Continuing League Owners

Fall, 2021:

Now that the regular season is over you CAN start trading again. Please do send us a trade notice when you make a trade, as we need the trade notices so that we can keep updated rosters. By far the best way to report a trade is to use the ‘trade report’ link on your league’s home webpage. Also, we need to hear from both owners involved before the trade can go thru. And please do *not* make any trades unless you plan on keeping your team next season!

Every couple of weeks during the off-season we will update league rosters with all of the trades that have been reported to us. We will also send out new updated league rosters showing all the off-season trades when next year's draft packets go out in mid-January. Protected lists are normally due in early February, a couple of weeks *after* next year’s player lists are posted. Please note that early February is the normal time when keeper lists are due, but it is possible that the labor negotiations going on in MLB may push back the timeline for 2022 depending on when an agreement is reached. There is more on that at the end of this letter.

Each team has the rights to protect 13 players. You can *not* just protect 10 players and get the first 3 picks of the draft. However, you can trade away one of your protected spots for other players or draft picks. In other words, team 5 could trade with team 2 for one of team 2's protected spots - meaning team 5 would protect 14 guys, and team 2 would protect 12. If you trade away a protected spot or draft pick you WILL end up with less players - you will NOT have 35 players at the end of drafting if you trade away draft picks!

In addition to your 13 regular players protected every year, you can also protect any 'Scoresheet minor leaguers' you have on your roster. Scoresheet minor leaguers are defined as a player who does not have more than 130 career major league at-bats, or does not have more than 50 career major league innings pitched. Players who qualify as minor leaguers have an asterisk (*) or an 'm' next to their name on your league rosters.

Each minor leaguer you protect costs you one of your pre-season draft picks - you lose one of your team’s draft picks for every minor leaguer you protect, regardless of any draft pick trades you’ve made. It is the latest pre-season picks that you own that you lose, so if you have traded for another team’s round 35 pick for instance that pick can/will be lost before you lose your own round 34 pick. Basically, if you keep 4 minor leaguers for instance you lose the latest 4 pre-season picks you own, starting backwards from round 35 (the final pre-season round for leagues following our normal rules.) Being able to lose picks you have traded for and not just your own picks is a *NEW* rule! You can also protect as many minor leaguers as you like with your 13 regular protected spots if for some reason you want to do that (though doing so does not make much sense.)

You will be limited to protecting no more than 3 (three!) regular players that are on the other league's Scoresheet player lists next year (the 2022 player lists.) But like always, if you protect or draft a guy and he is traded later in 2022 to the other league, you can still keep him for the entire 2022 season.

**NOTE:** If you protect a minor leaguer who is listed on the other league's player list he does NOT count against this 'two players from the other league limit'.

The protected stage of the draft counts is rounds 1 thru 13, so picks in rounds 1 thru 13 are keeper spots. Then the draft itself starts with round 14 and continues thru round 35. You can also trade draft picks. However, you can only trade draft picks up to one year ahead - you can now trade for any year 2022 draft pick, but not for any 2023 picks. After a draft round has been held in 2022 then you can trade for those round's 2023 picks. When trading draft picks please make clear exactly which round you are trading - for instance round 14 is the first round of real drafting (since you
are keeping 13 players.) Round 36 is the first pick of the first in-season supplemental draft. If you trade away draft picks you will end up with a smaller number of players on your team at the end of the draft, and the team you traded a pick to will end up with more players. So if you trade away picks you will *not* get extra picks at the end of the draft to get your roster to 35 players.

**DRAFT NOTE:** For the 2022 baseball season, we will again be having **five** 2 round in-season drafts, one near the end of each month. There will be a two round draft in the middle of April (rounds 36 and 37), two rounds in late May (rounds 38-39), two rounds in late June will be rounds 40-41, two rounds in late July (42-43, held *after* the July MLB draft) which and two rounds in late August (rounds 44-45). **NOTE:** In 2021 the MLB amateur draft was held in July, so it was round 42 that was the first in-season draft round where the newly drafted amateurs were available. With the upcoming labor negotiations it is a little uncertain when the amateur draft will be held in 2022, but the first monthly scoresheet draft after the MLB draft will be the first time teams can pick up those amateur players.

Don't forget that **round 14 picks are very valuable.** If you have a high (early) pick in round 14 we strongly suggest that you do not trade it away without getting a lot in return! After all, anyone crossing over from the other league will be available in round 14, including generally a couple of star players every season.

In every round the draft is held in the reverse order of won-loss record, except that the league's playoff winner will pick last, and the other division winner(s) will pick 2nd to last. This coming year (2022), in case of ties, the lower (smaller) numbered team (among the tied teams) drafts ahead of any higher numbered team they are tied with in all even numbered rounds, including round 14, which is the first round of real drafting in our normal Scoresheet continuing leagues that keep 13 players per team. Then the order among those tied teams keeps reversing in each round thereafter, so in all odd numbered rounds the higher (larger) numbered team would pick first among tied teams. For example, if team 2 and team 8 are tied for the worst record in the league, then in 2022 team 2 would get the first pick in round 14, then team 8 would get the first pick in round 15, etc. We do flip-flop the tie-breaker every year.

If you have a friend (or two) who would like to get into your league please let us know that also. It does turn out that many leagues have one or two owners drop out during the off-season, and we'd rather fill that spot with someone who is a friend of one of the owners in that league. If more than one person wants to pick up that orphaned team then the first new owner to pay next year's team fee is the one who gets that team - makes sense, eh?

Have a great off-season, and keep thinking baseball. We hope that you had a lot of fun during this past year, and that you are looking forward to the start of the next baseball season as much as we are.

Have Fun, and Play Ball!

**P.S.** Once again - **Please** take a minute and send us a trade report as soon as you make a trade. We don't charge for off-season trades; we sure hope that in appreciation you can send in the trade notice immediately so that we can keep up with your trades. **And please do NOT make any trades if you are not returning for the 2022 season.** In past years we've had to veto a couple of trades because one of the owners did not keep his team, and since players often get traded from team to team in the off-season, one vetoed trade ended up negating about a dozen trades! Thanks for your cooperation!

**P.P.S. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TIMELINE DISCUSSED ABOVE IS OUR *NORMAL* TIMELINE.** However, as we all know, the owners and players are negotiating a new labor agreement, and it is of course possible that there will be a lockout beginning December 1st, which could well mean no free agent signings, a delay to the start of spring training, etc. The majority of our Scoresheet leagues are AL or NL players only, and so if there is a freeze on player signings we will have to push back the creation and finalizing of player lists until a labor agreement is settled and players get signed.
(we will need to do that to get players in the proper league.) It is all guesswork now, but we will keep everyone updated as the fall and winter move along and we have updated news to go by.