

# **OFFICIAL ROTISSERIE 500 CONSTITUTION - 2013**

## **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

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 are the upcoming season's assigned price, as determined above.

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.

Each team must acquire 23 active and healthy (i.e. not on the DL) major league players for their active roster and up to 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 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 decided that they have completed their rosters. The active roster need not be completed within a team's first 23 picks. Teams do not need to fill all 17 reserve slots; they just need to leave the draft with a valid 23-man active roster.

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

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

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

## **BUDGET**

Once a team has spent their \$500 on the draft and free agent acquisitions, they can no longer pick up new players. This is not a salary cap, it's a budget.

The only way to get money back towards the budget is if a player is declared out for the year and released by his owner.

## **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](http://BaseballReference.com).

## **RESERVE LIST**

The reserve list consists of up to 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 first Sunday in May, and following with the first Sunday of each month through September, players may be signed in a free agent draft in the following manner:

A serpentine draft will be held through email, with the order determined by the inverse of the current standings.

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

Free agents will have an established list price; this pre-set dollar amount will be calculated as each player's current Rotisserie value to-date or \$10, whichever is higher.

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 commissioner for the monthly purchases:

- The name of the player being bid upon
- The player salary, from the calculated value sheet
- The associated move that will clear a roster spot if that player is acquired, if needed.

## **PLAYER RELEASES**

When a player is released to the free-agent pool, no money is refunded to the team's budget. The only exception is when a player is determined to be out for the year.

## **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. The salary of players traded do not affect the team budgets.

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 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.

## **DEADLINES**

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

**WEEKLY:** Trade transactions must be communicated to the SWAT by 12:01am EDT Mondays (midnight Sunday). 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.

**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 2013 season is being played as a keeper league, there is no guarantee that it will continue beyond this year.