

Western Hills Rotisserie Baseball League Rule Book

Section 1: Object

Article 1: To draft a team composed of players from the active rosters of Major League Baseball's National League to compete with other teams through defined statistical categories.

Section 2: Teams

Article 1: Teams are made up of National League Baseball players who are acquired via auction. Each team will have no more than 23 men on their active roster and no more than four on their reserve roster. An active roster shall consist of five outfielders, two catchers, one second baseman, one shortstop, one middle infielder (either 2B or SS), one first baseman, one third baseman, one corner-man (either 1B or 3B) one utility man, and nine pitchers. There are no position requirements for the reserve roster.

Section 3: Auction

Article 1: A National League player auction is conducted for the league prior to Opening Day of the baseball season unless otherwise agreed to by the teams. Each team must acquire 23 players (14 hitters and 9 pitchers) for its active roster at a total cost not to exceed \$260.00 Virtual dollars. Teams need not spend the maximum. The order of the previous season's finish determines the order in which teams may nominate players for bidding. (i.e. first place team nominates the first player for bidding, second place the next player, and so on.) Unprotected Players who commence the season under the roster control of any National League team at any level are eligible to be nominated. The team bidding first can open with a minimum bid of \$1.00 for any eligible player. The bidding then continues among the owners at minimum increments of \$1.00. The highest bidder acquires the player for that amount and announces the roster position the player will fill. The process is repeated, with successive league members nominating players to be bid on, until every team has a compliment of 23 players, by requisite position. In cases where an owner has topper rights over a nominated player, the owner must state his rights immediately after the player is nominated. This owner has the option to top the final bid by \$1.00 and reacquire the player. (Note: see Topper Rights Section for additional information and rules pertaining to topper rights). No team may bid for a player who qualifies only at a position that the team has already filled. Players eligible for more than one position may be shifted to another position he is eligible for at any time and multiple times during the draft. No team may make a bid for any player it cannot afford.

Article 2: The league may also elect to use an online service for the auction provided it can meet the above requirements.

Section 4: Reserve Draft

Article 1: A no-cost reserve draft takes place immediately following the auction. The drafting starts with the previous year's last place team picking a player from the left over talent. The selection process continues with the second last team picking next etc. until each team has a total of four reserves. There are no positional requirements pertaining to the reserve roster.

Section 5: Position Eligibility

Article 1: A player is eligible to be drafted for any position at which he appeared in 20 or more games the preceding year. If he did not appear in 20 games at any one position, he is eligible for the position he appeared most times. A player who appeared at two positions an equal number of times, but at each less than twenty games, is eligible to play at either position. Once the season begins, a player qualifies for eligibility at another position by playing there once. If a player played in 20+ games at a position the preceding year but does not play in that position the current year, he is eligible to stay there based on the above qualifications however there is a stipulation on that eligibility. Once the player is moved to another position he is eligible for, he may not be moved back to his original position until he plays there at least once.

Article 2: A rookie with no Major League experience will be eligible for assignment to the position at which he is expected to play during the upcoming season. The guiding philosophy shall be to examine the positions played in spring training, their planned usage in the majors and the position they played the previous season in the minors to determine their position eligibility.

Article 3: If a minor league player with no games played during the current season at the major league level is added to a National League team's major league roster, his position eligibility shall be set by the commissioner based on the position(s) he played in the minors and / or his planned usage in the majors. A common sense approach shall be used. For example, if a MLB team announces or is quoted that a player is being called up to play catcher but played 1B in the minors, we shall allow this player to appear at either C or 1B.

Article 4: The guiding philosophy to determine position eligibility for incoming foreign players shall be to examine the positions played in spring training and / or their planned usage in the Majors.

Article 5: Final Position Eligibility determination: Any player whose position eligibility is in question shall have his position determined by the commissioner.

Section 6: Roster Protection

Article 1: Prior to a new season's auction, teams may protect up to 14 of its players from its active and reserve rosters for the next season's auction. There are no minimum requirements. The names of the protected players must be recorded with the league prior to the auction. The cumulative salaries of players protected are deducted from each team's

budget for the auction. A list of all unprotected players will be issued prior to the auction. Only under the following scenarios can an owner delete a player from one of the 14 protected:

The player is on the disabled list as of the Auction / Draft Day, released by his MLB team and not claimed by draft day or retires/Career ending injury. In all cases, the owner must provide documentations with the league indicating one of the above.

Section 7: Player Salaries, Contracts and Topper Rights

Article 1 - Salaries: The salary of a player is determined by the time and means of his acquisition. This does not change unless the player becomes a free agent or is signed to a long-term contract. The salary of a player acquired in the auction is his auction price. The salary of a player signed as a free agent is \$1.00. The salary of a players picked in the reserve draft are set as follows: 1st pick = \$4.00, 2nd pick = \$3.00, 3rd pick = \$2.00, 4th pick = \$1.00. In all cases, a player's salary follows him throughout the season even of the player is released.

Article 2 - Contracts: All player contracts shall last 1 year with an option year. The contract is 100% transferable regardless of whether he was traded, signed, purchased, or drafted. At the beginning of the second year the owner executes the players option year by protecting the player prior to the auction. The player's salary for an option year remains his original auction price.

Article 3 - Third Year Players: After two seasons of a player being owned by any WHRBL team without having been released to the free agent pool, the player must be signed to a long-term contract or released. In some cases, these players may be eligible for topper rights.

Article 4 - Topper Rights: After the option year of a player's contract, the owner has exclusive topper rights over all other owners in the third year's auction draft. For example, say Team A drafted and retained a player for two seasons and releases him into the free agent pool prior to the auction/draft as required for the third season. Upon first mention of the player in the draft, Team A must give notice of its topper rights upon the first bid for the player. If Team B bids \$3.00 for the player and the bidding is closed, Team A has the right to top the bid by \$1.00 to \$4.00 and the player is again owned by Team A. No more bids would be accepted for the player. At this point the player starts a new 1 year contract with an option year available. Topper rights do not apply to players picked up as free agents. This rule only applies to players acquired via the auction or reserve draft and have never been released by any team.

Article 5 - Long Term Contracts: After an option year, a player may be signed to a long term contract. The player's salary becomes his current salary plus \$5.00 for each year the contract lasts. For example, say Team A owns a player at \$3.00 and wishes to keep the player longer than two years. Team A could sign him to a four year contract and the player's new yearly salary would be \$23.00 (\$5.00 x 4 + his original salary of \$3.00) but the player would lose his Topper Rights. If the player is traded to the American League then the rules for inter

league trading apply. If the player leaves the MLB for other reasons, the contract is null and void. A team may sign a player to only one long contract after which he becomes a free agent.

Article 7 - The Ron Gant Broken Leg Rule: In the event a player under a long term contract is on the 60 day DL or there is credible information he will be placed on the 60 day DL to begin a season the owner may buy this contract out, not keep him and not have this player's salary count against his auction budget. The fee for this option is \$10.00 plus the player's WHRBL salary.

Article 8 - \$3.00 / \$5.00 / \$8.00 Rule: Prior to submitting their protected roster to the league for the league auction, owners may change the salary of three players signed as free agents during the previous season. One player shall be made \$3.00, one \$5.00 and one \$8.00. Players originally signed as free agents by team A and then acquired via trade by team B are eligible for this option. These players are not eligible for topper rights. Notice of this change shall be given to the league with the protected roster for the auction / draft.

Section 8: Free Agent Acquisition Budget (FAAB)

Article 1 - During the season: Any player entering the National league based on the following circumstances shall be subject to a league wide bidding process:

- Signed as a free agent by a national league team any time after the WHRBL Draft unless player was in the national league in current season already.
- Is traded from the American League to a National League team
- Is claimed on waivers off of an American League team by a National League team
- Is traded or purchased from any foreign or any non MLB league to a national league team

Article 2 – FAAB: Each owner shall have a FAAB of \$50.00. When the league announces a player is available for bidding, each owner shall notify the league of their interest within 48 hours of the league's announcement. Announcements shall be made via e-mail and must come from a league officer for timing purposes. After the 48 waiting period, a silent single bid auction will be conducted by a league officer via e-mail. In cases where all league officers are bidding, a disinterested owner shall receive the bids and report the results to the commissioner. In the case where all owners are involved, an outside person shall accept the bids and report the results to the commissioner. Bidding shall be submitted in \$1.00 increments and the final bid shall establish the player in question's salary with a contract the same as if the player was just drafted in the annual auction. This player's stats shall begin counting on the day they are acquired by the WHRBL team provided they are placed on an active roster. No retroactive stats will count. In cases where equal bids are submitted by two or more owners, the lower owner in the standings shall win the auction. The standings posted the morning of the day the bids are received shall be used to break ties. In the event of a tie in the standings, the league tie breaking rules will be used to break the tie and award the player

to the winning owner. Players not receiving any interest for bidding will become a free agent after the 48-hour waiting period expires. In cases where an owner unknowingly or knowingly signs one of these players before or during the league's bidding process, the transaction will be reversed by the league and any stats earned shall not count.

In the event the league does not announce a player, he shall become a free agent 72 hours after his arrival to the NL based on the MLB.com transaction report with the 72 hour waiting period beginning at 12:00am of that day. If any owner wishes to bid on a player and no announcement has been made yet, the owner should notify the league and the league shall make a league wide announcement as soon as possible and begin the process.

Players acquired via the FAAB process must be kept for the subsequent season at the salary equal to their FAAB bid. At the end of the subsequent season, they may be topped or extended. If traded, the acquiring team assumes same contract scenario (ie. the must keep if required). All other WHRBL contract rules apply (Leaving the NL, major Injury contract out etc) Example: Player is acquired via FAAB for \$25 in 2013. In 2014 he must be kept for \$25. In 2015, he can be topped or extended. The fee for these transactions are \$1 plus 10% of the winning bid.

Section 9: Inter League Trade Rule

Article 1 - During the Off-season: This Rule allows for compensation if a player from a WHRBL team is traded to the American League during the off season. Salaries in most cases will be decided by the league using a average of three magazines or websites chosen by the league officers. The salaries shall be communicated to the owner as soon as possible.

Article 2 - One For One Trade: The owner of the player traded away has the option to pick up the player coming in to the league at the salary and contract of the player traded away.

Article 3 - One for One and Cash or Minor Leaguers: The owner of the player traded away has the option to pick up the player coming in to the league at the contract of the player traded away. The Salary shall be determined by the league

Article 4 - One For Two Trade: The owner of the player traded away has the option to pick up one of the two players coming in to the league. If the owner does not wish to pick up the incoming player, the player will become a free agent.

Article 5 - Two For One Trade: The Owner of the higher salaried player traded away has the option to pick up the player coming in the league at a salary based on a player value schedule determined by consulting three books or magazines from that season. The contract shall remain the same as the player that went to the AL Under this scenario, the higher salaried player's owner forfeits his first round reserve draft position in the following years reserve draft to the owner of the lower salaried player and receives the lower salaried owner's last position. In the event that there is no difference in salaries of the player's traded away, the lower team in the standings has the rights as the higher salaried owner. In the event the high salaried owner declines the player in question, he shall NOT have any further rights and the lower salaried owner gets the option to claim the player at book value salary, same contract status, no draft pick options.

Article 6 - Salary Considerations: For the purposes of this rule, players that have not had their salary determined in league auction shall have a value of \$5.00 rather than \$10.00.

Article 7 - The Heathcliff Slocumb Rule: In prior off-season, Slocumb was traded along with a minor leaguer to the Red Sox for Lee Tinsley, Ken Ryan, and a Minor Leaguer. In this case the league allowed the owner of Slocumb (Bill Stock) to treat this trade as a one for two trade and threw out the minor leaguers. This precedent will be followed as long as there are no additional owners involved in the trade.

Article 8 - More than 2 Owners Involved: In all cases involving three or more owners, the National League players in question shall be lost and all incoming American League Players will be available in the upcoming draft.

Article 9 - During the Season: Owners shall keep their player lost to the American League for the balance of the season. If the player in question returns to the National League prior to roster turn in day for the Auction/Draft, the player shall be treated as though he never left the National League. This player may be traded within the WHRBL but in all cases, all American League players will be lost if they are still on an American League roster on the day rosters are due for the coming year's draft. The incoming players shall be subject to the league FAAB process.

Section 10: Trading

Article 1: From the completion of the reserve draft until 11:59pm of August 15th, teams are free to make trades of any kind without limit so long as the active rosters of both teams involved reflect the required position distribution upon completion of the transaction. Trading is not allowed from 12:00am of August 16th thru the end of the Major League Baseball Season. From the end of the season until roster freeze day in March, teams are free to make trades without any limitations. From the March freeze day until draft day all roster moves are frozen.

Article 2: During the off-season there are no roster size requirements.

Article 3: During the season, no owner may control more than 27 players on their roster. Exception: In cases of trades where an owner acquires more players than he trades, he must immediately release enough players to get his roster to 27 for the league to accept the trade as final.

Article 4 - Sign and Trade: Teams may not sign a player and then trade him without first releasing a player in order to maintain the 27 player requirement.

Article 5 - Reserve Pick Trades: In all cases a team must receive a reserve pick back when trading one away.

Article 6 - Multi Team Deals: In cases of multiple team trades, all teams must make any adjusting moves (sign or release) to get back to 27 immediately following a multi team

trade. These adjusting moves MUST be included in the trade announcement to the league for the trade to be approved by the league. Each step of a multi team deal must include a commodity (players or picks). For accounting purposes, each step will also count as a roster move.

Article 7 - Position Requirements: Teams must make any adjusting moves to maintain the leagues position requirements immediately following any trade. These moves must also be submitted to the league with the trade announcement in order for the trade to be approved by the league.

Article 8 - Trade Back: Any player traded during the regular season may not be traded directly back to his original team until the following season (after the Auction / Draft). Also, any player traded during the off-season may not be traded back to his original team until the following off-season. The restrictions in this paragraph are cancelled if the player becomes a WHRBL free agent.

Article 9 - What can be traded: The only commodities available to be traded are players and future reserve picks. Teams may not trade salary cap dollars. The cash sale of players is also not permitted. This includes not only currency, but any services performed, anything of material value, or any other non-league commodity that is received by a league member in exchange for ownership rights to one or more players or draft selections.

Article 10: All trades are final as submitted to the League Office. All trades involving future considerations or players to be named later are prohibited.

Article 11: All teams involved in a trade must notify the League to finalize the deal. One participant in trade calling is not enough, because by himself, he hasn't the right to complete the trade. Once finalized, the deal or the trade will stand. If the league uses an online services, teams shall complete their trades there.

Article 12: Stats for players involved in trades will begin counting based on the league's roster move deadline rules.

Section 11: Call-ups and Reserves

Article 1: A team may demote a player from the Active Roster to the Reserve List, or promote a player in the opposite direction at any time. At no time may the Active Roster have more than 23 players. There is no minimum number of players that must be on the Reserve List.

Article 2: Statistics compiled by players during a period in which they are on the Reserve List do not count for their WHRBL team.

Section 12: Free Agents

Article 1: Any players not on any WHRBL team active roster or Reserve List are free agents. During the course of the season, the pool of free agents may also include, but is not limited to, players traded from one Major League to the other, and players under the roster control of any National League team (minor leaguers). Free agents may be signed in order to replace a player on an Active Roster or to replace a player on a Reserve Roster.

Section 13: Daily Roster Moves

Article 1: Roster moves may be made daily up until 30 minutes before the start of that day's first national league game. This time should be posted daily on the league's stat service provider's website. This is a hard deadline for all roster moves. In the event you are unable to make a roster move online, you may e-mail or call your move to a league officer and, based on the time stamp of that e-mail, your move shall be added ASAP. If you cannot a league officer, you may communicate your move to any owner and then submit the move to the league as soon as possible with corroboration of the other owner.

Article 2: No player's stats shall count for a given day if said player was involved in a roster move making him active after the league deadline. The league shall follow its online service's deadline.

Section 14: September 1 Roster Expansion

Article 1: If it chooses, on September 1st, a team may expand its roster by calling up from its reserves up to four players. The total size of the team's roster may not exceed 27. (active plus reserve)

Section 15: League Fees, Costs and Prize Money

Article 1 - Fees: The league has a schedule of fees covering all player moves which is shall be published prior to the start of each season. All fees are payable into the prize pool and are subsequently distributed to the top teams in the final standings and winners of various side games. This schedule will appear as an appendix to this document.

Article 2 - Operation Fee: Prior to the auction/draft there will be a league fee assessed each team. The amount will be determined prior to the start of each season. The fee is there offset the league's cost of keeping accurate stats including online services. The Fee will also cover League Trophies awarded on draft day to the previous year's WHRBL Champion. Any excess money from the fees will be forwarded into the general fund for future prize distribution or expenses.

Article 3 - Prize Money: A Schedule of prize money distribution should be agreed to prior to each season and added to this document as an appendix.

Article 4 - No Announcement: In the event no discussion or changes have been made relative to fees or prize money prior to the start of the season, the most recent approved prize schedule shall be used.

Section 16: Statistics and Standings

Article 1: Performance stats of a player shall be assigned to a WHRBL team's total only while that player is on the 23-man Active Roster of that team, and while he is a Major League Player. During any period on which a player is on a team's Reserve List and not on the Active Roster, any statistics he might compile do not count for his WHRBL Team.

Article 2: Pitchers offensive stats are not counted, nor are the pitching stats of the occasional positional player called in to pitch in an emergency. If a player is a regular pitcher as well as a positional player (i.e. Babe Ruth while with the Red Sox, who would pitch one game and then play the outfield or first base for the next three days), the Rotisserie team must choose one or the other. If assigned to a pitching slot, only pitching stats are counted. If assigned to a batting slot, only batting stats are counted.

Article 3: Cumulative team performance is tabulated in both hitting and pitching categories. Teams are ranked from first to last in each of the categories. For example, in a ten team league, the first place team receives 10 points for leading a specific category, the second 9, on down to 1 point for tenth. Points are then added up per team and the team with the most points at the end of the season wins the league championship.

Article 4: The following categories will be used:

1. Composite Batting Average
2. Total Home Runs
3. Total RBIs
4. Total Stolen Bases
5. Composite Run Production Average
6. Total Wins
7. Total Saves
8. Total Strikeouts
9. Composite ERA
10. Composite Ratio

Article 5: The formulas for RPA, BA, ERA, CL%, & Ratio are as follows:

RPA: $((\text{Runs} + \text{RBIs}) - \text{HRs}) / \text{AB}$

AVG: Hits / AB

ERA: $(\text{ER} * 9) / \text{IP}$

RATIO: $(\text{Hits allowed} + \text{walks allowed}) / \text{IP}$

CL% $(\text{ER} / \text{hits plus walks allowed}) * 100$ (Used From 1991 Thru 1995)

Article 6 - Stat Minimums: All WHRBL teams must compile at least a minimum of 4250 at-bats and 1000 innings pitched to be eligible for any prize money.

Article 7 - Tie Breaking: The following steps shall be taken to break any tie in the standings for rule purposes or to determine the final placement of each team.

1. Compare each team(s) head to head in all categories.
2. Compare each team(s) head to head in the cumulative categories only.
3. Compare each team(s) head to head in the average categories only.
4. Compare each team(s) total for the following formula: $\text{AB} + (\text{IP} * 3)$. The team with the highest number wins.
5. Coin Toss

Note: If two teams remain tied after third or other clubs are eliminated during any step, tie breaker reverts to step 1

This process will be used to break all standings ties including if necessary to complete other rulings

Section 17: League Governance

Article 1: The league is governed by all team owners which make up the Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole nominates and votes for league officials holding Executive Committee positions. The Committee of the Whole also must approve all

Article 2 - Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is made up of a League Commissioner, Secretary / Treasurer. The Executive Committee is responsible for the normal operations of the League. All decisions, rulings, and interpretations by the executive committee are subject to veto by the committee of the whole. There are no term limits to the Executive

Committee positions however prior to any new season any league member may request an election in order to run for either position. Notice of such a request shall be made March 1st.

Article 3 - Duties of Commissioner: The league Commissioner is the executive officer of the league having power to initially rule on disagreements, establish and enforce league rules and policy, appoint league officers as deemed necessary, audit statistical records, prepare all information necessary for the draft, oversee the draft, prepare rosters for records following the draft, award the League trophy. The Commissioner can be vetoed by majority vote of the Committee of the Whole

Article 4 - Duties of the Secretary / Treasurer : The duties of the Secretary / Treasurer is to keep accurate records of each team's stats and roster moves. In addition the Secretary / Treasurer shall manage the leagues finances including collection of all fees and paying all winnings.

Section 18: Collusion

Article 1: No person exercising any management authority for one club WHRBL franchise shall be allowed to have such authority or responsibility over any other franchise. No two or more franchises are allowed by combined efforts of individual league members to control or to attempt to control the outcome of standings, statistics, player transactions, or any other league matters. The penalty for violation will be immediate expulsion from the league of all offending parties with no refund of any fees.

Article 2: Collusive situations will not be tolerated. The Commissioner or any three league members who believe two or more owners are violating the leagues collusive restrictions, as outlined in these paragraphs, may call for a vote to remove the league members in question from the league.

Section 19: Ownership Changes

Article 1 - Ownership Expulsion: The league may expel an owner for any reason provided a vote is taken and a yea vote by 70% of all league members is cast. In this event, the expelled owner shall have only his original up-front entry fee, if paid, refunded in full. An expelled owner shall have no claim to any future or potential winnings.

Article 2 - Owner Retirement: Any league member who wishes to retire from WHRBL participation, must return that franchise back to the league. A league member may not sell his franchise, or give his franchise to another person without 70% league approval. A current league member may not exchange his current franchise for any vacated franchise.

Article 3: Once a franchise has been returned to the league, the league may create a search committee to select a new league member to manage the franchise, or the league will terminate the franchise. All players belonging to a franchise whose managing league members leave the league (voluntarily or otherwise) shall remain unavailable for the remainder of the season, unless the league votes to transfer the management rights for the dispossessed

franchise to an outside person or a committee of league members. This person will enter the league during the season and will assume management authority over the franchise

Appendix (Effective 2013 Season)

Appendix 1 - Roster Move Costs and FAAB Money

In-Season Roster Move Schedule:

Trade: In-Season: \$1.00; Off-Season: Free

Roster Add: \$0.50

Roster Cut; \$0.50

Player Activation from Reserve: \$0.50

Player demotion to Reserve roster: \$0.50

FAAB acquisition: \$1 plus 10% of the winning FAB bid.

This money shall be deposited into a bonus prize money pool.

Appendix 1 –League Fee Schedule and Prize Money (6 Team Payout

The up-front entry fee for participating in WHRBL is \$125.00. A breakdown of this fee is as follows:

\$20 – League fee

\$15 – WHRBL Side Game Participation

\$26 – Draft Day Salaries

\$64 – Credit towards roster moves

Total: \$135

\$90 of this money will be deposited in to the prize money pool (\$1080 total)

The up-front entry fee money shall be paid to the league on or before Draft day.

Prize Money Schedule (6 Teams)

1st - \$400.00 + 50% of the bonus prize money pool

2nd - \$230.00 + 30% of the bonus prize money pool

3rd - \$150.00 + 20% of the bonus prize money pool

4th - \$125.00

5th - \$100.00

6th - \$75.00

Total: \$1080.00 + bonus money.

Appendix 2 –League Fee Schedule and Prize Money (5 Team Payout)

The up-front entry fee for participating in WHRBL is \$125.00. A breakdown of this fee is as follows:

\$20 – League fee

\$15 – WHRBL Side Game Participation

\$26 – Draft Day Salaries

\$64 – Credit towards roster moves

Total: \$125

\$90 of this money will be deposited in to the prize money pool (\$990 total)

The up-front entry fee money shall be paid to the league on or before Draft day.

Appendix 2 – Prize Money Schedule (5 Teams)

1st - \$375.00 + 50% of the bonus prize money pool

2nd - \$240.00 + 30% of the bonus prize money pool

3rd - \$150.00 + 20% of the bonus prize money pool

4th - \$125.00

5th - \$100.00

Total: \$990.00 + bonus money.