

## **Expansion Fantasy League (EFL) Rules Opening Day 2025**

**I. GAME SUMMARY:** Fantasy managers compete with each other, and with major league general managers, using runs created per game, ERA, and defense to generate win-loss records.

**II. LEAGUE ALIGNMENT:** Each fantasy team is a hypothetical MLB expansion team assigned to a particular MLB division. At no time is any EFL Division more than one team larger than any other division.

**III. HOW PLAYERS ARE OBTAINED:** Similar to MLB, there are five ways for any team to acquire players: expansion draft, Rule 5 draft, waiver wire, free agents, and trades. Plus we can acquire players during their debut year, but only for that one season.

### **A. Rosters:**

#### **1. Players**

- a. Each team's roster identifies each player's contract status as Debutant, Rookie, or Veteran.
- b. Debutants are in their MLB debut season. They cease to be Debutants, and their debutant contracts expire, after their debut season.
- c. Players are EFL Rookies for five years after their MLB debut season, unless they lose that status by one of the following:
  - (1) They went undrafted in the Rookie Draft held the spring after their MLB debut, or
  - (2) They are DFA'd by their EFL team and the DFA grace period has expired, or
  - (3) The expiration of their fifth year as an EFL Rookie.
- d. Rookies become EFL Veteran free agents when they lose their rookie status. However, players who have lost their Rookie status, but have not finished their fifth year after their MLB debut season, will be treated as Rookies if they are acquired from an MLB team in an expansion draft or an MLB/EFL trade.
- e. The obligations under a Veteran players' contract endure until they expire by their terms, unless the player dies or retires, or another MLB or EFL team contracts with the player after the player has been DFA'd.. If the player's salary under the new contract with other team(s) is not at least equal to the player's salary under his EFL contract, the EFL team remains obligated to pay the balance of the salary above the amount paid by the other team(s).

#### **2. Salary Cap:**

- a. The Opening Day salary cap is set at 75 percent of the median MLB team salary from the most recent MLB Opening Day salary 26-man list, except that the Opening Day EFL salary cap may not decline by more than 6% from the previous Opening Day salary cap. The Salary Cap increases by \$750,000 at the end of each month during the season.
- b. The salary of a player on a fantasy team roster is
  - (1) for players who have not yet appeared in MLB (who can only be acquired in an MLB/EFL trade), \$250,000 on a contract listed as expiring in 2099.
  - (2) for Debutants (players who have debuted in the current year), \$750,000 or the amount bid on them by their EFL team in a midseason draft, whichever is higher.
  - (3) for Rookies, in their first Rookie Year (the first year after they debuted), the amount bid for them in the Rookie draft, or \$750,000 if they were acquired by MLB/EFL trade or in an expansion draft;
  - (4) for Rookies in their second and third Rookie years, \$750,000.
  - (5) for Rookies in their fourth Rookie year, \$1,000,000.
  - (6) for Rookies in their fifth Rookie year, \$2,000,000.
  - (7) for Veterans (players who are no longer Rookies), the salary called for in their current EFL contract.

3. **Roster Limit:** no team may have more than 30 players on its roster except
- (1) in September, when rosters expand to 35 players, or
  - (2) under the provisions of Votawmacare.

**4. Roster requirements:**

- a. Each roster:
  - 1) shows each player's salary.
  - 2) the season after which the player's contract expires, which
    - (a) for Debutants, is the current season;
    - (b) for Rookies, is the end of the season in their fifth Rookie year; and
    - (c) for Veterans, is the end of the season as specified in the veteran contract.
  - 3) lists players no longer on the roster to whom the EFL team is still obligated, annotated as follows:
    - (a) if the player was DFA'd but the DFA Grace Period has not expired, the player and his contract are listed with "DFA" designation, the salary still counting in the team's salary cap, but the player not occupying a roster spot.
    - (b) if the DFA Grace Period has expired, but the contract has not (or has not been completely assumed by another team), the player is listed as a former player, with the amount still owed him, and the season after which the obligation will cease according to the contract. The ongoing obligation counts against the salary cap, but the player does not occupy a roster spot.
  - 4) does not list any player or obligation after the player's contract has expired. The contract of a debutant or rookie DFA'd during the season expires at the end of that season. The contract of a rookie DFA'd in the offseason expires as soon as the DFA grace period is over, but does not count against the salary cap immediately upon announcing the DFA.
  - 5) does not exceed the Salary Cap or roster limit. A team may not draft or otherwise acquire a player in a transaction that puts the team over the salary cap, without immediately making another transaction to bring the roster back into compliance. If a team is discovered to be over the salary cap, the team owner must make every effort to get back under the cap, including attempting to unwind his transactions starting from the most recent and proceeding in reverse order, making trades, using Votawmacare, and DFA'ing players. If these do not remedy the matter, the Commissioner or designee may order that transactions be unwound, or other measures, until the team is back under the cap. If a team in compliance with the salary cap falls out of compliance because of a contingency the owner could not have foreseen (such as the salary cap unexpectedly dropping) or if salary cap compliance cannot be restored without inflicting injustice on other owners, the Commissioner may elect to allow the team to remain over the cap, but such a team may not make any trade that increases its salary obligations, and may not draft, until it is back in compliance with the salary cap.
  - 6) prior to the Winter Meetings Rule 5 Draft, marks up to 20 players as Reserved and thereby exempt from being drafted by another EFL team.
  - 7) if there is going to be an expansion draft, marks up to 14 players as Protected and thereby exempt from being drafted by an expansion team.

**B. Drafts**

1. The league enjoys the following types of drafts:

**(June 2024)**

- a. The Expansion Draft, held as needed no more than once a year, usually in the winter or spring before the Rookie Draft, which is how teams join (or restart in) the league.
- b. The Rookie Draft, held every spring, which gives us access to young players at possibly bargain rates of pay
- c. The Free Agent Draft, held after the Rookie Draft every spring, which gives us a chance to outbid MLB teams and each other for the services of veteran players.
- d. The monthly meeting drafts during the season, which combine a Free Agent Draft with a Debutant Draft.
- e. The Rule-5 Draft, held during our annual Winter Meeting, which gives us a chance to snag players from each others' rosters.

2. The Commissioner publishes ideally at least one week before each draft the following lists, with current player salaries noted on each one:

- a. The **pre-draft rosters** of all fantasy league teams, showing each player's salary, contract term, and position(s).
- b. If there is going to be an expansion draft, the **Expansion Draft List**, comprising
  - (1) Players on the previous year's EFL rosters who are not reserved. This list will include players DFA'd by their EFL team from the pre-draft roster since the previous season ended, and will list each player by his most recent EFL team.
  - (2) Players from MLB rosters from the end of the previous season who are **not** among the following:
    - (a) Players who debuted in MLB during the previous season;
    - (b) The 8 players from the MLB team with the most plate appearances;
    - (c) The 4 pitchers with the most games started;
    - (d) The one player with the most saves;
    - (e) The additional player which in the Commissioner's judgment is most valuable to that MLB team in the eyes of its management (*e.g.*, a key player injured in the previous season, or a rookie highly touted by his MLB team);
    - (f) On an EFL team.
  - (3) Each player is listed with MLB or EFL affiliation, his status as Rookie or Veteran, the annual value of his current MLB (or EFL) contract, and the year in which his Rookie status or Veteran contract expires. Players listed from MLB rosters who debuted from 1 to 5 years previously are listed with the EFL salary they would have earned had they been retained on an EFL roster since the year after their debut.
- c. The **Rookie List** of players who debuted in the last MLB season.
- d. The **EFL Free Agent List** comprising all available players unowned in the EFL who debuted in MLB prior to the most recent EFL season and
  - (1) whose EFL contracts expired since the end of the previous EFL season or
  - (2) were since the end of the most recent EFL season,
    - (a) declared Free Agents in MLB,
    - (b) signed as free agents,
    - (c) released by their MLB team,
    - (d) waived in MLB,
    - (e) DFA'd in MLB or EFL,

(f) traded only for minor leaguers, cash, and/or players to be named later by an MLB team. However, a traded player is not a free agent if his EFL team accepts the MLB trade under rule V.D.2.a.

(3) Each player is listed along with available information about his current MLB contract. If the player is an unsigned Veteran free agent in MLB at the time of the draft, his current MLB contract is valued at ~~(\$500,000)~~ \$750,000.

e. The **Traded Player List** comprising players traded in MLB in the offseason, listed as packages of all the players traded in each transaction.

3. **The published Expansion, Rookie and EFL Free Agent Lists are the official lists of eligible players. Other players who would have met the eligibility requirements but were not included on the list are not eligible to be drafted. Players who are on the list but ineligible are also not eligible to be drafted. Team owners are encouraged to check published lists for errors well before the draft.**

## C. Expansion Draft:

1. **Draft Date:** The expansion draft is held in the winter or spring before the Annual Rookie Draft.
2. **Eligible Teams:** The expansion draft is limited to teams joining the league, or doing a restart under section V. F. of these rules. (**NOTE:** expansion must involve at least two teams. If there is only one expansion team, the Commissioner or his designee(s) drafts a dummy expansion team. At the end of the expansion draft, the dummy team is disbanded and its players return to their previous status, except that players drafted from EFL teams are lost to those teams.)
3. **Eligible Players:** Only players on the Expansion Draft List are available.
4. **Draft Order:** Expansion teams draw lots for their draft order. The draft runs in serpentine order, with adjustments made in advance by the Commissioner, if needed to avoid injustice (eg., a team having to take players from the two worst MLB teams).
5. **Drafting:** Each expansion team owner, on his turn, selects an eligible player, obtaining Rookies at their current EFL Rookie salary, Veterans at the average annual salary for their current MLB contract, and EFL players on the terms of their then current EFL contract. Players who, if they were on EFL teams would be Rookies, are treated as if they were EFL Rookies in the expansion draft. The MLB team keeps the drafted player, but the fantasy team, if any, loses him. (**NOTE:** EFL teams share players with MLB teams, but not with each other!).
6. No MLB or EFL team may lose more than one player among the first 20 (21 if there are 3 expansion teams) picked; not more than 2 among the first 40 (42 for 3 expansion teams); and not more than 3 overall.
7. **End of the expansion draft:** The expansion draft ends when no expansion team is eligible to draft, or all expansion teams have passed consecutively. Expansion teams are ineligible to draft once they have acquired 14 players in the expansion draft.
8. **MLB Competitive Balance Expansion Draft:** After any season when the average EFL team has more than 90 wins, there will be an expansion draft in which each EFL team loses a player. If no expansion team is joining the league, the draft will be consist of having the EFL owners vote on which unprotected player each EFL team loses, the team's owner breaking any tie. Players taken from EFL teams who are free agents in MLB are added to the Free Agent List.

## D. Drafts: Rule 5, Rookie, and Free Agent.

### 1. Draft Order:

- a.) For all preseason drafts, and the first managers meeting of the season, EFL teams draft in reverse order of their winning percentages from the previous season. New expansion teams draft before any returning team. If there are multiple new expansion teams, they will alternate first picks in a manner designed by the Commissioner to be fair to them.

- b.) For the Rookie Draft. EFL teams will be intermixed with computer dummy drafting teams as follows:
  - (i) The Commissioner sets the total number of EFL and computer teams to a total equal to the actual number of MLB teams.
  - (ii) Computer dummy teams are each linked to an actual MLB team. Returning EFL teams and computer dummy teams draft in reverse order of their winning percentages from the previous season. A number of MLB teams are eliminated equal to the number of EFL teams. The eliminated teams are spread evenly through the draft order, although where it doesn't make a difference to an EFL team's draft position, the Commissioner may choose to keep an interesting MLB team and drop a boring one.
- 2. **Winter Meetings and Rule 5 Draft:** EFL owners gather in December or January prior to any Expansion Draft for their annual Winter Meetings, for the purposes of trading, and talking shop, and conducting the Rule 5 Draft under the following rules:
  - a.) Each team may designate up to 20 players on its off-season roster as reserved. All the other players are eligible for the Rule 5 draft, including players dropped by teams during the fall. No trades involving unprotected players may take place between the submission of the 20-man protected list and the end of the Rule 5 draft.
  - b.) Drafting in reverse order of the final standings from the just-completed regular season, each EFL team may select one unprotected player to add to its roster, along with his remaining contract. No team may add, or lose, more than 2 players in the Rule 5 draft. The draft continues until all teams have passed.
  - c.) A drafted Rule 5 player must be added to the drafting team's protected list. If this would put the list over 20 players, another player must be taken off the protected list immediately, before the next team drafts or passes.
  - d.) A team that drafts a player in the Rule 5 draft pays the original team losing the player \$250,000. Any player selected in the Rule 5 draft must be kept on the drafting team's 25-man active roster throughout the following season, or be offered back to his original team at the Managers Meeting at the beginning of the month the player is dropped from the active roster. The original team may take the player back on his original contract terms, or any terms more favorable to it the two teams negotiate, and keeps the amount paid for the player in the Rule 5. Once the player has been offered back to the original team, the player may be demoted to the minor league roster, either by the drafting team or the original team.
  - e.) The Winter Meetings do not count as a Managers Meeting.
- 3. **Rookie Draft:** The next phase of the Annual Draft is the Rookie Draft.
  - a) Only players on the Rookie List are available to be drafted.
  - b) On a computer dummy team's turn to draft, the computer's choice is final.
  - c) On an EFL team's turn to draft, the owner initiates bidding on an eligible player by bidding at least \$750,000. All subsequent bidding must be in \$250,000 increments -- ie, a bid for \$800,000 is not valid, but one for \$1,000,000 or \$1,250,000 might be -- except that a team with an earlier draft position may beat a later team's bid by matching it. Bidding proceeds among the EFL owners in draft order. Once an owner passes, he is excluded from further bidding on that player. The winning bidder obtains the player, whose first year's salary is equal to the winning bid.
  - d) In the first round only of the Rookie Draft, any team may claim a player outright by opening the bidding at the "claim price" set at 12% of salary cap + \$1,000,000.
  - e) Beginning in the second round of the Rookie Draft, each team has one Rookie Draft Option to pre-empt a computer pick and open that player to bidding by all EFL teams. After the computer choice is announced, a team may exercise its option to pre-empt. If a Rookie Draft Option is used, every team submits a sealed bid to the Commissioner or his designee. The bid may be \$0, or at least \$500,000, and must be in increments of \$250,000. When all bids are in, the Commissioner or designee opens the bids. The player goes to the team which bid the highest, at the minimum salary that would beat the second-highest bid

(taking into account the teams' draft order or other matching rights). A maximum of two Rookie Draft Options may be used in the second round, a maximum of three in the third round, and a maximum of four in the fourth round, with any unused Rookie Draft Options available to be used at any time in later rounds. Rookie Draft Options may be transferred among EFL teams.

- f.) A team is no longer eligible to initiate or participate when it has 30 players on its roster, or cannot fit another player under the Salary Cap, unless the owner can immediately get back under the roster limit and Salary Cap once he wins the bid. After the 4<sup>th</sup> round, the computer program will include a probability that each computer team will pass and drop out of the draft: 20% for round 5, 50% for round 6, 70% for round 7, 0% for rounds 8 and later.
- g.) The Rookie Draft is over when all human teams are ineligible or have passed consecutively. No computer team will draft after the last human team has finished drafting.

**3. Free Agent Draft:** The final phase of the annual draft is the Free Agent Draft.

- a) Only players on the EFL Free Agent List are available to be drafted.
- b) Computer dummy teams do not draft in the Free Agent Draft.
- c) On his turn, an owner initiates bidding on an eligible player by stating a salary and term in years that is worth at least \$250,000 more than the estimated current value of the player's current MLB contract as calculated on the league's official Minimum Bid Answer Sheet, except that an EFL team may open the bidding at **\$750,000** for any free agent whose MLB contract is less than **\$750,000**, is a minor league contract, or is unknown; and may bid **\$1,000,000** for any free agent whose contract is between **\$750,000** and \$999,999. No EFL free agent contract exceeds 5 years, unless the free agent has in MLB a longer contract, in which case the EFL contract may be as long as the MLB contract.
- d) Bidding proceeds in draft order.
- e) If the Free Agent was on an EFL team roster at the end of the previous season, that team may on its turn invoke a "home team discount" to match the current high bid (or if making the opening bid, match the current value of the player's MLB contract) and have its bid counted as the current high bid. At any time in the draft, a team higher on the draft order (because it had a worse record) can match the bid of a team lower on the draft order – but it cannot match a home team discount bid.
- f) A team is no longer eligible to initiate or participate when it has insufficient room under its Salary Cap or has 30 players on its roster, unless it is immediately able to make room under the roster limit and the Salary Cap. The Free Agent Draft is over when all teams are ineligible or all teams have passed consecutively.
- g) **eflBay:** The league may opt to conduct a free agent draft entirely or in part by using eflBay procedures.
  1. By 5:00 PM on Sunday each owner submits to the Commissioner a nomination of one player and an opening bid for that player. Owners may pass. If the Commissioner submits a nomination, he cannot open other owners' nominations until he sends his own nomination to an owner who has already sent him a nomination.
  2. By midnight Sunday The Commissioner publishes on Dave's eflBay app the names and opening bids..
  3. Owners may bid using Dave's eflBay app at any time between the publication of the nominations and 5:00 PM Saturday, except Tuesday through Friday between the hours of 10 PM and Midnight Pacific Time. Owners may bid as often as they like on any of the players nominated for that week, subject to the following:
    - a. An owner may not at any time be highest bidder on a set of bids that would put the team over its salary cap or its roster limit, after any legal roster moves executable immediately after winning the bid. If the consent of another team is required to execute the roster move, that consent has to be given before the winning bid is made.

- b. An owner may not post any bid which would not at that moment be a winning bid. E.g, an owner cannot post a matching bid without the right to match.
  4. Every bid is treated as if it's the owner's "maximum" bid. The highest such "maximum" bid is the "high bid." When bidding is done, the high bidder wins at the lowest bid for that number of years that beats the second-highest bid according to our bidding sheet. Owners can increase their "maximum" bid at any time during the bidding.
  5. Starting with Tuesday, If a high bid goes an entire calendar day until 10:00 PM (eg., all of Tuesday until 10 PM, or all of Friday until 10 PM ) without being outbid (or matched by an owner with matching rights), the bid is deemed to have won, the player is awarded to the winning bidder at the lowest winning bid, and all bidding on that player ceases. Otherwise, the highest bid as of 5:00 PM Pacific Time Saturday according to Dave's eflBay app is the winning bid. The team with the highest bid MUST roster the player.
  6. The Commissioner posts before midnight Saturday the results of the week's bidding.
4. **Midseason Monthly Meeting Drafts:** At or near the end of each month during the (except September) we hold a free agent draft which includes all the following:
1. Players on the pre-season Rookie Draft List and Free Agent List who were not taken by any EFL team, nor by the computer;
  2. Players who, since the previous draft became Free Agents; and
  3. Debutants, *i.e.*, players unowned in the EFL who debuted in MLB since Opening Day of the current season.
  4. Players who are already owned by an EFL team when they debut are not Debutants. Instead, they become Rookies upon being activated by their EFL team, or at the next Opening Day, whichever comes first, with their Rookie status expiring at the end of their fifth year as EFL Rookies.
  5. The rules for the Free Agent Draft apply, except owners can only bid on Debutants for one year, on contracts that expire at the end of the season.
  6. A team that ends the season with a Debutant on its roster has the right to match any bid for that player in the Rookie Draft, except for first round pre-emptive bids.

### E. The DFA Grace Period

1. A contract with a player terminates at its expiration date, or by retirement, death, or a trade. An owner can also cut a player by Designation For Assignment (DFA). When an EFL team DFAs a player, the player immediately (or at the end of the month, if during the season) leaves the team's roster. If the player is a Rookie and it is the off-season, his team is also immediately released from its obligation to pay the player; otherwise the team retains the obligation until the contract terminates or is assumed by another team. **However, the team owner retains the right to trade the player during the DFA Grace Period.**
2. The DFA Grace Period expires when:
  - a) During the Free Agent or a Midseason Draft, another EFL team drafts the player by either

(1) using one of its turns in the draft to offer to assume the player's EFL contract, a "bid" which can be matched, proceeding in normal draft order, only by a team with matching rights (but not the DFAing team),

or

(2) opening a free agent bid on the player by beating the player’s then-current MLB contract, with bidding proceeding as normal (including the DFAing team),

or

b) The next Allocation Deadline arrives (either before Opening Day, or at the beginning of a month during the season).

3. When the DFA Grace Period expires, the EFL team no longer has any control over the disposition of the player. If the player’s contract has not expired, his salary remains the team’s obligation until the contract expires, or a team signs a new contract with the player, either in MLB or EFL. If the player does not receive in the new contract a salary equal to or greater than the unexpired EFL contract, or for a duration less than the unexpired EFL contract the EFL team retains the obligation to pay the difference.
4. Players DFA'd during a free agent or monthly meeting draft are immediately eligible to be drafted in the DFA Grace Period either during the same draft, or in the next monthly meeting if there is one that season.
5. A player cannot be DFA'd, whether by the team that drafted him or by another team after a trade, until one season segment (generally one month during the season) has passed after the player was drafted.

**IV. RULES GOVERNING ROSTERS**

**A. Compliant Rosters:**

1. Before a deadline announced by the Commissioner after the annual spring Free Agent Draft, each owner submits to the Commissioner a roster showing each player, his position(s), salary, and type and term of contract. The roster:

- a. lists at least 25 and no more than 30 players, including at least 12 hitters and at least 10 pitchers;
  - b. identifies at least one active left handed pitcher;
  - c. lists at least one active starter and one active backup for each defensive position. (NOTE: OF is considered to be 3 identical positions, requiring 3 starters and at least two backups for a minimum of 5 total).
  - d. indicates for each eligible player the percentage of innings pitched or plate appearances he is active at a particular position. Inactive players (in the minors or on the bench) are 0% activated. An active player must be at least 33% active, but cannot exceed 100% total allocation among his eligible positions
2. The limit on the total number of players on a roster increases on September 1 to 35.
3. As soon as practicable after the end of a season, the Commissioner updates defense ratings for position players by using metrics of the players’ performance during the previous two seasons. As the season progresses, the Commissioner periodically updates defensive ratings using metrics of the players’ performance during the previous two seasons and the current season. These ratings, originally based on APBA ratings, are generally in the following ranges – although ratings can be higher or lower for exceptional cases:

Catcher:	5 – 9, average 7, replacement 6	Third Base:	3 – 5, average 4, replacement 3
First base:	2 – 4, average 3, replacement 2	Shortstop:	6 – 10, average 8, replacement 7
Second base:	5 – 9, average 7, replacement 6	Outfield:	1 – 3, average 2, replacement 1

4. To be eligible to play a defensive position, the player must have a defensive rating at that position.
5. To be eligible for a defensive rating on Opening Day, the player must have made at least 5 appearances at the position in the previous 2 years. If a player has no defensive rating from the previous years at a position, he receives the replacement-level rating at his first appearance at that position, effective at the beginning of the next season segment, as follows: C: 6.0; 1b: 2.0; 2b: 6.0; ss: 7.0; 3b: 3.0; of: 1.0. A position player with no

defensive ratings at all receives a replacement-level rating at the position the Commissioner determines is his main defensive position.

#### B. VotawmaCare: The EFL VIL:

1. Each EFL team roster can include a Virtual Injured List (VIL).
2. Additions to the VIL
  - a. must be announced before before a beginning-of-the-month roster allocation deadline
  - b. take effect at the first of the month;
  - c. can only include players who
    - (1) will have been on the non-VIL roster for at least one season segment by the time the VIL placement takes effect, and,
    - (2) are on an MLB IL when their addition to the VIL is announced.
3. Players on the VIL
  - a. must stay on the VIL for at least one season segment;
  - b. must be paid their contracted EFL salaries, which count against the team's salary cap;
  - c. do not count against their team's roster limit; and
  - d. must come off the VIL at the end of the month in which they come off the MLB IL.
4. When a player goes on the VIL, his team may acquire a substitute player to fill his roster spot. The substitute player counts toward the team's roster limit, and his salary counts toward the team's salary cap.
5. When a player comes off the VIL, either he must be DFA'd or room must be made on the roster to include him before the roster allocation deadline
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#### V. SEASON PLAY

**A. Season Segments:** Each season is broken into segments corresponding with the calendar months: April (including March games), May, June, July, August, and September (including October games). Each month the team's record is compiled and recorded. If the Free Agent Draft takes place after Opening Day, then the teams get immediate credit for the statistics already compiled by the players on their rosters at the end of the Annual Draft.

#### B. Computing Team Record:

1. **Winning Percentage:** Each team's winning percentage is computed using the Bill James pythagorean formula:  $((R/RA) \times (R/RA)) / (((R/RA) \times (R/RA)) + 1)$  where R = runs and RA = runs allowed.
2. **Computing Runs:** Runs are calculated on the following formula:  $TRCG \times G$ , where TRCG = Team Runs Created Per Game, and G = the number of games played. TRCG is computed by adding the offensive statistics of the team's major league roster non-pitchers (PA, AB, BB, H, 2b, 3b, HR, SB, CS), adjusted according to these rules, and applying 0.93 times the Bill James RC/G formula to the team totals.
3. **Computing Runs Allowed:** Runs allowed are calculated on the following formula:  $ERA \times G \times DA$ , where ERA = Team Earned Run Average (total major league roster earned runs allowed  $\times$  9/total team innings pitched); G = games played; and DA = Defensive Adjustment (earned runs allowed  $\times$   $(1 + (.1 * (36/D)^3))$  where D equals total team defense rating, weighted by plate appearances.. Pitchers' defense is not included in D. An average defensive team would allow 1.1 of their earned runs. (In 1996, the range in MLB was from 6.13% to 14.99%.) Assuming good defenses suppress ERA's and bad ones inflate them, a wider extreme range seems appropriate and is reflected in our formulae.

**C. Recordkeeping:** League stats are kept in a database and website managed by the league's best IT guy. If civilization collapses, we'll keep going by reverting to our old spreadsheets.

**D. Midseason Roster Moves:** A variety of midseason roster moves are possible, including trades, call-ups, and replacements for disabled or demoted players. **All roster moves except those described in Section V.D.4 are effective as of the next roster deadline.**

1. **In Season Drafts: (see Rule 3.D.4, above)**

2. **Trades:** There are two types of trades: MLB/EFL Trades, EFL-Only trades, and MLB-Only trades.

a. **MLB/EFL Trades:** Any time a trade is made in MLB, if an EFL team owns all the major league pieces in one side of the trade:

1.) it has the option of making the identical trade effective immediately in the offseason, and before the next roster deadline during the season. However, if the deal is a trade of EFL players for EFL and non-EFL players, a team holding all the major league pieces on one side of the trade (the "trading team) may elect to accept the trade by announcing its decision to the league, **after which** EFL teams owning player(s) on the other side of the deal may elect to:

a.) keep their player(s), in which case the trading team gets only the non-EFL players from the other side of the MLB deal, or

b.) give up their players for nothing, in which case the trading team must take on the EFL players and their current EFL contracts along with the non-EFL players in the deal.

2.) and the other side of the trade consists entirely of cash, the EFL team may "trade" for "cash" in the form of release from its contractual obligations to the player(s) it is trading away.

3.) and the other side of the trade includes minor league players, the EFL trading team may elect to keep those players by adding them to the payroll at the minimum wage, or to drop those players without obligation (as if they disappeared into the EFL team's faceless minor league system, never to be seen again).

(a.) If a minor league player kept in this way has already debuted in MLB, he will be treated as a Rookie if his Rookie status would not have expired had he been drafted in the Rookie Draft; otherwise he will be treated as a veteran and will cost his actual MLB salary.

(b.) If the minor league player has not yet debuted in MLB, he can be owned in the EFL at a salary of \$250,000 until his debut. In the season of his debut, his EFL team may (i) allocate him to a position (or as a pitcher). If the player so allocated appears in an MLB game, that year becomes his first and his pay increases immediately too \$750,000.

(ii) If the EFL team holds him out of play by allocating him 100% to be inactive for the entire debut year, the next year is perforce his first Rookie year in the EFL.

4.) The options in this section expire at the end of the next manager's meeting (the Annual Free Agent Draft counting as a managers meeting for this purpose). The option to trade a drafted player to an MLB team does not begin until that draft is over and ends at the roster deadline.

b. **EFL-Only Trades:** Trading among EFL fantasy teams is encouraged, provided:

(1) **No trades for players to be named later.** A trade may have multiple steps -- players going both ways on one date, and then players going both ways on a later date. No player may go both ways in a multi-step trade. Teams may trade a pick in the next pre-season draft for players delivered immediately.

(2) A team may **subsidize the salary** of a player it trades away.

- (3) **In-Season trades** are official and binding when announced to the league at the Managers Meeting or via e-mail, but do not take effect until the first of the month covered by the next roster deadline.
- (4) **Off-season trades** are official and binding when announced.
- (5) Trades may be **effective at a later date** than when they become binding, but that date must be specified when the trade is announced and must either be on or before September 1, or in the offseason.

### 3. Mid-Month Roster Moves: *This section is no longer in use*

a.) For each month during the season, the Commissioner will announce a deadline for roster allocations. By that deadline each owner must submit a document assigning at least 25 active players to their positions. Active players contribute 100% of their statistics toward team totals, unless the roster allocation specifies a smaller percentage (ie, playing less than full time at that position) which cannot be less than 30% with any unallocated time assigned to the bench. More than one player can be allocated to each defensive position, including each of the five spots in the starting rotation, to make allocations for each role total at least 100%. (See also rules specifying minimum and maximum PA per defensive position, and minimum IP, in Section VI.B.5)

b.) Each EFL team has three reallocation opportunities per month. The owner may choose to use these opportunities at any time during the month. No more than (5? 10?) players may be affected in each reallocation opportunity. Players may not be added to or subtracted from the roster in these opportunities.

c.) All mid-month roster moves take effect as of the moment they are posted on the EFL transaction page, unless MLB play has already begun for that day, in which case they take effect at the close of play for that day.

### 4. Restricted List:

- a.) The Commissioner will place a player on the restricted list when his current EFL team provides the appropriate required evidence:
  - 1.) For players under contract in MLB, evidence from MLB official sources that the player is on the MLB restricted list.
  - 2.) For players under contract in the EFL but free agents in MLB, evidence of the player's stated intent to end or suspend his baseball career, combined with actions which are, in the Commissioner's judgment, clearly inconsistent with playing professional baseball (*e.g.*, taking a non-playing job that conflicts with playing during the MLB season).
- b.) Players on the restricted list:
  - 1.) do not occupy a spot on a roster,
  - 2.) are not paid or counted against the EFL team's salary cap,
  - 3.) cannot be DFA'd, and
  - 4.) cannot be reinstated to active status until at least one season segment has passed.
- c.) If the player goes on the restricted list or is reinstated part way through a season, his EFL salary is prorated for the part of the season he is active.
- d.) Players on the restricted list are reinstated by the EFL Commissioner when at least one season segment has passed and:
  - 1.) they are reinstated in MLB,

- 2.) they resume playing, or sign a contract to play, in MLB or any other professional baseball league,
- 3.) their EFL contract expires, or
- 4.) at the request of their EFL team.

e.) Upon reinstatement, if the player's EFL contract has not expired, the player's EFL team (or its assignee) must roster the player at the beginning of the next season segment, and resume paying him under the terms of his EFL contract adjusted for any prorations. The EFL team (or its assignee) must make arrangements for roster space and salary cap room if necessary to accommodate the player.

**E. Managers Meetings:** Team managers meet periodically during the season to shoot the breeze, review results for each segment of the season, trade, amend rules, and draft players. Attendance may be virtual but is not mandatory. The schedule of Managers Meetings is set by the Commissioner in consultation with league members, near the first of the "month." Managers may designate a proxy, and are free to communicate with their proxy via phone or e-mail during the meeting, provided they do not delay the meeting. The managers meeting is partly a social event, partly a league business meeting, and partly a swap meet.

**F. Restarts:** Any EFL team may petition to abandon its entire roster and restart as an expansion team, under the following conditions:

1. A petition to abandon a team is made before the deadline for 20-man Rule 5 protected lists.
2. The Commissioner (or if the Commissioner is making the petition, a Special Master elected by the league) reviews all the team's transactions for the previous 12 months. The petition is allowed only if the Commissioner (or the Special Master) finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the petitioner clearly never intended to materially sacrifice the team's future for shorter-term gain. Any owner may appeal the Commissioner's (or Special Master's) findings to the entire league.
3. The restarting team must assume any debts the expiring team owes to other teams, or to players no longer on the roster. The expiring team may not transfer to the restarting team any assets except:
  - a. Rights to receive payments due from other teams,
  - b. Home stadium, and
  - c. Team name and logo.
4. As of the date of the petition, the franchise may make no further drafts, drops, or trades. Any players who were dropped or DFA'd since the last roster deadline are restored to the expiring team's roster.
5. The entire expiring team's roster is available in the next Rule 5 draft, subject to the Rule 5 draft limit of a maximum of two players being taken. If there are more than two expansion teams participating in the Rule 5 draft, the limit on players taken from the expiring team will equal the number of expansion teams participating in the Rule 5 draft. The drafting team must still pay the \$250,000 Rule 5 draft fee (even though the restarting team is ineligible to receive it), and must keep the player active for an entire season or DFA him.
6. The expiring team's entire remaining roster is available in the expansion draft, except that in determining its exemption from losing more players, the number of players it has lost in the draft is divided by the number of expansion teams drafting.
7. A restarting team drafts in the Rookie and Free Agent drafts in the position the expiring team formerly occupied. If there is a new expansion team that year, the restarting team gets to choose whether it goes first in the Rule 5 Draft or the Expansion Draft, the new expansion team going first in the other draft.

## VI. LEAGUE CHAMPIONS:

**A. End of Season:** Final standings are based on the sum of the projected wins for each team for each month, using the statistics of the players on each monthly roster. The trophy is engraved with the name of the EFL Fantasy champion team and the year of the season.

**B. In computing monthly standings,** the following calculations are applied to Team Rosters:

1. Team Earned Run Average (ERA) is  $(\text{Team Earned Runs Allowed} \times 9) / \text{Team Innings Pitched}$ .

a. Team Earned Runs Allowed is the sum of each pitcher's daily earned runs allowed (multiplied by the percentage he was activated each day) plus replacement pitchers' earned runs allowed.

b. Team Innings Pitched is the sum of each pitcher's daily innings pitched (multiplied by the percentage he was activated each day) plus replacement pitchers' innings pitched.

c. If the team fails to record innings from at least 10 different pitchers, one-third of an inning, and one-third of a run, per game played that month are added to the team's total for each missing pitcher, representing the work of inept anonymous replacement-level pitchers.

d. If the team fails to record innings from at least one designated left-handed reliever, one-third of an inning, and one-third of a run, per game played that month are added to the team's total for the missing pitcher, representing the work of an inept anonymous replacement-level left-handed reliever.

e. If the team fails to record 7 innings pitched for each game it plays in a month, counting any replacement innings accrued under provisions c and d of this rule, the missing innings will be supplied by anonymous replacement pitchers with an ERA of 7.50.

2. If at any of the eight defensive positions (plus "other hitter") a starting player, or a platoon of two or more players, compiles less than 3.1 plate appearances per game played, anonymous replacement players creating 2.69 runs per game will make up the difference.

3. No more than 4.63 PA per game played are counted for each position. For any defensive position (including "other hitter") oversupplied with PA, the players contributing to that over-supply have PA (and other statistics) reduced proportionately to limit that position to the maximum number of PA.

4. The team's Defensive Adjustment to its runs allowed is based the team's total defense rating for the month. Total defense is calculated by summing the defensive ratings of all the players who appeared at each of the eight defensive positions (excluding pitchers and other hitters), weighted by each player's number of plate appearances in the month (including replacement players with replacement-level defensive ratings).

5. Games played in a month are calculated by subtracting the total games played by the EFL team at the end of the previous month from the total games played to date by the first-place MLB team in the division. (It is thus possible to have negative games occasionally.) If play for one MLB team is suspended and that team is leading their division, then the second place team will be used to determine games played. This rule will become effective when the stalled team has three fewer games played than all other teams in that division.

SEE SECTION V. B. of these rules for further information about computing team records.

## VII. THE COMMISSIONER

A. The commissioner is **elected** by the league owners at each year's annual draft, to serve for a term of one year. Commissioners may succeed themselves.

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- B. The commissioner may designate someone to act in her stead to perform any duty.
- C. The commissioner **may alter deadline dates** as necessary to accommodate owners' schedules.
- D. The commissioner must act at all times to **avoid conflicts of interest** between his roles as commissioner and owner. For example, the commissioner may not look at other teams' pre-draft rosters before compiling his own, and may not adjust his own after seeing any of the others. Also the Commissioner must share all competitively relevant information he acquires in the course of his duties as Commissioner with the other owners. (This does not apply to his own personal research into players' abilities conducted in sources available to other EFL owners.)
- E. If an owner does not submit information in a timely manner, the Commissioner does his best to work around the problem. For example, the Commissioner will leave player allocations unchanged for any team which does not submit timely updated allocations during the season. However, when an owner's failure to communicate threatens to render the entire league unable to function (for example, by preventing timely scheduling of the annual draft, or not submitting a pre-season roster), the Commissioner may suspend the offending team. If possible, the Commissioner will give the owner notice of suspension via email, with reasonable time to remedy the problem. The Commissioner's action to suspend an owner is reversible by the petition of any three EFL owners. A suspended team's roster is frozen, except that players with expiring contracts are released and the Commissioner may designate players to be left unprotected in a Rule 5 or expansion draft. The suspended team is removed from its MLB division, and is not tracked in EFL standings. A suspended team's owner may re-activate the team by giving assurances of meeting deadlines and staying in touch to the satisfaction of the Commissioner or of three other EFL owners; however, if the team misses any segment of the season it cannot be re-activated until the following off-season. A team that has been suspended for any segment of a season is disbanded if it isn't re-activated before the next Free Agent Draft. A re-activated team cannot be sure it will be in the same MLB division.