

ARTICLE XIV. SIGNING FREE AGENTS

Active major league players not on any Rotisserie League team's roster at the conclusion of the auction draft become free agents. During the course of the season, the pool of free agents may also include minor league players not in any Rotisserie League farm system (see **Article XIII**) who are promoted to an active major league roster; waived players who are not claimed; and players traded from the "other" major league. Such players may be signed in the following manner.

From Opening Day Until the All-Star Game. Free agents may be called up to replace players placed on a Rotisserie League team's reserve list as outlined in **Article XII**. The only exceptions to **Article XII**'s provisions for signing free agents during this period is that a player traded into the league from the "other" major league or signed by a team within the league as a free agent may be signed by a Rotisserie League team with its **Free Agent Acquisition Budget (FAAB)**, as described below.

After the All-Star Game. From the All-Star Game until the last weekly transaction deadline before September 1, free agents may be signed, without limit in number, but within the limitations of a Rotisserie League team's **Free Agent Acquisition Budget**:

- Each team shall have, for the purpose of acquiring free agents during the course of the season, a supplementary budget of \$100.
- At the deadline established by each league for recording weekly transactions, a team may submit a sealed bid for one or more free agents.
- The minimum bid shall be \$5; the maximum shall be the amount remaining in a team's FAAB.
- A free agent so selected goes to the highest bidder. If more than one team bids the same amount on a player, and if that amount is the highest bid, the player goes to the team that is lowest in the most recently issued standings.
- The salary of a free agent signed in the manner is his acquisition price. His contract status is that of a first-year player.
- In addition to the player's acquisition price, a team signing a free agent must pay the \$25 transaction fee for calling up free agents as set forth in **Article VI**.
- For each free agent that it signs, a team *must* at the same time waive or release a player at the same position from its *active* roster. If on a major league team's *active* roster, such a player is *waived*. If he has been placed on a major league team's disabled list, *released*, traded to the "other" league, or demoted to the minors, such a player is released and may not be acquired by a Rotisserie League team until he is once again on a major league roster.
- A free agent signed for a salary in excess of \$10 (i.e., more than the customary call-up fee for replacement players) is deemed to have a guaranteed two-year contract. If such a player is not protected the following season (i.e., if he is released into the free agent pool at the time rosters are frozen on April 1), then a contract buyout fee in the amount of twice his salary or \$100, whichever is greater, shall be paid by the team owning his contract at the time.
- If a Rotisserie League team loses a player to the "other" league in an interleague trade, then the team's available **FAAB** dollars are increased by an amount equal to the lost player's salary.

NOTE: If a team wishes to replace an injured player and reserve him, it must use the mechanism described in **Article XII**; it may not use the FAAB process without releasing the player. The highest FAAB bid gets the free agent regardless of DL (and here is the only possible relief to replace a frozen roster slot as defined in **Article XII**; justice derives from the price paid to fix the problem).

NOTE: The provision regarding players acquired for a sum in excess of the customary \$10 call-up free is intended to discourage frivolous bidding for free agents. It is also intended to make teams who are most likely to benefit from signing costly free agents—that is, teams still in the race of the first division—pay for it dearly, by making such players expensive to dump the following spring.

NOTE: Set up a simple, common-sense mechanism for handling the “sealed bid” part of the **FAAB** process. Nothing elaborate is needed. Price Waterhouse need not be called in. Don’t permit bidders to make contingency bids (e.g., “If I don’t get Ruth at \$29, then I’ll bid \$25 on Gehrig, and if I don’t get Gehrig...”) unless your League Secretary doesn’t have a day job.

I was confused with the third paragraph (After the All-Star Game) and the first NOTE. These sections were to handle the situation which we had decided to disregard. “(Article XII. The Reserve List: ...A team has two weeks to take action once a player is placed on the disabled list, released, traded to the other league, or sent to the minors by his major league team. If no action is taken, the position is frozen open until the original player’s return, and no replacement may be made, except as provided under Article XIV after the All-Star game.”)

Since we do not adhere to this rule, we could eliminate the “After the All-Star Game” and just change the “From Opening Day Until the All-Star Game” to “From Opening Day Until the Last Weekly Transaction Deadline before September 1.”