

Disposition of Rules Change Proposals: Several rules changes were voted on, resulting in approval or rejection as summarized below from the Winter Meeting held in January 2018 and subsequent voting..

The whole **Shohei Ohtani** discussion was lengthy, lightly heated at times, and remains unresolved because a few owners had to leave before we put it all to an up or down vote. Those who remained were able to agree on a recommendation. This will be documented separately and sent out to the Owners for a formal vote.

The Following Proposals Were **Approved:**

1. **Article 8.1:** Corrected an error in the Bylaws by confirming the current minimum number of accumulated At Bats should be 5000. Note this is just not a change, but a correction. The vote in favor was unanimous, 15-0.
2. **Article 1.1.4.2:** Change Auction Dates to precede Opening Day, rather than follow it. Effectively, Auctions will now always be held on the weekend before Opening Day, except when that weekend conflicts with Easter, in which case the Auction Dates shall be the weekend following Easter. The vote in favor was unanimous, 15-0.
3. **Articles 9.3 and 9.4** (and others as necessary): Change the Free Agent acquisition process such that it can be more fully automated using Rotowire's built-in functions as fully as practical. Several elements were agreed upon, including the recognition that once the season starts, we may encounter issues that we have not yet considered and that they will be dealt with as fairly and expeditiously as possible. Specifically, the changes are as indicated below. The vote in favor was 13-2.
 - A. Eliminate the current Waiver process completely.
 - B. Teams will submit FA bids online via Rotowire by selecting a FA, entering a bid amount as required, and selecting a player to be released into the free agent pool. All bids are to be reviewed and validated by the Secretary before they are reported.
 - C. All "released" players effectively become free agents for the next weekly cycle, assuming they stay in the league and are identified as Free Agents in Rotowire.
 - D. Eligible free agents are those players identified as Free Agents on 40-man rosters in Rotowire *only*. Note that eligible players include minor leaguers and others provided they meet this requirement.
 - E. Teams may release players from their Reserve roster as desired, provided the acquired free agent is made a Reserve. Once the FA process is completed, teams may choose to activate such players as they wish, provided the usual roster integrity is maintained.
 - F. Related transactions that may be required to complete a successful bid must, as always, be submitted via email to the Secretary by the weekly deadline which remains Noon, each Monday. Failure to do so will invalidate the FA bid.
 - G. FA Bids will be processed weekly and are due no later than Noon Monday each week.
 - H. The Secretary will, if possible via Rotowire, display all bids for Owner review.
 - I. Other requirements for FA bids are unchanged, *but it is understood that there may be further changes required as necessary to properly implement this major change.*

The Following Proposals Were **Rejected:**

1. **Article 8.2:** Change the minimum for innings pitched to 1100 (currently it is 1000). The vote was 7 in favor, 8 opposed.
2. **Article 6.2:** Revise the order of the reserve draft. The vote was 3 in favor, 12 opposed.

3. **Articles 8.1 and 8.2:** Change the way we penalize teams that do not reach the IP and/or AB minimum requirements. The vote was 4 in favor, 11 opposed.

The Following Proposal Was **Withdrawn**:

Article 9.2.3.11: A proposal to repeal this provision that prohibits Owners with teams in both leagues from making trades in both leagues without a 2-week interval was withdrawn.

The Ohtani Solution

Heated and lengthy debate and minor changes made during the voting resulted in a temporary agreement on how to handle 2-way players. It is summarized here with the final 16-6 approval vote following. The main point of contention was whether to regard Ohtani as a one player or as two and, if two, whether to let be traded or released or acquired independently of each other.

1. This recommended solution shall apply only to players identified in Rotowire as “2-way” players. At present that one player is Shohei Ohtani.
2. It is intended that these rules shall not compromise the requirement to maintain the integrity of all rosters at exactly 40 players, without exception, at all times.
3. Ohtani will take up two places on his Owner’s Reserve roster at positions 13 and 14, each with a contract of 2R. If other players are deemed 2-way players by Auction Day, they will be assigned to Reserve roster position as suggested by their salaries.
4. At Roster Freeze, Ohtani’s Owner may activate one or both toward his limit of keeping 12 players on his Active roster. In that case, the one or two salaries (\$2-\$4) shall count against the Owner’s \$260 Auction budget. An activated Ohtani’s Contract would become that of an “A” player. If retained as Reserves, the Ohtanis will take two of the three allotted Reserve roster positions for Rookies.
5. During the coming season, Ohtani’s Owner may release either player to pick up a free agent and trade one or the other, provided other trade requirements are met.
6. Furthermore, the two Ohtanis may be activated or reserved independently of the other and, if desired, both may be active or reserved at the same time on the same team’s roster.
7. Either of the two Ohtanis may be released at any time, thus becoming free agents, and therefore subject to acquisition via the FA bid process.
8. This recommendation, if adopted, shall apply to the 2018 season only and should be reviewed for its applicability and/or modification at the next Winter Meeting.
9. It is also understood that conditions may arise during the course of the season that have not been addressed fully and need to be re-visited again to more fully implement the intent agreed upon.

The above agreement has been added to the Bylaws (Version 21) as Appendix A.

The detailed vote on this approved agreement follows.

Formal Vote on Ohtani III Proposal (February 2018)

Team / Vote	YES	NO
AARP Wonders	X	
AC Power	X	
ACT 17		X
Alabama Slammers	Not Voting	
Boys of Summer	X	
Buckner's Glove	X	
Dittoheads	X	
Jaw Jackers	X	
Jazzmen	X	
La Cabra Cubano	X	
Minnix Minosos	X	
Mule Skinners		X
Music Men	X	
Phil of Dreams		X
Philly's		X
Re-Run DMC	X	
Rhett Butlers	X	
Rhett's Ramblers	X	
Roger's Ramjets	Not Voting	
Skinner's Revenge		X
Smitty's Smackers	X	
Thunder Prospects	X	
Yankees Suck	X	
Zane Grays		X
<i>Total Votes Y and N</i>	16 Yes	6 No
<i>Needed to Approve</i>	14.67	
<i>Result</i>	APPROVED	