



## THE FIVE BOROUGH BASEBALL ALLIANCE RULES AND BYLAWS

### **I. OBJECT**

To assemble a lineup of 24 National League baseball players whose cumulative statistics during the regular season, compiled and measured by the methods described in these rules and bylaws, exceed those of all other teams in the League.

### **II. TEAMS**

The FBBA may be constituted of as many teams as League owners see fit to ensure maximum enjoyment. However, that number may never exceed the number of teams that constitute the then current National League.

### **III. ROSTER**

A team's active roster consists of the following 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), one utility player (who may play any non-pitching position), and ten pitchers.

### **IV. AUCTION DRAFT DAY**

A Major League Player Auction is conducted on a date agreed upon by the league. Each team must complete the auction with 24 players at a total cost not to exceed \$131. A team need not spend the maximum. The order in which teams may nominate players for acquisition is the reverse order of the previous year's standings. The team bidding first opens with a minimum salary bid of .50 for any eligible player, and the bidding proceeds at minimum increments of .50 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 24 players, by requisite position.

Players eligible at more than one position may be shifted during the course of the draft.

No team may make a bid on a player it cannot afford. For example, a team with \$1.50 left and two openings on its roster is limited to a maximum bid of \$1 for one player.

No team may bid for a player who qualifies only at a position that the team has already filled. For example, a team that has acquired two catchers, and whose utility 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)

A Minor League Player Draft is conducted immediately following the major league auction, in which each FBBA team may acquire players who are not on any National League team's active roster, and in their minor league system.

Selection takes place in three rounds of a simple draft in "snake" format, not an auction. If an FBBA owner has retained one or more minor league players from the previous season he may only participate in as many rounds as it takes to reach the maximum of three players in his farm system. Participation in the third round is optional, and at any time during the draft an owner may pass when it's his turn to pick. If a pass is made during a round the pick can be made after the round is completed.

The selection order is determined by the order in which teams finished in the previous season. In an 11-team league, the 5th place team selects first, preceding in descending order to the 11th place team, which is in turn followed by 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st place teams.

See Article XIII for rules governing farm systems.

## **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 Draft Day), a player becomes eligible for assignment to any position at which he has appeared at least once while retaining eligibility achieved before the draft. Players selected for the utility slot may qualify at any position.

## **VI. FEES**

The FBBA 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 24-man roster on Draft Day may not exceed \$131. However, the cash fee to be paid to the treasurer on draft day is \$200 per team.

2. TRADES: \$5 per trade (no matter how many players are involved) or player activation (from reserve list or farm system). Unless it is otherwise specified, it will be assumed by the League Treasurer that such fees will split evenly by the teams involved in the trade.

3. TRANSACTIONS: Each of the following transactions is subject to a \$5 transaction fee: placing a player on the reserve list; activating a player from the reserve list or farm system; claiming a player on waivers; acquiring a player from the free agent pool.

4. SEPTEMBER ROSTER EXPANSION: \$25 (See Article XVI)

## **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 player draft is his auction price.

The salary of a player called up from the free agent pool during the season is \$5 @ 3yrs.

The salary for a player activated from a team's farm system during the season is \$5 @ 3yrs.

The salary of a player claimed on waivers is \$5, unless the player's salary is over \$5. In this case, the terms of the original contract still apply (salary and years remaining).

The salary of a player called up during September Roster Expansion to supplement the 24-man roster is \$12.50 if he is drawn from the free agent pool. (See Article XVI)

NOTE: The \$131 salary-limit pertains to Draft Day only. After Draft Day, free agent signings and acquisition of high-priced players in trades may well drive a team's payroll above the salary cap.

#### **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 in a timely fashion. Prize money (and any interest accrued thereon) shall be divided among the first four teams in the final standings as follows:

1st place - 50%; 2nd place - 25%; 3rd place - 15%; 4th place - 10%

The Commissioner's Cookie Jar was established to award cash prizes to owners whose players achieve certain individual accomplishments. Prizes will be awarded the following:

- Cycle, No-Hitter - \$25
- Perfect Game, 4 HR Game - \$50
- Triple Crown - \$75

## IX. STANDINGS

The following criteria are used to determine team performance:

- Composite batting average (BA)
- Total home runs (HR)
- Total runs batted in (RBI)
- Total stolen bases (SB)
- Total runs scored (r)
- Composite earned run average (ERA)
- Total wins (W)
- Two times the total amount of saves (S) plus total amount of holds (H)
- Composite ratio: walks (BB) plus hits (H) divided by innings pitched (IP).
- Total strikeouts (pitching).

Teams are ranked from first to last in each of the ten categories and given points for each place. For example, in an 11-team league, the first-place team in a category receives 11 points, the second place team 10, and so on down to one point for last place. The team with the most total points wins the pennant.

IP/AB Requirements: a team must pitch a total of 1,000 innings to receive points in ERA and ratio. A team that does not pitch 1,000 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 1,000 IP would receive no points in that category. The fourth-place team in ERA would still receive eight points.)

A team must have 4,250 at bats (AB) in the season. A team that does not have 4,250 AB maintains its place in the batting average ranking but receives zero points in that category.

Pitchers' offensive stats and position players' pitching stats are not counted.

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 point totals still be equal, the tie is broken by adding each team's total AB at season's end, plus triple the number of its IP. The team that scores a higher total by this measure wins the pennant.

#### **X. STATS**

Performance stats of a player shall be assigned to a FBBA team only when he is on the active 24-man roster of that team.

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

#### **XI. TRADES**

From the completion of the draft until the first pitch of the day after the summer meeting, teams are free to make trades, so long as the active rosters of both teams involved in a trade reflect the required position distribution upon completion of the transaction.

Players in the last year of a guaranteed contract, players playing out their option year, and players with a salary of \$12.50 or more are considered "asterisk" players. Such players may be traded only under the following conditions:

1. A team may trade asterisk players to another team provided that for each asterisk player traded, one is received in the same deal.
2. The above notwithstanding, a team may trade one or more asterisk players to another team and receive one less (or one more) asterisk player than was given in return, but may only make one such "uneven" trade with each team in the course of the season.
3. Between the end of the season and Roster Freeze Day asterisk players may be traded without restriction whatsoever.

On the day of the summer meeting these restrictions will be lifted and teams will be free to make unlimited uneven trades. This is a temporary suspension of the asterisk rule. The suspension will end after the summer meeting at a precise time agreed upon by the league. After which time the asterisk rule will go back into effect. After first pitch of the game the day after the summer meeting all trading will be restricted to teams who are contiguous with one another in the WEEKLY standings.

The deadline for ALL trading is first pitch on Labor Day. No trading of any kind is permitted from that point until the end of the season.

Trades made from the last pitch of the regular season until Roster Freeze Day are not bound by the position-distribution requirement.

Trades do not affect the salaries or contract status of players. Each trade is subject to a \$5 transaction fee. All trades involving cash, "future considerations" or "players to be named later" are prohibited.

## **XII. THE RESERVE LIST**

A team may replace any player on its 24-man roster who is: placed on the disabled list, released, designated for assignment, traded to the American League, suspended for ten games or more, or sent down to the minors by his major league team.

NOTE: A team may NOT replace a player who is placed on the bereavement list, placed on the family emergency list, or paternity list.

To replace such a player, an FBBA team must first release him outright or place him on its reserve list. A team reserves a player by notifying the Commissioner's Office and paying a \$5 transaction fee. A reserved player is removed from a team's active roster - when formal notification is given - and placed on the team's 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 AL, suspended for 10+ games, 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, no replacement may be made, and the player cannot be traded. The two week countdown begins at first pitch on the first Tuesday after the transaction is posted.

Once a specific action has been taken to remove a player from its 24-man roster (via release or placing him on the reserve list), a team is free to bid on a player from the free agent pool. The deadline for free agent bids is daily @ 1PM. All bids will be made public at that time. In the event two teams bid the same amount for a player the player will be awarded to the team lower in the WEEKLY standings. The salary assigned to a player

called up from the free agent pool is \$5, and he receives a three year contract, except if the player started the season on an American League roster. Players who began the season on an American League roster receive a one-year contract and are released back into the free agent pool at the conclusion of the current season.

Note: Each team starts the season with a virtual budget of \$250. This budget is used to bid on all free agents including players traded from the American League and expansion players. Zero (\$0) bids are allowed.

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 \$5 transaction fee.

A player on an FBBA reserve list may not be traded unless the replacement player linked to him is also traded.

A team may not have more than two players linked in one roster spot.

A replacement player may be traded or otherwise replaced (e.g., in case of an 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.

When a player on a reserve list returns to active major league duty, he must be reinstated to the active 24-man roster of his FBBA team two weeks after his activation or be waived. Failure to notify the Commissioner's Office 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.

When a player is reinstated to the active 24-man FBBA 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 FBBA team's 24-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.

### **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 FBBA team has two weeks after his promotion to activate him (at any position for which he qualifies) or waive him. If a farm system player is promoted to the major leagues on or after September 1, there is no obligation to activate the player. The fee for activating a player from a team's farm system is \$5. If a farm system player is activated, the player displaced from the 24-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.

Once brought up from its farm system by an FBBA 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 24-man roster may be kept within the farm system in subsequent seasons so long as the Commissioner's Office is duly notified on Roster Freeze Day (See also Article XVIII).

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 the 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 any given time.

### **XIV. SIGNING FREE AGENTS**

Active National League players not on any FBBA 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 leaguers not in any FBBA team's farm system (see Article XIII) who are promoted to an active major league roster;

active players released by their FBBA team; active players who have cleared FBBA waivers; and players traded from the American League.

A team with a natural opening on its 24-man roster may acquire free agents, as defined above, at any time during the regular season.

A player who has been added to a National League 25-man roster but has not yet made an appearance may NOT be claimed as a free agent. The player must appear in a box score before he can be considered an FBBA free agent. This holds true regardless of how many times a player is inactivated/activated by his NL team.

Note: As a convenience the Commissioner's office will allow teams to activate pitchers from their reserved list based on the projected starting pitchers for that day. If that pitcher does not make the projected start the transaction will be reversed. This convenience is only for pitchers who are reserved (or in the minors) on an FBBA roster. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO FREE AGENTS. Free agents must appear in a box score as stipulated above. It also does not apply to reserved position players.

#### **XV. WAIVERS**

Under certain conditions, an FBBA player may be waived.

When a player on an FBBA 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 24-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 FBBA 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.

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 a higher quality from the free agent pool.

The waiver period begins every Tuesday at 1PM. After this time any player placed on waivers gets added to the pending waiver

list for the upcoming week. Claims are processed on Tuesday @ 1PM for the currently published list and the new list is then published. Players on the current waiver wire **or** who are waiting to be placed on the upcoming waiver wire can NOT be claimed as free agents.

Waiver claims can be made via the Transaction Journal or sent directly to the transaction blog.

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.

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 \$5. The salary of a player acquired on waivers shall be \$5 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, or released, during the season unless the FBBA owner pays twice the remaining value of the contract. He may, however, be released and replaced without penalty if he is moved to the American 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 American League,
- (f) placed on the disabled list.
- (g) retires from major league baseball.

#### **XVI. SEPTEMBER ROSTER EXPANSION**

Starting at 1pm September 1<sup>st</sup> any team may expand its roster by a maximum of three players. Teams may acquire expansion players using the normal FA bidding process.

NOTE: A free agent claim for the purposes of replacement will always supersede an expansion claim for the same player regardless of how much is bid.

The initial fee for roster expansion is \$25. There is a \$12.50 fee for each additional player.

A free agent acquired for roster expansion will be assigned a salary of \$12.50. His contract status is that of a first-year player. A player activated from within a team's existing major or minor league roster for roster-expansion purposes will retain his current salary and contract status.

#### **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, though he may have been traded) must, prior to Roster Freeze Day 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 on Draft Day. If signed at the same salary for an option year, the player must be released 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 off his current salary plus \$2.50 for one additional year beyond the option year.

In determining a player's status, "season" is understood to be a full season or any fraction thereof.

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 moves to the American League, the player may be released, rendering his contract null and void. The team that loses the player's services shall be under no further financial obligation.

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 Draft Day), but a team that chooses to do so must pay into the prize pool, above the \$131 Draft Day

limit, a sum equal to twice the remaining value of the player's contract.

#### **XVIII. ROSTER PROTECTION**

From one season to the next, a team may retain no more than 13 players on its roster. There is no minimum.

The names of players being retained must be recorded with the Commissioner's Office on Roster Freeze Day, which is one full week before Draft Day. Specific notice must also be made at that time of any guaranteed long-term contract signings and farm system renewals.

The cumulative salaries of players protected prior to Draft Day are deducted from a team's \$131 expenditure limit, and the balance is available for acquisition of the remaining players needed to complete the team's 24-man roster.

The Commissioner's Office 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 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.

If a team has retained a player with minor league status from the previous season, and at the time of roster protection the MLB 25-man rosters have not been finalized (commonly the case), the owner has the option of retaining the player in his minor league system or adding him to his protected roster of active players. This is of course assuming the player has not been sent down to the minor leagues. If the player is included on the protected roster, he becomes a \$5 player.

#### **XIX. GOVERNANCE**

The Five Borough Baseball Alliance has two permanent officers: the Commissioner and the Treasurer.

The Commissioner's duties are as follows:

- To ensure the accurate compilation of league statistics and their prompt dissemination.

- To enforce and interpret these rules and bylaws and to mediate disputes between owners.
- To appoint committees for the purposes of addressing specific concerns of the league as a whole. The Commissioner is free to temporarily or permanently delegate certain duties (such as stat keeping, roster management, arrangement of social functions) to owners. The phrase "Commissioner's Office," as contained in these rules and bylaws, shall be defined as the Commissioner or any owner delegated by the Commissioner.
- Generally, to take all reasonable steps necessary to maintain the FBBA as a well-run, fair and friendly Rotisserie baseball league.

The Treasurer's duties are as follows:

- To collect in a timely fashion all fees enumerated in Article VI. The Treasurer shall exercise the powers granted him in Article VIII to ensure timely collection.
- To promptly disperse all prize money in the manner outlined in Article VIII.
- To maintain clear and accurate accounts of FBBA finances and, from time to time, to report on the league's financial condition to the Commissioner's Office. Upon reasonable notice, the Treasurer shall open his books to any owner who requests an audit of his or any other owner's account.
- To disperse and account for all moneys necessary for day-to-day operation of the league.

The Commissioner and the Treasurer serve terms of indefinite length but can be ousted for malfeasance or chronic incompetence by a two-thirds vote of the league.

These rules and bylaws can only be amended by a majority vote. In all league votes, each team, no matter how many partners, shall cast one vote.

The league will use two web sites as official sources for player status, position eligibility, etc. The sources are:

- CBSSports.com
- MLB.com