

# **Berea Bombers Rotisserie Baseball League**

## **Rules & Regulations - 2003**

### **I. PREAMBLE**

Teams are made up of real major league baseball players who made up of 7 to 12 keepers from the previous year and additional players selected in two phases. The first phase is a 27 player web based free for all auction of all-stars over the first three weeks of March. The second phase is an auction draft that takes place the last weekend before the beginning of the season (March 29<sup>th</sup> in 2003). The play shall follow the statistics of each team for a season and the winner shall be declared based upon the compiled statistics of each team.

### **II. ROSTERS**

Each team is composed of 23 players taken from the active rosters of American League teams (note that a player who moves to the National League in the middle of the season will be considered lost, much like an injury or trade to a real team). This will comprise the ACTIVE roster. There will also be a RESERVE list which is comprised of up to **seven** slots. Each team consists of five outfielders, two catchers, one second basemen, one shortstop, one middle fielder (either 2B or SS), one first basemen, one third basemen, one corner man (either 1B or 3B), one utility fielder (any position or DH) and nine pitchers. No official designated hitter is required. There is no minimum or maximum to the amount of starting or relief pitchers any on team may have. A team may be comprised of nine starting pitchers or nine relief pitchers (be aware of the 1000 IP rule, detailed in section V) or any combination thereof.

### **III. THE DRAFT**

Players are purchased in a two phase auction each spring. The first phase consists of 27 players (selected three per team) who are bid upon two players at a time in a web based free for all. The second is a live internet based auction draft the last weekend before the season. Spending is limited to 260 points per team (though you may spend less if desired). No bid may be made which will require the remainder of the roster to be filled with less than one point players. In the first phase of the draft, two of the twenty-seven players are available at a time. Anyone may bid at any time on the web site. Once all except the high bidder have passed on a player, bidding stops on that player and the next on the list is opened. This continues until all 27 players are selected. In the second phase (occurring the weekend before the season starts), players come up one at a time. The first bidder opens the auction with a minimum bid of 1 point for any player he chooses. The bidding then proceeds around the room (at minimum increments of 1 point) until only one bidder is left. The process is repeated, with successive owners introducing players to be bid on, until every team has 23 players. National League and other non-American League contracted players are ineligible to be drafted. Minor leaguers and rookies are eligible to be bid on, however they may not be kept if they do not play a minimum of 25 AB or 15 IP in the AL majors during their first year with a fantasy team. Note that a given team will normally have fewer than 23 slots to fill and less than 260 points due to keepers (as well as players selected in the first phase of the draft) each year. Any player kept from the previous year will have their salary raised by 5 points for the current season. There is no limit (beyond basic economics) to the number of seasons a player may be retained. Note that a

player who was acquired at a price higher than the free-agent pickup minimum must also be retained with a salary increase of 5 points the following season.

No team may draft (or even throw out a name for) a player for which he does not have an open slot. That is to say, if you have already drafted a DH as well as Sandy Alomar and Jorge Posada, you can not toss out or bid on Ivan Rodriguez, since he only qualifies as a catcher and your roster is filled. Also, you may only draft a player for a given position if he played 20 games at that position last year, or 5 games at that position during spring training, or is understood by all in the league to be the regular starter at that position for a team (any disputes will be resolved by who the CBS web site lists as projected starters). If he did not appear in 20 games at any one position, he is eligible for the position at which he appeared the most times. Once the season starts, a player qualifies for a position by playing it **five times**. Multiple position eligibility is OK. All players qualify for DH (this is an unrestricted position).

No team may bid on a player without appropriate funds. If you have 20 spots on your roster filled, and have spent 220 points, that would leave you 40 points for three slots. That would give you a maximum bid of 38 points on one player, leaving you 2 points for two slots (1 point each slot).

After the auction draft, a supplemental draft will occur which will consist of up to 7 rounds where the pitchers and players selected will have salaries of 5, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 and 1 for the first through seventh rounds respectively. The supplemental draft will be on a first come first serve basis (no bidding) and order shall be randomly determined. These players shall make up the initial reserve roster for each team. Up to two additional slots may be used as reserve positions for holding injured or other types of inactive players. Also at any point you may “pass” during the supplemental draft to lock in your current waiver wire position. If you have to leave due to time constraints, you will be allowed to finish your supplemental draft during the first week. If you choose to fill your supplemental draft slots during the first week, you will be pushed to the bottom of the waiver wire.

The second phase bidding draft order will go in the order based upon the previous years final standings, with the third place team drafting first, down through last place, then second, and first (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 3, 2, 1).

#### **IV. TRANSACTIONS**

Trading is permissible from Auction Draft Day until midnight on the last Friday in August. After every trade, both teams must be whole-that is, they must have the same number of active players at each position that they had before the trade. You may use free-agent acquisition as part of a trade to make sure all teams have complete rosters (though this will add to cost of the transaction). All trades must be reported on the CBS web site. There will be a two (2) day waiting period during which other owners may veto a trade. If three (3) owners vote against the trade (by using the CBS site veto system), it will be considered vetoed and the people doing the trade must return to the drawing board to try to make the trade more fair. People should only veto a trade if they feel it is truly lopsided and not just because you wish you could get some of they guys.

If a major league player is put on the disabled list, sent to the minors, traded to the NL, released, or just generally is stinking up your team, he may be replaced by a player selected from the free agent pool of unowned talent (players not on any other rotisserie roster). The only published pool of free agents will be the lists maintained on the CBS web site by CBS. Replacement must be made by

position: You cannot replace a catcher with an outfielder, even if the free agent pickings at catcher are slim, unless you have another player on your team who can be moved to the catcher slot. A team may never release, reserve, or waive an **active** player without replacing him with another player.

All standard free-agent claims are made on the CBS website. You may make your claim at any time and all claims are handled on a first-come first-serve basis. The players claimed in this manner will be able to take an active roster position at the beginning of the next statistics period. There is no cost to pick up a player. All players picked up during the season shall have a salary fixed at 5 points (or bid value, whichever is highest). The only exception is if that player was on another roster earlier in the year, in which case he will be paid the salary he had previously.

In the event of an inter-league trade, special rules apply if a new player from the NL becomes available. The team which lost one or more players are granted "toppers" rights. All teams may bid on players traded to the AL and the minimum bid is 5. Toppers rights will guarantee that the team may match best bid and add 1 point. If two teams bid the identical high bid, the higher ranking team on the waiver wire is awarded the player and then that team is moved to the bottom of the waiver wire. The same procedure will apply when a player on the executive council injured reserve list becomes available (though in that case there is no topper team). These bids must be given to the commissioner and will be opened each week after the commissioner gives his bid to the vice-commissioner. Additionally, if you pick up a player mid-season at a salary larger than the league minimum 5, you shall be obligated to hold that player the following season at the salary bid plus 5 points unless said player is sent to the NL, the minors, is waived by his big league team or injured (at which point they may be dropped). After the season ends, a player may only be dropped at the freeze date if they are at that moment either injured for a long term (60 day DL or on our executive injury list) or are not on an AL major league roster.

Any player dropped by a team will go to the waiver wire first before it becomes a free for all pickup. This is handled entirely by the CBS site and it basically functions so that a team must use its waiver wire position to pick up a player the first day after they are dropped from a team. All other players have been in the free-agent pool for more than one day by definition since they have not been on an active roster and thus there is no waiver-wire cost to pick up one of these.

Several examples of an acquisition might go as follows:

- Juan Gonzalez gets traded to the Dodgers mid-season for Kevin Brown. The week after the trade, all teams may submit a bid on Kevin Brown with the owner of Gonzalez given topper rights. Suppose the bids came in 14, 18, 22, and 26. The Gonzalez owner could claim topper rights and get Brown for 27 for this year and 32 for next (since the pickup is higher than the minimum 5 salary, he is a required keeper as long as he is in the AL next year).
- Curt Flood is picked up by the A's in mid-season. Two teams request this player, one because Bip Roberts broke his leg and the other because he is a glutton for over-the-hill players. The injury would have no effect. Whichever player submitted the free-agent claim first would be awarded this player. The only exception to this would be if Flood had been on the executive council injury reserve list, then he would have been handled like the previous example.

## V. CATEGORIES/STANDINGS

Cumulative team performance is tabulated in five offensive and five pitching categories:

- Composite Batting Average (BA) - see note

- Total Home Runs (HR)
- Total Runs Scored (R)
- Total Runs Batted In (RBI)
- Total Stolen Bases (SB)
- Composite Earned Run Average (ERA) - see note
- Total Wins (W)
- Walks + Hits / Innings pitched (WHIP) - qualifications same as ERA
- Total Saves (S)
- Strike Outs (K)

Teams are ranked from first to last in each of the ten categories. For example, in a ten team league, the first place team receives ten points, the second place team nine points, on down to one point for last place. The team with the most points wins the pennant.

NOTE: To qualify for Batting Average points at the end of the season, the total team At Bats must be at least 5,000. Failure to achieve this will result in only 1 point awarded, and automatic last place in the BA category.

NOTE: To qualify for Earned Run Average or WHIP points at the end of the season, the total team Innings Pitched must be at least 1000. Failure to achieve this will result in only 1 point awarded, and automatic last place in the ERA or WHIP category.

## **VI. FEES**

Franchise fee (payable at the start of season) \$40.00. The only other fees involved in trading or transactions. Statistics will be kept on the CBS site so there is no option for mailing statistics. Cost for the CBS stats site is \$99 per year and is divided up between the 9 teams.

## **VII. PRIZE MONEY**

Prize money (\$360 total for the 9 teams at \$40.00 per team) is distributed as follows:

- First place: \$180
- Second place: \$90
- Third place: \$50
- Category: 10 categories x \$4 per category = \$40

## **VIII. PLAYER SALARIES**

The salary of a player acquired in the major league draft is his auction price. Players taken during the supplemental draft will have salaries of 5 for the first round and 1 for all subsequent rounds. The salary of a player signed as a free-agent replacement is 5 points (or the draft salary, if they were taken in the draft that year and had been dropped). The salary of free agents acquired from the executive list or NL trades will be the highest bid price or the 5 point minimum salary.

## **IX. THE RESERVE LIST**

Any active player may be sent to the reserve list, provided the active slot is filled with another player. No team may have more than seven (7) players on its reserve list. Any player removed from the active roster and not placed on reserve, shall be considered waived, and eligible to be claimed by any other team.

## **X. ROSTER PROTECTION**

Each team may retain no fewer than 7 and no more than 12 players on its roster prior to the next auction draft. The cumulative salaries of players protected prior to the auction draft are deducted from the team's 260 expenditure limit, and the balance is available for acquisition of the remaining players needed to complete the team's 23-man active roster. There is no minimum requirement. The salary of each kept player shall be raised by 5 points from the previous season's salary taking effect before the start of the auction.

During the off season, which commences after the completion of the last regular season game, teams are able to trade freely, without restriction or cost, nor with regards to roster position (i.e.: you can have four catchers), until one week prior to the next season draft (usually late March). All off season transactions should be reported to the league as they occur and before the roster freeze date. Off-season trades will be handled identically to the in-season trades in terms of a two (2) day waiting period for approval by the league.

One month before the start of the draft (March 1<sup>st</sup>) each team will report a list of at least seven (7) and no more than fourteen (14) keepers which will be further reduced one week before the draft by up to two (2) players to reach the seven (7) to twelve (12) frozen roster position requirement.

One week prior to draft point, each team must report all of its seven (7) to twelve (12) keepers to the league commissioner. At this time its roster must be balanced (i.e.: all keepers must fill one of the available active roster spots). Failure to report keepers properly will result in the commissioner choosing the seven (7) minimum keepers for that team.

During the one week prior to the draft, trading is permissible, and follows the guidelines covered in Section IV for trading. Only the frozen players may be traded at this time. If you wish to trade a player you want to drop, you need to do these trades before the freeze dates.

## **XI. TRANSACTION REPORTING (MOVES)**

A team owner should use the CBS site to make a move at any time during the week to take effect at the start of the next statistics period. All moves become effective with Sunday's games, no matter what day the move was called in. Note that new free agent (recently traded) acquisitions may not be made immediately as they are subject to a 1 week waiting period. To record any move (free agent, reserve/active, trade), one of the following methods should be used to contact the league commissioner:

Work Phone : 859-985-3298

Home Phone/Answering Machine : 859-986-2142

e-mail address : jay\_Baltisberger@bera.edu (best method for contacting Jay)

CBS web site: <http://baseball87.fantasy.sportsline.com/mp/home>

## **XII. STATISTICS**

Statistics will be provided weekly on the CBS fantasy sports web site.

## **XIII. PAYMENTS/PAYOUT**

Distribution of winnings to the top two teams and category winners will be within 1 month upon completion of the regular Major League Baseball Season.

## **XIV. LEAGUE OFFICERS**

Current Commissioner : Jay Baltisberger

Current Vice-commissioner : Rick Baltisberger

Executive Council : Commissioner, Vice-commissioner, Eric Gaze

Commissioner: Responsible for all rules & regulations, and that they are enforced. Responsible for settling all disputes not involving his own team. Responsible for ensuring statistics and finances are being recorded in an accurate and timely fashion. Responsible for organizing the draft

Vice-commissioner: Responsible for accurate banking of the prize pool. Helps commissioner perform any duties listed for that position as appropriate.

Executive Council: Discuss potential rule changes to propose to the league and make the executive council injured reserve list of players each year who may not be drafted in the regular draft and will not be made available until they return from injury.

## **XV. LEAGUE EXPANSION**

In the event that the owners of the teams in the Berea Bombers league decide to increase the number of additional owners, there shall be an expansion draft which precedes the actual bidding draft by one week. Each owner shall turn in a list of players in order of preference for protection. Each team will be allowed to keep their first five names. The expansion teams will then draft players until each expansion team has at least 5 total players (no existing team may lose more than one player more than any other team). Each existing team will then be allowed to protect five more players. The expansion teams will then draft until each team has 10 total players. The salaries will be under contract as if the expansion team acquired the player via a trade (contract years are retained). Each team will have the right to freeze 12 players before the bidding draft, as normally allowed, in expansion years.

## **XVI. REFERENCES**

Rotisserie League Baseball 6th Edition (1992) Rotisserie League Baseball 10th Edition (1996) The Sporting News Fantasy Baseball Owners Guide 1996 (1996).

## **XVII. NOTES**

All rules are not etched in stone. Changes and modifications to any item in this document can be recommended and agreed upon by 2/3 of the team owners for change. Periodically the executive council will discuss potential rule changes and present their opinions to the owners as a whole. By discussing changes in a small group, it is easier to get a broad consensus and enact changes.

The founding owners are Jay Baltisberger, Tom Beebe, Wendall Clark, Patrick Lanham, Steve Austen, and Brian Todd. Contact Jay Baltisberger if you are interested in learning more about this league. Current owners are Jay Baltisberger, Rick Baltisberger, Eric Gaze, Lance Hingst, John Kimbler, Andy Ecklund, and Cliff Grey.