

Dear IRBL Members:

Although I haven't received responses from all the managers to newsletter#2, I'm rushing this out so that the trading and injury rules can be changed before teams begin trading. I have been persuaded by several managers to delete rules #28, #21, and #30. The rules for a liberal use of players should be balanced by Replay's injury factor. I received statistics from Dennis Bialaszewski which showed that over a 137 game span, the injury factor accurately allowed the players to appear in their actual games played. Although pitchers don't have this injury factor to counterbalance their use, I think it would be best to leave the pitcher use rules as is. In future seasons their will be teams that will be short of pitchers if they were too severely restricted to their actual innings. I have found this to be the case in other leagues I have been in. Since we are not trying to replay an actual season realistically, but we are building our own teams, I don't see why this should bother anyone.

The first reason for deleting rule #21 was that nobody could decipher it. Instead of putting out an instruction booklet to explain that rule, I think it would be better to do away with it and to make the IRBL as independent from the major leagues as possible. The way I had it originally, a major league team could trade 4 rookies who never had cards for a player who had an IRBL card. One IRBL team would still have the player who had the card plus he would get the rookies when they had cards in the following season. This would create unbalances in our league. I think the best solution is the following rule:

31) By March 1 of each year, all teams with more than 25 player cards must release enough players to reach 25 or below. All new cards and released players will form a common draft pool. In the future, when a team has more than 40 players on his roster, he must reduce his roster to 40 or less. These released players will also become part of the draft pool. Starting with the team with the worst record, the draft will alternate league by league up to the best record team. The 3 worst teams in each league will pick 2 players before the rest of the teams draft (in other words, the worst 6 teams draft one each; then the draft begins again with the worst team this time alternating until all teams have a chance to draft). There will be more rounds if players remain unpicked until all teams either fill their rosters or decide to stop. A team may continue to pick a player when his turn arrives if he has less than 25 cards and he wishes to pick a card or until he has 40 players if he wishes to pick a player that does not have a card that season.

I may have drawn out the wording a little on #31, but I wanted to make sure everyone found it clear. I hope everyone finds this an improvement. This should assure a team that is weak of becoming a contender within a year or two. At least losing teams will have something to look forward to. In other leagues, someone with a really bad team might think of quitting, in the IRBL he would be less inclined to do so. Once again, please send any suggestions or criticism. I hope that those teams who have already made trades under the old rules that contradict the new rules will agree to renegotiate the trade. If any teams object, let me know and we will work out an agreement. Once the season starts, I will not make changes without a majority vote of the league. Please don't think that these changes indicate that the rules will be changed every other week by me.

There are now 10 definite managers and 5 more who I am waiting for their second reply. I am placing ADs in 2 more Scoreboard issues. Most of the replies from you indicate that you want or will be willing to go with all the teams. Anyone who feels this will take up too much of his time, please let me know and I will handle those road games with your team myself. If anyone wishes to manage 1 team in each league, either temporarily or permanently, send me your list of 2nd choices from the remaining teams.

Some NL managers do not like the idea of using the DH. All NL send me your vote for or against the DH. The majority will rule. Of course, if the DH is in effect, you still can bat your pitchers if you choose to.

Here are 3 more managers:

PITTSBURGH PIRATES
Dan McGuigan
1777 Saxony Lane
Houston, Texas 77058
713-333-2268

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS
Jacky Smith
612 Wayne Drive
Rockford, Illinois 61111
815-633-3914

CHICAGO WHITE SOX
Dennis Bialaszewski
380 Florida Street
Buffalo, New York 14208
716-882-7673

Telephone #'s:

Ralph Frey (Reds) C.B. Butzky (Cubs)
614-262-2359 214-270-7044

Teams tentatively chosen:

Athletics; Expos; Orioles; Mets; Giants.

It might not be a bad idea to wait until the cards come out before finalizing any trades. You may be wrong if you guess which fringe players will be given cards. Under the new rule, you can only trade and trade for players that have or have had cards for an IRBL team. You can also trade your 1st, 2nd, etc. round draft picks for next season or for future seasons. No team can trade 2 1st round draft picks for the same season since by the time the 6 worst teams have been mathematically selected, the trading deadline would have been over anyway. The 2 picks could be traded after the season when trading opens again.

I believe I have eliminated most of the rules that have been criticized. I hope everyone is satisfied with the present rules.

Until next time.....

BARRY KOOPERSMITH

P.S.-The leagues and divisions will be aligned exactly as the major leagues. There will be no trades involving the open teams until a permanent manager is found for that team.