

**GRAND OL' LEAGUE CONSTITUTION
AND LEAGUE RULES (vers 10)**

As of November 7, 2019 (Post votes January 2019)

GRAND OL' LEAGUE VALUE STATEMENT

I. (V) Grand Ol' League (GOL) is intended to be lots of fun.

GOL was founded in 1987 as Scoresheet's initial carryover league. GOL is for those who love baseball and want an opportunity to enjoy fantasy baseball on a year round basis. GOL owners:

- want to have fun;
- follow MLB on a regular basis;
- are interested in long-term participation in a fantasy baseball league;
- enjoy head-to-head simulated fantasy baseball that mirrors baseball;
- want the rewards of owning, developing and managing a baseball franchise;
- enjoy participation in baseball trade discussions and trade activity;
- enjoy developing and implementing tactics for a competitive winning strategy;
- wish to share their passion for baseball with fellow fanatics;
- wish to share the special camaraderie that only fans of baseball enjoy.

II. (V) Owners in Grand Ol' League enjoy (and likely even prefer) National League baseball.

III. (V) Grand Ol' League is a perennial league.

IV. (V) GOL promotes development of a fantasy baseball franchise through: (1) annual drafts of major league and minor league players and; (2) limited carryover of drafted players from year to year and; (3) the use of trading.

V. (V) Grand Ol' League is a league with active owners and promotes fulfillment of the pleasures of being a successful owner, general manager and, field manager of a fantasy baseball team through: (1) informed drafting; (2) active trade discussion and participation and; (3) active weekly lineup management.

VI. (V) Grand Ol' League is intended to be a league that rewards owners that find talent and potential in established players and prospects by applying challenging carryover limits and expansive roster sizes conducted within rules adopted by tried and experienced participants in GOL and Scoresheet.

VII. (V) Any owner in Grand Ol' League may propose changes to GOL's value statement, principled rules and operating rules.

Owners are encouraged to consider potential changes in the context of GOL's existing values. Owners are encouraged to refrain from making year after year rule proposals that are not adopted by the league. There is no harm in recognizing that GOL is not for everyone. The Commissioner will conduct a vote of all team owners upon the receipt of a proposed rule change. Proposed GOL changes must be submitted in writing (or e-mail) to the Commissioner by the proposing party. Changes will be considered annually during the offseason. **Such changes normally require a future effective date of at least one GOL season unless a shorter future effective date is accepted by unanimous vote.** Proposed changes will be categorized by the Commissioner into one of the following categories:

- i. Proposed Changes Impacting GOL's Value Statement (V). These proposed changes will be adopted only upon a **unanimous** vote of all GOL owners. Examples of these types of changes would be: (1) make GOL a non-perennial league or; (2) elimination of National League players in GOL or; (3) elimination of carryover rights or; (4) elimination of trading or; (5) declaring that GOL is not intended to be fun.
- ii. Proposed Changes Impacting GOL's Principled Rules (P). These proposed changes will be adopted only upon a $\frac{3}{4}$ **majority** vote of all GOL owners. Examples of these types of changes would be changes to the: (1) number of carryover protections or; (2) number of AL protection rights or; (3) size of rosters or; (4) number of rounds in drafts or; (5) number of teams in GOL or; (5) majority approval levels for changes or; (6) items eligible to be traded or; (7) the Commissioner's trade following process.
- iii. Proposed Changes Impacting GOL's Operating Rules (O). These proposed changes will be adopted only upon a **simple majority** vote of all GOL owners. Examples of these types of changes would be changes to the: (1) number of divisions in GOL or; (2) methods used for establishing the spring draft order.
- iv. Proposed Changes Impacting Scoresheet's Operating Procedures. These proposed changes must be presented initially to Scoresheet and will be adopted only if approved by Scoresheet and then by a **simple majority** vote of all GOL owners.

VIII. (V) GOL owners like wholesome competition but want everyone to have a good time.

Please always remember this is just a game, and our primary purpose is to enhance our enjoyment of baseball and make a few special friends along the way.

Grand Ol' League Principled and Operating Rules:

(V= Value Statement, P= GOL Principled Rule, O=GOL Operating Rule)

I. LEAGUE FORMAT

- a. (V) Grand Ol' League (GOL) is a NL fantasy baseball league and as such will draft NL players.
- b. (P) Grand Ol' League will use scoring rules and software provided by Scoresheet.
- c. (O) Scoresheet will award a trophy to the league play-off champion of GOL.
- d. (P) Grand Ol' League will follow Scoresheet rules in instances where no specific rule has been adopted by GOL until, and unless, a specific rule is adopted by GOL.
- e. **(P) Yearly franchise cost, payment methods, and lineup change fees will be determined by Scoresheet.** It will be the responsibility of each owner to ensure payment to Scoresheet in accordance with Scoresheet policy.
- f. (V) Grand Ol' League will establish drafting, carryover, team composition and trading rules.
- g. (P) The league will elect a Commissioner who will coordinate the draft, organize the owners participating in the league, and uphold GOL rules in consultation with Scoresheet and other GOL team owners as necessary. Annually, the current Commissioner will provide an opportunity for other owners to express if they would like a change in Commissioner and if any other Owner would like to volunteer to be GOL Commissioner. If any owner would like to pursue a change in Commissioner or if any Owner volunteers to be Commissioner, an election will be held. If a Commissioner resigns or leaves the league an election will be held for a new Commissioner. In the event no GOL owner is willing to be Commissioner, GOL will ask Scoresheet to serve as league Commissioner.
- h. (V) Grand Ol' League will be a perennial league and as such players on team rosters will be carried over from season to season, subject to carryover roster limitations. Additionally, as a perennial league, such players on a roster and the other assets associated with each roster will be tradable, subject to trading rule limitations adopted by the league.
- i. (P) GOL will consist of 12 teams so long as the National League has 16 teams. GOL will look to expand by one team or make appropriate adjustments to roster size as determined by league rule if the National League expands for each 2 NL teams beyond 16 teams. GOL will make appropriate adjustments to roster sizes as determined by league rule and number of GOL teams for each reduction by 2 NL teams short of 16 teams.
- j. (O) GOL will consist of three divisions.
- k. (O) GOL will use a balanced schedule and will play 162 regular season games.

- l. (O) A league champion will be determined using a playoff following Scoresheet's rules. The winner of each division **and the two GOL teams not winning a division with the highest number of regular season wins will advance to the playoffs.** Ties will be resolved using Scoresheet rules.

II. ROSTER AND PLAYER INFO

- m. (P) Each GOL team will be provided 59 roster slots for each season in a 15 or 16 team NL Major League Scenario. These slots will be filled annually by each respective owner of a GOL team through a combination of annual spring (Febr.) drafts, supplemental drafts and, players carried over from the roster of the respective GOL team. Over the years GOL has held initial year and expansion/realignment drafts as necessary.
- n. (P) Each season every GOL team will cutdown rosters using a carryover approach involving major league and minor league players and limited AL carryover and injured reserve carryover. Cutdowns will occur from players on each GOL team roster at the roster freeze date established for the cutdown. The reporting of all carryover players will occur in January each year with near alignment to the cutdown deadlines established by Scoresheet for Scoresheet carryover leagues. All teams must report ALL their carryover players to both Scoresheet and the league Commissioner at or prior to the carryover reporting date deadline. The reporting of carryover players will occur no later than 10 days prior to the start of the annual GOL spring draft.
- o. (P) GOL owners will be provided, and are required to use, 17 Major League Player Carryover Rights for players from their current roster. These 17 Rights are primarily to be used for players with major league playing status at the completion of the prior season. Players who have only current minor league status may be carried over using Major League Player Carryover Rights. Players who have Super Minor League Player status may be carried over either using Major League Player Carryover Rights or Super Minor League Player Carryover Rights.
- p. (P) GOL owners will be provided up to 2 Injured Reserve Carryover Rights for players from their current roster but are on the Major League or Minor League Injured list at the end of the prior season. Players kept in this status will not count either towards a team's 17 player Major League Player Carryover Rights total or their optional up to 10 Minor League Carryover Rights total. **A player kept in this status is not eligible to be used on a team's active roster at all during the season in which they are kept under Injured Reserve Carryover Rights.** *Players in Injured Reserve Status will not be listed on a team's roster at the SS website until after the play-offs and the regular season. This is necessary to ensure that SS does not allow such player to be used in any SS games that season. Despite such player not being shown on a roster on the SS website any player in Injured Reserve Status is not eligible to be drafted by any team in GOL during that season.*

- q. (P) GOL owners will be provided up to 6 **optional** AL Protection Rights that can be used for Major League Carryover Players from their roster that are on the Scoresheet current season AL Player list at the annual freeze date for cutdowns. AL Minor League players that are carriedover do not count against the 6 player limit so long as they have minor league status at the time of carryover for that season.
- r. (P) GOL owners will be provided **10 optional** Minor League Player Carryover Rights for players from their roster with less than major league playing status at the completion of the prior season. GOL owners will be provided up to 3 **optional** Super Minor League Player Carryover Rights of their 10 total Minor League Player Carryover Rights for Super Minor League Players that meet the playing time eligibility rules described for Super Minor League Players below. GOL owners were provided 6 **optional** Minor League Player Carryover Rights for players from their roster with less than major league playing status at the completion of the prior season through the winter 2013 carryover.
- s. (P) A minor league player will retain minor league status (and thus can be carried over as a Minor League Carryover) if they have no more than 75 major league IP's or no more than 250 major league AB's. A Super Minor League Player is a player retained as a Super Minor League Carryover that has no more than 150 major league IP's or no more than 500 major league AB's.
- t. (P) Minor League Player Carryover and/or Super Minor League Player Carryover will require forfeiture of the teams round 44, 43, 42, 41, 40,39, 38, 37, 36,& 35 (in this order) draft picks in the upcoming spring (Febr.) draft. Teams must forfeit their highest subsequent available picks less than round 35 for their up to 10 minor league carryovers if their round 44-35 picks have been traded away.
- u. (P) Respective GOL team rosters immediately upon cutdown will be comprised of players of the roster of each respective GOL team **who at the respective freeze date for cutdowns** are:
- Players on major league team rosters on the current season published Scoresheet NL Player list.
 - Players on minor league team rosters on the current season published Scoresheet NL Player list.
 - Subject to AL Player protection right limitations, players who are on the current season Scoresheet AL Player list if they were on the Scoresheet NL Player List in the year they were drafted by a GOL owner.
 - Players that are not on any Scoresheet Player list if they most recently played on a major league team that is currently in the National League.
 - Players with minor league status that were drafted in the previous season who

are under contract with a National League team.

- *Players on a NL roster that are on a GOL teams roster that are currently on the Major League or Minor League Injured List.*

- v. (P) There is no roster impact during a season for players traded in the Major Leagues from the NL to the AL. Players that move from the NL to the AL will remain eligible to be carried on a team roster during the current season. Subject to the AL player limit rule such players will be eligible in GOL for as long as they are retained by the league team that owned them when the player moved to the AL or if such player is traded to another league team. Once such player has been released by a league team they are not eligible to be acquired by any other league team unless the player later returns to the NL and is relisted on the NL player list. Also if a carriedover minor league player is traded after rosters are cutdown the trading away team does not receive their draft choice back.

III. DRAFTING

- v. (P) Starting with the spring 2014 draft GOL will hold a spring draft that will consist of the appropriate number of rounds based upon the following schedule:
 - i. 17 NL teams - 51 rounds (effective 2019 Season)*
 - ii. 16 NL teams – 49 rounds (effective 2019 Season)*
 - iii. 15 NL teams – 49 rounds (effective 2019 Season)*
 - iv. 14 NL teams – 47 rounds (effective 2019 Season)*

- w. (P) Rounds 1-17 of the spring (Febr.) draft will be filled by major league (or minor league) carryover players of each GOL team and rounds 44-35 will be filled by minor league carryover players of each GOL team (if such minor leaguers are carried over by a team). For a 15 or 16 NL Major League Teams a total of 49 rounds (17+10+ 22 spring draftees) will have been covered after the spring draft including all possible carryovers except for up to 2 Injured Reserve Carryovers per team. If a team does not carryover minor league players rounds 44-35 will be drafted players in the spring draft. GOL will not follow Scoresheets roster balancing rules for this draft. This draft may be held in person, by phone or e-mail. Current preference is by e-mail in early-mid February through mid-late March.

- x. (O) Draft order for the GOL spring (Febr.) draft for each round will be established in the reverse order of finish by record in the prior season with the league champion drafting last. Effective for the 2015 Season, **draft order ties will be broken by the team with the largest run differential between Runs Allowed (RA) and Runs Scored (RS) drafting first among tied teams in each round** (except the league play-off champ will always draft last.) If none of the tied teams have a positive RA-RS differential then the team with the smallest negative RA – RS will draft first among the tied teams. For all seasons prior to 2015, ties will be broken following Scoresheet's rules.

y. (O) GOL will hold five (5) supplemental monthly drafts (Apr, May, June, July, Aug) that will consist of two rounds each following Scoresheet supplemental draft rules, and using Scoresheet's web drafting system. Effective for the 2015 Season and beyond, **draft order ties will be broken by the team with the largest run differential between Runs Allowed(RA) and Runs Scored(RS) drafting first among tied teams in each round** (except the league play-off champ will always draft last.) If none of the tied teams have a positive RA-RS differential then the team with the smallest negative RA – RS will draft first among the tied teams. For all seasons prior to 2015, ties will be broken following Scoresheet's rules.

z. (P) The following defines GOL Player Draft Eligibility:

MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYERS (i.e. players who have major league status for GOL as of the respective Scoresheet list freeze date).

Any major leaguer player who is listed on the NL Scoresheet list or is signed or is otherwise affiliated with an NL team where the team has exclusive rights as of the draft freeze date established by the Commissioner *and is not on any GOL team's Injured Reserve List.*

Any major league player who PLAYED in the NL in the prior season and is not listed on the AL Scoresheet list at the draft freeze date established by the Commissioner *and is not on any GOL team's Injured Reserve List.*

Any major league player who DID NOT PLAY in the NL in the prior season and is not listed on the AL Scoresheet list at the draft freeze date established by the Commissioner but is signed, or otherwise affiliated with an NL team where the team has exclusive rights after the draft freeze date time established by the Commissioner shall be eligible at the start of the first draft succeeding his signing or other affiliation with an NL team "i.e., the next draft after the current draft" *and is not on any GOL team's Injured Reserve List.*

MINOR LEAGUE PLAYERS (i.e. players who have DO NOT have major league status for GOL as of the respective Scoresheet list freeze date).

Any minor leaguer player who is listed on the NL Scoresheet list or is signed or is otherwise affiliated with an NL team where the team has exclusive rights as of the draft freeze date established by the Commissioner.

Any minor leaguer player who is NOT listed on the NL Scoresheet list at the draft freeze date established by the Commissioner but is signed or otherwise affiliated with an NL team where the team has exclusive rights prior to the draft freeze date established by the Commissioner.

Any minor leaguer player who is NOT listed on the NL Scoresheet list at the draft freeze date established by the Commissioner but is signed or otherwise affiliated with an NL team where the team has exclusive rights after the draft freeze date established by the Commissioner shall be eligible at the start of the first draft succeeding his signing or other affiliation with an NL team "i.e., the next draft after the current draft".

IV. TRADING

- aa. (P) GOL owners may trade any of the following:
- i. any player on their GOL team current roster;
 - ii. any unused future draft pick rights for the current or the upcoming season;
 - iii. future Major League Carryover rights and associated draft pick forfeiture (i.e. rounds 1-17) ("Major League Carryover Right");
 - iv. future minor league carryover rights and associated draft pick forfeiture (i.e. rounds 44-35
 - v. any unused future AL Crossover Protection rights for the current or the upcoming season.

The following items may not be traded:

- i. any Injured Reserve Spot
- ii. any Super Minor League Carryover designation slot
- iii. any player that is currently on a Teams Injured Reserve list

A trade may contain a "player to be named later" (PTBNL). Such PTBNL must be delivered to the other team no later than the roster freeze date for cutdowns for the season that starts after the trade is made. No player that is included in the original trade may be the PTBNL. The owners involved in such a trade must deliver to the Commissioner at the time of the trade: (1) the boundaries that define where the PTBNL will be selected from and; (2) the expected delivery date of the PTNBL.

No draft pick right, Major League Carryover Right, or Minor League Carryover Right or, AL Crossover Protection right can be traded that is more than twelve months in the future.

All owners involved in a trade must report the trade to both Scoresheet and the League Commissioner in order for the trade to be effective.

- bb. (P) Any and all trades between teams in GOL are permitted so long as the trade:
1. is made consistent with GOL rules
 2. does not involve collusion (i.e. roster loading)
 3. is made in good faith pursuit of the principles and values of GOL

4. is deemed to be fair to each team involved in the trade by each owner involved in the trade (confirmation of the trade will indicate such acknowledgement).

The Commissioner will follow each trade and will discuss the trade with all owners involved and take appropriate remedial action if in the Commissioner's sole opinion any trade:

1. blatantly violates GOL rules, principles or the GOL value statement;
2. establishes a precedent that will lead to degradation of GOL principles and/or the GOL value statement.

Trades involving the Commissioner will be followed in this manner by the owner in the league with the most years of team ownership in Grand Ol' League not involved in such trade. Such owner will have the same responsibilities as the Commissioner.

- cc. (O) In order to keep track of AL Crossover Protection Rights that have been traded , such trade will be reported as a Round 1 draft pick being traded for the first such Crossover Protection Right traded, a Round 2 draft pick being traded for the second such Crossover Protection Right traded , etc.. up to the maximum number of such crossover protection rights made available under league rules. (3 in 2016, 5 in 2017 and 6 in 2018).

FUTURE RULE ITEMS TO CONSIDER

1. A request has been received to debate and vote on a minor league dispersal draft process for the circumstance when an owner leaves the league and their team has less than 6 minor leaguers on it at the time of their departure as follows: If an owner leaves the league and their team has less than 6 minor leaguers on it at the time of their departure a minor league dispersal draft will be held to bring the abandoned team up to 10 minor leaguers for the replacement owner prior to the first spring (Febr.) draft the replacement owner participates in.

The minor league dispersal draft will be held as follows:

- a. Each team in the league can designate up to 6 minor leaguers on their roster that are protected.
 - b. Each team that has more than 6 minor leaguers on its roster will split evenly its non-protected minor leaguers into Class A and Class B to create a Minor League Dispersal Available Pool.
 - c. The replacement owner will select as many minor leaguers from the Minor League Dispersal Available Pool as necessary to bring the total minor leaguers on the abandoned team up to 10. No team contributing to the Pool may lose more than 2 players to the Minor League Dispersal Draft, consisting of no more than 1 player from its Class A designees and 1 player from its Class B designees.
 - d. A Replacement owner may cut any of the minor leaguers on their roster picked up during the Dispersal draft prior to their initial spring (Febr.) draft.
2. Oct. 2019 - A proposal has been received to rename the Aaron division as the Bob Ebert division and the Ryan division as the Lou Gehrig Division.

League Rules History Overview

The following are the recent major changes in rules that have occurred in GOL.

GOL originally consisted of 8 teams and used one division. GOL had expanded to 10 teams and two divisions by 2000. In 2004, GOL expanded to 12 teams and three divisions. During these years of expansion, the major league carryover limit went from 17-15- 17. Currently the GOL major league carryover limit is 17.

Originally the number of AL Crossover Protection Rights was 2 per team. GOL has increased the number of AL Crossover Protection Rights to 3. In the 2015-16 offseason, GOL voted to increase the league increased the number of AL Crossover Protection Rights to 5 for the 2017 Season and 6 for the 2018 Season. GOL determined that these limits could not be reconsidered for 2017 or 2018 unless 75% of the owners in the league agree to holding such a debate and possible vote. GOL determined it will number vote in the 2017-18 offseason as to whether the 6 player Crossover Protection Limit shall remain at 6 or be increased (including to an unlimited number).

For a long time, GOL drafted 35 players in the spring (Febr.) draft. MLB moved Houston from the National League to the America League. GOL then implemented a scale for the number of draft rounds tied to the number of teams in the MLB National League. Over the 2014 & 2105 cutdowns, GOL voted to expand the number of rounds to be drafted in the Spring (Febr.) draft to 44 rounds.

For a long time, GOL permitted the carryover of up to 6 minor league players. During the 2014 & 2105 offseasons , GOL moved to expand the Minor League carryovers from 6-10 and moved the draft round forfeitures for keeping minor leaguers to rounds 44-35.

For a long time, GOL held 3 supplemental drafts. When GOL went to a 44 rnd spring (Febr.) draft size, it went to 5 supplemental drafts of two rounds each to be held in April, May, June, July, and August.

For seasons prior to 2015, breaking ties for establishing draft order were followed Scoresheet's rules. Effective with the 2015 Season, draft order ties will be broken by the team with the largest run differential between Runs Allowed (RA) and Runs Scored (RS) drafting first among tied teams in each round (except the league play-off champ will always draft last.) If none of the tied teams have a positive RA-RS differential then the team with the smallest negative RA – RS will draft first among the tied teams.

GOL has increased and decreased overall roster size several times with the latest change in 2019.

GOL increased from 2 AL crossover tights to up to 6 crossover rights in 2018.

GOL instituted usage of an Injured Reserve *Carryover Right* of up to 2 players in 2019.

GOL has decreased and increased the size of the spring draft several times with the latest change in 2018.

GOL has increased the playing limits for Minor League Player carryover status several times with the latest change in 2018.

GOL implemented Super Minor league Player carryover playing limits effective for the 2020 season.

Between the 2017 season and the 2018 Spring (Febr.) Draft, the league voted on the number of AL Crossover slots per team for the 2019 season remaining @ 6 AL crossovers per team or a greater amount (including an infinite number of such slots).

Passed at 6 AL crossover slots

A request has been received to debate and vote on an increase in the 50 IP limit for minor league eligibility to 75 IPS's during the 2017 offseason. **Passed**

The following is provided as an example of the process used during the most recent realignment draft.

2004 REALIGNMENT DRAFT RULES

Grand Ol' League will expand to 12 teams in the 2004 season. The major league player carryover number will be 15 for 2004. The major league player carryover number will be 16 for 2005. The major league player carryover number will return to 17 in 2006.

A realignment draft will be held to allow the two new teams to establish rosters. Rules for the 2004 realignment draft are below. All existing teams are eligible to throw their teams in and participate in the realignment draft.

A realignment draft will be held before the 2004 season. All new owners in the league (due to expansion or otherwise) and any other owner who wishes to throw his entire existing team into the realignment draft will be eligible to participate in the realignment draft. Teams in this realignment draft will have 25 major league player slots and 8 minor league player slots in the realignment draft. It is the intent for teams drafting in the realignment draft to end up with at 13-15 major league players and at least 6 minor league players on the realigned teams that are of carryover quality.

Prior to the realignment draft each team NOT participating in the alignment draft will identify 15 major league players and 6 minor league players on its roster that are frozen and not eligible in the realigned draft. All NON-FROZEN players on non-abandoned teams and all players on the abandoned teams will be eligible in the realignment draft.

The draft order for teams in the realignment draft will be determined randomly and will snake from round to round. After the realignment draft any player that was originally on a non-abandoned team and is not selected by a realigned team will revert to the non-abandoned team until the 2004 season cutdown. After the realignment draft all 12 teams will cutdown for the 2004 season. Each team will have 15 major league carryover slots and 6 minor league carryover slots for 2004.

In 2004 the spring (Febr.) winter draft order will be as follows:

Spring (Febr.)r draft order for teams 1-10 will draft based upon their finish in 2003. Teams 11 & 12 will draft in the 11th and 12th spot respectively. If an owner throws in their team into the 2004 realignment draft they forfeit their 2003 teams finish draft position. Owners who are in the realignment draft will have their team number assigned randomly and that will determine their draft positioning in round 1 of the winter draft (I.E. first owner selected will get the team number of the team that finished lowest in the 2003 season and will draft in that team's draft position in the first round last owner selected will get team number 12 and will draft in the 12th spot in the first round.) The draft position of the realigned teams will snake in each round (I.E. team number 12 will draft in the lowest draft spot of realigned teams in the 2nd round and the realigned team that drafted earliest in the first round of the winter draft will draft in the 12th spot in the 2nd round of the winter draft).