

Golden Bay Rotisserie League

Rule Book and Exceptions

February 20, 2023

The Official Constitution of Rotisserie Baseball from the 2007 Rotisserie League Baseball book has been reproduced in black text below. After each article of the constitution, the exceptions to that article as agreed upon by the Golden Bay Rotisserie League (GBRL) are posted. These exceptions will appear in *blue italics*. NOTE : Updates for 2020 and 2021 will appear in *red italics*.

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ARTICLE I. OBJECT

To assemble a lineup of 25 National League or 23 American League baseball players whose cumulative statistics during the regular season, compiled and measured by the methods described in these rules, exceed those of all other teams in the League.

GBRL exceptions:

The GBRL will use 23-man, National League rosters. A roster can expand to 24 during the final month of the season.

ARTICLE II. TEAMS

There are 12 teams in a duly constituted Rotisserie League composed of either National League or American League players.

NOTE: If you choose to play with fewer teams, be sure to make necessary adjustments so that you acquire approximately 80% of all available players at your auction draft. You could have a six-team league using American League players, for example, and draft only from among your seven favorite AL teams. Unless you reduce the available player pool proportionately to reflect a reduced number of teams, you'll never learn to appreciate the value of a good bench.

NOTE: Do *not* mix the two leagues. It's unrealistic and silly, it's not the way the big leagues do it, it means you end up using only All-Stars and established regulars, and it's fattening. (On the other hand, if you *do* mix leagues, we're not going to call out the Rotisserie National Guard or anything.)

GBRL exceptions:

The GBRL will be National League based and will contain 12 teams.

ARTICLE III. ROSTER

A team's active roster consists of the following players:

1. NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYERS

Five outfielders, two catchers, one second baseman, one shortstop, one middle infielder (either second baseman or shortstop), one first baseman, one third baseman, one corner man (either first baseman or third baseman), two utility players (who may play any non-pitching position), and ten pitchers.

2. AMERICAN LEAGUE PLAYERS

The same, but only one utility player and nine pitchers. The utility player is called a designated hitter, consistent with the AL's insistence on perpetuating that perversion of the game.

GBRL exceptions:

The GBRL will use 23-man, National League rosters. A roster will consist of nine pitchers, two catchers, one first baseman, one third baseman, one corner infielder (first baseman or third baseman), one second baseman, one shortstop, one middle infielder (second baseman or shortstop), five outfielders, and one utility player who can either be a position player or a pitcher.

The designated hitter was used in the National League in 2020 and may be used in future seasons. Beginning in 2021, the GBRL has adopted the stance that the designated hitter does NOT affect the current roster construction rules. A player who only qualifies as a designated hitter may be added to a GBRL roster, but can only occupy the utility player spot. Existing roster requirements must still be met whether an owner carries a designated hitter or not.

ARTICLE IV. AUCTION DRAFT DAY

A **Major League Player Auction** is conducted on the first weekend after Opening Day of the baseball season. Each team must acquire 23 players at a total cost not to exceed \$260 in the American League, or 25 players at a cost not to exceed \$280 in the National League. A team need not spend the maximum. The League by general agreement determines the order in which teams may nominate players for acquisition. The team bidding first opens with a minimum salary bid of \$1 for any eligible player, and the bidding proceeds around the room at minimum increments of \$1 until only one bidder is left. That team acquires the player for that amount and announces the roster position the player will fill. The process is repeated, with successive team owners introducing players to be bid on, until every team has a squad of 23 players, by requisite position, for the American League, or 25 players for the National League.

- Don't get hung up on the bidding order; it's irrelevant. Do allow plenty of time; your first draft will take all day.

- Players eligible at more than one position may be shifted during the course of the draft.
- No team may make a bid for a player it cannot afford. For example, a team with \$3 left and two openings on its roster is limited to a maximum bid of \$2 for one player.
- No team may bid for a player who qualifies only at a position that the team has already filled. For example, an AL team that has acquired two catchers, and whose utility or DH slot is occupied, may not enter the bidding for any player who qualifies only at catcher.
- Players who commence the season on a major league team's disabled list are eligible to be drafted. If selected, they may be reserved and replaced upon completion of the auction draft. (See Article XII.)

NOTE: Final Opening Day rosters for all National League or American League teams will be needed on Auction Draft Day, one reason for drafting during the first weekend after Opening Day. If you draft earlier than Opening Day, you will not have any 25-man rosters, you will not have any disabled list, and you will not have position eligibilities reflecting the on-field reality of the new season. And you will have a heck of a time figuring out how to do a Minor League Draft.

A **Minor League Player Draft** is conducted immediately following the major league auction, in which each Rotisserie League team may acquire players (a) who are not on any National/American League team's active roster; and (b) who still have official rookie status, as defined by major league baseball.

NOTE: The major league rule reads: "A player shall be considered a rookie unless, during a previous season or seasons, he has (a) exceeded 130 at-bats or 50 innings pitched in the major leagues; or (b) accumulated more than 45 days on the active roster of a major league club or clubs during the period of a 25-player limit (excluding time in the military service)."

- Selection takes place in two rounds of a simple draft, not an auction.
- In the first season, the selection order shall be determined by drawing paired numbers from a hat (that is, positions 1 and 24, 2 and 23, and so on, in a 12-team league).
- In subsequent years, the selection order in each of the two rounds is determined by the order in which the teams finished in the previous season. In leagues with 12 teams, the 6th place team selects first, proceeding in descending order to the 12th place team, which is in turn followed by the 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place teams.
- The price and subsequent salary upon activation of each farm system player drafted is \$10.
- See Article **XIII** for rules governing farm systems.

NOTE: The order of selection stated above represents a change from early years of Rotisserie baseball, when teams selected in reverse order of the final standings of the preceding season's pennant race. By awarding the first selection to the highest finisher among second-division teams instead of the last team, we seek to offer an incentive to teams to keep plugging and a disincentive to finish last (in the past, a last place finish would be "rewarded" with the first farm-draft pick).

GBRL exceptions:

The GBRL will use 23-man, National League rosters with a \$260 salary cap on auction day.

*The GBRL will strive to have its auction **prior** to Opening Day to reward those who have done their scouting well. However, there may be times when circumstances dictate that the auction take place after Opening Day. Since Major League Baseball has shifted Opening Day to the middle of the week, the GBRL will attempt to schedule the annual auction as close to Opening Day as possible. Protected player lists with long-term contract decisions must be submitted to the commissioner approximately four days prior to the auction date.*

Between the time roster protection lists are submitted and auction day, a team may drop a player they had previously protected if a major league transaction results in him being traded outside of the National League, released, or placed on the 60-day injured list. The team may not replace that player with a previously unprotected player.

After roster cuts are made, but prior to each year's auction, a Pre-Auction Draft of the players cut will take

place. Teams may select as many players as they wish as long as their roster does not exceed 15 players. Teams will assume the contract obligations of the players that they select and must make any contract decisions pertinent to the drafted players at the time of the draft (i.e. players with a contract status of '2' must have their long-term contract decisions made). The Pre-Auction Draft will take place approximately two days prior to the auction date. Owners must submit prioritized draft lists to the commissioner by an agreed upon time. Drafting will proceed in rounds using the prior year's standings in the following order: 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st. The exception to this rule is when one or more new owners join the league. In this case, the new owners will select at the end of each round. If there is more than one new owner, their drafting positions will be determined by drawing straws. Once a team passes in any round, they may not re-enter the draft.

Beginning in 2016, the GBRL will dispense with the notion that the only players that owners can bid on in the auction are those listed on the National League roster sheets posted on auction day. Owners are free to bid on anyone they wish too. If a player is acquired via the auction, but is not on a National league team's active roster, injured list, or suspended list on opening day, the following conditions apply:

- The player will carry an 'S' contract and return to the free agent list at the conclusion of the season.
- If the player is replaced sometime prior to the transaction due date, it must be with an active player from the free agent pool.
- If the player is not on a National League roster by April 30th, he must be dropped from his Rotisserie team roster.

Until their roster is full, each team owner must post a player for bidding and make the initial bid on that player during each round of the auction. Player posting order will commence with the previous year's last place team going first followed by the second to last place team, and so on. The exception to this rule is when one or more new owners join the league. In this case, the new owners will post players at the end of each round. If there is more than one new owner, their posting positions will be determined by drawing straws.

Replacement of injured and minor league players with active players from the free agent list will take place in a Post-Auction Replacement Draft. Beginning in 2022, owners are no longer required to fill their openings in the Post-Auction Replacement Draft. The incentive to keep a spot open for a talented free agent acquisition has disappeared now that free agent signings are open to all teams regardless of injury or demotion of players. Beginning in 2023, the post-auction replacement of roster openings will be determined by the salary amount of the player being replaced. The higher the salary of the player, the higher they are on the priority list. Higher salaried players are the players that the owners have made the highest investment in and that should be recognized. Conversely, players with low salaries are likely ones that the owner acquired cheaply because there are questions about their health or productivity.

The particulars are:

- Highest salaried opening picks first.
- Any ties are resolved by using the prior year's standings in the following order: 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st. The exception to this rule is when one or more new owners join the league. In this case, the new owners will select at the end of each round. If there is more than one new owner, their drafting positions will be determined by drawing straws.
- Teams with multiple openings at the same salary can replace any one of the players first and then replace any remaining players in rounds after other owners with openings at the same salary have made their picks.

Beginning in 2012, the Post-Auction Replacement Draft will NOT be held immediately after the auction. Each year, the commissioner will provide owners the details of when the draft will take place along with an updated list of roster openings and available players.

The GBRL eliminated the minor league player draft and the concept of a farm system at the conclusion of the 2000 season. The rules committee wants to put the league emphasis on Major League Baseball and felt the minor league draft created too many artificially low salaries.

ARTICLE V. POSITION ELIGIBILITY

A player may be assigned to any position at which he appeared in 20 or more games in the preceding season. If a player did not appear in 20 games at a single position, he may be drafted only at the position at which he appeared most frequently. The 20 games/most games measure is used only to determine the position(s) at which a player may be drafted. Once the season is under way (but after Auction Draft Day), a player becomes eligible for assignment to any position at which he has appeared at least once. In American League versions, players selected as DHs may qualify at any position (i.e., they need not have appeared in 20 games as DH the preceding season). In National League versions, players selected for the utility slot may qualify at any position.

Two of the official major league sources for determining player eligibility are the National League's Green Book and the American League's Red Book. Both list appearances by position under fielding averages. The Red Book lists all players who appeared as designated hitters the preceding season. Circulating an eligibility list by position before Auction Draft Day saves a lot of time. Prepare one yourself in March, when the Green Book and Red Book are published. Spend a few minutes before your auction to settle eligibility questions and assign eligibility to rookies. When in doubt, use common sense (instead of knives) to resolve disputes.

GBRL exceptions:

For auction day purposes, the GBRL has adopted the position eligibility rule as outlined in the Rotisserie League Baseball book. That is to say, position eligibility for a player will be determined solely on his previous season's defensive record. However, a player's minor league games played per position totals will be added to his major league games played per position totals to help determine position eligibility. All positions at which the player has played at least 20 games will be legal positions at auction time. If a player has not played 20 games at any positions, he qualifies at the position(s) he has played the most games at. The league commissioner will verify these totals.

If less than 162 games are played during a major league baseball season, auction day position eligibility will be determined using a percentage of the total games played ($20 / 162 = X / \text{total games played}$).

Once the season starts, a player can have positions added to his eligibility. Beginning in 2010, a player must appear at a position in at least five (5) games during the season before he is eligible to man that position on a GBRL roster. In determining a player's position eligibility, any minor league games played that year will be used to help determine viable positions.

The Baseball Reference web site (<http://www.baseball-reference.com/>) will be used to track the number of games played at each position in both the major and minor leagues.

A two-way player qualifies as both a pitcher and a position player (i.e. Shohei Ohtani or Michael Lorenzen). Beginning in 2020, the GBRL will treat two-way players as two separate players. For rostering purposes, these players will be available as both a pitcher and a hitter. Interested owners must select between the two sides of the player leaving the other side available to other owners. Once a decision is made as to which part of the player will be rostered, an owner may not switch to the other part. For example, owner 'A' may select Michael Lorenzen (pitcher) from the free agent list. Owner 'B' may select Michael Lorenzen (outfielder) in a separate transaction. Michael Lorenzen (pitcher) can never be converted to an outfielder and Michael Lorenzen (outfielder) can never be converted to a pitcher.

ARTICLE VI. FEES

The Rotisserie league has a schedule of fees covering all player personnel moves. No money passes directly from team to team. No bets are made on the outcome of any game. All fees are payable into the prize pool and are subsequently distributed to the top four teams in the final standings (See Articles VIII and IX.)

1. **BASIC:** The cumulative total of salaries paid for acquisition of a 23 man roster on Auction Draft Day may not exceed \$260 in the AL or \$280 in the NL.
2. **TRANSACTIONS:** \$10 per trade (no matter how many players are involved) or player activation (from reserve list or farm system). In a trade, the team that pays the fee is subject to negotiation.
3. **CALLUP FROM FREE AGENT POOL:** \$25 for each player called up from the free agent pool.
4. **RESERVE:** \$10 for each player placed on a team's reserve list (see Article XII).
5. **FARM SYSTEM:** \$10 for each player in a team's farm system (see Article XIII).
6. **ACTIVATION:** \$10 for each player activated from the reserve list or farm system.
7. **WAIVERS:** \$10 for each player claimed on waivers (see Article XV).
8. **SEPTEMBER ROSTER EXPANSION:** \$50 (see Article XVI).

GBRL exceptions:

Beginning in 2020, only the following fees apply:

- *Basic - The entry fee is **\$200** regardless of how much money an owner spends in the auction. The exception to the rule is if a new owner is entering the league in which case the entry fee is **\$150**.*
- *September Roster Expansion - **\$10** for one, optional expansion pick.*
- *Salary Cap Tax – GBRL teams have NOT been allowed to go over the in-season salary cap through trade, waiver claim, free agent signing, or other roster move. However, if a roster opening is force-filled by the league and that move puts a team over the salary cap, then that team will be penalized each week they are over the cap. For every dollar they are in violation of the cap, they must pay an equivalent amount into the prize fund. For example, if a team is over the cap by \$2 for two consecutive weeks, they must pay \$4 into the prize fund.*

ARTICLE VII. PLAYER SALARIES

The salary of a player is determined by the time and means of his acquisition and does not change unless the player becomes a free agent or is signed to a guaranteed long-term contract. (See Article XVII.)

- The salary of a player acquired in the major league draft is his auction price.
- The salary of a player called up from the free agent pool during the season is \$10.
- The salary of a player activated from a team's farm system during the season is \$10.
- The salary of a player claimed on waivers is \$10.
- The salary of a player called up during September Roster Expansion to supplement the 23-man roster (AL) or 25-man roster (NL) is \$25 if he is drawn from the free agent pool. (See Article XVI.)

NOTE: Because you can commit only \$260 for salaries on Auction Draft Day (\$280 for NL), and because you will keep some of your players from one season to the next, salaries are *extremely* important, particularly after the first season ends and winter trading begins. Would you trade Carlos Delgado for Sean Casey? The Mets wouldn't. But a smart Rotisserie League owner just might make such a deal in the *offseason*, if Delgado's salary was \$35 higher, because the \$35 difference between his and Casey's auction price is enough to buy a frontline starter and a star outfielder. Maintaining accurate, centralized player-personnel records of salary and contract status is the most important task of the League Secretary, who deserves hosannas from the other owners for all the work he

does.

NOTE: The \$260/\$280 salary limit pertains to Auction Draft Day only. After Auction Draft Day, free agent signings and acquisition of high-priced players in trades may well drive up a team's payroll.

GBRL exceptions:

The GBRL will use 23-man, National League rosters with a \$260 salary cap on auction day.

A salary cap and a salary basement will govern rosters moves made during the course of the season. The following details apply:

- *The cap will be \$320 from opening day through August 31st. On September 1st, a team's cap will increase to \$330 to allow for roster expansion if, and only if, the team actually expands its roster.*
- *The basement will be \$200 throughout the season.*
- *For purposes of team salary calculation, the HIGHEST salary in a stack will be used.*

Beginning in 1998, the GBRL ruled that a formula would be used to determine the salary of a player with major league experience who joins the National League after the beginning of the season. The player's assigned salary will be \$10 or the player's prior year Rotisserie value, whichever is higher. Players whose salaries will be checked include those:

- *Traded to the National League from the American League*
- *Signed with the National League as free agents*
- *Called up from the minors after having major league service time the previous year*

Beginning in 2014, the new source for verifying a player's prior year Rotisserie value will be the Thomas George Fantasy Baseball web site. Thomas George Fantasy Baseball uses a program called the Dollar Value Calculator (http://www.tgfantasybaseball.com/baseball/dollar_parms.cfm). The commissioner will use the Dollar Value Calculator to determine a player's prior year Rotisserie value by applying the following criteria (NOTE – Beginning in 2022, a value has been submitted for the designated hitter since players who only DH will not be provided a salary amount if the DH is not recognized as a roster position):

| Suggested Values to Use: <u>AL Defaults</u> * <u>NL Defaults</u> * <u>Mixed</u> | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Number of Teams: | <input type="text" value="12"/> | | |
| Team Salary Cap: | <input type="text" value="260"/> | | |
| MLB League(s): | <input type="text" value="National League Only"/> | | |
| MLB Season: | <input type="text" value="2022 Projected"/> | | |
| Active Catchers: | <input type="text" value="2.0"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | % of team salary |
| Active First Basemen: | <input type="text" value="1.5"/> | <input type="text" value="9"/> | % of team salary |
| Active Second Basemen: | <input type="text" value="1.5"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> | % of team salary |
| Active Third Basemen: | <input type="text" value="1.5"/> | <input type="text" value="9"/> | % of team salary |
| Active Shortstops: | <input type="text" value="1.5"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> | % of team salary |
| Active Outfielders: | <input type="text" value="5.5"/> | <input type="text" value="29"/> | % of team salary |
| Active Designated Hitters: | <input type="text" value="0.5"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | % of team salary |
| Active Pitchers: | <input type="text" value="9.0"/> | <input type="text" value="33"/> | % of team salary |
| <input type="button" value="Calculate"/> Press Only ONCE! | | | |

NOTE : The 'MLB Season' should be set to the season prior to the current one.

The contract status for a player assigned a salary using the Dollar Value Calculator will be 'S' since he was not available on auction day. This player will automatically return to the free agent pool at the end of the season.

The salary and contract status of a player claimed on waivers will remain the same as they were at the time the player was waived. The claiming team assumes the salary burden and any long-term contract obligations.

The following rules apply to the salary and contract status of a player who clears waivers:

- If a player with a salary of \$10 or less clears waivers while on the National League injured list or in the American League, his salary will be set to \$10, but his contract status will remain the same.*
- If a player with a salary of greater than \$10 clears waivers while on the National League injured list or in the American League, he will maintain his original salary and contract status.*
- If a player clears waivers while on the active roster of a National League team, while assigned to a minor league affiliate of his National League team, or while a free agent, his salary will revert to \$10. The exception to this rule is when the player's salary was assigned by the Dollar Value Calculator described above. In this case, the player's salary remains intact.*

The contract status of the player reverts to first year ('1') if the player was auction day available or stays as 'S' if the player was not available on auction day.

- Regardless of major league status, if a player with an 'A' contract status (i.e. an expiring contract) clears waivers after August 31st, his contract status will remain as 'A'.*

ARTICLE VIII. PRIZE MONEY

All fees shall be promptly collected by the League Treasurer, who is empowered to subject owners to public humiliation and assess fines as needed to ensure that payments are made to the league in a timely fashion. The interest income from this investment can be used to defray the cost of a gala postseason awards ceremony and banquet. The principal shall be divided among the first four teams in the final standings as follows:

- 1st place - 50%
- 2nd place - 20%
- 3rd place - 15%
- 4th place - 10%
- 5th place - 5%

GBRL exceptions:

The following prize money payout breakdown will be implemented (the first four finishers will make a profit):

- 12th Place -0-
- 11th Place \$15
- 10th Place \$30
- 9th Place \$45
- 8th Place \$60
- 7th Place \$75
- 6th Place \$90
- 5th Place \$105
- 4th Place 12% of remaining money after costs
- 3rd Place 17% of remaining money after costs

- 2nd Place 26% of remaining money after costs
- 1st Place 45% of remaining money after costs

At least half of the regular 162 game schedule must be played for prize money to be awarded. If any National League team plays less than 81 games during the baseball season, all entrance fees will be returned to the owners. In addition, the contract status for owned players will not advance the usual one year and will remain fixed until the next season.

ARTICLE IX. STANDINGS

The following criteria are used to determine team performance:

- Composite batting average (BA)
- Total runs scored (R)
- Total home runs (HR)
- Total runs batted in (RBI)
- Total stolen bases (SB)
- Composite earned run average (ERA)
- Total innings pitched (IP)
- Total wins (W)
- Total saves (SV)
- Composite ratio: walks (BB) + hits (H), divided by innings pitched (IP)

Teams are ranked from first to last in each of the eight categories and given points for each place. For example, in a 12-team league, the first place team in a category receives 12 points, the second place team 11, and so on down to 1 point for last place. The team with the most total points wins the pennant.

NEW CATEGORIES - Astute readers will notice that runs scored and innings pitched were new categories beginning in 2003, thus making a total of ten categories. Traditionalists dedicated to the "standard eight" categories are free, of course, to continue in their set ways. ***The addition of runs and innings will render unnecessary the following rules, which have been the source of much argument, although again traditionalists may keep them.*** Finally, other categories may be used and the game still called "Rotisserie" as long as you don't say "standard Rotisserie."

THE FENOKEE IP REQUIREMENT - A team must pitch a total of 900 innings to receive points in ERA and ratio. A team that does not pitch 900 innings maintains its place in ERA and ratio ranking but receives zero points in both of these categories. (Thus, a team that finished third in ERA but did not have 900 IP would receive no points in that category. The fourth-place team in ERA would still receive 9 points.) This rule was passed in 1988 in response to an "all-relief" strategy attempted by the Okrent Fenokees in the 1987 season. The strategy was not successful because Swampmaster Dan Okrent abandoned it after six weeks or so. But it might have worked, in more disciplined hands. Hence, the rule.

THE FENOKEE AB REQUIREMENT - A team must have 4250 at-bats in the season. A team that does not have 4250 at-bats maintains its place in the batting average ranking but receives zero points in that category. This rule was passed in 1991 in response to an "all-pitching" strategy attempted by the Okrent Fenokees in 1990. This time, the Beloved Founder and Former Commissioner-for-Life assembled an All-Star pitching staff, Tony Gwynn, and 13 Ken Oberkells (the 1990 equivalent of a Wes Helms type of player, i.e., guys who didn't play enough to bring down Gwynn's "team" BA). The BFFCL hoped to amass pitching points, by spending excessively on top pitchers and dominating all pitching categories, while scoring at the top of the BA category and scoring one point each in the other offensive categories to squeeze into the first division. The strategy was not successful because the Swampmaster abandoned it after six weeks or so. But it might have worked, in more disciplined hands.

The addition of new cumulative statistics, one each in hitting and pitching, combined with the elimination

of the Fenokee rules, will create an open invitation for any disciplined owner now to attempt the Fenokee methods. Some leagues will want high IP and AB requirements.

- Pitchers' offensive stats are *not* counted, mainly because they don't appear weekly in *USA Today*. Nor are the pitching stats of the occasional position player called in to pitch when the score is 16-1 and the relief corps is gone into hiding.
- In cases of ties in an individual category, the tied teams are assigned points by totaling points for the rankings at issue and dividing the total by the number of teams tied.
- In cases of ties in total points, final places in the standings are determined by comparing placement of teams in individual categories. Respective performances are calculated and a point given to each team for bettering the other. Should one team total more points than the other, that team is declared the winner.
- Should the point totals still be equal, the tie is broken by adding each team's *total runs scored* at season's end (the object of the game on the field being to score more runs than the opposition). This new tie-break method thus leaves *the number of innings pitched* as a separate and final tie-breaker.

GBRL exceptions:

Since its inception in 1984, the GBRL has used the standard eight categories to determine the standings (Home Runs, Runs Batted In, Batting Average, Stolen Bases, Pitching Wins, Saves, Pitching Ratio, and Earned Run Average).

Beginning in 2014, the GBRL added two categories bringing the total to ten. The new pitching category is strikeouts and the new batting category is runs scored.

There are no minimum at bats or innings pitched requirements.

The GBRL continues to use a second tie-breaker of at-bats plus three times innings pitched.

ARTICLE X. STATS

The weekly player-performance summaries published in *USA Today* beginning in April constitute the official data base for the computation of standings in Rotisserie League Baseball.

NOTE: When we first started out, we used *The Sporting News*. Not for nothing was the Holy Bible known to baseball people as *The Sporting News* of religion. But that was then, and this is now. When *USA Today* began to appear daily everywhere, American culture changed. Whether the newspaper was sitting outside a hotel room door, or in one of those vending boxes that takes two quarters (and which might be a reason to walk a mile during the heat of a July pennant race) Rotisserians changed their ways of thinking about the world. With the advent of the internet, *The Sporting News* has once again become a viable daily source. So has STATS Inc. Just the same, it is fitting and proper for everyone in every league to have the same final source authority as the last word, considering that these various sources don't always agree the day after the season ends.

- The effective date of any transaction for purposes of statistical calculation is the Monday (AL) or Tuesday (NL) *before* the commencement of play on those days. This is because weekly stats have traditionally appeared in *USA Today* on Tuesday for AL games through the preceding Sunday and on Wednesday for NL games through the preceding Monday.
- Reporting deadlines should be established as close to these breaks as possible, but not later than the start of any game at the beginning of a new reporting period. Noon on Monday (AL) or Tuesday (NL) makes sense.
- Transactions recorded on Auction Draft Day, including trades and call-ups to replace disabled players, are effective retroactive to Opening Day. Transactions occurring after Auction Draft Day but before the closing date of the first cumulative summaries to appear in *USA Today* in April are effective the Monday (AL) or Tuesday (NL) immediately after the first closing date.
- Performance stats of a player shall be assigned to a Rotisserie League team only when he is on

the active 23-man or 25-man roster of that team. It is common for a player to appear on the roster of more than one Rotisserie League team during the season because of trades and waiver list moves. Even a player who is not traded may spend time on a team's reserve list, during which period any numbers compiled for his major league team do not count for his Rotisserie League team.

- Standings shall be tabulated and issued in a regular and timely fashion, as determined by the league owners.

NOTE: Keeping score is the only part of Rotisserie League Baseball that isn't any fun. Unless you're computerized, it's tedious and time-consuming. And even if your league does have a computer wonk on board, it still means he or she can't take a vacation between Opening Day and early October. (God forbid your league should go a week without standings!)

A season is a season, as reported in *USA Today*. Sometimes a team may play a 163rd game as a one-game "playoff." Live with it, and enjoy the extra excitement. Or tell your stat service (now, not in October) that you want to end the season after 162 games, no matter what, and offer to pay extra for a special cutoff.

GBRL exceptions:

The GBRL will use the Major League Baseball web site (<http://www.mlb.com>) as its primary source for statistics. The Baseball Reference web site (<http://www.baseball-reference.com/>) will be used as a backup source. Statistics will be compiled each week and posted on the league web site at <http://www.sobaysports.com/roto/> at the commissioner's earliest convenience. In most cases, you can expect to see stats posted no later than Tuesday evening each week.

The GBRL will use 23-man, National League rosters.

In most cases, a statistical week will run from Tuesday through Monday. Beginning in 2012, Tuesday will only serve as the beginning of new statistical week if the week includes at least four play dates. If there are not enough play dates in a week, the statistics from the play dates will be folded into the next week (in the case of the start of the season) or the prior week (in the case of the end of the season).

There are three deadlines for weekly roster moves.

- 1. Beginning in 2016, teams wishing to make a trade effective for a given Tuesday's games, must post the trade prior to 5:00pm PDT on the Monday before (See ARTICLE XI. – TRADES).*
- 2. The 12 noon PDT deadline on Tuesday is for prioritized free agent signings (See ARTICLE XII. – THE RESERVE LIST), prioritized waiver claims (See ARTICLE XV. – WAIVERS), and any counterproposals to posted trades (See ARTICLE XI. – TRADES).*
- 3. The 4:00pm PDT deadline on Tuesday is for late free agent signings and any reserve list activations before the evening games. Free agent signings made after the first deadline (12 noon PDT) and before the second deadline (4:00 pm PDT) take place on first-come, first-serve basis. These signings cannot involve players who were not on the active roster of a National League team before the first deadline.*

Team owners are responsible for reporting all transactions to the commissioner by the stated deadlines. The commissioner is NOT responsible for informing teams of potential moves, but as a courtesy, the commissioner will provide an Open Transactions Report to all owners detailing all pending roster moves.

ARTICLE XI. TRADES

From the completion of the auction draft until August 31, Rotisserie League teams are free to make trades of any kind without limit, except as stipulated below, so long as the active rosters of both teams involved in a trade reflect the required position distribution upon completion of the transaction. No trades

are permitted from September 1 through the end of the season, or between frozen roster submission and Auction Draft Day. Trades made from the day after the season ends until rosters are frozen on April 1 prior to Auction Draft Day are not bound by the position distribution requirement.

NOTE: This means that if Team A wants to swap Vladimir Guerrero to Team B for Johan Santana any time between Auction Draft Day and the trade deadline, Team A will have to throw in a bum pitcher and Team B a duff outfielder to make the deal. During the offseason, the two could be dealt even-up.

- Trades do not affect the salaries or contract status of players.
- Each trade is subject to the \$10 transaction fee. The fee is not affected by the number of players involved in the trade.
- Unless you want knife fights to break out among owners, prohibit all trades involving cash, players to be named later, or "future considerations." Trust us.

NOTE ON DUMPING: "Dumping" is the inelegant but scientifically precise term used to describe what happens when a team out of contention gives up on the season and trades to a contending team its most expensive talent and its players who will be lost to free agency at the end of the year, typically for inexpensive players who can be kept the following season. A "dumping" trade is always unbalanced, sometimes egregiously so, with the contending team giving up far less than it gets, and the non-contending team giving up much more in order to acquire a nucleus for the following season. While this strategy makes sense for both clubs, extreme cases can potentially undermine the results of the auction draft, which should always be the primary indicator of an owner's ability to put together a successful team. To guard against this, we have in the past employed rigid and restrictive Anti-Dumping measures to control trades between contenders and non-contenders. But in light of major shifts in international politics and economics in recent years, we decided in 1993 that these restrictive measures tended to inhibit rather than enhance the playing of the game. Accordingly, we swept away all Anti-Dumping legislation in 1993. We did so with some trepidation, but we felt the benefits of a free market would outweigh the potential for abuses. We were right. Let freedom ring.

If your league still wants Anti-Dumping legislation, see Article XXI.

GBRL exceptions:

Beginning in 2012, the GBRL will employ one in-season trading period which runs from opening day until the first Tuesday after the MLB trading deadline. August border trading has been eliminated.

After the start of a Rotisserie baseball season, a player traded from Team A to Team B cannot be re-acquired from Team B until after the start of the following season. This does not mean that the player cannot return to Team A before the following season, but it cannot be via a trade involving Team B. This rule does not apply to trades between Team A and Team B in which both trades take place during the offseason since no statistical benefit can be obtained.

A player who is not active (injured, minors, AL, etc.), but who has not been reserved by his Rotisserie league team, can still be traded. However, the acquiring team may not reserve the player. To prevent a force-fill of the opening, the acquiring team should have its trading partner fill the spot from the free agent list beforehand.

Beginning in 2012, all in-season trades must be posted. Trade posting was created to help owners get the best possible talent for the player(s) they are about to deal. The hope is that it will encourage dialog amongst owners, provide owners with a better confidence level during the trading process, and make the league even more fun.

How does Trade Posting work?

Once two teams have agreed to a trade, the trade must be posted to all other league owners. Beginning in 2016, if the trading partners want their trade to be effective for a given Tuesday's games (4:00pm

PDT), the trade must be posted prior to 5:00pm PDT on the Monday before. That means all trades must be posted for at least 23 hours. During this time, owners not involved in the original trade are free to make competing offers to one or both of the owners involved in the trade. Here is the posting process:

1. One of the two teams involved in an agreed upon deal must post the trade to the rest of the league using the trade posting process detailed on the league web site home page (<http://www.sobaysports.com/roto/>).
2. The commissioner will assess the trade to determine if it is deemed a 'rebuilding' trade. The commissioner will communicate his decision to the league.
3. If the trade is deemed a 'rebuilding' trade, the owner who is rebuilding must communicate to the commissioner which player(s) from the trade that they plan to keep through the following year's auction.
4. During the posting period, other owners not involved in the trade can provide competing proposals to one or both of the trading partners. As offers are posted, the original trading partners are allowed to improve upon their original, agreed upon trade.
5. At the conclusion of the posting period, the owners involved in the original posted trade can select the original offer or any competing offer. If one of the owners accepts a posted offer, the other owner can walk away from the process without making a deal. If neither owner accepts a posted offer, they must complete the original trade (unless players in the original deal were adversely affected during the posting period).

FAQs about Trade Posting

Do I have to post every trade I make during the season?

Yes. Many trades are between one team that is trying to win and another team that is trying to rebuild. These trades bring the most angst to league members because one team usually receives a greater advantage in talent. Trade posting gives all league members the ability to counter any existing offers. This should lessen the degree to which trades are one-sided.

We have all questioned trades made in our league from time to time for various reasons. Those perceived as getting the better of a trade say that they did not break any rules and nobody had their arm twisted. Those perceived as getting ripped off in a trade say that it was the best offer they received. Those not involved in the trade claim they could have offered more if they had only been contacted or that they did make an offer and it was better. The truth is all of us trade differently. Some wait for offers to come to them. Some create their own offers and pursue them. Some trade with the same people all the time. Some don't make trades at all. The posting process is designed to break down some of the trading cliques that have formed, encourage more trade dialog, and insure that an owner gets the best possible offer for his players.

NOTE : When making trades, your goal should be to acquire players that give you the best chance to win this year or the best chance to rebuild for next year. Making trades to help your buddies or foil your enemies without providing a direct benefit to you are not in the spirit of our league. Making trades which promise some future payment in players or actions are also not in the spirit of our league and steps will be taken to legislate against them. It is hoped that the public nature of trade posting will expose any of these activities.

Are all the offers during the posting period made public?

Yes. The posting process is designed to ferret out the best trade offer. The only way an owner can make an educated offer is to know what other offers are on the table. All offers will be announced via an agreed upon communication method.

Can I pull back an offer I make via the posting process?

No. Once an offer is posted, it becomes a 'line in the sand' that other owners are attempting to beat. Pulling back an offer after making it may cause other owners to 'show their cards' when

they did not need or want to. There is one exception . . . an offer may be pulled back if any of the players in the offer were adversely affected during the posting period.

If I make an offer during the posting period, must it involve the same players that are being posted?

Any competing offer to one of the original trading partners must include at least one player from the original trade.

Beginning in 2012, any in-season trade will be assessed by the commissioner to determine if it qualifies as a 'rebuilding' trade. A 'rebuilding' trade is defined as a trade in which one team is selling off expiring or expensive contracts in exchange for players that may help them in future seasons. Most of these instances are fairly obvious, but if an owner disputes the commissioner's assessment of their deal as a 'rebuilding' trade, the evaluation will be escalated to a group of three owners who are not involved in the trade in any way.

If a trade is determined to be a 'rebuilding' trade, the team on the selling end must designate which player(s) they will be keep through the following year's auction date. At least one player received in the trade must be designated as a keeper. When auction day arrives the following year, if a designated player has been traded outside of the National League, released, or placed on the 60-day injured list, the GBRL team will NOT be forced to keep the player.

EXAMPLE #1 : 'Team A' is in 10th place and 'Team B' is in 4th place in late July. 'Team A' trades Seth Smith (\$4 'A') to 'Team B' for Ryan Theriot (\$1 '2'). The trade is assessed as a 'rebuilding' trade and 'Team A' is labeled the seller since they are selling off the Smith contract. 'Team A' must designate Theriot as a 'keeper' for the following year since he is the only player they received. Theriot and his salary must be carried by 'Team A' through the next year's auction unless he has been traded outside of the National League, released, or placed on the 60-day injured list.

EXAMPLE #2 : 'Team A' is in last place and 'Team B' is in 3rd place in mid-June. 'Team A' trades Derek Lowe (\$19 'A'), Lucas Duda (\$10 'S'), and David Ross (\$1 'A') to 'Team B' for Chris Volstad (\$3 '1'), Juan Miranda (\$7 'S'), and Ryan Hanigan (\$2 '2'). The trade is assessed as a 'rebuilding' trade and 'Team A' is labeled the seller since they are selling off the Lowe, Duda, and Ross contracts. 'Team A' must designate Volstad, Hanigan, either player, or both players as 'keepers' for the following year. Miranda is not a consideration since his contract expires. Whoever is chosen must be carried by 'Team A' through the next year's auction unless they have been traded outside of the National League, released, or placed on the 60-day injured list.

EXAMPLE #3 : 'Team A' is in 10th place and 'Team B' is in 1st place in early July. 'Team A' trades Jayson Werth (\$36 '2') to 'Team B' for Gerrado Parra (\$5 '2'). The trade is assessed as a 'rebuilding' trade and 'Team A' is labeled the seller. Why? The commissioner views Jayson Werth as an expensive, underperforming player whose value is the same as a player whose contract is expiring. 'Team A' must designate Parra as a 'keeper' for the following year since he is the only player they received. Parra and his salary must be carried by 'Team A' through the next year's auction unless he has been traded outside of the National League, released, or placed on the 60-day injured list.

It is permissible for the owner of a 'designated' player to trade that player to another GBRL team as long the acquiring owner understands the implications of the trade. Consider the following instances:

- If the original 'rebuilding' trade involved only one designated player, the acquiring owner in the second trade must assume the designated status of the player they are acquiring. The original owner is off the hook.*
- If the original 'rebuilding' trade involved multiple designated players, the acquiring owner in the second trade will ONLY assume the designated status of the players if they receive all of the designated players from the original trade. If they only acquire some of the designated players from the original trade, those players will lose their designated status as they move to their new team. The designated player(s) not included in the second trade will retain their designated status with their original owner.*

There are no fees associated with making trades in the GBRL.

Beginning in 1998, all anti-dumping trade rules will be eliminated including those applying to high-salaried players (\$35 and over).

A stack is a group of two or more players linked together by reserve list moves. A player in a stack may only be traded if all other players in the stack are included in the deal. You may NOT trade a portion of a stack.

Trades made during the off-season are not governed by the salary cap or basement. It is permissible for team salaries to go over \$320 or below \$200.

ARTICLE XII. THE RESERVE LIST

A team may replace any player on its 23-man (or 25-man) roster who is:

- placed on the disabled list
- released
- traded to the other league
- sent down to the minors by his major league team

To replace such a player, a Rotisserie League team must first release him outright or place him on its reserve list. A team reserves a player by notifying the League Secretary and paying the \$10 transaction fee. A reserved player is removed from a team's active roster at the end of the stat week (on Monday or Tuesday) - when formal notification is given - and placed on the team's reserve list. There is no limit to the number of players a team may have on its reserve list. Reserving a player protects a team's rights to that player.

A team has two weeks to take action once a player is placed on the disabled list, released, traded to the other league, or sent to the minors by his major league team. If no action is taken, the position is frozen open until the original player's return, and no replacement may be made, except as provided under Article XIV after the All-Star game.

- A suspended player may not be reserved, released, or replaced.

NOTE: When we first wrote that, we were thinking about the old-fashioned pre-steroid things players might do to get themselves suspended - Bill Madlock hitting an umpire (1980), say, or Gaylord Perry throwing a spitter (1962 to 1983), although he was suspended for doing it only once (1982). Then came the drug suspensions of 1984 and afterward. We have decided to consider players suspended for substance abuse as if they were on the disabled list, and allow teams to replace them.

- Once a specific action has been taken to remove a player from its 23 or 25-man roster (via release or placing him on the reserve list), a team is then free to select any eligible player from the free agent pool of players not already owned by another Rotisserie League team. The salary assigned to a player selected from the free agent pool is \$10; the callup fee is \$25 (see Article VI).
- If the same player is claimed by more than one team in a given week, he goes to the team ranking lowest in the most recent standings.
- Every reserve move must be accompanied by a concomitant replacement move (i.e., a team may not reserve a player without replacing him).
- Placing a player on the reserve list and activating a player from the reserve list are each subject to a \$10 transaction fee.
- The callup takes effect as soon as it is recorded by the League Secretary, although the player's stats do not begin to accrue to his new team until Monday (AL) or Tuesday (NL) of the week the League Secretary records the callup.
- Player moves are to be made in accordance with the player's status as of the transaction

reporting deadline. For instance, if a player is active on his major league roster on the transaction reporting deadline, he cannot be reserved, even though he was on the DL earlier in the reporting period.

- A player on a Rotisserie League reserve list may not be traded unless the replacement player linked to him is also traded.
- A replacement player may be traded or otherwise replaced (e.g., in case of injury, he could be reserved and a free agent called up to fill his slot). In such a case, the newly acquired player becomes linked to the original reserved player. To avoid even the appearance of collusion, a replacement player traded from one team to another may not be traded back to his original team for three reporting periods.
- When a player on a reserve list returns to active major league duty, he must be reinstated to the active 23 or 25-man roster of his Rotisserie League team two weeks after his activation or be waived. Failure to notify the League Secretary shall be considered a waiver of the player on the reserve list. A player may not be reinstated or waived until he has been activated by his major league team.

NOTE: Intended to prevent stockpiling of players, this rule is tricky to monitor. Daily newspaper transaction columns and telephone sports information lines don't always catch every single major league roster move. The clock starts ticking when the League Secretary is made aware of a player being reactivated. By the way, "two weeks" means two full reporting periods and may actually be as long as two weeks plus six days (as in the case of a player being reactivated the day after a reporting deadline). In fairness, and because this game is not full-contact karate but a game played among friends, an owner should be given warning by the League Secretary that time is up and he will lose a player if he doesn't make a move. Especially if there are extenuating circumstances (i.e., anything from retracing Livingston's steps in Africa to just plain laziness).

NOTE: The League Secretary being "made aware" requires some objective evidence so that Secretaries cannot be subjected to phone calls with some content such as, "You have been made aware, because I just made you aware." Be cautious about media "announcements." It is not unusual for a major league team's media director (or the field manager, or some other official) to announce in a post-game interview that the team has decided to call up one player and send down another player or to put one on the DL while activating another. Such communications often occur the night before the transaction is actually communicated to the league office. And if you think Rotisserie League Secretaries can be fussy, they are easy, compared to the MLB bureaucracy. Awareness of player moves should thus be linked to some agreed-upon source of actual transactions, so that League Secretaries never have to rely on what somebody heard on the radio or saw on television.

- When a player is reinstated to the active 23 or 25-man Rotisserie League roster from a team's reserve list, the player originally called up to replace him must be waived, unless the replacement player or the original player can be shifted to another natural opening on the roster for which he qualifies.
- If the replacement player is replaced (e.g., he is injured, put on reserve, and a free agent is called up), then his replacement becomes linked to the original player on the reserve list.
- A player reinstated from the reserve list may not displace any active player on the Rotisserie League team's 23-man roster other than his original replacement (or his successor).

NOTE: The intent of all this is to minimize the benefit a team might derive from an injury. Say Lance Berkman tears an ACL (nah, could never happen again) and you call up the inevitable Orlando Palmeiro to replace him. Berkman comes back. What you'd like to do is activate Berkman, keep Palmeiro and waive your worst outfielder, who hasn't had more than five at-bats any week since the season began. Our rules say you can't, on the premise that a team is not ordinarily helped by an injury to a key player. We know the big leagues don't handle it this way, but art doesn't always imitate life. No owner should be let off the hook freely after drafting a player who rarely plays.

GBRL exceptions:

Beginning in 2004, the GBRL decided to match the major leagues with regard to the replacement of suspended players. If a National League team is allowed to replace a suspended player, then the GBRL will allow that player to be placed on the reserve list and replaced. No wait period will apply and suspended players are treated the same as those who are placed on the injured list, sent to the minors, released, or traded to the American League.

Under the terms of the last major league collective bargaining agreement of 2004, National League players can be placed on the bereavement list, the paternity list, or the family medical list. Stays on these lists are for short, set periods of time which are less than seven days. National League teams can replace these players while they are inactive. Beginning in 2012, GBRL owners who own players who have been placed inactive lists lasting less than seven days will NOT be allowed to reserve these players and replace them from the free agent list. Since players are not allowed to spend more than a few days on these lists, GBRL owners were not deemed to be at a disadvantage to others.

Beginning in 2016, the GBRL will dispense with special roster moves in September involving players deemed "out for the year". Owners will no longer be able to reserve these players unless they are actually placed on their team's injured list.

There are no fees associated with reserving players in the GBRL.

When a deadline is reached for the activation of a reserved player or the filling of a roster spot, the commissioner will warn the team owner. If the owner does not make a decision, the commissioner will make the move(s) himself. Reserved players who are scheduled for activation will be activated and waived. Pitching openings will be assigned the Rotisserie free agent pitcher with the most National League innings pitched during the current season. Position player openings will be assigned the Rotisserie free agent that fits the position requirements of the roster in question who has the most National League at-bats during the current season.

An owner may activate a player from the reserve list at any time regardless of whether or not that player has been activated by his major league team. If an owner activates a reserved player before he is added back to his major league roster and the player is still not on the major league roster by the second Tuesday following the activation, the player will be placed back on the reserve list and the owner will be assigned a Rotisserie free agent by the commissioner. Pitching openings will be assigned will be assigned the Rotisserie free agent pitcher with the most National League innings pitched during the current season. Position player openings will be assigned the Rotisserie free agent that fits the position requirements of the roster in question who has the most National League at-bats during the current season. In addition, the original player in question cannot be activated again by his owner until his major league team adds him back to the active roster.

A stack is a group of two or more players linked together by reserve list moves. The "top" of a stack is the player who has been inactive the longest. The "bottom" of a stack is the active player who is currently accumulating stats for his Rotisserie team. Beginning in 2021, when an owner activates a player from the reserve list, there are three ways they can resolve the stack:

- 1. Waive the replacement player(s).*
- 2. Slide the replacement player(s) to another open roster position.*
- 3. Waive another active player on the roster and slide the replacement player(s) into the newly created roster spot.*

In all cases, the resulting roster moves must meet both salary cap and positional requirements.

All stacks that exist at the end of the Major League season must be resolved by their Rotisserie teams at that time. Owners should be aware of the following considerations as they make their decisions:

- At season's end, all 'A' and 'S' players automatically return to the free agent pool. This may resolve a stack for you.*
- Since the major league injured and suspended lists cease to exist at season's end, the only natural openings that an owner can have the day after the season ends are those for players who*

are in the American League, in the minor leagues, or free agents. An opening is NOT a free spot on your 23-man roster created by the loss of 'A' and 'S' players at season's end.

- If an owner chooses to slide a player into a natural opening as described above, he must then resolve the newly created stack.*
- If an owner has not already used his September Roster Expansion pick by season's end, he may choose to break a stack by expanding his roster by one player at a cost of \$10.*
- All owners are responsible for informing the commissioner of the players they wish to waive. If the Commissioner does not hear from an owner by the deadline, he will waive all inactive players in a stack.*

ARTICLE XIII. FARM SYSTEM

If a farm system player is promoted to the active roster of a major league team at any time during the regular season prior to September 1 (when major league rosters may expand to 40), his Rotisserie League team has two weeks after his promotion to activate him (at any position for which he qualifies) or waive him.

- The fee for activating a player from a team's farm system is \$10.
- If a farm system player is activated, the player displaced from the 23-man or 25-man roster to make room for him must be placed on waivers, unless the farm system player can be activated into a natural opening, in which case no waiver is required. Example: One of your pitchers is placed on a major league disabled list; you reserve him and activate a pitcher from your farm system who has been called up by his major league team.
- Once brought up from its farm system by a Rotisserie League team, a player may not be returned to it, although he may be placed on a team's reserve list in the event he is returned to the minor leagues by his major league club.
- A farm system player not brought up to a team's 23-man or 25-man roster during the season of his initial selection may be kept within the farm system in subsequent seasons upon payment of an additional \$10 per year, so long as he retains official rookie status and the League Secretary is duly notified on April 1 each year, when rosters are frozen (See also Article XVIII.) If the player makes the majors on Opening Day, the owner must choose to freeze him (\$10) or release him.
- A team may have no more than three players in its farm system.
- A farm system player may be traded during authorized trading periods, subject to prevailing rules governing transactions, as may a team's selection rights in the minor league draft.

NOTE: This means that a team could acquire and exercise as many as three farm system draft picks, providing that it does not exceed the maximum of three players in its farm system at a given time.

GBRL exceptions:

The GBRL eliminated the minor league player draft and the concept of a farm system at the conclusion of the 2000 season. The rules committee wants to put the league emphasis on major league baseball and felt the minor league draft created too many artificially low salaries.

ARTICLE XIV. SIGNING FREE AGENTS

Active major league players not on any Rotisserie League team's roster at the conclusion of the auction draft become free agents. During the course of the season the pool of free agents may also include minor league players not in any Rotisserie League farm system (see Article XIII) who are promoted to an active major league roster; waived players who are not claimed; and players traded from the "other" major league. Such players may be signed in the following manner.

From Opening Day Until the All-Star Game - Free agents may be called up to replace players placed

on a Rotisserie League team's reserve list as outlined in Article XII. The only exception to Article XII's provisions for signing free agents during this period is that a player traded into the league from the "other" major league or signed by a team within the league as a free agent may be signed by a Rotisserie League team with its Free Agent Acquisition Budget (FAAB), as described below.

After the All-Star Game - From the All-Star Game until the last weekly transaction deadline before September 1, free agents may be signed, without limit in number, but within the limitations of a Rotisserie League team's Free Agent Acquisition Budget:

- Each team shall have, for the purpose of acquiring free agents during the course of the season, a supplementary budget of \$100.
- At the deadline established by each league for recording weekly transactions, a team may submit a sealed bid for one or more free agents.
- The minimum bid shall be \$5; the maximum shall be the amount remaining in a team's FAAB.
- A free agent so selected goes to the highest bidder. If more than one team bids the same amount on a player, and if that amount is the highest bid, the player goes to the team that is lowest in the most recently issued standings.
- The salary of a free agent signed in this manner is his acquisition price. His contract status is that of a first-year player.
- In addition to the player's acquisition price, a team signing a free agent must pay the \$25 transaction fee for calling up free agents as set forth in Article VI.
- For each free agent that it signs, a team must at the same time waive or release a player at the same position from its active roster. If on a major league team's *active* roster, such a player is waived. If he has been placed on a major league team's disabled list, released, traded to the "other" league, or demoted to the minors, such a player is released and may not be acquired by a Rotisserie League team until he is once again on a major league roster.
- A free agent signed for a salary in excess of \$10 (i.e., more than the customary callup fee for replacement players) is deemed to have a guaranteed two-year contract. If such a player is not protected the following season (i.e., if he is released into the free agent pool at the time rosters are frozen on April 1), then a contract buyout fee in the amount of twice his salary or \$100, whichever is greater, shall be paid by the team owning his contract at the time.
- If a Rotisserie League team loses a player to the "other" league in an interleague trade, then the team's available FAAB dollars are increased by an amount equal to the lost player's salary.

NOTE: If a team wishes to replace an injured player and reserve him, it must use the mechanism described in Article XII; it may not use the FAAB process without releasing the player. The highest FAAB bid gets the free agent regardless of DL (and here is the only possible relief to replace a frozen roster slot as defined in Article XII; justice derives from the price paid to fix the problem).

NOTE: The provision regarding players acquired for a sum in excess of the customary \$10 callup fee is intended to discourage frivolous bidding for free agents. It is also intended to make teams who are most likely to benefit from signing costly free agents - that is, teams still in the race for the first division - pay for it dearly, by making such players expensive to dump the following spring.

NOTE: Set up a simple, common-sense mechanism for handling the "sealed bid" part of the FAAB process. Nothing elaborate is needed. Price Waterhouse need not be called in. Don't permit bidders to make contingency bids unless your League Secretary doesn't have a day job (e.g., "If I don't get Ruth at \$29, then I'll bid \$25 for Gehrig...").

GBRL exceptions:

The GBRL will NOT be using the Free Agent Acquisition Budget. The free agent signing process is the same for the entire season.

There are no fees associated with signing free agents in the GBRL.

The free agent list is frozen each week until signings are processed on transaction day, Tuesday.

Beginning in 2021, all owners may participate in the weekly free agent signing process whether they have roster openings or not. On each Tuesday transaction day, the owners have a 12 noon PDT deadline to submit a prioritized list to the commissioner of those free agents they would like to sign. They must also specify if the free agents will be filling roster openings or replacing active players who will then be waived. In all cases, the resulting roster moves must meet both salary cap and positional requirements.

If no list is received, the commissioner will assume the owner has no moves to make.

Free agent signings will take place in rounds just after the first transaction deadline at 12 noon PDT on Tuesdays. Note that teams with roster openings do not take priority over other teams when it comes to free agent signings. One selection per team will be filled each round. Beginning in 2016, the signing order will be determined by two factors:

- *The standings order of the team (5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st).*
- *Whether or not the team made one or more free agent signings the previous week.*

Teams who did not make a free agent signing the previous week take priority over teams who made one or more free agent signings the previous week. The standings order is then applied to these two groups of teams to determine the signing order. For example, if teams 1, 5, 9, and 12 made one or more free agent signings the previous week, the signing order for the current week would be 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 5th, 9th, 12th, and 1st. Teams who make multiple free agent signings in one week are treated the same as those who make a single signing.

Beginning in 2017, free agents on the injured list are eligible to be signed, but if they are not activated by their National League team within two weeks, the signing team loses the player and is force-filled by rule (most IP or most ABs). This gives teams more options and allows them to speculate based upon information they have heard or read. Some owners do not see the NL transactions the day they happen so this allows them to predict.

Free agent signings made after the 12 noon PDT deadline on Tuesday, but before the 4:00 pm PDT secondary deadline take place on first-come, first-serve basis. These signings cannot involve players who were not on the active roster of a National League team before the first deadline. Beginning in 2017, these 'late' signings do not count against an owner's signing priority for the following week.

All Rotisserie league openings must be filled by their team owner within a complete activation period (two weeks to two weeks and six days depending on the timing of the transaction) or the spot will be force-filled by the league commissioner. Pitching openings will be assigned the Rotisserie free agent pitcher with the most National League innings pitched during the current season. Position player openings will be assigned the Rotisserie free agent that fits the position requirements of the roster in question who has the most National League at-bats during the current season.

Beginning in 2022, if a roster opening is force-filled by the league, that player can only be removed from an owner's roster by the following means:

- *Activation of the player or player(s) who have been replaced by the force-filled player which triggers the waiving of the force-filled player*
- *An MLB injury, demotion, trade, or release of the force-filled player which triggers a free agent signing*
- *The trade of the force-filled player to another GBRL team*
- *The use of a waiver claim by the owner to replace the force-filled player*

This is intended to prevent owners from simply using one of their unlimited number of free agent signings to remove the force-filled player from their team. A force-fill should serve as a penalty and now it does.

Beginning in 2017, if a roster opening occurs after 4:00 pm PDT on Tuesday, but before the National League team's game that night, the owner of the player has a full three weeks to make a replacement. Why? The three-hour time gap between our 4:00 pm PDT transaction deadline and potential 7:00 pm PDT games on the West Coast is a dead zone. Even if an owner hears about an opening, they cannot fill it. This rule also covers players who are signed by GBRL teams at the 12 noon PDT deadline, but who are either injured or sent down before their game that night. Since teams will not learn of their successful signings until later in the day, they will have the full three weeks to fill the opening.

Beginning in 2014, GBRL teams attempting to sign free agents before the first deadline (12 noon PDT) no longer need to verify that the player they are attempting to sign from the free agent pool is on the active roster or injured list of a National League team. It is now permissible to compile your replacement list using rumor, conjecture, and news bites, but owners do so at their own risk. If a player you attempt to sign is not on a National League active roster or injured list for that day's game, you forfeit your pick in that round of free agent signings.

EXAMPLE : Team One has Cincinnati Reds starting pitcher Mike Leake and he has just gone on the injured list with a leg injury. Team One would like to replace him on the next Tuesday transaction day. Due to their position in the standings, they make a list of three players which they submit to the commissioner. The first player on the list is the pitcher rumored to be replacing Arroyo in the Reds starting rotation, Tony Cingrani. The second player on the list is the Atlanta Braves #5 starting pitcher, Freddy Garcia, and the third player is Chicago Cubs relief pitcher James Russell.

When transactions are processed prior to the Tuesday games, Cingrani is still not officially on the Reds roster. Team One is penalized their pick in the first round of free agent signings and teams with lower precedence in the standings are given the ability to fill roster spots before Team One. In the meantime, Team Two selects Freddy Garcia. By the time the selection process returns to Team One, they must use their third pick, James Russell. That is their penalty for risking their first choice on Cingrani without confirming his presence on the Reds roster.

This new rule provides owners more flexibility with their roster moves as they no longer need to scour the internet looking for actual transactions. However, if the commissioner feels an owner is abusing the privilege by attempting to sign players who have no chance of joining the National League, the owner may be asked to show the news item which prompted their action.

Beginning in 2014, if an owner has multiple openings which have not been filled by their due date, the commissioner will prioritize the order of the moves he will make on behalf of that owner by using the following criteria for the inactive players:

- 1. Players will be replaced using highest GBRL salary to lowest GBRL salary to determine order.*
- 2. If there is a tie with respect to salaries, players will be replaced using most games played to least games played to determine order.*

Beginning in 2020, if an opening is to be force-filled and the criteria presents a tie between two or more free agents, the commissioner will use the following criteria to choose the correct player:

- Hitters with the same number of at bats will have their walks evaluated as well. The higher total will be selected as the replacement.*
- Pitchers with the same number of innings pitched will have their WHIP evaluated. The higher WHIP will be selected as the replacement.*

The salary of a player selected from the free agent pool is \$10 if the player was available during the auction, but not purchased. If the player was not available during the auction, the salary will be \$10 or the player's prior year major league Rotisserie value, whichever is higher (See ARTICLE VII. – PLAYER SALARIES).

Beginning in 2014, the GBRL will dispense with the use of Reserve Dollars. Owners only need to consider position eligibility and the salary cap when attempting to sign free agents.

The free agent list will operate separately from the waiver list.

Free agents signed by Rotisserie teams will be assigned one of three different contract types:

- **1** - *The player was on a Rotisserie roster at the start of the season or was not chosen in the Rotisserie auction despite beginning the season on a National League roster. These players may be kept at the conclusion of the season.*
- **S** - *The player was NOT on a Rotisserie roster and was NOT on a National League roster or injured list at the start of the season. These players must be returned to the free agent pool at the conclusion of the season.*
- **A** - *The player was on a Rotisserie roster at the start of the season, is in the last year of his contract, and cleared waivers after September 1. These players must be returned to the free agent pool at the conclusion of the season.*

ARTICLE XV. WAIVERS

Under certain conditions, a Rotisserie League player may be waived.

- When a player on a Rotisserie League team's reserve list is activated by his major league team, either he or the player called up earlier to replace him must be placed on waivers (see Article XII).
- When a team activates a player from its farm system, except into a natural opening (see Article XIII), the player dropped from the 23-man or 25-man roster to make room for him must be placed on waivers.
- A player no longer on the active roster of his major league team and whose Rotisserie League position is taken by a player activated from the reserve list or farm system may not be placed on waivers but must be released outright.
- A player placed on waivers is no longer eligible to be claimed if he is sent down to the minors, traded to the other league, or is placed on the DL by his major league team.

NOTE: This is to prevent a team from picking up a disabled list player on waivers merely for the purpose of releasing him and replacing him with a player of higher quality from the free agent pool.

- The waiver period begins at noon on the Monday (AL) or Tuesday (NL) after the League Secretary has been notified that a player has been waived and lasts one week, at the end of which time the player shall become the property of the lowest ranked team to have claimed him. To make room on its roster, the team acquiring a player on waivers must assign the player to a natural opening or waive a player at the same position played by the newly acquired player.
- Waiver claims take precedence over the replacement of an injured, released, or demoted player who has been put on reserve. That is, a player on waivers may be signed by a team with a roster opening at his position only if no other team lower in the standings claims the player on waivers.
- A team may acquire on waivers no more than one player in a given week, but there is no limit to the number of players a team may acquire on waivers during the season.
- A player who clears waivers - that is, is not claimed by any team - returns to the free agent pool.
- The fee for acquiring a player on waivers is \$10. The salary of a player acquired on waivers shall be \$10 or his current salary, whichever is greater. His contract status shall remain the same.
- A player with a guaranteed long-term contract may not be waived during the season. He may, however, be released and replaced if he is traded to the "other" league.
- A player may be given his outright release only if he is:
 - a. unconditionally released,
 - b. placed on the "designated for assignment" list,
 - c. sent to the minors,
 - d. placed on the "disqualified" list,
 - e. traded to the "other" major league, or
 - f. placed on the disabled list.

GBRL exceptions:

Beginning in 2023, GBRL teams will see their number of yearly waiver claims reduced from ten to seven (7). Lowering the number of waiver claims each team has will make owners pause before using a claim making them more valuable. It will also alleviate the post-season practice of using up waiver claims on long shots just because you have claims remaining. The number '7' was chosen since it gives teams one claim a month during the season plus one more for use after the season concludes.

Waiver claims will take place in rounds just after the first transaction deadline at noon PDT on Tuesdays. Beginning in 2012, one waiver claim per team will be processed each round using the following standings order: 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st.

Teams may claim and acquire more than one player during a single waiver period. If a team makes more than one claim, then the claims should be prioritized. In order for a team to receive a second player on waivers during a given week, the player must be passed on by all other teams in the first round of claims.

When reserved players are activated and a stack is broken, all players who are not retained by their GBRL team must be waived. This includes players who are not currently active (injured, minors, AL, etc.) on a National League roster. A player who is removed from his National League roster while he is on waiver list will remain on the list.

If an inactive player is claimed, he cannot be reserved by his new team. If the player is still inactive two weeks later, the commissioner will reserve the player and fill the roster spot. Pitching openings will be assigned the Rotisserie free agent pitcher with the most National League innings pitched during the current season. Position player openings will be assigned the Rotisserie free agent that fits the position requirements of the roster in question who has the most National League at-bats during the current season.

A player with a guaranteed contract ('B', 'C', 'D', etc.) can be waived. However, the waiving team is still responsible for the salary and contract length of that player should he clear waivers.

Team owners should provide their prioritized list of waiver claims to the commissioner by the first transaction deadline at noon PDT on Tuesdays. The waiver list will be posted each week on the league web site at <http://www.sobaysports.com/roto/>. The waiver list will include the players available and the number of claims each team has left.

There are no fees associated with waiving players or making waiver claims in the GBRL.

A team may claim a player that it has waived, but only if the player is passed upon by all other teams first.

The salary and contract status of a player claimed on waivers will remain the same as they were at the time the player was waived. The claiming team assumes the salary burden and any long-term contract obligations.

The following rules apply to the salary and contract status of a player who clears waivers:

- If a player with a salary of \$10 or less clears waivers while on the National League injured list or in the American League, his salary will be set to \$10, but his contract status will remain the same.*
- If a player with a salary of greater than \$10 clears waivers while on the National League injured list or in the American League, he will maintain his original salary and contract status.*
- If a player clears waivers while on the active roster of a National League team, while assigned to a minor league affiliate of his National League team, or while a free agent, his salary will revert to \$10. The exception to this rule is when the player's salary was assigned by the Dollar Value Calculator described above. In this case, the player's salary remains intact.*

The contract status of the player reverts to first year ('1') if the player was auction day available or stays as 'S' if the player was not available on auction day.

- *Regardless of major league status, if a player with an 'A' contract status (i.e. an expiring contract) clears waivers after August 31st, his contract status will remain as 'A'.*

Players who clear waivers on Tuesday at noon PDT are not available to be signed as free agents until the following Tuesday.

The GBRL does not allow players to be released. All players removed from Rotisserie teams by means other than trade must go through waivers.

'A' and 'S' players may not be waived on the Tuesday after the season has ended. After the final game of the season, they automatically become free agents and are no longer a part of a Rotisserie roster.

Waiver lists will continue after the conclusion of the season until all teams have used up their waiver claims or until all remaining players are passed upon.

ARTICLE XVI. SEPTEMBER ROSTER EXPANSION

If it chooses, a team may expand its roster for the pennant drive by calling up additional players after September 1 from the free agent pool, its own reserve list, or its own farm system. A team may call up as many players as it wishes, subject to payment of appropriate fees as outlined below, except that at no time may the number of active players on its roster exceed 40.

- The order of selection for September Roster Expansion is determined by the most recent standings, with the last-place team having first selection, and so on. During this 24-hour period, September Roster Expansion claims take precedence over waiver claims and routine callups to replace players who are disabled, released, or traded to the other league by their major league teams. This selection order pertains until midnight, September 2, only, after which time a team forfeits its order in the selection process, though not it's right to make a selection. Selection after midnight, September 2, is on a first-come, first-served basis. Also, after midnight, September 2, waiver claims and routine callups to fill natural openings take precedence over September Roster Expansion claims.
- Players are selected in a round by round draft format. If, after a selection, no other team wishes to claim a player, a team may then claim as many players consecutively as it wishes up to the 40-man roster limit.
- The performance stats of players called up during September Roster Expansion start to accrue on the Monday (AL) or Tuesday (NL) after the League Secretary has been notified of the player's selection.
- The fee for expanding the roster in September is \$50 per player.
- The salary assigned to a September callup from the free agent pool is \$25. The salary of a September callup from a team's reserve list or farm system is the salary established at the time he was previously acquired (on Auction Draft Day, or subsequently from the free agent pool, or via waivers).

NOTE: A device for heightening the excitement for contending teams and for sweetening the kitty at their expense, September Roster expansion will generally not appeal to second-division clubs (who should, however, continue to watch the waiver wire in the hope of acquiring "keepers" for next season at a \$10 salary).

GBRL exceptions:

On the Tuesday following August 31st, each team will be given its first chance to expand its roster by one player. Owners can expand their roster in one of three ways:

- *Selecting from the free agent list*
- *Making a waiver claim without waiving an associated player*
- *Activating a player from the reserve list and keeping both him and his replacement*

Those wishing to expand their roster using the free agent list should submit a prioritized list to the commissioner by the first transaction deadline at 12 noon PDT on Tuesday just as they do for any other signing attempt. Roster expansion picks made from the free agent list take precedence over other free agent signings so owners must call out the expansion designation.

Beginning in 2012, roster expansion picks from the free agent list will be processed in the following standings order: 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st.

If no list is received, the commissioner will assume the owner will not be expanding their roster at that time. If an owner submits a list and all those players are taken, the commissioner will assume the owner has no other choices.

When an owner expands their roster using a waiver claim, the claim does not take precedence over any other waiver claims.

The salary of a player selected from the free agent pool as a September Roster Expansion pick is \$10 if the player was available during the auction, but not purchased. If the player was not available during the auction, the salary will be \$10 or the player's prior year major league Rotisserie value, whichever is higher (See ARTICLE VII. – PLAYER SALARIES).

September Roster Expansion is limited to one player per team. The fee for roster expansion is \$10.

On September 1st, a team's cap will increase to \$330 to allow for roster expansion if, and only if, the team actually expands its roster.

If the regular season has ended, an owner may still expand their roster up until the last waiver list has completed. If the owner selects a player from the free agent list to expand his roster, it can only be a player who was available on auction day and whose contract did not just expire (former 'A' player).

ARTICLE XVII. THE OPTION YEAR AND GUARANTEED LONG-TERM CONTRACTS

A player who has been under contract at the same salary during two consecutive seasons and whose service has been uninterrupted (that is, he has not been waived or released, although he may have been traded) must, prior to the freezing of rosters in his third season, be released; signed at the same salary for his option year; or signed to a guaranteed long-term contract. If released, the player returns to the free agent pool and becomes available to the highest bidder at the next auction draft. If signed at the same salary for an option year, the player must be released back into the free agent pool at the end of that season. If signed to a guaranteed long-term contract, the player's salary in each year covered by the new contract (which commences with the option year) shall be the sum of his current salary plus \$5 for each additional year beyond the option year. In addition, a signing bonus, equal to one half the total value of the long-term contract but not less than \$5, shall also be paid.

NOTE: This rule is intended to prevent blue-chippers, low-priced rookies who blossom into superstars, and undervalued players from being tied up for the duration of their careers by the teams who originally drafted them. It guarantees periodic transfusions of top-flight talent for Auction Draft Day and provides rebuilding teams something to rebuild with. And it makes for some interesting decisions at roster-freeze time two years down the pike.

- In determining a player's status, "season" is understood to be a full season or any fraction thereof. Thus, a player called up from the free agent pool in the middle of the 2006 season and subsequently retained at the same salary without being released in 2007 (even though he may have been traded) enters his option year in 2008 and must be released, signed at the same salary for an option year, or signed to a long-term contract.
- A team may sign a player to only one long-term contract, at the end of which he becomes a free agent.
- Option-year and long-term contracts are entirely transferable, both in rights and obligations; the

trade of a player in no way affects his contract status.

- If, during the course of a long-term contract, a player is traded from the National League to the American League (or vice versa), the contract is rendered null and void. The team that loses the player's services shall be under no further financial obligations.
- In all other cases - specifically including sudden loss of effectiveness - a team must honor the terms of a long-term contract, as follows: A player with such a contract may be released back into the free agent pool (that is, not protected on a team's roster prior to Auction Draft Day), but a team that chooses to do so must pay into the prize pool, above the \$260 or \$280 Auction Draft Day limit, a sum equal to twice the remaining value of the player's contract or \$100, whichever is greater.

GBRL exceptions:

There are no fees associated with signing players to long-term contracts in the GBRL.

Only players with a contract status of '2' are eligible to be signed to long-term contracts.

The only methods under which a GBRL team can escape its obligation to a long-term contract are as follows:

- *The player is involved in a Major League trade to the American League. NOTE : The player in question must be waived by his GBRL team. If they are not waived and return to the National League, the long-term contract becomes guaranteed again.*
- *The player signs a free agent contract with the American League or a foreign professional league. NOTE : The player in question must be waived by his GBRL team. If they are not waived and return to the National League, the long-term contract becomes guaranteed again.*
- *The player and his contract are traded by his GBRL owner to another team in the league.*
- *The player and his contract are waived by his GBRL owner and claimed by another team in the league.*
- *The player and his contract are cut by his GBRL owner prior to the auction, but the player is selected by another team in the Pre-Auction Draft.*

In other words, a GBRL team must fulfill its long-term contractual obligations even if said player fits any of the following categories:

- *Retired*
- *On the injured or suspended list*
- *Released and not signed by another Major League team or foreign professional league*
- *Playing in the minors in either the National or American Leagues*

If a player with a long-term contract is waived and clears waivers, the penalty to his prior owner will be the dollar amount of his contract subtracted from available auction day money for all years the contract covers. For example, if a player is signed for \$33 for the next two years and is waived, his owner will have \$33 less to spend in the next two auctions.

ARTICLE XVIII. ROSTER PROTECTION

For the first-three seasons of the League's existence, each team must retain, from one season to the next, *no fewer than 7 but no more than 15* of the players on its 23-man or 25-man roster. After three seasons, this minimum requirement is eliminated, the maximum retained. The minimum is removed because, after three seasons, a team might find it impossible to retain a specific minimum because too many players have played out their option.

- The names of players being retained must be recorded with the League Secretary by midnight, April 1. Specific notice must also be made at that time of any guaranteed long-term contract signings and farm system renewals of players still in the minors (farm system players who make Opening Day rosters must be frozen at \$10 or released).

- The cumulative salaries of players protected prior to Auction Draft Day are deducted from a team's \$260 or \$280 expenditure limit, and the balance is available for acquisition of the remaining players needed to complete the team's 23-man or 25-man roster.
- The League Secretary should promptly notify all teams in the League of each team's protected roster, including player salaries, contract status, and amount available to spend on Auction Draft Day.
- Failure to give notice of a guaranteed long-term contract for a player in his option year will result in his being continued for one season at his prior year's salary and then released into the free agent pool. Failure to renew a farm system player's minor league contract will result in his becoming available to all other teams in the subsequent minor league draft.
- A farm system player whose minor league contract is renewed on April 1 and who subsequently makes his major league team's active roster may at his Rotisserie League owner's option, be added to the protected list of players on Auction Draft Day (and another player dropped, if necessary, to meet the 15-player limit), or he may be dropped and made available in the auction draft. He may not be retained in his Rotisserie League team's farm system.

NOTE: The April 1 roster-protection deadline was originally set to correspond with the end of the major leagues' spring interleague trading period, a defunct rite of spring that still gives us a week or so to strategize. Until you know who the other teams are going to keep, you won't know for sure who's going to be available. And until you know how much they will have to spend on Auction Draft Day; you won't be able to complete your own pre-draft budget. So April 1 it is; don't fool with it.

GBRL exceptions:

The GBRL will use 23-man, National League rosters with a \$260 salary cap on auction day.

Protected player lists with long-term contract decisions must be submitted to the commissioner approximately four days prior to the auction date. To the best of his ability, the commissioner will make final roster keeps and contract details available to all owners the next day.

Between the time roster protection lists are submitted and auction day, a team may drop a player they had previously protected if a major league transaction results in him being traded outside of the National League, released, or placed on the 60-day injured list. The team may not replace that player with a previously unprotected player.

Teams wishing to participate in the Pre-Auction Draft should protect no more than 14 players since teams cannot enter the auction with more than 15 players on their roster.

The GBRL eliminated the minor league player draft and the concept of a farm system at the conclusion of the 2000 season. The rules committee wants to put the league emphasis on major league baseball and felt the minor league draft created too many artificially low salaries.

ARTICLE XIX. GOVERNANCE

The Rotisserie League is governed by a Committee of the Whole consisting of all team owners. The Committee of the Whole may designate as many League officials as from time to time it deems appropriate; although only two - the League Secretary and the League Treasurer - ever do any work. The Committee of the Whole also designates annually an Executive Committee composed of three team owners in good standing. The Executive Committee has the authority to interpret playing rules and to handle all necessary and routine League business. All decisions, rulings, and interpretations by the Executive Committee are subject to veto by the Committee of the Whole. Rule changes, pronouncements, and acts of whimsy are determined by majority vote of the Committee of the Whole. Member leagues of the Rotisserie League Baseball Association may appeal to the RLBA for adjudication of disputes and interpretation of rules. The Rotisserie League has three official meetings each year: Auction Draft Day (the first weekend after Opening Day), the Midsummer Trade Meeting (at the All-Star break), and the Gala Postseason Banquet and Awards Ceremony. Failure to attend at least two official meetings is punishable by trade to the Minnesota Twins.

GBRL exceptions:

Any issue which cannot be resolved by the GBRL will be submitted to the Rotisserie League Baseball Association for a final, binding decision.

A three-man Executive Committee will meet annually to determine if any rules need to be added, changed, or deleted. Rule proposals will be posted for other league members to review and challenge if needed. Those proposals that are disputed will be put up to league vote and simple majority will win. Those proposals that are not challenged will become league rules.

Any league owner can call a veto vote on any issue they feel is unfair to them or other league members. The commissioner will conduct the veto vote and simple majority will win in a two-way vote.

If a proposal is challenged by a league member, that member should submit a short written explanation as to why the proposal should not be instituted. A member of the rules committee will also submit a short written explanation of the reasoning behind the proposal. These notes will be traded between the writers so they may edit their explanations to include rebuttals to the opposing views. The notes will then be distributed to the league for vote.

The only official annual meeting of the GBRL is Auction Draft Day.

ARTICLE XX. YOO-HOO

To consecrate the bond of friendship that unites all Rotisserie League owners in their pursuit of the pennant, to symbolize the eternal verities and values of the Greatest Game for Baseball Fans Since Baseball, and to soak the head of the League champion with a sticky brown substance before colleagues and friends duly assembled, the Yoo-Hoo Ceremony is hereby ordained as the culminating event of the baseball season. Each year, at the awards ceremony and banquet, the owner of the championship team shall have a bottle of Yoo-Hoo poured over his or her head by the preceding year's pennant winner. The Yoo-Hoo Ceremony shall be performed with the dignity and solemnity appropriate to the occasion.

NOTE: If Yoo-Hoo, the chocolate-flavored beverage once endorsed by soft drink connoisseur Yogi Berra, is not available in your part of the country, you have two options: (a) send up an alternative beverage, one chosen in the Yoo-Hoo spirit, as a pinch-hitter, or (b) move.

GBRL exceptions:

No change. If somebody would like to find a can or bottle of Yoo-Hoo each year, have at it.

ARTICLE XXI. THE IN-SEASON SALARY CAP

Having written a Constitution which at first excluded any anti-dumping provisions, then included the most elegant and finely-detailed anti-dumping rules existing anywhere on the planet thus ensuring domestic tranquility, and then repealed these anti-dumping provisions thus securing the blessings of liberty for all posterity, we decided to place the 1998 version of anti-dumping provisions in this carefully-chosen location, after the Yoo-Hoo Article of the Constitution, where it can later be removed, re-added, or refined as we see fit, without affecting our Article numbering system any further, and we did all this without losing our ability to construct a run-on sentence.

There is more at issue here than player-dumping. The broader theme might be described as "roster excesses." Dumping can create rosters with team salaries in excess of \$400. Throw in some FAAB spending such as would have transpired if the Kenny Lofton trade of 1997 had occurred just a few days later, think \$99, and it becomes easy to envision a team salary over \$500.

Experience has taught us that big roster excesses, if left unchecked, are not in the best interests of

Rotisserie League Baseball. In 1997 we tested an idea called the in-season salary cap. We liked it. We always knew that a salary cap on Auction Draft Day is essential; now we know that a salary cap during the season can also be helpful. Here it is:

In a duly-constituted Rotisserie League, from Auction Draft Day until the end of the major league season, no team's salary may exceed the Auction Draft Day salary limit by more than \$40. Specifically, in the American League with an Auction Draft Day salary limit of \$260, the in-season limit is \$300. In the National League with an Auction Draft Day Salary limit of \$280, the in-season limit is \$320.

GBRL exceptions:

The GBRL will use 23-man, National League rosters with a \$260 salary cap on auction day.

The GBRL will NOT be using the Free Agent Acquisition Budget. The free agent signing process is the same for the entire season.

A salary cap and a salary basement will govern rosters moves made during the course of the season. The following details apply:

- *The cap will be \$320 from opening day through August 31st. On September 1st, a team's cap will increase to \$330 to allow for roster expansion if, and only if, the team actually expands its roster.*
- *The basement will be \$200 throughout the season.*
- *For purposes of team salary calculation, the HIGHEST salary in a stack will be used.*
- *Teams are not allowed to make roster moves which put them above the cap or below the basement.*

If a roster opening is force-filled by the league and that move puts a team over the salary cap, then that team will be penalized each week they are over the cap. For every dollar they are in violation of the cap, they must pay an equivalent amount into the prize fund. For example, if a team is over the cap by \$2 for two consecutive weeks, they must pay \$4 into the prize fund.

Beginning in 2020, if a roster opening is force-filled by the league and that move puts a team over the salary cap, the replacement player must be kept by his new team for at least one week. This prevents teams from performing an 'early activation' just to avoid the cap penalty fee and extending the period of time the roster spot remains open.

ROTISSERIE ULTRA

GBRL exceptions:

The GBRL will play traditional Rotisserie baseball as opposed to Ultra.

MAJOR LEAGUE REALIGNMENT

GBRL notes:

Beginning in 2012, if a National League team is realigned to the American League during the off-season, all players on that team who appear on GBRL rosters will be treated as if they were traded to a team in the American League. Long-term contract obligations will be dismissed for any of these players.

NEW OWNERSHIPS

GBRL notes:

If an owner leaves the GBRL, all players on his roster (guaranteed contract or not) will be returned to the free agent pool. In effect, any new owner will be starting from scratch to create his own team and will not benefit or suffer from the previous owner's work.

*Beginning in 2020, the entry fee for a new owner entering the league is **\$150** (as opposed to **\$200** for existing owners).*

The incoming owner will receive the ability to participate in a draft of unprotected players from the other returning Rotisserie League teams. The new team(s) may select as many players as it wishes up to a maximum of 15 major league players, but they must assume the contract obligations of the players they select.

If the GBRL should expand, then the above rules will apply to any expansion franchises as well.

If an owner leaves the GBRL, he will not be allowed back in the league for at least one full season. This will prevent an owner from dumping long-term contracts and high salaries in order to start over from scratch.