Little East Rotisserie Baseball League

Official Constitution

REVISION ***ε***

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ARTICLE I. OBJECT

To assemble a lineup of 23 National League baseball players[1] whose cumulative statistics during the regular season, compiled and measured by the methods described in these rules, exceed those of all other teams in the League.

ARTICLE II. TEAMS

There are 12 teams in the Little East Rotisserie League, composed solely of National League players (with the possible exception of players traded to the American League during the season. See **Article XVII – Replacing Players,** Section 1(n)). If and when the National League expands beyond 15 teams, the Little East Rotisserie League may also expand, to be decided by a vote of current owners. Similarly, if the National League contracts by one or more, the Little East Rotisserie League may also contract, to be decided by a vote of current owners.

ARTICLE III. OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

- All owners must have email and access to the Internet.
- All owners are expected to make all reasonable efforts to attend the draft in person.
- During the season, all owners must keep their rosters whole. This entails having an active National League player filling each of the required positions (as defined in **Article IV - Roster**) of a Little East Rotisserie Team.
- Fees must be paid promptly to the Little East Treasurer. Owners must pay at least $200 by start of the minor league draft. All post-season fees must be paid by December 15, or the Winter Meeting, whichever is later. Violators face expulsion from the league.
- Owners must abide by the rules outlined in this document.

ARTICLE IV. ROSTER

A team's active roster consists of the following players (23):

[1] In some circumstances, American League players can be temporarily active with a Little East team.

- Four outfielders
- Two catchers
- One second baseman
- One shortstop
- One middle infielder (either second base or shortstop)
- One first baseman
- One third baseman
- One corner man (either first or third base)
- One utility player (any non-pitching position)
- Nine pitchers
- One super-utility player (can be any hitter or pitcher)

Up to two players may be added to a Little East Rotisserie League team's roster in August (see **Article XVIII - Roster Expansion**).

Each team also has a **Reserve Roster** of up to two players. The reserve roster may be used when a minor leaguer has been promoted by his NL team, but the player's Little East owner does not wish to activate him. Stats of players on the reserve roster are not counted, and the players' salaries do not count against the in-season salary cap. Players on the reserve roster are generally considered to be in the LERL minor leagues.

- The only time a player may be *added* to the reserve roster is if he is on a Little East minor league roster at the time he is promoted from the minor leagues to his major league team. If a player on a reserve roster is traded to another LERL team, his new team may keep him in reserve as long as the team does not exceed the two-player reserve limit.
- Assuming he is still in the major leagues, a player may be moved from the reserve roster to the major league roster on any transaction date. Once activated, however, he cannot be placed back on reserve unless he is demoted to the Little East minor leagues and subsequently recalled by his NL team.
- If a reserved player is sent back to the minor leagues by his NL team, he is automatically returned to the Little East minor league at the next transaction deadline. There is no fee charged for this move.
- Players may not be reserved until the first transaction period after the draft. If a minor leaguer is active with his major league team on Roster Freeze Day, he cannot be reserved unless he is subsequently demoted by his National League team, demoted by his Little East team, and then recalled by his National League team.
- Unless he still qualifies as a rookie by MLB standards, a player who finishes the season on a reserve roster and who is also active with his NL team at the end of the season has his status advance ("R" becomes "A", "A" becomes "B", etc.) just as if he had been active with his Little East team. If the player qualifies as a rookie, he will be treated the same as any player who ended the season in the minor leagues.

ARTICLE V. POSITION ELIGIBILITY AND ROSTER STATUS

A player is eligible at any position where he:

- Played at least 20 games at in MLB in the preceding season[2];

[2] If a player did not play anywhere in the previous season, his eligibility is based on the most recent season in which he played.

- Played the most in MLB in the preceding season if he failed to appear in 20 games at one position the previous season. (If there is a tie among the positions a player played most the previous year, he is eligible at all the tied positions. In addition, he is eligible at any position where he appeared in at least 50 games in the minor leagues.); OR
- Has played at least three games at in the current season

DH is considered a position. If a player qualifies only as a DH based on the above rules, he may only be placed at Utility. Any player who qualifies at any hitting positions may also be placed at utility.

To qualify as a pitcher, a player must meet the same standards as for any hitter position.

A player may occupy no more than one position at a time. If a player qualifies as a pitcher and also at a hitting position ("two-way player"), he can be played at either position, but can only play one position at a time. As noted in **Article XIII - Standings**, neither a hitter's pitching stats nor a pitcher's hitter stats count in the standings (i.e., in any given week, a two-way player may earn hitter stats or pitcher stats, but not both). A two-way player may be moved between pitcher and a hitting position on any regular transaction day.

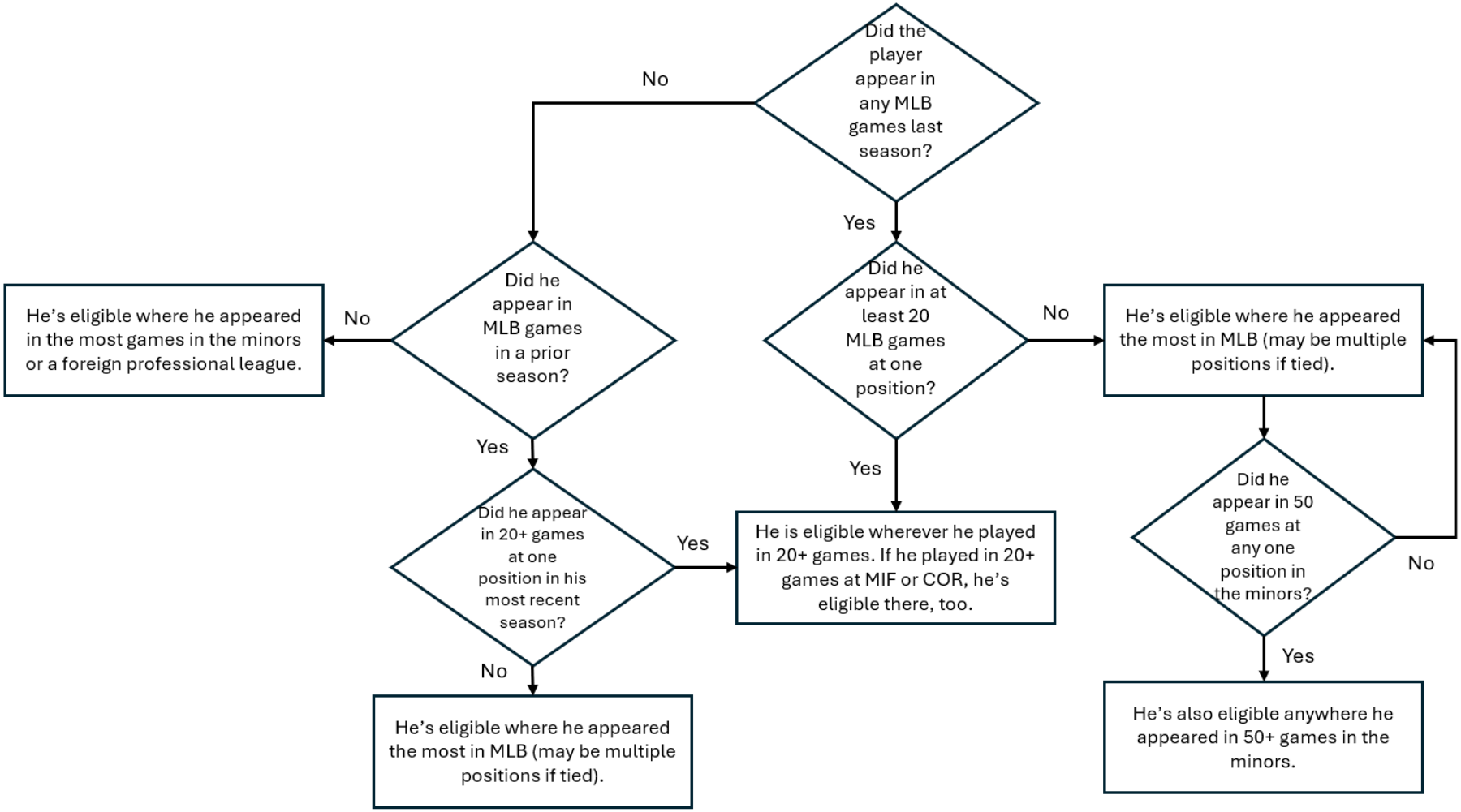
A player is also eligible at middle infield if he has accumulated enough games between second base and shortstop, even if he has not accumulated enough games at one of the two positions to qualify at that position (i.e., a player with 12 games at second base and 10 games at shortstop in the prior season would qualify at middle infield). The same is true of players who have accumulated enough games at the two corner positions[3].

If a player appeared in the MLB the prior season, but in fewer than 20 games at any one position, he is eligible at any position where he appeared in 50 or more games in the minor leagues the prior season, in addition to any eligibility gained through where he played in MLB the prior season.

Players that have not played any games at a position in the major leagues throughout their career are eligible at the position they played the *most* the previous year (or the most recent year, if they did not play in the previous season) in the minors, amateur baseball, or in the Japanese or Korean professional leagues, or at any position at which they have appeared in at least 20 minor-league games in the current season.

Baseball-reference.com is the official source of games played data. Fangraphs Roster Resources is the official source of a player's roster status (major league, minor league, IL, etc.).

[3] This does not apply to the in-season three-game minimum.


Did the player appear in any MLB games last season?
No
Yes
Did he appear in MLB games in a prior season?
No
He's eligible where he appeared in the most games in the minors or a foreign professional league.
Yes
Did he appear in 20+ games at one position in his most recent season?
Yes
He is eligible wherever he played in 20+ games. If he played in 20+ games at MIF or COR, he's eligible there, too.
No
He's eligible where he appeared the most in MLB (may be multiple positions if tied).
Did he appear in at least 20 MLB games at one position?
No
He's eligible where he appeared the most in MLB (may be multiple positions if tied).
Yes
Did he appear in 50 games at any one position in the minors?
No
Yes
He's also eligible anywhere he appeared in 50+ games in the minors.

ARTICLE VI. PLAYER STATUS

The player statuses are as follows:

Status	Description	Years Left	Becomes at End of Season
A	First year on LERL roster: Either drafted, signed as free agent (except from AL, see below), or promoted from the LERL minor leagues after having already appeared on a LERL major league roster	2 years until option year	B
B	Second year on LERBL roster without being demoted to minors or becoming free agent	1 year until option year	Opt
C	Either: 1) A player in his option year who is kept for one more year at same salary or 2) A player who was a "D" status last year.	1 year until free agency	Free Agent
D	Player signed to long term contract	2 years until free agency	C
E	Player signed to long term contract	3 years until free agency	D
F	Player signed to long term contract	4 years until free agency	E
G	Player signed to long term contract	5 years until free agency	F
R	A first-year player who was promoted from a LERL minor league roster, without having ever been active with a Little East team	3 years until option year	A
Opt	Player in his option year. He may be: 1) Signed to a long-term contract (see **Article XIX – The Option Year and Long-Term Contracts**); 2) Kept for one year; or 3) Released	Variable	N/A

Note that trading a player does not affect his status. Only a player cut or (in some cases) demoted to the minor leagues by his Little East team will undergo a change in status. A player demoted to the minor leagues retains his status upon promotion back to his Little East roster if recalled within the same season. If the player with a "B" status ends or begins the season in the LERL minors, his status becomes "A" unless he has 6+ years of MLB service time.

If a player kept by a Little East team at Roster Freeze is on the LERL IL for the entire season (i.e., zero playing time), his status does not advance in the following season.

A player's status may also have a number for additional tracking. The number is informational only; it is the letter that determines the player's status. Current numbers in use:

- A1: acquired as an NL free agent in the current season
- A2: acquired as an AL free agent in the current season
- C1: Player who was in his option year and was kept as a "C" status
- C2: Player who is in the final year of a long-term contract
- R1: Rookie player who is currently or has previously been active with his LERL team

- R2: Rookie player who has been traded to the AL and is thus entitled to compensation

If a player is released and re-acquired by the same team in the next transaction period, his salary and status shall be the same as they were prior to the release.

ARTICLE VII. DRAFT DAY

The draft is conducted on the first weekend after Opening Day of the baseball season. It has two components: the Minor League Draft and the Major League (Auction) Draft.

1) The **Minor League Player Draft** is conducted immediately preceding the Major League Player Auction. During the Minor League Player Draft, each Little East Rotisserie League team may acquire eligible, unowned players.

   Circumstances may dictate that the minor league draft occur by email over several days prior to the draft. If that is the case, a player is not eligible if he is promoted to the major leagues prior to the pick being announced. However, if two or more picks are announced before the error is discovered, the pick will stand.

   A player may not be drafted as a minor leaguer, demoted to the LERL minor leagues, or kept as a minor leaguer on freeze day unless one of the following conditions is met:

   - The player is still considered a rookie by major league standards (i.e., less than 150 AB or 50 IP) and is not on an American League major or minor league roster, on a National League major league roster, or in the Japanese or Korean *professional* leagues[4].
   - The player is currently on the minor league roster (or minor league disabled list) of a National League team and has fewer than six years of MLB service time (note that players with six or more years of MLB service time may be demoted to the LERL minor leagues during the season if they are on an NL minor league roster).
   - The player ended the prior season in a Little East minor league system and was placed on a National League disabled list at the end of spring training, prior to being active with his National League team, provided that he has fewer than six years of MLB service time. When the player comes off the IL, he is treated the same as a player who has just been promoted.

2) Selection takes place in three rounds of a simple draft, not an auction.
   - The selection order in each of the three rounds is determined by the order in which the teams finished in the previous season: The 5th place team selects first, proceeding in descending order to the last place team, which is in turn followed by the 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place teams.
   - A single, overall, first pick (known as pick #0) may have been awarded to a team based on that team's second half performance the previous year. See **Article XXI – Best Second Half Performance**. If this pick is awarded, it is made before the three regular rounds of minor league draft.
   - Minor league players and draft picks are considered assets of a Little East Rotisserie League team; therefore, they can be included in any trade with any other Little East Rotisserie League team.

[4] Players drafted prior to the 2024 season are grandfathered

- Each team is allowed one minute to select an eligible minor leaguer in turn, if it is a live draft.
- A team is allowed to "pass" when it is its turn to select a minor leaguer in the Minor League Draft. In doing so, that team relinquishes its right to obtain a minor leaguer for that owned selection.
- After the regular portion of the minor league draft has ended, teams that had minor leaguers traded to the American League since the last draft may be allowed compensation picks (See **Article XVII – Replacing Players**).
    - If the player was traded between Freeze Day in the previous season and Freeze Day of the current season, his team is eligible for a compensation pick if the player was selected in a previous minor league draft and had never been active with his Little East team.

3) The picks are made in the same order as the regular minor-league draft and continue until all picks have been used or passed. The **Major League Player Auction** follows the Minor League Draft.
    - Each team must acquire 23 players at a total cost not to exceed $260.
    - A team need not spend the maximum.
    - The owner who finished last the previous season nominates the first player for acquisition. Nominations then continue in a clockwise rotation, each owner nominating a player in turn.
    - The nominating team must open with a minimum salary bid of $1. Subsequent bids must be increments of $1 or more (all bids must be in whole dollars) until there are no bidders left.
    - If possible, an auctioneer will be present; if no auctioneer is available, generally an owner who is not interested in the nominated player will act in that role.
    - The highest bidding team for the nominated player acquires that player at a salary of the winning bid and must declare what roster position the player will take on his team.
    - The process is repeated, with successive team owners introducing players to be bid on, until every team has a squad of 23 players, by requisite position.
    - Players eligible at more than one position may be shifted during the draft.
    - No team may pass on introducing a player to be bid upon, unless it has filled all 23 slots on its roster.
    - No team may make a bid for a player it cannot afford.
    - No team may bid for a player who qualifies only at a position or positions that the team has already filled.
    - If at any point during the bidding for a player (including after a team has won the bid) it is discovered that a team made an ineligible bid, the auction is rolled back to before the first ineligible bid, if possible, Otherwise, the bidding on that player starts again from the initial bid.
    - Players who qualify for the LERL injured list *are* eligible to be drafted. If selected, they may be replaced upon the completion of the draft from the group of undrafted players (known as the *Free Agent Pool*). Note that if a player has appeared in at least one game prior to the draft, he cannot be replaced until the first transaction period following the draft.
    - Major-league free agents who were kept by their LERL team may also be placed on the injured list and replaced by an eligible free agent upon completion of the draft.

4) Should the weekend after Opening Day be unavailable for drafting due to a holiday or other conflict, the owners will agree upon a new date. Should Draft Day be prior to Opening Day, the following rules will apply:

- Players must be dealt with according to their MLB status at Roster Freeze. If a player is still on his NL team's roster, he must be kept on the Little East major league roster or released. If the player has been sent to the minors already, the player can be reserved on the Little East minor league roster.
- As per **Article XX – Roster Protection**, a player whose status changes between Roster Freeze and Draft Day (i.e., sent to the minors, traded [to any team], IL, released, suspended.) can be dropped from the owner's Little East roster accordingly prior to the draft. Once the draft begins, a player's status will not change even if it is discovered that he has been promoted or demoted to/from his major league team.

ARTICLE VIII. FEES

The Little East Rotisserie League has a schedule of fees covering the right of participation and all player personnel moves. No money passes directly from team to team. No bets are made on the outcome of any game. All fees are payable into the prize pool and are subsequently distributed to the prize winners. (See **Articles XII** and **XIII.**)

- **Entry Fee:** Each team must pay $200 as a yearly entry fee to participate in the Little East Rotisserie League.
- **Weekly Reward Fee:** Each team must pay $21.67 as a yearly fee to cover the weekly $10 prize paid out to the Little East Rotisserie League with the best statistics for each of the 26 weeks of play.
- **Demoting Players**: Placing a player in a Little East Rotisserie League team's minor league system after the player has been sent to the minors by a National League team will cost $5 if the player was on a Little East active roster. If the player was on a reserve roster (see **Article IV – Roster**), there is no fee to return him to the minor leagues.
- **Late Transaction**: An owner must replace a player (or players) on their current roster who is no longer active on a National League roster. If a player is not replaced by the second Thursday following his change in status, the owner will be fined $25 per week per player, with a maximum of a $50 fine per player (see **Article XI - Penalties**).
- **Keeping Minor Leaguers**: A player who is in a Little East Rotisserie League team's Minor League System from the previous season, who is on the roster of a National League associated minor league team, may be kept in that Rotisserie team's Minor League System at Roster Freeze (see **Article XX – Salary Cap**). A fee of $5 is charged for each of the first four players kept in the Minor League System, and $10 is charged for each player kept beyond the first four. There is no fee associated with the players obtained in the current year's Minor League Draft.
- **Roster Expansion**: All Little East Rotisserie Teams are allowed to add up to two players to their roster the first transaction period after the trade deadline (see **Article XVIII – Roster Expansion**). The fee for Expansion is $5 per player. If a team expands their roster, subsequently contracts, then expands again, they do not need to pay the fee again (i.e., the team pays $5 the first time it gets to 24 players and $5 the first time it gets to 25 players).
- **Long Term Contract Buyouts**: A player who has been signed to a Long-Term Contract (see **Article XIX – The Option Year and Long-Term Contracts**) cannot simply be released; he must be bought out. The fee of the buyout is the number of years left on the contract times the player's salary divided by two (Years left x Salary ÷ 2).
- **Signing Bonus**: A Little East Rotisserie League team that signs a player to a Long-Term Contract (see **Article XIX – The Option Year and Long-Term Contracts**) must pay a

Signing Bonus fee the year the player is initially signed to the Long-Term Contract. The Signing Bonus fee is the number of years of the contract times the new salary divided by 4 (Years x salary ÷ 4).

- **Doug Handler Fees**: On the occasion when a Little East Rotisserie League owner leaves the league without paying fees owed, all owners in place for the following year will split the amount owed amongst them.
- **Statistics Fees**: The cost of the statistical service used to track rosters and calculate the standings will be split equally among all owners.

ARTICLE IX. PLAYER SALARIES

The salary of a player is determined by the time and means of his acquisition and does not change unless the player becomes a free agent, is signed to Long Term Contract (See **Article XIX – The Option Year and Long-Term Contracts**), or begins or ends the season in the LERL minor leagues.

- The salary of a player acquired in the Major League Auction Draft is his auction price.
- The salary of a player called up from the Free Agent pool during the season is $10, except for players acquired through the AL FAAB process. The salary of a player traded to the NL from the AL mid-season acquired via the use of some portion of the FAAB through the AL FAAB process (see **Article XVII – Replacing Players**) is the amount of the winning FAAB bid.
- If a player is released and re-acquired by the same team in the next transaction period, his salary and status shall be the same as they were prior to the release.
- The salary of a player activated from a Little East Rotisserie League team's Minor League System is $5, unless the player had been previously demoted in the same season or has six or more years of MLB service time. In that case, his salary is the same as it was when demoted.
- Any player with a status of A, B, or R who begins a season or ends a season in a LERL team's minor leagues shall have a salary $5 upon promotion, unless the player has six or more years of MLB service time. His status shall be "A" unless he was acquired in the minor league draft and had never been on an active LERL roster, in which case he shall have an "R" status. Otherwise, the player's salary and status do not change unless he is released and subsequently acquired as a free agent.
- If a player with 6+ years of MLB service ends the season in the LERL minor leagues, his salary and status do not reset to $5A.

ARTICLE X. SALARY CAP

The $260 limit on total salaries applies only to the Major League portion of the draft. Subsequently, injury replacements, trades, et al., may increase the total salaries of a Little East team. However, at no time during the season may a Little East Rotisserie team's total of players' salaries be greater than $390 (the salary cap), and they're lucky to have that much. All players on the active roster (non-IL or reserved) count against the cap figure (note that players who came off the IL in the current week who have not yet been activated do not count against the cap). Players acquired from the AL using some portion of the FAAB (see **Article XVII – Replacing Players**) count the lesser of $20 or their actual salary as set by the winning FAAB bid. Transactions made by an owner that would leave a team over the salary cap are not allowed, though there may be circumstances (such as players coming off the IL) that would leave a team over the cap in between transaction periods.

However, rosters must be legal after all transactions are completed on transaction day, and after any mid-week transactions initiated by an owner.

ARTICLE XI. PENALTIES

There are strong penalties for failing to keep a Little East Rotisserie League team's roster complete (i.e., replacing players who have been placed on the IL, cut, demoted, etc.). An owner will be fined $25 per player per week following a two-transaction grace period following the offending player's change in status. An owner can be fined a maximum of $50 per player. Furthermore, if the player is not replaced after the two "fine" weeks, the player's owner will be assessed penalty statistics each week until the player is replaced (7 earned runs and 10 hits per week for a pitcher, or 25 at-bats per week for a hitter). If the league's statistical service does not support custom statistics, then after the two weeks of fines, the offending team will lose the roster spot occupied by the non-replaced player. The player becomes a free agent, and the offending team will have to play the remainder of the season with one fewer player. League officials will take extenuating circumstances into account when levying these penalties. While these sanctions may seem harsh, the league feels that owners who do not pay attention are undermining the quality of the league for all of us, and so the strong penalties are justified.

ARTICLE XII. PRIZE MONEY

All fees paid into the prize pool will be distributed to winning teams. When the Treasurer has collected all owed fees from all Little East Rotisserie League teams, he will then award the financial prizes to the four teams in the money. The total prize money will be split among the top four teams in the final standings in the following way:

- 1st Place - 50%
- 2nd Place - 30%
- 3rd Place - 15%
- 4th Place - 5%

The Weekly $10 Prize – Each week of the season, the Little East Rotisserie League that accumulates the best *weekly* standings will be awarded a $10 prize. The weekly standings will be calculated exactly like the year-to-date standings (see **Article XIII - Standings**), except that they are solely based on the Little East Rotisserie League team's statistics for that week. This includes tie-breaking procedures.

ARTICLE XIII. STANDINGS

The following criteria are used to determine Little East Rotisserie League team performance:

- Batting statistics:
  - **Aggregate On Base Average**, computed as: (Hits + BB + HBP) / (AB + BB + HBP + Sac Fly)[5]
  - Total Home Runs
  - Total Runs Scored

[5] There may be slight variations in this formula, depending on the stats service.

    - Total Runs Batted In
    - Total Stolen Bases
- Pitching statistics:
    - Aggregate Earned Run Average
    - Total Strikeouts
    - Total Wins
    - Total Saves
    - **Aggregate Ratio (aka WHIP)**, computed as: (Hits + Walks) / IP

Little East Rotisserie League teams are ranked from first to last in each of the categories and given points for each place. For example, the first-place team in a category receives 12 points, the second-place team 11, and so on. A Little East Rotisserie League team's total points are the summation of his points in all ten categories. The team with the most total points in the final standings wins the pennant.

- **Total Innings Requirement** - A Little East Rotisserie League team must have a total of at least 900 innings pitched by the end of the season (not including strike-shortened seasons). A team that does not reach the 900 innings-pitched mark will be moved to the bottom of earned run average and ratio standings. No other teams will have their points total changed. This may end up with multiple teams receiving 1 point in ERA and/or WHIP.
- The offensive statistics of pitchers on an LERL roster are not counted, nor are pitching statistics of players of hitters on an LERL roster if they happen to pitch. Players in the "super-utility" position cannot earn both hitting and pitching stats.
- Players' statistics are only counted while they are on their LERL team's active roster or Injured List. Players in the minor leagues or in a reserve slot are not counted.
- In case of ties in an individual category, the tied teams are assigned points by totaling points for the rankings at issue and dividing the total by the number of tied teams.
- In cases of ties in total points:
    - The first tiebreaker is determined by comparing placement of teams in individual categories. The team that is ahead of the other in more categories wins out.
    - The second tiebreaker is determined by adding each team's total plate appearances, plus *triple* the number of its innings pitched. The team that scores the higher total by this measure wins out.
    - If three or more teams are tied, the tiebreakers are applied as above. If one team would win the tiebreaker against each of the other teams, they're awarded the top spot. If one team would lose the tiebreaker against each of the other teams, they're given the lowest spot. As each team is eliminated, the tiebreak process begins again, from the beginning, with the remaining tied teams.

Example

Three teams are tied for first place in total points. Team A is ahead of Team B by five categories to four (one tie) and is also ahead of Team C in six categories. Team A is given first place. The process is then applied to Teams B and C, who are tied in category leads. However, Team C has 145 more PA+3*IP than Team B, so they are awarded second place and Team C is now in third.

ARTICLE XIV. STATISTICS

The daily or weekly player-performance summaries published by the statistics service employed by the Little East Rotisserie League constitute the official database for the compilation of standings for the Little East Rotisserie League.

The effective date of any transaction for the purposes of statistical calculations is Thursday each week, before commencement of play that day, except for mid-week moves (see **Article XVII – Replacing Players,** Section 2, Part C)

The reporting deadline for making a transaction is 12 noon each Thursday, Eastern Time, or one-half hour before the first National League game, whichever is earlier. The League Secretary may make allowances for follow-up moves made after noon in unusual circumstances but may not accept FAAB bids (see **Article XVII – Replacing Players**) except in the direst of circumstances (technology failure, automobile accident, etc.). A bid is considered "on time" if an email was sent prior to noon, even if it was not received until later. Other circumstances, *specifically, forgetting to submit moves*, are not similarly excusable.

Transactions recorded on Draft Day, including replacing players on the Injured List, are effective retroactive to Opening Day.

Performance statistics of a player shall be assigned to a Little East Rotisserie League team *only* when he is on the active 23-man roster of that team. The only exception is that a Little East Rotisserie League team receives credit for the statistics of a player who comes off the Injured List (IL) before his activation on Thursday, except as noted in **Article XVII (Replacing Players)**. When a player comes off the IL, the Little East Rotisserie League team owner must make room for the reinstated player and activate him or release the reinstated player on the first Thursday after his activation. If the League Secretary does not hear from a team that owns a player who came off the IL that week, the Secretary will automatically release the player who was brought up to replace the injured player. If that player is not available, the League Secretary will cut the most logical player.

A change in the stats service employed by the league may alter the effects of the above two rules.

ARTICLE XV. ROSTER RETENTION

Each Little East Rotisserie League team must finish the season with at least ten players on their roster who they owned at the close of draft day. Transactions that would leave a team in violation of this rule will not be allowed. Players on a Little East Team's roster meeting any of the following requirements are counted towards the limit, provided they have been owned by their Little East team continuously since Draft Day:

- On the Little East team's active roster or IL on Draft Day and currently active or on the IL
- In the Little East team's minor league system on Draft Day and currently on the active roster
- On the Little East team's roster on Draft Day until demoted by his National League team and reserved by his Little East team
- Picked up on draft day to replace a drafted player on the IL and currently on the active roster or IL

ARTICLE XVI. TRADES

The Little East Rotisserie League has several anti-dumping rules:

- The Anti-Dumping Trading Restraint rules were put in place to prevent one team that is out of the running from trading many or all their *non-keepers* (players that are high priced or will be free agents the following year) to one particular team that is in the running, thus unfairly affecting the pennant race.
- The Anti-Dumping Trading Restraint identifies certain players as "restricted." This includes players with a **C** status and/or with a salary over $20. No team can trade more than two "restricted" players to any other team in any given season. Thus, an owner can still trade off his non-keepers, but he cannot send any more than two to a single team.
- In addition, no minor-league player can be traded after Roster Freeze, until the transaction period closest to May 15. Note that players on the Reserve Roster are counted as minor leaguers for the purposes of this rule.

No trades may be made after the first transaction period following August 15, through the end of the season. From the end of the season until Roster Freeze Day (see **Article XX – Roster Protection**), all trades are allowed.

Trades that would leave a Little East team in violation of the Roster Retention rule (see **Article XV – Roster Retention**) or over the Salary Cap (see **Article X – Salary Cap**) will not be allowed.

There are no constraints on trading like position players for each other. However, after all transactions in a given week, each owner's roster must be whole and legal.

Trades do not affect the salaries or contract status of players.

During the off-season, the League Secretary shall announce all trades (of which he has been notified) to the entire league as soon as is practicable. Processing a trade on the web site of the league's statistical service constitutes a proper announcement.

Trades for FAAB money are allowed and must be in whole dollars. No team may make trades of FAAB money to any other single team that total more than $10 in the same season.

Trades are *not allowed* that involve:

- Draft money/salary cap space,
- Players to be named later,
- Cash,
- Future considerations, or
- Agreements to return player(s) at a future time.

Trade dispute resolution: If two or more owners formally object to a trade, a committee of three owners shall hear the arguments for and against and may veto the trade if they feel it represents collusion or extremely poor judgment. Trades should only be overturned in the most extreme circumstances, and if the committee is unsure, they should let the trade stand. The vote to veto the trade must be unanimous. The committee is determined as follows:

- The Appeals Committee shall consist of the owners who placed #1, #7, and #12 the previous season
- If one of the owners on the Appeals Committee is involved in the trade or chooses to recuse himself due to a conflict of interest, he will be replaced with the owner of team #2, #6, or #11 respectively.

- The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.

ARTICLE XVII. REPLACING PLAYERS

1. A Little East Rotisserie League team may replace as many players on his roster as desired (subject to Salary Cap and roster retention limits) each transaction period using the Free Agent Pool. The Free Agent Pool consists of any current National League player that is not currently owned by a Little East Rotisserie League team (on their major or minor league roster) and is not required to go through the AL FAAB process (see below).
    a. The process for acquiring free agents is governed by the Free Agent Acquisition Budget (FAAB):
        i. Each Little East Rotisserie League is given a $100 Free Agent Acquisition Budget (FAAB) to use in acquiring free agents during the season. For any transaction period throughout the year, Little East Rotisserie League owners can bid anywhere from $0 to their remaining FAAB on desired free agents—the team with the highest bid acquires the free agent in question (all bids must be in whole dollars). When a Little East Rotisserie League team has exhausted its FAAB, it can only bid $0 on players.
        ii. If two or more Little East Rotisserie League teams' bids tie, the team lower in the most current standings is awarded the player.
        iii. The amount deducted from the winning owner's FAAB is determined using the "Vickrey" method: The winning bid will be $1 more than the second-highest bid, with three exceptions:
            1. If the top bids were tied, the winning bid amount will be the amount bid by the winning bidder;
            2. If the winner's bid was more than $0, the winning bid will be at least $1;
            3. If the bid was for a player on the IL (see below), the minimum winning bid is $5.
        iv. The winning bid amount is deducted from the winner's FAAB total.
        v. Any requests to pick up free agents that do not mention a specific (or contingent) FAAB bid are assumed to be $0 bids.
        vi. Contingency bids are allowed if the bid would not exceed the Little East Rotisserie League team's remaining FAAB.
        vii. All free agents picked up by a Little East Rotisserie League team are given a salary of $10 and a status of A1, except for players acquired via the AL FAAB process.
        viii. All bids will be published by the League Secretary after the bidding is final, including $0 and contingency bids.
        ix. Any player acquired via FAAB bidding (whether the normal FAAB or for players traded from the American League) must remain on his Little East team's roster for at least one week.
    b. Player moves are made in accordance with the player's status at the time of the transaction deadline (noon Thursday). For instance, a player who was on the IL over the weekend but came off before Thursday cannot be placed on the IL and replaced.

Similarly, a player who was sent to the minor leagues by his NL team during the week and recalled before the transaction deadline is treated as if he was never sent down.

c. If an owner expects his player to be placed on the IL, demoted, released, et al., after the transaction deadline, but the player's move has not been announced, the owner may specify replacements for that player. If the player is placed on the IL, demoted, released, et al., before his team's next game, and if the listed replacements are still available after all other pickups have been processed, the replacement occurs.

d. If a LERL team releases a player, and that player is placed on the NL Injured List prior to his team's first game that week, the LERL team may pull back the player and place him on the IL instead of releasing him.

e. Except for players on the Injured List (see f., below) or players traded from the AL, for an unowned player to be claimed as a free agent, the player must be on an NL active roster at noon on the transaction date and must have been on an NL active roster by the completion or suspension of all Wednesday games that week.

f. Owners may pick up free agents who are on a major league injured list (IL) and immediately place that player on their Little East IL. However, the owner must bid at least $5 FAAB to acquire such a player; if won, the minimum winning bid shall be $5.

g. A LERL team may cut a player on the IL between transaction dates if that player has not yet appeared in a game that week.

h. A player may be placed on the LERL injured list (IL) if he:
    i. is on the MLB IL list or
    ii. he has been otherwise temporarily removed from the 26-man roster (suspended, restricted, etc.) and his absence is expected to be longer than 10 days.

i. There is no requirement to release the player who replaced an injured player going on the IL when the injured player comes off the IL. The Little East Rotisserie League team owner is allowed to rearrange his roster and release another player, or even to release the player that was on the IL.

j. Any player that is owned by a Little East Rotisserie League team that is sent to the minors by a National League team during the season can be reserved in that Little East Rotisserie League team's Minor League System.

k. If a LERL team has a player in their minor leagues (including their reserve roster) who is placed on the NL Injured List, the player may remain in the LERL minor leagues until he is off the IL. Stats for the player will not accumulate until he is activated by his LERL team, which cannot be done until the player is off the IL

l. If a player is not officially on the major league IL but is reported by a reputable news source as "out for the season", or "shut down for the season", he may be placed on the Little East IL and replaced. If the player subsequently appears in a game, he is treated the same as any other player coming off the IL, except that his stats do not count until he is activated by his LERBL team. Note that fantasy websites like RotoWire and RotoWorld are considered reputable sources, as are MLB beat writers, if the news is definite.

m. A player with 6+ years of MLB service may be sent to the LERL minor leagues during the season if he is in his NL team's minor leagues. If he ends the season in the LERL minor leagues, his salary and status do not reset to $5A.

n. If a team fails to cut a player to make room for a player off the IL and the move goes unnoticed until after the transaction deadline, the stats of the player off the IL do not

count until the roster violation is resolved—the transaction(s) to resolve the situation cannot be backdated. If the situation is not resolved at the next transaction date, the PALS has the authority to select a logical player to be removed from the roster.

o. If a player on a Little East active roster or Injured List is traded to the American League, that player will continue to accumulate stats for the duration of the season, unless he is released by his LERL team. (If the player is released by his LERL team, he's ineligible to be picked up as a free agent if he remains in the AL.) He may be reserved in the LERL minors if he's sent down during the season. If the player returns to the NL any time before Roster Freeze, he may be kept, and his status advances as it would with any other player.

p. If a player that is in the Little East *minor* leagues (including players on Reserve) is traded to an American League franchise, that player's owner may be entitled to compensation in the form of an extra draft pick at the end of the next minor league draft (see **Article VI – Draft Day**).

    i. If the player is activated by his AL team, he may be activated by his LERL team in the first two transaction periods following his promotion. If the LERL team chooses to activate the player, they are no longer entitled to any draft pick compensation.

    ii. Players traded to the AL cannot be placed on a reserve roster. If they are not activated, they will remain in the team's minor leagues until the end of the season.

2. **Players Up from the Minors**:

    a. A Little East Rotisserie League team has two transaction periods to activate or place on reserve a player in their Minor League System after his major league team has brought this minor leaguer up (for players who have never appeared in a major league game, the two-week period begins with their first appearance). No other Little East Rotisserie League team can acquire this player as a free agent during this period. After the second transaction period, the player is declared a free agent if the Little East Rotisserie League team owning his rights does not activate or reserve him, assuming he has not been sent back to the minor leagues. If a Little East Rotisserie League team's minor leaguer is brought up by a major league team after the LERL trade deadline (see **Article XVI – Trades**), the Little East Rotisserie League team is not required to activate him that season.

    b. If a player who is in the LERL minor leagues or on a LERL reserve roster is placed on the NL Injured List, he may remain in the LERL minor leagues until he is activated from the IL. The player does not receive any stats that accumulate when he is not on the LERL team's active roster.

    c. Prior to September 1, an owner may activate, between transaction dates, a player who has been promoted from the NL minor leagues or is on the reserve roster and still active with his NL team. The move will be effective the day the League Secretary is notified of the move if it's before the first game of the day. The owner must designate a player to cut, demote, or place on the IL to create a roster spot for the minor leaguer. If a transaction date has passed since the player's promotion, he cannot be activated between transaction dates unless he is replacing a player placed on the 7-, 10-, or 60-day IL. The player cannot be demoted to the minor leagues until the next transaction period.

3. **Traded American League Players**: Players that are *traded to* the National League from the American League (AL) are eligible to be picked up by a Little East Rotisserie League team through a special sealed bidding process, which occurs on the Wednesday following announcement of the players' eligibility for bidding. If the player is traded on or before Monday, the League Secretary shall announce the bidding immediately.

    a. Each Little East Rotisserie League can use all or part of its (FAAB) of $100 (which may be increased as above) to spend on players traded from the AL.

    b. Bids must be at least $1 and be a multiple of $1. Sealed bids are due to the Little East Secretary on any players traded from the AL by 8 pm the Wednesday following the trade, except at the major league trading deadline, when the Secretary shall announce the eligible players on the transaction deadline following the trade. Note that the player must have been active with his NL team continuously since Monday to be eligible for bidding, except at the MLB trading deadline.

    c. If there are two or more AL players up for bid, the bids will be evaluated in descending order of year-to-date 5x5 dollar values. The League Secretary will announce the evaluation order when the list of players is announced.

    d. There will be a transaction period on or about August 2 each year to account for players traded from the AL at the MLB trade deadline. This may be a second transaction period of the week, or it may replace the regular period (this will be determined at the Winter Meeting each year). Players who were traded at or just before the trade deadline will be bid upon in a live auction held on Zoom (or similar) the day after the MLB trade deadline.

    e. The highest bidder will acquire the rights to the new player at a salary of the winning bid and a status of **A2**. In case of a tie, the team that is lowest in the current standings will be awarded the new player. A Little East Rotisserie League team that wins a bid for an AL player will have the winning bid amount (as determined by the Vickrey method) deducted from his FAAB. As with any FAAB bid, a Little East Rotisserie League team cannot bid more money for an AL player or players than they have left in their budget.

    f. Although the bids are due and evaluated by 8 pm Wednesday, the players do not have to be added to the active roster until the next transaction deadline, so teams do not have to make a roster move until Thursday to create space for the newly acquired player.

    g. A player that comes over from the AL that is acquired through the bidding process cannot be traded until the end of the season.

    h. Little East Rotisserie League teams are allowed to make conditional bids if more than one player from the AL arrives during the same transaction period.

    i. Any player who is traded to the NL from an AL team's major or minor leagues must go through the AL FAAB bidding process if he appeared in no NL minor league games and was not on the minor league disabled list after the trade occurred.

    j. If the traded player was in his AL team's minor leagues when he was traded, he is eligible for AL FAAB bidding if he appeared in no minor-league games following the trade and can be verified as being on his NL team's 26-man roster.

    k. A player traded from the AL that no one bids on becomes a free agent.

    l. A player who is released by an AL team and picked up by a National League team can be bid upon like a normal free agent.

ARTICLE XVIII. ROSTER EXPANSION

If a Little East Rotisserie League team so chooses, they may expand their roster by up to two players. The roster limit increases to 24 players at the LERL trade deadline and to 25 players at the first transaction period after the LERL trade deadline. The fee for expanding is $5 per player. A Little East Rotisserie League team may expand with one of its own players from their Minor League System that has been called up, a player who has come off the IL, use an available free agent, or (at the trade deadline) via a trade. The expansion slots will be super-utility slots, eligible to be filled by either a hitter or a pitcher. A Little East Rotisserie League team that has expanded may subsequently reduce their roster, down to a minimum of 23 players. The team must continue to fill all the required positions of a 23-man roster, at a minimum. A Little East Rotisserie League team may shift their expansion players from the hitter side to the pitcher side and vice versa. The expansion player's salaries are decided by normal player acquisition rules (see **Article XVII – Replacing Players**) and count against the in-season salary cap.

ARTICLE XIX. THE OPTION YEAR AND LONG-TERM CONTRACTS

A player who ends the season with a "B" status, prior to the freezing of rosters in the next season, must be:

- Released,
- Kept at the same salary for his option year, or
- Extended with a long-term contract,

unless said player has been assigned to a National League minor league system (and has fewer than six years of MLB service time) as of the Roster Freeze deadline or was kept at the start of the season and spent the entire season on the IL, as described in **Article VI – Player Status**.

Such a player is assigned a status of "Opt" for the off-season.

- If released, the player returns to the free agent pool and becomes available to the highest bidder at the Draft Day Auction. If kept for the same salary for one year (getting a status of **C1**), the player must be released back into the free agent pool at that end of the season.
- If signed to a long-term contract, the player's salary in each year covered by the new contract (which commences with the option year) shall be the sum of his current salary plus $5 for each additional year beyond the option year (for example, a player with a salary of $14 who is signed to a three-year contract would have a new salary of $24). In addition, a signing bonus, equal to the total value of the long-term contract divided by four, will be paid into the prize fund (example: a player signed to a three-year deal at $24 would generate a fee of $18 [3*24/4]). A player signed for the option year and one more year would have a status of **D,** a player signed for the option year and two more years would have a status of **E,** etc.
- A team may sign a player to only one long-term contract, at the end of which he becomes a free agent.
- Option year and long-term contracts are entirely transferable, both in rights and obligations; the trade of a player in no way affects his contract status.
- If, during the course of a long-term contract, a player is traded from the National League to the American League, the contract becomes a C3 status with no penalty to the team.
- In all other cases - specifically *including* sudden loss of effectiveness or injury - a team must honor the terms of a long term contract, as follows: A player with such a contract *may* be

released back into the free agent pool (either during the season or at Roster Freeze), but a team that chooses to do so must pay into the prize pool a sum equal to one half the remaining value of the player's contract, with any part of a year counting as a full year. Note that a player playing under a long-term contract (or kept for one year as a "C1") does not have his salary or status reset if he begins or ends the season in the Little East minor leagues (see **Article IX – Player Salaries**).

ARTICLE XX. ROSTER PROTECTION

Each Little East Rotisserie League team may retain up to 15 of the players on its major league roster from the previous year. This limit of 15 *includes* players who finished the previous year in a team's minor league system, but who are on a major league roster at the time of Roster Freeze (unless there is an exception because the draft is being held prior to Opening Day, as outlined in **Article VI – Auction Draft Day**). Players who finished the previous season with a status of **C** (and any derivatives, such as C1, C2, etc.) are not eligible to be kept.

- The names of players being retained must be recorded with the Little East Rotisserie League Secretary by 8 pm on *Roster Freeze Day*. Specific notice must also be made at this time of any long-term contract signings, any long-term contract buyouts, and all players being retained in a Little East Rotisserie League team's minor league system.
- **Roster Freeze Day:** Generally, the deadline for roster freeze is 8 pm ET on one of the following days:
    - If the full MLB season begins on Thursday and the draft is held on that weekend, Roster Freeze Day is on the Tuesday before the draft.
    - If the draft is held before Opening Day, Roster Freeze will be on the Tuesday prior to the draft.
    - If the draft is held more than a week after Opening Day, Roster Freeze will be the day after Opening Day.
- The cumulative salaries of players protected prior to Draft Day are deducted from a Little East Rotisserie League team's $260 expenditure limit, and the balance is available for acquisition of the remaining players needed to complete the team's 23-man roster.
- The Little East Rotisserie League secretary will promptly notify all teams in the League of each team's protected roster, including players' salaries, contract status, and amount available to spend on Draft Day. He will also notify all teams of minor leaguers being kept.
- Failure to give notice of a long-term contract for a player in his option year will result in his being continued for one season at his prior year's salary with a status of **C**. Failure to re-keep a Little East Rotisserie League team's minor league player in its Minor League System will result in that player being eligible to all other teams in the subsequent Minor League Draft.
- Minor League Players
    - Any Little East Rotisserie League team's minor league players who are on an NL major-league roster before Roster Freeze must be kept on the protected list **or** be released into the pool of players available for Draft Day bidding (see **Article VII – Draft Day**, Section 1, for the rules regarding which players may be kept as minor leaguers). If the draft is held prior to opening day, the special rules in **Article VII – Draft Day**, Section 4, apply.

- If Draft Day is after Opening Day, but the keeper deadline is before Opening Day, teams may designate ONE player as a conditional minor league keeper. If the player is on the Opening Day active roster, they must be cut or kept on the LERL major league roster (the LERL owner can designate whether the player will be kept or cut if he makes the team at Roster Freeze). If the owner has kept 15 major-league players, he must designate which keeper to drop if the conditional player makes the Opening Day roster. To be considered as a conditional player, the player must have less than 6 years of MLB service and must meet one of the following conditions:
    - Ended the prior season on a LERL minor-league roster
    - Ended the prior season on an MLB minor-league roster
    - Has definitive news from a reputable source that he's expected to begin the season in the minor leagues
- A player drafted as a LERL minor leaguer, as an amateur, who is on the roster of a Japanese or Korean professional league may be kept as a minor leaguer as long as he is still considered a rookie by MLB standards.

- Veteran Players in the Minors
    - A player cannot be kept as a minor leaguer on Freeze Day, or drafted as a minor leaguer, if he has 6 or more years of accumulated MLB service time.
    - Such players (6+ years of MLB service who are on an NL minor-league roster) may be kept on the major league roster if they are in the NL minor leagues, but they must be kept on an LERL major-league roster. They may be demoted to the LERL minor leagues at the first transaction period following the draft if they are on an NL minor league roster.
- Players on a LERL roster who are major-league free agents may be kept on the active roster on Freeze Day. If kept, they must be placed on the IL and replaced at the end of the draft. In the first transaction period after they sign with a major league team, they must be activated or cut if they sign with an NL team or cut if they sign with an AL team. They cannot be demoted to the Little East minor leagues until they have appeared in at least one major league game.
- Changes in Player Status Between Roster Freeze and Draft Day
    - If a player kept in a LERL minor-league system is promoted by his NL team after Roster Freeze, his LERL team may activate him at the first transaction deadline following the draft. This transaction period counts as the first of the two transaction dates, as outlined in **Article XVII – Replacing Players**, Part 2**.**
    - Otherwise, if a player's MLB status changes between Freeze Day and Draft Day (e.g., he is placed on the IL, traded to any team, demoted, or cut by his NL team), his LERL team may drop the player from their freeze list prior to the draft (or in the case of a demotion, elect to keep them as a minor leaguer). Note that the team's owner cannot "reclaim" any players that were not kept at Roster Freeze.
- There is no limit to the number of players that can be kept in a Little East Rotisserie League team's minor league system.

ARTICLE XXI. BEST SECOND HALF PERFORMANCE

To provide incentive to those teams that may be far "out of the money" during the season, the team with the biggest increase in total points from the midpoint of the season (usually the start of Week 14) until the end of the season *not finishing in the top three places* will be awarded a special minor league draft pick – draft pick #0. This pick is governed by all minor league drafting rules (see **Article VI** - **Auction Draft Day**), except it is made before the regular three rounds of drafting take place.

- The team to be awarded draft pick #0 must have gained at least 5 points since the halfway point. If the point gain is less than 5 points, no draft pick #0 will be awarded.
- In case of a tie in most points gained in the second half of the season, the special minor league draft pick goes to the team that gained the most places in the standings since the midpoint. If one or more teams are still tied, then pick #0 goes to the team that finished the year higher in the standings. If one or more teams are still tied, then all tied teams will then draw lots to determine which team gets draft pick #0.

ARTICLE XXII. MAJOR LEAGUE REALIGNMENT

If Major League Baseball realigns its leagues, such that one or two National League teams are switched to the American League (or disbanded), players on those Major League teams will be treated as if they were traded to the American League, and Little East teams will lose the rights to those players with no compensation. If realignment involves three or more teams moving from the National League to the American League (or being disbanded), the Little East owners will decide, at the next Winter Meeting, how the realignment should be handled in the Little East.

ARTICLE XXIII. GOVERNANCE

The Little East Rotisserie League is governed by a Committee of the Whole consisting of all the Little East Rotisserie League team owners.

- Disputes about rule interpretations and practices are handled by the Little East Rotisserie League Commissioner, who is elected by the Committee of the Whole.
- There may be situations not fully covered by the rules or where an exception is a reasonable course of action. If such a situation arises, the "appeals committee" described in **Article XVI - Trades** is empowered to decide whether an exception should be made.
- Rule changes and tweaks are handled during the Winter Meetings, which should be held each off-season. Votes on rule changes and interpretations can be held at any time via live or proxy vote, with a minimum of 60% of eligible owners required to pass any proposition.
- New owners may not vote at the Winter Meetings until they have completed their first season in Little East.
- Each year's Little East Rotisserie League Championship team will be commemorated with the team's name and year of triumph engraved into the Little East Rotisserie League Championship Plaque or Trophy. By tradition, the previous season's winner is responsible for the engraving.

ARTICLE XXIV. LEAGUE INTEGRITY

Little East teams may not be named after ridiculous plays made in a Super Bowl.

ARTICLE XXV. LAST-PLACE PENALTY

Commencing with the 2025 season, the team that finishes in last place each season will be subject to a playful but humiliating penalty at the end of the season. The league will decide on a list of three possible options at the start of each season, and the designated loser will be allowed to choose among the options.

ADDENDUM

It was generally agreed at the 2005 Winter Meeting, but not officially voted, that any changes to the statistical categories used to measure the Little East standings, or any changes to the keeper rules, should be implemented at the *end* of the following season, not at the beginning, to allow owners to adjust their strategies accordingly.

It was officially voted in 2011 that the annual draft will be held in a “fun” location that is convenient to as many owners as possible, every 5 years (years ending in 4 or 9). No owner will be compelled to travel to a “fun” draft location.

It was unofficially voted in 2020 that the “fun” location will occur every three years, commencing in 2022.