



Fantasy University: Baseball

Chapter 1

What is Fantasy Baseball?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to run your own pro baseball team? Or thought you could do a better job than your favorite team's GM? Well that's the idea behind Fantasy Baseball. You'll become the manager of your own personal squad of pro ball players. The fun is in running your team as you see fit. Not happy with your superstar's play? Trade 'em for that hot rookie! Ace pitcher not performing? Let 'em ride pine! Fantasy Baseball is all about the thrill of competition and strategy as you battle other team owners for the league championship. And Fantasy Baseball's rules are designed to be realistic - as close to the real thing as possible - so you'll live the thrills and heartbreak that go along with a full professional season.

Why should you be playing Fantasy Baseball?

Why should I play Fantasy Baseball? It's easy to learn and fun to play. You don't have to be a die-hard fan to enjoy playing Fantasy Baseball. In fact, most people who try Fantasy Baseball for the first time are casual fans that just like to watch the big games, new fans just getting into baseball, or non-sports fans that just enjoy friendly competition.

Chapter 2

Team & League

Team name: The first step to getting started is creating a name for your new team. This is how you and your team will be identified throughout the season so get creative and have some fun!

Join or create a league: Your competition will be made up of the other owners in your league. The number of teams in a Fantasy Baseball league can vary but should always be an even number. You can play with as few as six teams or have as many as 20, but the most common league size is 12 teams. You have the ability to choose who the other team owners will be so recruit friends, family and co-workers to join your league. Or, you can join a league run by CBSsports.com.

Ways To Play

There are two ways to play Fantasy Baseball- Rotisserie or Head-to-Head. Neither style is superior to the other.

Rotisserie or "Roto" - Rotisserie is the most popular version of Fantasy Baseball. In Rotisserie, teams do not compete directly in one-on-one matchups. Rather, each team's players earn points based on their performance. Teams are then ranked based on how many points they earn in each scoring category as a whole. Separate categories are used to rank: 1. Pitchers: Wins, Saves, Strikeouts, ERA, and WHIP, which is walks plus hits divided by innings pitched. 2. Hitters: Batting Average, Runs Scored, Home Runs, Runs Batted In and Stolen Bases.

Most leagues that choose to play in a Rotisserie-style league use the standard 5x5 scoring system, which uses the following scoring categories: Pitchers - Wins, Saves, Strikeouts, ERA, and WHIP. Position players: Batting Average, RBI, Home Runs, and Stolen Bases.

5x5 Rotisserie Scoring	
Batting Category	Pitching Category
Batting Average	Wins
Runs Scored	Saves
Runs Batted In	Strikeouts
Home Runs	Earned Run Average
Stolen Bases	WHIP [(walks+hits)/innings pitched]

4x4 Rotisserie Scoring	
Batting Category	Pitching Category
Batting Average	Earned Run Average
Runs Batted In	Wins
Home Runs	Saves
Stolen Bases	WHIP

Head-to-Head

Just like it sounds, this scoring system pits one team against another for a week in a "Head-to-Head" matchup. Points are awarded based on each player's performance and the team that earns the most points for the week gets the win. The teams with the best win/loss record at the end of the season make the single-elimination playoffs, eventually to determine a league champion.

Here is an example of a typical head-to-head scoring system.

Head-To-Head Scoring			
Batting Category	Pitching Category	Batting Category	Pitching Category
Batting Average	Wins	Batting Average	Wins
Runs Scored	Saves	Runs Scored	Saves
Runs Batted In	Strikeouts	Runs Batted In	Strikeouts
Home Runs	Earned Run Average	Home Runs	Earned Run Average
Stolen Bases	WHIP	Stolen Bases	WHIP

Roster Options

Player Pool - Do you want a Mixed League or AL/NL only? You will have two options in deciding which players to use in your Fantasy League. In mixed leagues, each Fantasy team will end up with more than a handful of stars, but in AL- or NL-only leagues, owners will have to start backup catchers and fifth starters on MLB teams in some cases.

Roster Spots - The average Fantasy team, in both league setups, has 23 starting players:

1. **Fourteen Hitters:** One each of the following: 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, as well as an extra Corner Infielder (1B or 3B) and an extra Middle Infielder (2B or SS). Teams will also need to draft two



Catchers, five Outfielders and a Designated Hitter -- which can be a hitter from any position, including the DH spot.

2. Nine Pitchers: Most leagues do not distinguish between starters or relievers; you just need nine pitchers total. But in a number of leagues, you can only have five starters and four relievers. If you aren't crazy about that idea, you can set an "innings-pitched" minimum of 1000 innings. Basically, this assures that a team won't just boot the Wins category and load up on all relievers so they can own the Saves, ERA and WHIP categories. A minimum can also be placed on at-bats, but that really isn't necessary since there are so many cumulative categories (HR, RBI, etc.) that whatever benefit gained out of fewer at-bats in the Batting Average category is cancelled out.

3. Reserves: The baseball season is a long one and teams should have at least five roster spots open for reserves. You can also consider adding an Injured Reserve spot or two, and advanced leagues can take advantage of the option to use Minor League roster spots too.

4. Position eligibility: Each league has to decide how many games a player has to have played at a particular position last season before they are considered eligible for that position this season. Usually, a league will set games-played requirements at 10 or 20 games last season, or if they start five games there this season. Luckily, CBSSports.com has already sifted through the position eligibilities for you.

The Fantasy Baseball Draft

You and the other members of your league will take turns selecting from a pool of available players until all rosters are full.

There are four draft options to choose from:

- 1. Live Online Draft** - Use the live draft rooms that CBSSports.com provides with league services. Players are pre-ranked by both CBSSports.com rankings as well as your custom rankings. A chat room is also available for mingling while one of the owners is deciding between players.
- 2. Automated Online Draft** – This draft process is conducted by each team pre-ranking players in the order in which the owner would prefer they be drafted. Players are then assigned to teams based on each team's rankings.
- 3. Offline Draft** – The most popular way to draft is to gather all league members together in one location and hold a draft party.

Post Draft Checklist

Free Agents - Any player that went undrafted is considered a free agent, which basically means that any owner can sign him to their roster.

Waivers - Any player that is cut from a team or is newly added to the player pool, like a minor leaguer or a player traded over from a different league, is considered on waivers. In order to provide an equal opportunity for all owners to add players to their roster that are recently cut or new to the free agent pool, a waivers process is used. Owners' requests to add players on waivers to their roster are not executed immediately, but are put in a pending status for at least 24 hours. This allows multiple teams to request the same players. Every night between midnight and 6am ET a waiver process will be run, executing the pending requests in the waiver rank order. When a team makes a successful waiver claim during the waiver process, the team's rank is set to last and everyone else's rank moves up one. All transactions during the waiver process are effective for the next scoring period. The initial waiver rank order is the reverse order of your



league's draft. Once a player clears waivers, they become a free agent and can be picked up on a first come, first served basis.

Setting Your Lineup

Your league site has a page where you can activate and reserve players. You can also assign them to other positions. Don't like the production you are getting at first base? Bench him for one of your red-hot reserves. Had your star shortstop go down with an injury? Assign him to your injured reserve, plug your versatile utility man in as the shortstop and activate someone off your bench.

- **Weekly basis** - Most leagues, particularly beginner leagues, allow lineups to be set and changed only on a weekly basis. The deadline is most commonly Monday at noon. This means you will want to get the latest player news and analysis from CBSSports.com before the deadline in order to make the key roster decisions.
- **Daily basis** - Some more advanced leagues have daily lineups and transactions. This is a much more labor-intensive option and will require you to scour CBSSports.com for up-to-second LIVE scoring and stats nightly.

Ready to hit it out of the park? Sign Up Now at <http://baseball.CBSSports.com>