

OFFICIAL ROTISSERIE 500 CONSTITUTION - 2012

OBJECTIVE

To assemble a line-up of 23 baseball players whose cumulative statistics, compiled and measured by the methods described in these rules, exceed those of all other teams in the League.

ROSTERS

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

- 5 outfielders
- 2 catchers
- 1 second baseman
- 1 shortstop
- 1 middle infielder (either second baseman or shortstop)
- 1 first baseman
- 1 third baseman
- 1 corner infielder (either first or third baseman)
- 1 utility player defined as a player who may play any non-pitching position

- 9 pitchers (who may be either starters, relievers or both).

A team's reserve roster consists of 17 players, at any position.

STATISTICS

The following statistical categories will be used to determine team performance and league standings:

- On Base Percentage
- Total runs produced (runs + RBIs – HRs)
- Total home runs
- Total stolen bases

- Earned Run Average
- Total wins
- Total strikeouts
- Total saves + holds – blown saves

Performance stats of a player shall be assigned to a team only when he is on the active roster of that team and on the active roster of a major league team.

STANDINGS

Teams are ranked from first to last in each of the eight categories and given points for their respective ranking (In a 12-team league, for instance, 12 points for 1st place, 11 points for 2nd place, etc.)

The team with the most overall points at the end of the major league regular season will be deemed the Roto500 victor.

In the case of ties in an individual category, the tied teams will share the ranking points of the two positions in the standings.

In the case of ties in total points, the team that finishes ahead in more categories will be deemed the victor. If both teams remain tied after this comparison, the tie will stand.

PLAYER VALUATION

Each player will have an established list price in Roto500. These pre-set dollar amounts will be calculated as the average of his end-of-season values from the previous two years (rounded up, if necessary). For the purposes of the calculation:

- A player will be valued at \$10 for any season in which he maintained his rookie eligibility (and current season rookies will all have a list price of \$10).
- A player will be valued at \$0 for any season in which his final value was negative.

Every player must have a current list price of at least \$1, even if his previous two seasons were valued at \$0.

The official player value list will be sourced from BaseballHQ.com and shared among all owners in advance of draft day. These valuations will be calculated based on a 12-team mixed league (i.e. players from both the AL and NL).

KEEPERS

Starting in year 2 of the Roto500 league, each team will be required to protect or keep between 5 and 15 players on their team for the upcoming season. Players may be kept from either the active team or reserve list and can be any combination of major leaguers, minor leaguers, foreign/international players, free-agents, etc.

Keeper player salaries will be determined by the higher of (1) the upcoming season's list price as calculated by Baseball HQ, or (2) the auction price for the player in the preceding year's draft.

Keeper players appear in the draft grid in the round they were drafted/protected the previous year. If an owner keeps two players who were drafted in the same round the previous year, the subsequent round is used for the second player. Players picked up as free agents the previous year are protected in the 24th and subsequent rounds.

A freeze list deadline will be announced a few weeks prior to the auction. On or before the freeze list deadline, each team is required to submit its keeper list containing the names and roster position of the players they want to hold back from the draft.

DRAFT DAY

A player draft in the form of a modified serpentine draft (1 to 12, 12 to 1, etc.) is conducted on a date as near as possible to Opening Day as is practical. In year one, draft order is determined based upon a random drawing of the teams. This drawing will take place just prior to the beginning of the draft.

The modified element of the Roto500 draft takes the form of eight auction calls (three in the first five rounds, five in later rounds) granted to each team. The auction calls enable each owner to acquire eight players for an amount above their list price during the draft. Any team that has one or more of their calls remaining may call any drafted player into an auction where all owners with auction calls remaining can participate.

The winning team in a player auction is the only team to lose one of their auction calls. The team calling the auction does not lose an auction call unless they win the auction.

Each team must acquire 23 active and healthy (i.e. not on the DL) major league players for their active roster and 17 players on their reserve roster at a total cost not to exceed \$500 for both. It is critical to note that the same \$500 budget is used to fill a team's active roster, any players acquired for its reserve roster on draft day and/or throughout the season for free-agent acquisition. There is *no separate free-agent budget* and reserves *cannot* be drafted for free.

There will be one or more Facilitators who run the draft proceedings. The Facilitator will award the player to the team that drafts the player where no auction is called and/or award the player to the winner of any called auctions. The team acquires the player for the pre-established list price and announces the roster position the player will fill. Players eligible at more than one position may be shifted during the course of the draft.

The process is repeated, with successive team owners acquiring players, until every team has completed their 40-man rosters. The active roster need not be completed within a team's first 23 picks.

The Facilitator will ensure that time limits between bids are maintained and proceedings run smoothly through the draft and auction processes. All decisions of the Facilitator are final.

No team may make a bid for a player that it cannot afford under its \$500 budget cap.

Most all players are eligible to be drafted or purchased at auction, including:

- Players on a 40-man roster or in the minor league system for either major league
- Players who have been demoted, cut or designated for assignment
- Players on a major league team's disabled list.

- Players in foreign or independent leagues

POSITION ELIGIBILITY

On Draft Day: A player may be assigned to any position at which he appeared at least 15 times in the major leagues in the preceding season. If a player did not appear in 15 games at any position, or did not appear the prior season in the majors at all, he qualifies at the one position he played most frequently the prior season in any league(s) he played in. If a player sat out the previous year for any reason, his eligibility will be determined by the last season in which he played professional baseball.

Designated Hitter is considered a position for these purposes. A player who only qualifies as a DH may only be assigned to the Utility position.

In-season major leaguers: In addition to Draft Day eligibility, a player becomes eligible at all other positions at which he appears at least 5 times in the major leagues.

In-season foreign/minor leaguers: A free agent or promoted player is eligible only at the one position he has played most frequently in the foreign/minor league season to date. Once that player has accumulated major league playing time, he becomes eligible at any other positions at which he appears at least 5 times in the major leagues.

The official source for minor league games played by position will be BaseballReference.com.

RESERVE LIST

The reserve list consists of 17 players per team.

A player may be activated from the reserve list if he is on the active roster of a major league team.

At any time prior to the transaction deadline, a team may release or reserve a player from its active roster, and replace that player from his reserve list, free agent pool, or via trade.

If a team attempts to reserve a player, it must ensure that either an open reserve spot is available for the reserved player or it must release, activate or trade a player from its reserve list to bring it within the 17 player reserve limit. Failure to do so will result in the nullification of the player move.

If a team acquires a player via trade who will be added to the reserve list and there is no open reserve list slot, it must release, activate or trade a player from its reserve list to bring it within the 17 player limit. Failure to do so will result in the release of the player(s) that the team was acquiring in the trade, but does not void the trade.

Players on a team's reserve list may remain on the reserve list indefinitely, whether or not they are on a MLB active roster, or the major league disabled list. There is *no separate DL in Roto500*. Disabled players must fit on the 17-man reserve list.

FREE AGENCY

Beginning with the second transaction period following the conclusion of the draft, through the end of the regular season, free agents in the free agent pool may be signed, without limit, in the following manner:

Each team shall have, for the purpose of acquiring free agents, the unspent portion of their original \$500 team budget.

Up until the weekly transaction deadline, a team may submit a bid for one or more free agents. These bids will be submitted to the selected statistics service along with normal weekly transactions.

The minimum bid for any player not previously on any team's roster (i.e. drafted on draft day or previously acquired as a free agent) shall be \$1; the maximum bid shall be the amount remaining in a team's budget under the \$500 cap.

The minimum bid for any player who has been on any team's roster in the current season (i.e. drafted on draft day or acquired as a free-agent) but subsequently released into the free agent player pool, is the higher of the player's draft day price (list or auction) or the bid amount spent on the player as a free-agent.

A free agent goes to the highest bidder. If more than one team submits the same high bid, the player goes to the team that is lowest in the most recently compiled standings.

In any given week, teams may acquire as many free agents on which it was the high bidder until it runs out of roster spots to fill, players to bid upon or available budget. Teams cannot submit total contingency bids on all players pursued that add up to an amount that exceeds the number of units remaining in their budget.

There is no restriction on the types of players who may be bid on – Majors, minors, foreign leagues are all okay – with the exception of players on another Roto500 active or reserve roster.

Players acquired via a free agent bid may be placed on a team's active roster if they are an active major league player. Alternatively, they may be placed on a team's reserve roster regardless of professional league or DL status. The following information must be submitted to the online Statistics service when placing free-agent bids:

- The name of the player being bid upon
- The amount of the bid
- The associated move that will clear a roster spot if that player is acquired.

Free-agents bids must be listed in hierarchical order. Each team shall identify the players who are being replaced by their bids, and where more than one player could be replaced by acquired free agents, the order in which their players shall be replaced. [The statistics service may dictate how this process works in detail]

PLAYER RELEASES

When a player is released to the free-agent pool, the team reclaims the player salary to his budget. For example, if Albert Pujols was won in a draft day auction at \$65 and subsequently released to the free-agent pool for any reason, the owning team frees up that \$65 in its \$500 budget to spend on either free-agents or other player acquisitions (e.g. trades).

(In the above example, subsequent free agent bidding on Pujols would open at \$65.)

TRADES

Trades may be made at any time from the conclusion of the draft until August 31. Statistics will take effect at the weekly reporting period.

Teams are free to make trades of any kind so long as the active rosters of the teams involved in the trade reflect the required position distribution upon the completion of the transaction and the \$500 salary cap for each participating team is not exceeded after the trade's completion.

Any player may be traded to another team's active roster or reserve list.

Roster moves made by a team that involve its reserve list or the free agent pool and its active roster may be made simultaneous with a trade in order to meet roster and/or salary cap requirements.

Failure to replace a traded player and bring a team's roster to its legal limit will result in the nullification of the trade.

Failure to ensure each team's \$500 salary cap is not exceeded after a trade [and related moves] is completed will result in the nullification of the trade.

DEADLINES

Transactions may be made beginning the second Monday after draft day.

WEEKLY: All free agent bids and trade transactions must be communicated to the SWAT by 12:01am EDT Mondays (midnight Sunday). All winning free-agent bids will be communicated by the Online Statistics service to the league by noon EDT on Monday. All roster moves to accommodate free agent and trade acquisitions must be made by the start of the first Major League game on Monday. If there are no Monday games scheduled (such as during the All Star Break), the deadline will be Monday at 5:00 pm EDT.

All weekly transactions will be based on the Major League roster composition as of 12:01 am EDT, Mondays.

FEE SCHEDULE and RELATED:

- There are no fees.
- Your active participation throughout the year and provision of feedback during and after the year are expected.

DRAFT DAY: All owners who accept the invitation to participate are expected to be present to draft in person. There will be no remote drafting via phone or internet. An owner may offer to provide a proxy.

ILLEGAL MOVES: All illegal player moves made by a league member will be nullified. For an illegal draft pick, the player will be immediately released back into the free agent pool. For an illegal roster move, the transaction will be nullified and any affected statistics will be recalculated back to the date of the offense.

REMOVAL OF OWNERS: An owner may be removed from a league at any time, for any reason, by vote of the owners if they deem the removal to be in the best interest of the Roto500 league. All decisions are final.

Any issues not covered by this Constitution will revert to the rules as stated in the Official Constitution in Rotisserie League Baseball. BaseballHQ.com and its representatives will rule on any issues not covered by the RLBA constitution.

Rule changes may be made for subsequent seasons. While the 2012 season is being played as a keeper league, there is no guarantee that it will continue beyond this year.