

# Official Constitution of the Better Lucky than Good League (BLGL)

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Normally, text in green is new or re-worded for this version, but way too much is new for this version, so please read.

If you are searching for an answer to a question, check out the [BLGL FAQ](#) first.

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## i. Definitions

A. A **Free Agent** (FA) is defined to be any player on the active Major League roster of any NL team who is not on any BLGL team during the season.

B. The **Free Agent Pool** (FA Pool) is the collection of all Free Agents (FAs).

C. A **Cut** is a roster move by which a player is removed from a BLGL team, released to the FA Pool and consequently placed on Waivers. There may be salary cap penalties and/or real fees for using a Cut.

D. A **Reserve** move is when a BLGL team changes the status of a player from Active to Reserve. There are a limited number of these moves available each year.

E. A **Legal Roster** is one where all Active players qualify for the position they are in and the collective salary is less than or equal to the current salary cap. A legal roster need not be a full roster.

F. A **Temporary or Replacement Player** is one selected by his BLGL team to take the place of a player who was taken off of his NL team's active roster. Replacement players are linked to a player who was replaced and they generally go back where they came from (FA Pool or Reserve status) when the replaced player returns to his NL team.

G. A **Keeper List** is a list of players a BLGL team is retaining going into a season.

H. An **LTC (Long Term Contract)** is a player who's contract was extended after their option (B contract) year.

## I. Governance

A. The BLGL is governed by a single authority, the Commissioner, Chris Harryman (insert sinister laugh here). The Commissioner has ultimate authority in all areas; including the veto or change of any rule appearing in this Constitution.

B. The commissioner shall annually pick an executive committee of three (3) owners (the commissioner will not be on this committee) to be used as an advisory panel to interpret these rules and handle disputes. Team-owners of the commissioners discretion will make up the three seats on this panel. Every effort will be made to use different team owners each year. Once a decision has been made by the executive committee, the Commissioner may veto the committee's decision and make a different ruling.

## II. Object

A. To assemble a line-up of 23 baseball players whose cumulative statistics during the regular, **National League** baseball season, compiled and measured by the methods described in this constitution, exceed those of all other teams in the league.

## III. Teams

A. A team may not change its name during each National League season.

B. A team is non-transferable without prior league approval.

C. A team may have two (2) equal partners, provided it is declared as such before the day of the auction each season. If a partnership exists, either owner will have the full right of roster moves and trades without consent of the other partner. This League does not allow unequal partnerships, or partnerships of more than two (2) persons.

D. In the event an owner leaves the BLGL, the BLGL may replace the owner. The new owner will inherit the entire roster of the departed owner.

#### **IV. Roster**

A. Each teams' active roster consists of the following 23 players:

5 outfielders (OF)

2 catchers (C)

1 first baseman (1B)

1 second baseman (2B)

1 third baseman (3B)

1 shortstop (SS)

1 corner infielder (CI) [1B or 3B]

1 middle infielder (MI) [2B or SS]

1 utility hitter (UH) [any non pitching player]

8 pitchers (P)

1 utility pitcher (UP)

#### **V. Position Eligibility**

A. A hitter may be assigned to any position in which he appeared in 20 or more games in the previous Major League (ML) season. If a hitter did not

appear in 20 or more games at a single position in the previous season, he may be drafted and assigned only to that position in which he appeared most frequently. Once the current season begins, a hitter may also be assigned to any position in which he appears in at least one (1) game.

B. Any games played at the designated hitter (DH) position are disregarded for position eligibility. If the DH was the only position the player has EVER appeared at, that player may only be drafted into the UH position.

C. A player may be drafted as a pitcher if he appeared in more games as a pitcher than as a non-pitcher during the previous year (including minor leagues, foreign leagues, and the major leagues). Once the season starts, a player may be claimed from the FA Pool as a pitcher if he has more major league appearances as a pitcher than a non-pitcher.

D. In the event of a dispute, an owner must produce an exact date, or dates, in which his player appeared at a "new" position if he wants to expand that player's eligibility.

E. If a player was out of baseball or playing foreign baseball during the previous season(s), his last major league season will be used.

F. If a player has never played major league baseball, or only pinch-hit or pinch-ran in the majors, he shall be eligible only at a utility (UH or UP) position.

## **VI. Auction Draft Day**

A. Ideally, a player auction will be conducted on the weekend immediately prior to opening day of the Major League Baseball season although the commissioner will set the date each year after checking with each owner. Each team must acquire a full team of 23 players. The total for these players is not to exceed 260 "fantasy" dollars. A team need not spend all 260 dollars.

B. The order of nomination will be determined in advance by the Commissioner. It will be the same for each round.

C. When it is an owner's turn to nominate a player, that owner must nominate a player who can legally fit onto his roster. Each owner shall have a maximum of one minute to make a nomination. The bidding shall proceed, auction style so anyone may bid at any time. The owner making the final bid shall receive the player (except in cases where topping rights are exercised) and the player will have an A contract.

D. In cases in which an owner has a topper (topping rights) to a player and once the bidding is completed, the owner possessing the topping rights to that player must decide whether to use his topping rights (that is, increase by one dollar the final bid on that player and obtaining that player) or pass (giving that player to the last legal bidder). This decision must be made within 30 seconds. An owner may nominate a player he has a topper on and his opening bid may be zero dollars. If all owners were to pass in this situation, the owner who holds the topper would have that player at a price of \$1, the league minimum salary.

E. Each owner has a total of three (3) time outs. These time outs are two minutes long each. These may be used at any time during the draft to extend the legal amount of time an owner has to make a decision. If a time out is called, the two minutes will be added to that time remaining for the owner to make his decision. Time outs may be called consecutively.

F. Owners may be cautioned when time is running out. The rules for this will be established at each draft.

G. If an owner passes (be it by choice or because of a time violation) when it is his turn to nominate, that owner will be skipped and the next owner in the auction order will be called on to nominate a player. The skipped owner is then not allowed to bid on the player nominated by that next owner. After that player is auctioned, the skipped owner is then called again to nominate. If he nominates a player, the order will return to its normal cycle (with the next nomination going to the owner two spots down from the skipped owner). This process may be extended until the skipped owner eventually nominates a player.

H. Depending on the time needed, there may be a lunch break during the draft along with a couple of potty breaks.

I. After the Auction Draft there will be a break of length determined by the Commissioner. After this break, the Reserve Draft will take place.

J. The Reserve Draft will consist of three (3) rounds with NO BIDDING. When a team selects a player, then that player will be placed on the team's roster in Minors/Reserve status. The drafting order will be based on the previous year's final standings using the following order: 5th, 6th, 7th, ..., nth, expansion team(s), 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st. This formula is used for each of the three (3) rounds. The exact order will be established by the Commissioner before draft day.

K. In addition to the three (3) automatic picks as explained above, a team may receive bonus picks in the Reserve Draft as compensation for player(s) with permanent roster spots lost to the American League by way

of trade during the previous Major League regular season. To be eligible for a compensation pick, a player must be on a National League active roster or disabled list (DL) at the time of the trade to the American League, and the trade must occur during the regular season. There is no compensation for a player leaving the NL for ANY other reason than being traded to the AL (e.g. sold to the Japanese Leagues, released, injured, etc.) during the regular baseball season. The formula for these picks are as follows:

A \$1 - \$8 player will receive the last pick in the 3rd round

A \$9 - \$24 player will receive the last pick in the 2nd round

A \$25+ player will receive the last pick in the 1st round

These bonus picks shall occur at the end of the rounds, with ties being broken using the above method (5th, 6th, ...).

L. There is a one (1) minute time limit, with no time-outs, in the Reserve Draft. An owner in violation of this rule will be skipped using the same process as described in rule VI, article G.

M. All players selected in the Reserve Draft start the year with an A\* contract. If the player chosen is on an NL 25 man-roster (or NL DL) at the beginning of the season then his assigned salary will be \$10. If the player is in the NL minor leagues, his salary will be \$5. If he is not in the NL at all (e.g. American League, Mexican or Japanese Leagues, High School), then his salary will be \$25. See effective salary rules for A\* contracts.

N. There shall be absolutely no kibitzing during any part of auction draft day, including breaks. Neither books, notes nor ideas may be shared among the owners. Suggestions, observations, or any form of thought pertaining to the draft or baseball in general may not be shared and must be kept to one's self.

## **VII. Player Salaries and Contracts**

A. The salary of a player is determined by the time and means of his acquisition and is not changed unless that player is signed to a long-term contract.

B. An undrafted player starting the year in the NL or NL minor leagues shall have an assigned salary of \$10.

C. When player comes over from the American League (major or minor leagues) or foreign baseball during the course of the season, there shall be a two day waiver period during which each team may put in claims for that player as a \$25 or a \$10. All \$25 claims must be to place the player into a permanent active roster spot (contract will be A). In other words, teams are not allowed to put in a \$25 claim for a AL to NL traded player as a replacement for another player sent to the minors or put on the DL unless they use a Cut to ensure the claimed player is not considered temporary. If there are any valid \$25 claims, then all \$10 claims will be ignored and all \$25 claims for all players ending Day 2 on the same day will be pooled and a waiver process using rounds whereby the teams lower in the standings gets first choice of players claimed at \$25. When a team claims more than one player at \$25 who was traded from the AL to the NL on the same day, then they need to specify which they want as their first pick in case other teams put in \$25 claims. The team lowest in the standings to put in a \$25 claim gets their first choice, then the next team higher in the standings gets theirs and so forth until all players for whom a \$25 claim was received are taken. Multiple rounds will be used as needed in the process. If there is a tie in the standings, the previous day's standings will be used. Until the second Monday of the season, the previous season's final standings will be used. If there are no \$25 claims, then \$10 claims for a player will be considered and grouped in with all other Free Agent claims for other players entering the FA Pool on the same day. If a player goes unclaimed through this process, then he becomes a regular Free Agent and may be claimed by any team at any time.

D. The terms, eligibilities and restrictions of contracts are as follows

A: A contracts are NL players drafted or picked-up during the current season that are given a permanent active roster spot. In some cases, a player may start the year with an A\* contract, but it will be changed to an A once the player is given a permanent active roster spot. After their first season, A contract players may either be released before the auction (without penalty) or be kept by their owners at the same salary as B contracts.

A\*: A\* contracts are given to players drafted in the Reserve Draft or picked-up as temporary replacements from the Free Agent Pool for a player placed on the DL, sent to the Minors or otherwise removed from an active NL roster. After their first season, A\* contracts (like A contracts) may be released or they become B contracts and fill one of the team's 23 active roster spots. The distinction between A\* and A contracts is made because **for A\* contracts only \$1**

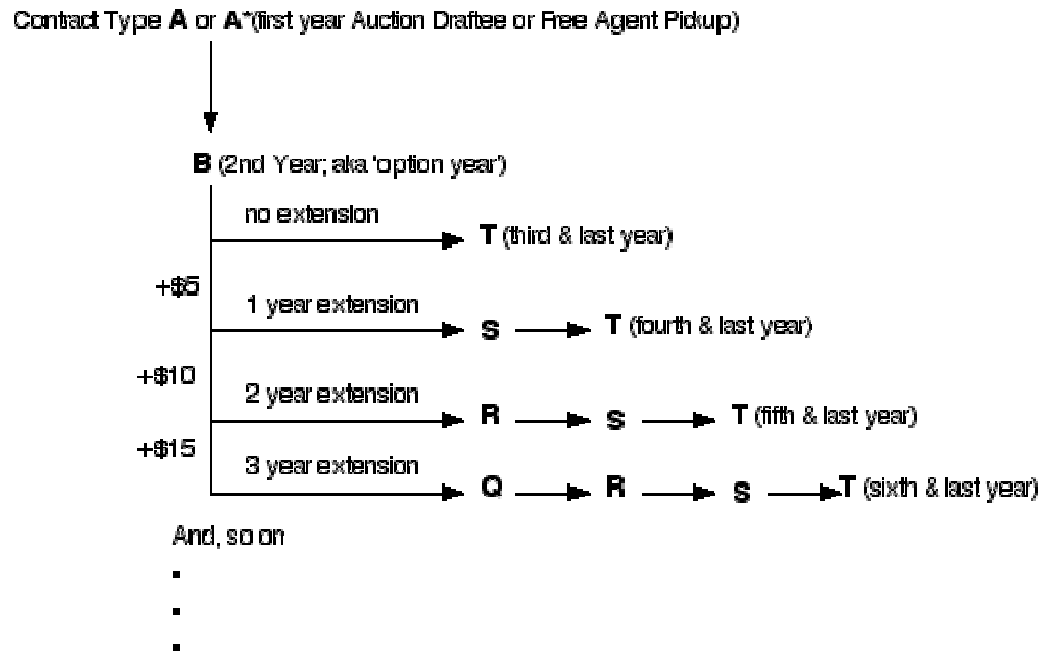
**or their \$10 or \$25 salary is counted against the salary cap as long as their active status is considered temporary.** Once an A\* player is given the non-temporary active roster spot, then their contract immediately becomes a standard A contract and remains that way until the end of the season (even if released).

**B:** The B contract season is the player's second and 'option year' after which the team may choose to extend the contract, release the player, or keep the player at his present salary. In the latter case, it becomes a **T** contract (short for 'Topper'). If the team chooses to extend the contract, \$5 is added to the player's salary for each year that that contract is extended. This new salary is effective immediately. The contract letter is determined by starting at T in the alphabet and going back one letter for each year of extension. For example, if they choose to extend it by 1 year, then the contract will be **S**. If it is extended 2 years, then it will be **R**. After each season, if the player is kept, the contract letter advances one letter in the alphabet. The contract can only be extended once, so once it reaches T, that is the last season for that player under that contract.

**T:** The T contract season is the player's last under the current contract. Before the next season's auction, the player is automatically released. At the next auction, however, the last owner retains Topping rights to the player (topping rights may be traded during the normal trading periods).

The following diagram graphically demonstrates how a contract can evolve from year to year.





E. All contracts become toppers at expiration.

F. No player must be kept from one season to the next, but there may be salary cap penalties for not keeping a player with an extended contract (LTC).

## VIII. Standings

A. The following criteria is used to determine team performance:

Total Home Runs

Total Runs Batted In

Total Runs

Total Stolen Bases

On-Base Percentage

Earned Run Average

WHIP (Walks plus Hits divided by Innings Pitched)

Total Quality Starts plus Total Wins

Total Saves

Total Strikeouts

Teams are ranked from first to last in each category. The worst team in each category gets 1 point, the second worst gets two points and so on. After points are given for each category, total points for each team are added up for each team and used for the overall team standings.

B. If a team fails to pitch 1200 innings during the course of the season, one (1) earned run and two (2) men on base will be added to that team's totals for each inning it was short. For this purpose, innings shall be rounded to the nearest full inning. This may affect the team's ranking in the ERA and WHIP categories.

C. At the end of the season, each team's number of At Bats and Walks will be added. If a team's total is less than 6000, then 5 At Bats will be added to their total for every AB+BB the team was short of 6000. This may affect the team's ranking in the OBP category.

D. Pitchers offensive stats and offensive players pitching stats are not counted. In addition, "occasional" players may not be used. A player must be a hitter or a pitcher.

E. All ties in the final standings are ties. For the purpose of deciding draft order and other such league matters which rely on the final standings, the team with the most at bats plus innings pitched will be placed ahead of the tied teams. If there is still a tie after adding the teams at bats plus innings pitched, a coin flip or some other game of chance specified by the Commissioner will decide the order.

## **IX. Stats**

A. Sportsline.com (<http://blgl.baseball.sportsline.com>) is the official database for the computation of standings.

B. <http://groups.msn.com/BetterLuckyThanGoodLeague> is the URL of the MSN group dedicated to owners of the BLGL and where official transactions and standings will be recorded for historic purposes. The links to this and all online versions of the Constitution will also be available there.

C. The effective time of any transaction for the purpose of statistical calculation is at midnight PT.

D. Transactions may be either e-mailed to the stat keeper and Commissioner (Chris Harryman), posted on the Sportsline.com site's League Message Board (to "Chris Harryman" or to "Everyone in the League" depending on circumstances described in Rule IX, E.) or phoned into the Commissioner's cell phone (if you temporarily do not have internet access). If the stat keeper and Commissioner are one in the same person, then the Commissioner may designate another owner to receive transaction e-mails as well. Transactions must be received via e-mail or posted on the Sportsline.com site's League Message Board by 11:59:59PM PT to be effective the next day. The time stamp on e-mails itself is irrelevant; they are all treated as received at 11:59:59PM on the day they are received, particularly for the purposes of Free Agent Claims (see Rule XII, H.).

E. To avoid the daily standings from affecting the outcome of your Free Agent claim when you are picking up a player from the Free Agent Pool who is not on waivers (see Rules VII and XII), you may e-mail the transaction to the entire league by either (a) posting on the Sportsline.com site's League Message Board to "Everyone in the League" or (b) using the league e-mail alias (blgl@baseball.sportsline.com). Under these circumstances, the pick-up is effective immediately regardless of current standings (roster-wise only; the transaction is still effective stat-wise for games starting after midnight the following day). For example, if a player was on his NL team's Major League roster at least part of Day 1 and all of Day 2 (without being sent to the ML or otherwise removed from all NL active rosters), then a BLGL team may claim that player on Day 3 on a first-come, first-served basis provided that the claim is made as described above on the Sportsline.com site's League Message Board (or phoned into the Commissioner's cell phone if you temporarily are away from a computer). Stats will count starting on Day 4 in this example. If you wish to pick up a Free Agent who was not in the NL as described above (e.g. just called up from the ML or traded from the AL and still on waivers), then you may send in your transaction as described in Rule IX, D. In this case, if you use the Sportsline.com Message Board, be sure to select "Chris Harryman" as the only recipient.

G. The only official stats shall be the final stats.

H. Performance stats of a player shall be assigned to a team only when that player is on the team's active roster.

I. Owners shall report any known mistakes to the stat keeper and Commissioner immediately.

J. A transaction made in error (i.e. in violation of some rule or procedure) will be reversed no matter how much time has passed. It is each owner's responsibility to make sure that your transactions are legal and valid. Every effort will be made by the Commissioner and stat keeper to catch errors, but all erroneous transactions will be reversed.

K. The stat keeper and Commissioner will decide the proper way to correct any errors.

L. The stat keeper shall report any transactions to the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall report any personal moves to the stat keeper. If these two are one in the same, then the Commissioner will email transactions to a designated owner under the same time requirements as any other owner.

M. Official Daily Transactions and Standings will be listed on the League's MSN group. All owners have visibility to transaction reports on the sportsline.com and MSN group sites so that everyone can see all moves made by all owners.

N. The stat keeper and/or Commissioner may assign their roles to others as needed.

O. Only the stat keeper may make changes to the stats or rosters on sportsline.com unless rule N is in effect.

## **X. Fees (Real Dollars)**

A. The commissioner shall appoint a treasurer to collect, manage and pay out funds.

B. There is an entry fee of \$100 due at a time determined each year.

C. Side bets are allowed, but neither money nor favor (nor "future considerations") may be part of any transaction, including trades, in the BLGL.

D. If a team uses more than 5 Cuts (i.e. waive or release) during a given season, they will be assessed a fee for subsequent cuts. The 6th Cut will cost \$1 and each succeeding Cut used will cost the team \$1 more than the last one used. These fees must be paid in advance. Cuts not paid for will not be allowed. It is recommended that a team pre-pay some money towards these so that decisions can be made and executed without delay or an owner may set up a PayPal account to be able to send money electronically and immediately as needed.

## **XI. Prize Fund**

A. All entrance fees (\$100/team) will be put into the prize fund. All league expenses will be paid from this fund. The remainder shall be divided among the best four teams in the final standings as follows:

First place 50%

Second place 25%

Third place 15%

Fourth place 10%

## **XII. Transactions**

A. A player on an active rotis roster may be replaced if he is:

1. Placed on the disabled list
2. Sent down to the minors
3. Traded or sold outside the National League
4. Suspended for more than 14 days
5. In any other way removed from an active NL roster

B. Players suspended for less than 14 days must be Cut or Reserved in order to be replaced.

C. A rotis roster may also be changed voluntarily by the following means:

1. Through a rotis trade (XVII)
2. By Cutting a player (XVIII)
3. By expanding your roster in September (XIX)

D. A salary cap of \$340 must be maintained from the point immediately after the draft until September 1. For the purposes of this rule, A\* contract players shall count as \$1. This rule applies only to the active 23-man roster.

E. To replace a player being removed from the active roster, a team may choose from its Reserve roster, the Free Agent Pool, or acquire a player via trade.

F. A replacement, temporarily active player chosen from the FA Pool or Reserve squad is linked to the player being replaced at the time of the transaction. When the replaced player returns to his NL team, (a) any linked replacement player is returned to his place of origin unless a legal move is made to prevent this and (b) a legal roster spot must exist (or be made using a Cut or by trade) on his BLGL team for him to be activated into unless Rule XIII, B is invoked or a Cut or Reserve move is used on the returning player.

G. A called up (temporary replacement) player may be traded, released (by using a Cut), Reserved (by using a Reserve move) or released due to being traded out of the NL (or otherwise removed from the NL major and minor leagues). In each of these cases, the link between the replacement player and the replaced player is broken. A new replacement may be chosen and linked to the inactive player whenever the latter has no such link and there exists an open active roster spot that both players can legally fit into.

H. When a temporary, replacement player (linked to an inactive player) is chosen from the FA Pool and he subsequently is removed from an NL active roster (e.g. by going on the DL, being sent to the minors, or released), then the player is automatically dropped from his BLGL team.

I. When a temporary, replacement player (linked to an inactive player) is chosen from the team's Reserve squad and he subsequently is removed from an NL active roster (e.g. by going on the DL, being sent to the minors, or released), then he may also be replaced in the same manner as described in Rule XII. This creates a chain of replacements, each linked to the others.

J. Players (re-)entering the FA Pool are placed on waivers for two days. Day 1 is the day the player entered the FA Pool which is usually a partial calendar day. Day 2 is the next day. At the beginning of the season, all undrafted players in the FA Pool are placed on waivers such that the day on which the first NL game of the season is played or Draft Day (whichever is later) will be considered Day 1. For all players who share the same Day 2, all claims for them are pooled. After Day 2, claimed

players are granted to teams. First, if there are players with valid \$25 claims (for players traded from the AL), the process described in Rule VII, C is used. After the \$25 claims process is complete, all other players who share the same Day 2 (including players traded from the AL with \$10 claims but without a \$25 claim) are then considered and an analogous process to that in Rule VII, C is used to distribute these players to teams who put in claims. Teams need to rank their selections when they submit more than one claim to avoid ambiguity.

K. A player automatically released back to the FA Pool because of an automatically returning player is still the sole property of the BLGL team from which he was released for a grace period lasting until the end of the day following his release. This coincides with the 2-day waiver period as described in Rule XII, J. Claims may still come in from other teams and they will be executed if the player isn't re-claimed within the grace period by his last BLGL team. Rather than re-claiming the player, the BLGL team that owns his rights during the grace period may also negotiate a trade and send the player's rights to another team.

L. Any transaction that is not effective immediately upon submission may be revised or retracted until the effectivity date or other specified deadline has not been reached. This applies to, for example, waiver claims, September Expansion lists, and Keeper Lists.

M. In order to establish for BLGL purposes that a player has been added to or taken off of an active NL roster, MLB.com's transaction lists will be used as the primary source. If there is more than one entry for a given transaction on the MLB transactions list or individual Major League team's transaction list on MLB.com, then the earliest date listed will be used. If a transaction can not be found at MLB.com, then ESPN.com, sportsline.com and rotoworld.com will be used collectively. If there are multiple, conflicting dates for a transaction listed on those three sites' transaction lists, then the earliest date will be used. For activations, if the date of a game played by a player is earlier than the date we would otherwise use, then that date will be used as the assumed activation date.

N. New procedures/penalties for an illegal roster usually, but not always, caused by a player returning from the DL or Minors after his original replacement was traded or the DL'd player himself was traded. If the team owner has made no valid plan known to the Commissioner to make sure his roster is legal salary-wise and/or position-wise upon the return of the player coming off of the DL, then the Commish will do the following:

- 1) If the player returning from the DL can be Reserved using The 60-Day Rule (AKA Sluggers' Rule), then this will be done on the owner's behalf.

2) Else, the commissioner will identify a hitter or pitcher (whichever the returning player is) with a permanent roster spot on the team's active roster (which may be the returning player himself) with the fewest current-year IP/PAs and minimum salary (if applicable) necessary such that removing that player from active status makes the roster legal (not necessarily full, but legal). If more than one player fits that description, then the Commish will use the previous years' IP/PA stats as a tie-breaker to determine which player will be identified. Once the player is identified, if the team has a Reserve move available, the Commish will use it on that identified player on the team's behalf. If the team does not have a Reserve move available, then the player will be Cut (released) on the team's behalf and the team will be responsible for any penalty and payment required for that Cut.

### **XIII. The Disabled List**

A. A player put on the Major League disabled list is put on his BLGL team's injured/disabled list when he is replaced.

B. So long as the injured player returns to his Major League team within 59 days of the day his team placed him on the disabled list he is automatically returned to his active rotis roster. "60-Day Rule" (AKA "Sluggers' Rule"): If he is not activated within these 59 days, the rotis owner may choose at any time from the 60th day forward to put the formerly disabled player on Reserve status and remove the temporary status of the replacement player (if any). If a decision is not made known to the Commissioner prior to the day of the player's activation, then the returning player will automatically be activated for the first day back on an active NL roster. The grace period to make the final decision ends at the end of the day after the player's NL activation. If a different decision is not made known to the Commissioner within this grace period, the formerly injured player is left active.

### **XIV. The Minor Leagues (Real)**

A. When an active BLGL player with a permanent roster spot is sent down to the minor leagues by his NL team, he is put on his BLGL team's injured/disabled list when he is replaced as described in Rule XII unless (a) the season is at least 14 days old and that player has not been on a



BLGL team\* continuously for the 14 days prior to the day he is demoted by his NL team, or (b) if the season is less than 14 days old and the player was not on a BLGL team\* continuously from the beginning of the season to the time his NL team demoted him. If (a) or (b) are true, then the player is released by his BLGL team if he is replaced (which he need not be). (\* Please note that the player need not have been on the same BLGL team.)

## **XV. Trades in Baseball (Real)**

A. A player's contract is voided at the end of the day on which he is no longer the property of an NL franchise due to, for example, being traded or sold outside the National League or released. If the player is brought back to the National League before the end of the day, his contract is in no way affected. When a contract is voided, it is reset and treated as if he was not drafted at the last draft. For compensation rulings, see Rule VI, section K.

## **XVI. Suspension**

A. A suspended player may not be replaced until he has been on the suspension list for a minimum of 14 days.

B. A suspended player may not be replaced in any way other than trade during the first 14 days of the suspension.

C. If a suspended player is released or traded to the American League by his Major League team, all suspension restrictions are removed.

## **XVII. Rotis Trading**

A. Trading is not allowed:

1) From approximately two days before Draft Day until the end of the draft (actual date range to be determined by the Commissioner each year), and

2) from September 1 until the end of the regular season.

B. The trading period from August 1 to August 31 inclusive, will be restricted to trades between teams immediately above or below each other in the standings, ties included. The most recent standings will be used for the purposes of this rule.

C. A trade that causes an illegal roster is allowed. The illegal roster, however, must be made legal by the end of the day or the trade is voided.

D. Any injury, suspension, or trade (as in a trade in real baseball that just happened) must be disclosed before a trade is made. Any failure to voluntarily give this information before trading an affected player shall render the trade null and void. Any other information (e.g. playing time), need not be given.

E. All terms of a trade are to be announced at the time of the trade. Absolutely no cash, favors, future considerations, or players to be named later are allowed.

F. A trade becomes official when it is e-mailed (or posted on a league message board) to the Commissioner by both teams and approved by the Commissioner. Trades are effective immediately roster-wise and effective the next day stat-wise. Trades involving the Commissioner must be e-mailed to the Commissioner by both himself (as a CC: or TO:) and his trading partner(s) for them to be considered official.

G. A trade will not be approved if there is any dispute among the trading owners over any information (salaries, contract status, etc...) or if Rule XVII, sections C, D, or E were broken. In addition, a trade may be voided if, in the opinion of the Commissioner and/or the executive committee, it upsets the balance and/or integrity of the game. A trade in which one team does not get anything is not allowed.

H. Any owners guilty of collusion shall be expelled from the league.

I. To be eligible to trade after June 30, a team must maintain a pace to reach the AB+BB and IP requirements. Specifically, a team may not trade in July if they don't have at least 3000 for AB+BB and 600 IP through June 30. Teams may not trade in August if their AB+BB total is less than 4000 or have less than 800 IP through July 31.

J. Players' statuses do not change because of being traded from one BLGL team to another.

## **XVIII. Cutting/Claiming a Player**

A. Each team shall receive unlimited Cuts, plus one (1) Reserve move the day after Keeper Lists are due, and an additional three (3) Reserve moves on Sept. 1. Both Cuts and Reserve moves may be used from those times until the end of the NL regular season, except for a short time TBD by the Commissioner each year just before Draft Day through the end of the Reserve Draft.

B. A Cut is used to remove a player from an active roster. Once a player is Cut he is released to the FA Pool and placed through waivers (see Rule XII) where Day 1 is the day the transaction is visible to everyone by post on Sportsline.com, post on the MSN group, or via e-mail. If a Reserve move is used on the player, he is not released and is placed on his team's Reserve roster.

C. Before each year's Draft Day, all teams are required to turn in a Keeper List which is a list of players they wish to keep for the upcoming season. The deadline and recipient will be announced by the Commissioner to the league via e-mail or message board post by March 1. All players, including those who ended the previous year on the Reserve squad or disabled list, may be kept if a legal position is available on the team. Those players not on the team's Keeper List and who weren't T contracts the year before shall be considered released. A Dispersal Draft shall be held right after the Keeper List deadline. Each team may submit a list of players it wishes to have of the ones that were released (not kept). To claim a single player, a team must send its lowest Reserve Draft pick as compensation to the team that released the player. A team may claim as many players as can legally fit on its roster so long as it has draft picks to give as compensation. Players who were T contracts the previous year and are now just 'Topping Rights' for the upcoming Auction Draft may not be claimed in this process. In a case where a team claims more than one player, the pool of lowest picks are assigned to the releasing team(s) such that the best picks are sent in exchange for the most desired players. For example, if N picks are used to claim N players, then the team's lowest N picks will be pooled and the best of those will go to the team that released the first player that the team claimed, the next best pick will go to the team that released the player they selected second, and so on until all N picks are reassigned. The fifth place team from the previous season shall have the first selection in this Dispersal Draft with the draft order determined by rule VI, section J. A team may stipulate on its list any directions s/he wishes the Commissioner to execute on their behalf (e.g. a maximum number of players/pitchers/hitters/salary s/he wishes to obtain). All unkept and unclaimed players become unrestricted free agents going into the Auction Draft.

D. When Keeper Lists are turned in, a team may indicate that they wish to trade in a 1st Round Draft Pick for an extra Reserve move. This rule may

be used as many times as the team has 1st Round Reserve Draft Picks. In cases where a team has more than one 1st Round Draft Pick and they don't convert them all to Reserve moves, it will be assumed that they are turning in their lowest 1st Round Draft Pick(s) to acquire the Reserve moves.

E. A player obtained in the Reserve Draft and never activated during his first season may be carried into the next year's draft in Reserve status without having to use a Reserve move. The Contract letter will still progress from A\* to B. Use of this rule must be noted in the team's Keeper List. This rule may only be used once per team per year.

F. When a player is Cut, his team will be assessed a salary cap penalty that is effective for the current or upcoming year only (no carry-over from year to year).

1) If the release occurs during the season and the player is on an A, A\*, B or T contract, then the salary cap penalty will be equal to 50% of the player's current, **effective** salary (rounding up to the nearest whole fantasy dollar).

2) All other contracts are extended or Long Term Contracts (LTCs). This penalty is for Cutting them during the season or leaving leaving them off of a Keeper List when they are eligible to be kept (still property of an NL franchise). In the latter case, if the player is selected in the Dispersal Draft by another team, then no penalty is incurred by the team that waived him by leaving him off the Keeper List. The salary cap penalty shall be 50% of the product of the number of remaining years on the contract (including the current year) and the player's salary. **Old LTCs grandfathered into old rules:** Any LTCs extended in 2005 or before are exempt from this rule and a penalty for releasing them will only happen in the way and under the circumstances as described in (1) above.

G. A player's salary and contract do not change because of being Cut.

H. Any kept player may be Cut or Reserved before Draft Day. If a Cut is used, then the rest of the league will have a chance to claim the player using the same process as in rule VI, section J. No compensation draft pick is awarded to the team cutting the player.

I. All unused Reserve moves become null and void on the last day of the regular season. They do not carry over from season to season.

## **XIX. September Roster Expansion**

A. On September 1, a team may expand its roster to as many as 26 total active players. The additional spots on the roster shall be considered utility spots (UH or UP). A team may not, however, have 12 or more pitchers or 17 or more hitters (i.e. the 3 spots can not be filled by all hitters or all pitchers). **No salary cap will apply in September.**

B. To fill the expansion roster spots, Free Agents may be claimed or players from the team's Reserve roster may be activated.

C. Teams should submit a list of players (with special instructions if the team owner so wishes) that they want to claim (from the FA Pool) or activate (from Reserve) by August 31. Players will be granted to teams in rounds in which each team gets one player. Picking order for each round will be the same as the standard waivers process (lower placed teams get first picks in each round).

D. A team may wait and expand its roster any day after September 1. Cuts may also be used in September.