six friendlies**, including a notable 2–0 win over Strasbourg. They then came from behind to beat Burton Albion 2–1 in the EFL Cup.

Head-to-Head

Last Meeting: 9 February 2025 – Blackburn Rovers 0–2 Wolverhampton Wanderers – FA Cup

Wolves scored twice in quick succession through João Gomes and Matheus Cunha to win the most recent meeting at Ewood Park.

The wider historical record also favours Wolves, who have lost only four of the previous 15 recorded meetings between the clubs.

 Key Stats and Metrics

Metric	Wolves	Blackburn
Previous-Season Division	Premier League	Championship
Previous-Season Position	20th	20th
League Record	W3 D11 L24	W13 D13 L20
Goals Scored	27	42
Goals Conceded	68	56
Approx. xG / match	1.08	1.36
Approx. xGA / match	1.59	1.29
First Competitive Result	Won 3–0	Won 2–1
Last H2H	Won 2–0	Lost 0–2

The raw previous-season numbers naturally favour Blackburn because Wolves were competing one division higher. Wolves' underlying profile was approximately **1.08 xG** and **1.59 xGA**, while Blackburn operated around **1.36 xG** and **1.29 xGA** in the Championship.

For this fixture, the more relevant question is how Wolves' retained Premier League-level personnel translate against lower-standard opposition. The early evidence was positive against Port Vale: a **3–0 victory**, with Wolves expected to retain essentially the same starting XI this evening.

There are also grounds for expecting Blackburn to contribute. They scored twice in their cup opener, enjoyed a reasonably productive pre-season and finished last season more competitively than their final 20th position initially suggests.

Injuries / Absentees

Wolves: Out – Rafiki Said (Forward/Winger). Ladislav Krejci and Raul Jimenez are available but remain short of full match fitness.

Blackburn: No major confirmed first-team injury crisis; Sidnei Tavares has recently been unwell but is available, while new signing Sam Morsy is expected to begin among the substitutes.

Summary

Wolves enter the Championship opener as strong favourites at **1.61**, with Blackburn priced at **7.00** and the draw at **4.20**.

There is clearly a substantial gap in perceived squad quality. Wolves were relegated after an extremely poor Premier League campaign, but they are now dropping into a considerably weaker division and still possess players with extensive top-flight experience.

Their preparation has also been encouraging. Five clean sheets across seven pre-season and competitive matches point towards improved organisation, while the **3–0 EFL Cup victory over Port Vale** demonstrated that they can impose themselves effectively against lower-level opposition.

Blackburn cannot simply be dismissed. They ended last season considerably better than they started it, have enjoyed a solid pre-season and showed resilience to overturn a deficit against Burton last weekend. They therefore have enough attacking threat to make a routine Wolves clean-sheet victory less certain.

The straight Wolves win at **1.61** is below the FTR qualifying range and offers limited value.

BTTS – Yes at 2.04 qualifies on price, but Wolves' five recent clean sheets lower its robustness. Blackburn scored only 42 league goals last season, so this would depend quite heavily on the visitors contributing.

Wolves & Over 2.5 Goals at 2.64 is attractive mathematically, but it introduces two requirements – Wolves must win and the match must contain three goals – making it less robust than the standalone totals market.

That makes **Over 2.5 Goals at 2.00** the preferred FTR position.

There are several routes to the selection landing. Wolves possess the superior attacking personnel and could potentially account for the majority of the required goals themselves, while Blackburn have shown enough attacking improvement to contribute if Wolves do not keep another clean sheet.

An early Wolves goal would be particularly favourable, forcing Blackburn to become less conservative and increasing the potential for spaces to appear as the game develops.

Independent match modelling also places Over 2.5 at slightly above a 50% probability, while our adjustment for Wolves' divisional drop, home advantage and both sides' encouraging competitive starts moves the FTR estimate moderately higher.

From an **FTC 2.0 robustness perspective**, this is preferable to asking Wolves to win and clear a goal threshold simultaneously. We do not require a dominant Wolves performance for the selection to succeed.

Recommendation

Market: Over / Under 2.5 Goals

Selection: Over 2.5 Goals

Price / Points: 2.00 / 5 Points

The strongest case comes from the combination of Wolves' attacking superiority at Championship level, their 3–0 competitive opener, Blackburn's 2–1 cup victory and the possibility that either side can contribute towards the three-goal requirement.

The alternative **Wolves & Over 2.5 Goals @ 2.64** offers a larger headline return but scores lower for robustness because it additionally requires the home side to take all three points.

Value Assessment

Estimated Probability: 55%

Fair Value Price: 1.82

Market Price: 2.00

Value: +9.89% (Decent Value)

The probability estimate remains deliberately measured. Wolves' stronger squad and home advantage provide upside, but this is the opening Championship league fixture and Wolves' strong recent clean-sheet record means a controlled 1–0 or 2–0 home performance remains a genuine risk.

At **2.00**, however, the market requires only a 50% strike rate. Our estimated 55% probability produces enough edge while retaining a stronger robustness profile than the more aggressive Wolves-and-goals combination.

🔗 [BetDex Exchange](#) – 0% Commission until 1st September, 1% thereafter

🔗 <https://www.betdex.com/events/football/uel/47284>

All prices are quoted from BetDex / Betfair Exchanges and are subject to change.

Best regards,

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