

All SPB III - 1953 Managers: This is to let you know of three rule changes that will be forthcoming for our 1953 season which will begin on April 1st this year. I submitted the proposals to our six older era Rules Committee members and all 3 proposals were unanimously approved. **So please keep this email for your records in case, you need to review them, as it might be a while before John T. can get these changes posted to the appropriate SPB league web pages.**

The six voting members of SPB X & SPB III Rules Committee are: Terry Baxter, Steve Brunner, Joe DeZarlo, Don Rahn, Rick Ryan, & John Ungashick. They were recently asked by me to become our Rules Committee, and all six managers play in both of our older era leagues, and all six have been part of the overall Rules Committee for several years now. **Thanks to all the rule committee members for agreeing promptly to these rule changes!**

The first rule change concerns our new way of holding the drafts starting in 1953. This is the same way that the more modern SPB leagues put into effect just recently, so most all of you are in at least some of those SPB leagues and may already be familiar with it. For 1953, you will be asked to submit a 26-player protected roster. The players who are not protected will be put into the mix with the regular 1953 rookies, and then we will hold the regular six round rookie draft, which brings rosters up to 32 players. After that we will run a final draft of 3 rounds to bring us up to the required 35 players (for 1953) per team. This will leave us with 44 free agents to use as needed during the season. **And a reminder that all un carded players are not subject to any drafts, as always.**

Of course, during this final 3 round draft, some teams may have to draft a few more players than 3 during this stage, and some teams would have to draft less than 3 because of all the trades involving draft picks that have previously been made.

SPB X will also use this new system of drafting, but for 1936 the number of protected players to start the draft will be somewhat lower than 26, maybe even the same 21, as was the case for 1935. The reason for this is that many less players composed the actual real life MLB teams in the 1930's, and maybe early 40's, than in the post war period teams.

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The second rule change effects Bonus Players. In 1935 we tried just giving all bonus hitters double their PA's, and all bonus pitchers double their batters faced. Which, of course was a bit too open minded, and very unrealistic. So, starting with 1953, and then 1936, you can double your bonus hitters up to a maximum of 400 PA's, and pitchers can double the BFP up to 600 BFP. **And for the few bonus players that actually had higher than 400 PA's and for those few bonus pitchers who had more than 600 BFP's, they will be allowed to old bonus rule of 100 additional PA's or BF.**

The final change concerns the rule where if a batter or pitcher faced fewer than 100 PA's or BFP, they were exempt from being used at all. In other words, they could be kept without being subject to the 50% usage rules. Starting with 1953 & 1936, these players will be allowed to be kept only if they had real life PA's or BFP of less than 50. In other words, the free limit was cut in half.

So, there you have it, as I said please keep this email for reference purposes. I will be sending out the first SPB III - 1953 preseason file later today. So, stand by.

Best,
Gary