

2023 LINDA B. SCHULZ MEMORIAL APBA BASEBALL TOURNAMENT RULES LBS IX

Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 9:00 AM EST (Please arrive by 8:45 AM.)

OVERVIEW

1. Venue

Slippery Rock Township Building, 155 Branchton Road, Slippery Rock PA 16057 – Please email Darren Schulz at dcs1700@yahoo.com for information on lodging if needed.

By attending this event, I agree to accept and abide by the rules and guidelines set forth below and agree to be in any photo or video documentation.

2. Cost

\$20.00 cash only at the registration table – This covers venue rental, prizes, and food. Any leftover funds and/or donations will be sent to the American Diabetes Association in memory of our mother. If Paypal is necessary, please send as Friends and Family to schulzka02@gmail.com. If using Venmo is preferred, please contact Ken for details.

3. Prizes

The Winner gets a personal plaque which is presented at the following LBS tournament. Champion, runner-up, and 3rd place finisher will get to choose a prize which will be determined by the tournament directors.

4. Food

Food be provided as part of the registration fee. There will be breakfast items as well as lunch, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages. Alcohol is

not permitted at the venue. If you have food allergies, you may bring your own food/drink items into the venue.

5. Materials

The basic game will be used with the newest version (2013 copyright or more recent) of the game manual. A few manuals can be provided if you do not have your own. If possible, though, please bring your copy of this current manual.

Any Apba-issued MLB team from a complete season card set or GTO (Greatest Teams of the Past) sets are eligible as long as they adhere to the tournament theme (see below). Additionally, no copied cards are permitted; and for any seasons and/or GTO sets that have been issued more than once (Example: 1957O, 1957R, & 1957RR), the mixing of players from the various printings for a particular team is prohibited.

We will provide Apba-issued dice for everyone to borrow for the day's events. A dice shaker or dice tower must be used. Rolling the dice in your bare hands or other ways without the use of a shaker or tower is NOT permitted. A shaker will be provided if you do not have one.

6. LBS IX Theme – Eligible Teams

Our theme this year will be "Lovable Losers" which means that ALL MLB teams must be below a .500 winning percentage to participate. Teams from the 2020 Apba Set are the only ones not eligible as all retired championship teams are above .500. (APBA issued cards only-no copies allowed-Please keep in mind that the Apba Journal did issue black and white, hand-cut XBs back in the 60s for the original sets. Those are legal to use).

7. Roster Guidelines

26-man max roster (bring APBA roster sheet for your team or save pdf file on phone from www.apbagames.com).

Regular and XB cards may be used. No XC's allowed.

If you are using APBA cards without the stat-line, use baseball reference (online site) to print off a roster sheet with copies to be passed to the opposing managers before each game. Roster sheet should have full name with position and stats for that season only. If needed, you can also show the baseball reference data via your cell phone. Keep in mind that if a player played for two or more teams, the player's total stats will be used. Thus, Baseball Reference will validate that your chosen player meets the requirements for the tournament.

8. Divisional – Round Robin Play

Teams will be placed into divisions with a blind draw.

Divisions/Round Robin Play will be used. This is always pending the number of managers who attend and can change if people cancel at the last minute.

This tournament will have _ divisions of _ teams. Preferably, each manager will play 2 games against their division opponents (1 home and 1 away) for a total of _ divisional games. (To be determined based on final number of participants). We generally like to have the round robin around 8-10 games.

A win is worth three points. A tie is worth one point. All contests will be limited to eleven innings (11) innings. The team with the most points wins their division.

Speed Up Rule: If the contest goes to an 11th inning, both teams' pitchers will be considered a Grade D with no additional ratings (X,Y,Z,K,R,Z,ZZ). If

no winner is determined after the 11th inning, the game is considered a tie and each manager is awarded one point in the standings.

One division head will be chosen to assist in keeping track of scores and reporting to Darren/Ken for the Excel program. We appreciate the assistance in this area, especially when the tournament directors are required to play games due to a variety of possible circumstances.

9. Playoffs

Top team from each division will advance to the playoffs. If necessary, the best records from all non-division winners will be awarded lower seed(s) for the playoffs.

Tie breakers: head-to-head, run differential, fewest runs allowed, most runs scored, coin toss (or a mutually agreed upon creative option that avoids the coin toss).

Until the final two teams are announced, all play-off matches are a single game with the winner advancing to the next round.

First playoff game – Starting pitcher 1 will be used.

Second playoff game – Starting pitcher 2 will be used.

Third playoff game (if necessary) – Starting pitcher 3 will be used.

The championship will be a BEST of THREE series. The highest seed will have the home game in game 1 and again in game 3, if necessary.

For the championship series, each one of the starting pitchers will start a game if it reaches three games.

Game 1: SP 1

Game 2: SP 2

Game 3: SP 3 (After five innings or if this starter is downgraded, the starting pitchers from games 1 and/or 2 may be used in relief but must adhere to the outs limit for relief pitchers based on the letter grade.)

If agree upon, there will be single consolation game between the two teams who lost in the semifinals. The next eligible starting pitcher will be used. Winner receives a prize.

10. Offense

The DH will be used for all tournament games to speed up play. Pitchers may not hit in any circumstance.

One exemption: If the directors determine a player (like Shohei Ohtani) has at least 300 Plate Appearances and at least 10 MLB starts in a given season, that player may be used as a DH (or another defensive position if listed on the card) when NOT being used as starting pitcher. If that player is used as a pitcher, the player may not bat.

If you remove the DH, the pitcher spot becomes a legal batting position, but please keep in mind that pitchers are not permitted to hit in this tournament. Thus, one better have plenty of eligible pinch hitters if DH is ever removed.

Position players with fewer than 100 Plate Appearances may not start and may not enter the game prior to the 7th inning unless it is for a single pinch-hitting appearance. That pinch hitter must be immediately removed if used before the 7th inning. J4 rated players are only eligible for a starting lineup position if they had a minimum of 100 Plate Appearances. If a J4 rated player has fewer than 100 Plate Appearances, the player may still pinch-hit as detailed above.

11. Fielding/Defense

Total team fielding rating will be used.

No player may start a game at a position for which he does not have a rating.

Any player who does not have a fielding rating for a position will be considered the lowest fielding rating if placed into the game. Since all injuries and ejections will be ignored for speed of tournament play, no player should be removed from the game if there is no eligible replacement. Thus, a backup need only be carried on the roster if the manager intends to VOLUNTARILY remove a certain player from a game. If no back-up is available, the opposing manager will choose the substitute player, the rating will be the lowest assigned as according to the manual, and the player will be an automatic strikeout for each plate appearance.

The manager must declare deep or in with a runner on third base. If not declared, the infield will be considered deep. If you have a player on third base, please be considerate to your opponent to make that defensive call before rolling your dice.

12. Pitching

A 3-man rotation will be used. Unless the original roster for your selected team contains 6 pitchers, you must have at least 8 pitchers (at least 4 qualified starting pitchers and at least 4 relief pitchers) selected on your roster.

Starting Pitchers with less than 100 innings pitched may not start.

No pitcher only rated as a reliever (denoted by an asterisk by the pitcher's grade) may start.

Any pitcher that allows 5 earned runs in any 3 consecutive innings is lowered one letter grade.

Starters must pitch at least 4 innings unless affected by grade reduction.

Starters may only pitch a maximum of 10 innings.

Regular APBA basic game grade advancements are in effect; consecutive shutout (unearned runs) innings equals a grade advancement: 5 innings D to C, 6 innings C to B, 7 innings B to A.

Relief pitchers with *asterisk are limited to the following: This includes any starting grade pitcher in your bullpen as well:

- **A*, AC*, AB* relievers are limited to 1 innings/3 total outs per game.**
- **B* relievers are limited to 2 innings or 6 total outs per game.**
- **C* or D* relievers have no inning limits per game.**

The lone exception to this rule is if he records extra outs due to the occurrence of a double or triple play which ends an inning.

Any reliever who pitches in 2 consecutive divisional games must rest 1 game before pitching again. This is NOT in effect for the playoff rounds.

Relief pitchers must have had a minimum of 25 innings pitched in the MLB season that year.

Any pitcher who is part of your 3-man starting rotation cannot be used out of the bullpen at any time.

Bullpen Pitchers with straight Starter Grades (no *) or split grades [ex: B(A*)] may be brought in under the STARTER GRADE on their card if the starting pitcher from that game was downgraded due to earned runs

allowed prior to the completion of the 4th inning. They will be limited to 3 innings/9 outs.

Any relief pitcher is advanced one letter grade for only the first batter they face in the middle of any inning only if they are Right vs Right or Left vs Left matchup.

Again, all pitchers will be a straight grade D (with no letter ratings) starting at the top of the 11th inning to ensure speed of game and tournament. This rule will NOT apply to the championship best of 3 series.

Pitchers cannot bat (See Offense Heading) but may pinch run. If used as a pinch runner, they may not be used as a pitcher if removed from the game after a pinch running appearance.

13. Baserunning

A manager must declare whether or not a runner is holding/playing it safe. If they are holding/playing it safe, they would only advance as far as the batter. Example, with a runner on first base and the batter doubles, the runner would only advance two bases and go to third and not score despite the board result. All board stealing results (successful or caught stealing) are negated if the manager was holding/playing it safe with the runner. This includes sacrifice flies as well. Holding or playing safe does not negate any board results that include a runner getting picked off or wild pitch/passed ball advancement. Once a manager declares a runner is holding/playing it safe, the runner is under that designation until the manager removes that status.

There is no limit to sacrifice attempts and hit and run attempts.

14. Housekeeping Rules

All injuries and ejections will be ignored; however, the play result mentioning them will still be implemented.

Rainouts will be ignored with the dice being re-rolled for the current batter.

•Dice may be rolled on table or in a box/tower.

•Re-roll both dice if one or both go off table or out of box/tower.

If necessary, roll for home field prior to the game. High roll gets home field for that game.

Side games are encouraged if you are eliminated from playoffs after the round robin stage.

Tournament Directors reserve the right to edit and add rules if they feel it is in the best interest of the tournament.