

Rules Changes to Consider for 2017

These proposals are on the docket for discussion at the Winter Meeting on January 29, 2017. Please review and prepare to discuss. If you have others, please prepare to explain, justify, and discuss.

1. Article 9.4.8.3. Eliminate credit for keeping a \$25 free agent in a following season.

When Cole Hamels was retained last spring at 29X, it effectively reduced the Owner's Franchise Fee from \$260 to \$231, thus also reducing the prize pool for 2016 by \$29, even though that amount had been paid into the pool for 2015.

2. Article 6.1.1. Allow *anyone* to be bought in the auction; or, alternatively, allow *anyone on the Rotowire free agent list* to be bought in the Auction.

Purpose is to simplify, simplify, but either of these ideas has its own set of complications. This issue needs a small committee to sit down together and analyze options before next winter.

3. Articles 6.1 and 6.1.3. Revise Auction Day position eligibility to equal the MLB position (or positions) as indicated on Rotowire's free agent list.

This affects only those who played in MLB the previous season and raises the question of eligibility at multiple positions. For example, Trea Turner is listed as a 2B in Rotowire, but under our current rules also qualifies as an OF.

4. Article (several) Clarify meaning of "most recent" or "previous week" standings as it may affect claims, bids, and tie-breakers, etc.

We currently are using the most recent complete week as was done before we implemented the use of Rotowire. For example, affected transactions for Monday, June 12, would refer back to Sunday, June 4, because our transactions took a few days to process. Using Rotowire, we could use the standings as of Sunday night, June 11.

5. Article 9.2.1. Change our non-waiver trade deadline (presently midnight, July 31) to better coincide with that of MLB. The MLB date may vary. Although it was typically July 31 for many years, in 2016 it was at 4 PM, on Monday, August 1.

We have long tried to avoid the risk of making trades just before the deadline. This change would make it always at midnight on MLB's deadline date. Another alternative would be to move our date to Noon, on the next Monday transaction deadline.

6. Article 9.4. Redefine a Free Agent as an Active MLB player who is also on the Rotowire free agent list.

This change would resolve the issue discovered last year when Aroldis Chapman was traded to the NL, but did not appear on the Cubs roster or on the free agent list for a few days.

7. Article (several) Require/allow Commissioner to cut rosters as necessary when an Owner drops out or misses a deadline by a few days.

Activity ceases while the Owners wait for someone to take care of necessary business.

8. Allow teams to pick up free agents after 9/1 for players that have been lost due to trade

9. Allow any player – even those in the minor leaguers – to be activated.

10. Allow daily transactions.