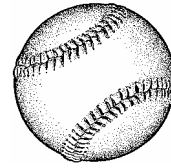




The Secretariat
Brindlee Mountain Rotisserie Baseball Association
P.O. Box 602, Arab, Alabama 35016
www.bmrba.com



February 9, 2004

Winter Meeting

The annual Winter Meeting was held as scheduled on Sunday, January 25, at the Golden Rule Restaurant in Arab. A quorum was achieved by the presence of 16 franchises represented by the following Owners: Larry Holder, Ron Jordan, Keith Poole, Phil Laney, Dave Miller, Josh Phillips, Chris Leak, Steve Flack, Olen McClendon, and, of course, Yours Truly. Mark Avery's and Zane Laney's teams were represented by Dave Miller and Phil Laney, respectively.

It would be an understatement to say the discussion was brisk on a number of issues, not the least of which was a serious debate on the voting process itself. I will attempt to summarize the topics of discussion, beginning with some administrative matters that were resolved, but have no substantive effect on the Bylaws.

- **Schedule for 2004 Season**

The Owners agreed on a schedule for Roster Freeze and Auction Day as explained below. Separately, the Owners also voted to incorporate this schedule into the Bylaws. Please refer to item 1 below for details.

Roster Freeze (both leagues): Sunday, March 21, 12:00 Noon
Auction Day American: Saturday, April 3, 9:00 AM
Auction Day National: Sunday, April 4, 10:00 AM

In accordance with the adopted draft schedule, it was further agreed that Yours Truly would again extract the draft rosters from MLB.com at Noon on April 2, 2004, and place them on our website, much as was done last year to provide "opening day" rosters.

- **Stat Software for 2004**

It was agreed that GrandSlam[®] software will again be used for our weekly stats. The cost is still \$225 to cover both leagues. This amount will be paid – as we have done for years – from the prize pool.

- **Web Development Project**

It was agreed, by a vote of 13-3, that we should fund additional work toward our effort to modify our website to enable online, interactive, transaction processing. To that end, an additional \$500 will be spent: \$250 from the Owners at \$10 per team, payable with the Franchise Fee on Auction Day; and another \$250 from the BMRBA "capital" fund. It was noted that the capital fund presently has a balance of about \$735.

- **Replacing the “Yoo-Hoo Shampoo”**

This traditional event to crown the victors each season has been deemed by some to be hazardous in terms of one’s health and thus also the potential cause of an unwanted and unnecessary law suit against the homeowners and/or participants. The issue was tabled for further discussion at a later date. Between now and the end of this season, we must consider this issue and go forward with something new or decide to retain the tradition of the “shampoo.”

- **Rules Changes**

In the following paragraphs, the various rules change proposals (these are still on the “Off-Season” web page) and their final dispositions are summarized (as nearly as possible), beginning with those adopted by the Committee-of-the-Whole. It should be noted that items 1, 2, and 6 below change nothing in the way we conduct our business, but simply clarify the written procedures as defined in the Bylaws.

1. **Adopted** by an 11-5 vote. Modify **Article 1.1.4.3**, regarding **Auction Day(s)**, to stipulate that the annual auctions be held on the “weekend following Opening Day, unless said weekend is also Easter weekend. In such a case, the auctions shall be held on Opening Day weekend.” In the event Auction Day conflicts with Easter and Opening Day is not on a weekend, Auction Day will be the weekend before Opening Day.
2. **Adopted** by a 15-1 vote. Modify **Article 7.2.1.2**, regarding **Position Eligibility**, to include the words "at a position" following "...20 Major League Games" to clarify the rule.
3. **Adopted** by a 15-1 vote. Modify **Article 8.3**, regarding the **Tie-Breaking Procedure**, to
 - A. Better explain who the "winners" and "losers" are in cases of ties; and
 - B. Clarify the term "most recent standings" as the determining factor in the tie-breaking procedure.
4. **Adopted** by a 16-0 vote. Modify **Article 9.1**, regarding **Transaction Deadlines and Effective Dates**, to require the Secretary to "reserve" all players received in a trade when one (or more) of the trading owners fails to report the transactions necessary to meet roster integrity requirements. This process, it should be noted, will only affect the “offending” team.
5. **Adopted** by a 16-0 vote. Modify **Article 9.2.1.1**, regarding the **Limited Trading Period**, to require these trades be reported by Midnight, July 31, instead of Noon, August 1.
6. **Adopted** by a 16-0 vote. Modify **Article 9.2.1.2**, regarding the **Contiguous Team Trading Period**, to
 - A. Add a sentence requiring use of the Tie-Breaking Procedure, when applicable, to determine which teams are truly contiguous; and
 - B. Change the reporting deadline for these trades to Midnight, August 31, instead of Noon, September 1.
7. **Adopted** by a 15-1 vote. Modify **Article 9.3**, regarding **Waivers and Waiver Claims**, to clarify the rule and to restore its intent by
 - A. Expanding it to explain in greater detail the process by which claimed players are awarded; and

- B. Clarifying the term "most recent standings" as the determining factor in awarding waiver claims.

The following other proposals were discussed, debated, and generally dissected before being rejected for one reason or another. Please note that the voting process used for items 8-11 was the object of considerable angst and contention.

7. **Rejected** by a 2-14 vote. Modify **Article 9.4.8**, regarding **Special Restriction(s) on Certain Free Agents**, to prohibit the trade, waive, or release of a free agent acquired during the season at a salary greater than \$24. A similar proposal, prohibiting only the trade of such players, was also rejected by a vote of 5-11.
8. **Rejected** for want of a voting quorum, although the vote was 10-0 in favor. Add **Article 9.4.9**, providing for a means by which a team's FAAB account may be reimbursed when a player is lost to the other ML via trade.
9. **Rejected** for want of a voting quorum. Modify **Article 10.0**, regarding National League Awards, to eliminate the cash award for the fifth place team.
10. **Rejected** for want of a voting quorum. Modify **Article 10.0**, regarding National League Awards, retaining a prize for fifth-place, but changing the award percentages.
11. **Rejected** for want of a voting quorum, although the vote was 7-5 in favor. Modify **Article 12.2.1.3**, such that an "R" type player may be kept, at Roster Freeze, on an Active roster with a Contract Status of "A" rather than "B." Before the vote, this proposal was amended to include proposal number 12, requiring all players not on an opening day roster on Auction Day be returned to the player pool.

A number of Owners present were incensed, one way or another, about some confusion in our Bylaws related to a "quorum" and "voting rights." This topic will most definitely be on next winter's agenda for full clarification with a likely assist from Robert's Rules of Order. I have not yet decided whether the likes of Jefferson and Madison would be pleased or horrified at this example of democracy in action, but I'm sure they'd be elated such debates actually occur throughout our society after more than 200 years...

See y'all on Auction Day – both of them....

Rhett Leak
Secretary, BMRBA