

# LAZYMAN BASEBALL RULES 2024

Website = <https://lazymanbaseballwest.wordpress.com>

Contact email = [lazymanbaseball2@gmail.com](mailto:lazymanbaseball2@gmail.com)

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## **1. What's New for 2024?**

All MLB teams are scheduled to start the regular season on Thursday, March 28. There is a two-game series between the Padres and Dodgers set to take place in Korea on March 20 and 21. Those two games will be included in the Lazyman game even though rosters will not be due until Wednesday, March 27.

Line-ups are due Wednesday, March 27, at 11:59 PM. I encourage you to have your roster ready to go the previous weekend so that you aren't caught by this mid-week deadline. And yes, line-ups will be accepted on opening day prior to first pitch.

We are keeping the three changes in the scoring that was adopted last year: 3 points for a Hold, 10 points for a Complete Game, and 10 points for a Shutout. The roster size increase to 45 players maximum and the salary cap increase to \$55 million will also stay intact.

So, no rule changes for the 2024 season. With the increase in offensive production last year due to MLB rule changes, anticipate that pitcher salaries will come down a bit.

## **2. Overview – What is Lazyman Baseball?**

Low-maintenance point-style fantasy baseball. Construct a team at the start of the season, and after that you're allowed just three trades (add/drops). We have no draft, no choosing who to play and who to sit. There's no head-to-head play. You're competing against all other teams for high scores. Your team collects points each week based on your highest-scoring players at each of 15 positions. Much of the appeal of Lazyman is you can pretty much take the players you like and want to follow.

### **3. Team Construction**

#### **Players – One player, one position**

When constructing your team, you'll reference the Player List. Each player has one-and-only position and has been assigned a salary in \$ Millions. 1.0 is one million. 0.1 is a hundred thousand or one tenth of a million. Players may only be taken at their listed position.

#### **Your Team**

SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	RP	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF	OF	OF	DH
Minimum of 5 Starters					Minimum of 1 Each					Minimum of 3 OFs			+1 Batter	

As owner and GM, you have \$55 million to spend constructing your team, buying players. Using the Player List, fill the various positions. You must maintain the 15 positions above all season, and you can buy up to 45 players as long as their combined salaries don't exceed the \$55M cap.

That "+1 Batter" means you'll need at the very least one extra batter to fill the DH position each week. There's no maximum at any position.

### **4. Team Scoring**

#### **Batter Points**

Single +1	Double +2	Triple +3
Home Run +4	Run Scored +1	RBI +1
Base on Balls +1	Hit by Pitch +1	Stolen Base +2

#### **Pitcher Points**

Win +10	Complete Game +10	Inning Pitched +1
Save +6	Shutout +10	Strikeout +1
Hold +3	Game Played +1	Earned Run -1

#### **Team Scoring & the DH**

SP1	SP2	SP3	SP4	SP5	RP	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	OF1	OF2	OF3	DH
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With a few exceptions, our week runs Monday through Sunday. Your team's total score each week is the sum of the weekly scores of your highest-scoring players at these 15 positions.

Your DH is the next-highest scoring batter whose score is not already being counted. If you have a deep team, it's possible you could use a different 15 each week of the season. And it's all done automatically. Players who are out or are underperforming are automatically benched for the week - assuming you have another player at that position with a higher score.

**NOTE:** When scores are calculated each week, any extra third or two-thirds of an inning at the end of the week is dropped from each pitcher's score. 8.1 innings is counted as 8 innings (8 points).

No batting points for pitchers. No pitching points for batters.

A player still accumulates points if he appears at a different position than listed, or for a different MLB team, if he plays in regular season games in the majors.

## **5. Player Salaries and Team Salary Cap**

### **Salary Cap and Max Players – \$55 Million, 45 Players**

The total salaries of all players on your roster cannot exceed \$55 million. You're not required to use it all, but you probably should. Please check your math. Even if you accidentally come in short, you cannot use the difference later. The maximum number of players allowed on your team is 45.

### **Write-In Players Are Allowed**

When constructing your team, you may write in a player who does not appear on the Player List. On your opening roster, the salary for the write-in player is \$0.1 million. The write-in player's position should be obvious and must be acceptable with the commissioner.

If you're going to trade for a player not on the Player List during the season, his salary is \$1.0 million. Rule of thumb for pitchers – If he's a closer or set-up guy, he's a RP. Otherwise, he's a SP.

## **6. Trades**

### **Exclusive Players**

Any player who appears on one - and only one - opening roster is an Exclusive Player.

No other team can trade for that player during the season. A list of Exclusive Players will be available.

### **Trading Rules**

- 1) Each team gets just three trades for the season - one for the First Half, one for the Second Half, and one to use anytime during the season up until the trade deadline. The First-Half trade is "Use it or lose it". If not used during the First Half, it is gone.
- 2) Trading is not done between teams. When you trade, you drop one player from your team and add another from the Player List. The salary of the dropped player must be equal to or greater than the salary of the new player. Or you may drop additional players and combine their salaries to help finance the trade for ONE player.
- 3) Added and dropped players can be at any position.
- 4) Any dollar difference left over when you're trading disappears.
- 5) You cannot trade for an Exclusive Player.
- 6) You can write-in a player who's not on the Player List and is not an Exclusive Player. His salary as a trade write-in is \$1.0 Million.
- 7) All trades go into effect for the first game of the week (almost always a Monday). Our week runs Monday to Sunday. Your trade info must be received before the first pitch of the first game of the week. Emailing or completing the form on the Contact page of the website works best. Be sure to include all details.
- 8) Throughout the season, you must keep at least one player at every scoring position and at least one extra batter to fill the DH spot.
- 9) IMPORTANT: Each trade must stand on its own – The math must add up. If you're making multiple trades the same day, you can't just trade combined-salaries for combined-salaries.
- 10) The Trade Deadline for this year is Monday, September 2, before first pitch.

## **7. Calendar for 2024**

Thursday, March 28, is opening day. Yes, there is a two-game series on March 20/21 between the Padres and Dodgers that will count for points in Week 1.

Extended Week 1: Wednesday, March 20, to Sunday, April 7. That is a total of 18 days, 12 of which will feature regular season games.

End of first half: Sunday, June 30. Weeks 1-13

All-Star game: Tuesday, July 16

Extended Week 17: Friday, July 19, to Sunday, July 28

We will combine the short All-star week with the following week for a 10-day scoring period. The first game of that week is the Friday following the All-Star Game. You'll have until then to submit trades that week. But after that, there is no effective trading until 10 days later.

Trade Deadline: Monday, September 2, prior to first pitch.

Season Ends: Sunday, September 29. This will mark the end of the second half, weeks 14-26, and the full year contests.

## **8. League Contests and Prizes**

### **Three Games, Entry Fee, Prizes**

\$100 per team covers the entire season. 5% of each entry goes towards maintenance and online subscriptions to make the game work. The rest is split 3 ways creating 3 equal prize pools.

There are 3 separate contests: The Full-Year, the First-Half, and the Second-Half. The highest-scoring teams in each of those contests are prize winners. We will pay one additional spot for every seven teams that enter. Thirty-five teams? We pay down to 5<sup>th</sup> place. If we get 42 teams, we will pay down to 6<sup>th</sup> place, etc.

Each team's First-Half points = The sum of weekly point totals from Week 1 thru Week 12.

Each team's Second-Half points = The sum of weekly point totals from Week 13 thru the end of the regular season.

Each team's total points for the Full Year = First-Half points plus Second-Half points. Easy.

Each of the 3 prize pools is equal in size. The highest-scoring teams for the Full-Year, First-Half, and Second-Half contests split the dough in each of the three pools by percentage from first place on down. If we have 35 to 41 teams, the breakdown will be 45-25-15-10-5. If we have 42-48 teams, the breakdown will be 45-24-12-9-5-5. And if we get 49 to 55 teams, the breakdown will be 45-22-11-8-6-4-4. Over 55? We will figure that out if it happens. Teams may win more than one prize – this always happens. The top team for the Full-Year usually wins one of the halves as well. Sometimes both!

No tie-breakers - In the unlikely event of a tie, teams involved split the combined winnings.

All prizes are paid at the end of the season after points are declared official.

## **9. Suggestions for Success**

Read the 2018 Lazyman Postmortem blog entry on the website . . . it really does outline what it takes to be a winner.

It will take good staff of SP's to put up points through the long season. Your team will probably need 5 wins per week every week to compete, or close to it. You'll need a lot of pitchers or a lot of luck to accomplish that.

So take a lot of SP's, maybe even 15. Take some lesser SP's who are cheap but still get some wins and put-up points. Take some bargain-priced prospects or players who aren't healthy now but will be during the summer – they may give you much-needed points in the Second Half.

Take plenty of RP's. Many are cheap. We all know how unstable the closer position is in baseball these days. Being deep at OF and the other positions is good security week-to-week and over the course of the long season.

BE SURE to check the latest news, injury reports, and depth charts before submitting your team. Know who's starting and who's healthy, who's suspended, who's likely to come up midseason.

Several salaries have been adjusted due to health status, health history, suspensions, or opening the year in the minors. Also, the salaries were calculated well in advance of Opening Day – Things change, so be aware. Salaries were calculated by capturing the projections from numerous websites, averaging those projections, and then putting them into a mathematical formula to adjust for a \$55 million roster. The salary formula was created to mimic the salaries that Bruce put together in previous years, but with some tweaking.

Do not underestimate the value of the DH. He's one of your 15 players each week and hopefully more than 1/15th of your weekly score. Hot teams almost always have big points at DH.

## **10. Submitting Teams – How to**

Email your team to [lazymanbaseball2@gmail.com](mailto:lazymanbaseball2@gmail.com) or submit your team through the form on the Contact page of the website <https://lazymanbaseballwest.wordpress.com> by end of day, **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024**. Teams will be accepted Thursday morning on March 28 before first pitch – Tentatively 1:10 PM Eastern Time (10:10 AM Pacific).

Please include Team Name, Your Name, Hometown, Preferred Email Address, and for first-time players – Who got you in? Use Excel, Word, an email, any text, or use the Contact page of the website. The easiest way is using the Lazyman Team Maker – save the Excel file to your computer and then email it to me when completed. Please request the Team Maker in Google Docs if you prefer that over Excel.

**DOUBLE CHECK YOUR STUFF! REALLY!** Before sending off your team, PLEASE be completely sure that all your data is correct: names, positions, salaries, no more than 45 players and the salaries add up and do not exceed \$55 Million.

Teams with errors that cannot be corrected by the deadline cannot be accepted. Don't get shut out.

## **11. League Fees and Expenses**

### **Send in your dough!**

We are friends, and friends of friends – So the game is not money-up-front. But your \$100 entry fee is expected in April - or let's make arrangements. Payment can be made via check, cash, money order, Venmo, or PayPal. I will not be posting the payment information on this website for obvious reasons. Be looking for an email.

If you can't pay, please don't play.

Thank you.

## **12. Reminders and Commissioner Contact**

### **Contact**

Updated Rules and Player List PDF's are available upon request via email if you can't access them through the website. There will be download icons on the website.

Our site for player lists, rosters, weekly summaries, stats and standings is

<https://lazymanbaseballwest.wordpress.com>

Questions and comments to: [lazymanbaseball2@gmail.com](mailto:lazymanbaseball2@gmail.com)

### **Reminders and other info**

If there's a stoppage of play - or the season is otherwise messed with, the commissioner will determine what changes will take place. An effort will be made to preserve a First Half and a Second Half if possible. If a large number of games are lost, the Halves may be eliminated.

Remember - When trading, you may not drop a player that leaves your team under the minimum at any position or without a DH. You can't drop your only catcher, even if he's dead in the water.

Please, let's keep politics out of team names and on the message board. No need to ruffle feathers. Be creative, be clever, but remember we sometimes have little people playing so please keep it in the ballpark. And no really long names. Thanks.

All team rosters and the list of Exclusive Players will be made available ASAP once all the entries have been processed. Your patience is appreciated.

Nothing's official until the end of the year - If there's a situation where the stats of a First Half game is not finalized until the Second Half, those points will be adjusted to the date of when the original game started, per MLB rules.

Following the season, there will be a triple-check for stat adjustments that may take a few days. Please be patient - we want the numbers to be absolutely correct.

NEW TEAMS ARE WELCOME with your thumbs-up. Let's keep getting new folks in. A newbie-invite email will come your way that you can forward to prospective owners.

Glad we could keep this going. Have fun. Good luck to everybody.