

QUICK GUIDE TO FANTASY SPORTS

QUICK GUIDE TO
**FANTASY
BASEBALL**

by Bo Mitchell



BrightPoint Press



© 2021 BrightPoint Press
an imprint of ReferencePoint Press, Inc.
Printed in the United States

For more information, contact:
BrightPoint Press
PO Box 27779
San Diego, CA 92198
www.BrightPointPress.com

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this work covered by the copyright hereon may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, web distribution, or information storage retrieval systems—without the written permission of the publisher.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA

Names: Mitchell, Bo, author.

Title: Quick guide to fantasy baseball / by Bo Mitchell.

Description: San Diego, CA : ReferencePoint Press, [2021] | Series: Quick guide to fantasy sports | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Audience: Grades 10-12

Identifiers: LCCN 2020002424 (print) | LCCN 2020002425 (eBook) | ISBN 9781678200008 (Hardcover) | ISBN 9781678200015 (eBook)

Subjects: LCSH: Fantasy baseball (Game)--Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC GV1202.F33 M38 2021 (print) | LCC GV1202.F33 (eBook) | DDC 794.9/357--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020002424>

LC eBook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020002425>

CONTENTS

AT A GLANCE	4
INTRODUCTION	6
JOINING A LEAGUE	
CHAPTER ONE	12
WHAT IS FANTASY BASEBALL?	
CHAPTER TWO	30
HOW DO FANTASY BASEBALL LEAGUES GET STARTED?	
CHAPTER THREE	46
HOW DO FANTASY BASEBALL OWNERS PREPARE?	
CHAPTER FOUR	60
HOW DO OWNERS MANAGE A TEAM?	
Glossary	74
Source Notes	75
For Further Research	76
Index	78
Image Credits	79
About the Author	80

AT A GLANCE

- Fantasy baseball is a fun way for MLB fans to learn more about the game.
- Participants earn points based on the statistics of MLB players.
- League commissioners organize the league and set it up online.
- Leagues establish clear rules before the season begins. Many customize their rules.
- Many websites host fantasy baseball leagues.
- There are two popular forms of fantasy baseball. They are Rotisserie and head-to-head.
- Participants use a draft or an auction to build their teams.

WHAT IS FANTASY BASEBALL?

Baseball uses many statistics. Fans often know common stats. Some fans keep track of batting averages. Even new fans know about home runs and strikeouts. Statistics shape MLB games. They also determine the success of fantasy baseball. Fantasy baseball is a game where



Fantasy baseball uses MLB stats to determine how well fantasy teams do.



League size affects how much talent is available per team.

fans create teams of MLB players. These teams compete against each other. The team with the best stats wins.

FORMING A FANTASY BASEBALL LEAGUE

The first step in starting a league is finding people to play. An MLB season lasts six months. However, finding fans to participate shouldn't be tough. Leagues generally have ten or twelve teams. Fewer teams means every team is filled with star players. More than that and there might not be enough good players for everyone. Fantasy baseball becomes challenging with more teams.

Fantasy baseball participants are called "owners." Some people call them "managers." Owners run the team.

They select players. They decide who plays every week. A group of owners forms a league.

Most owners begin to follow every MLB team. It becomes important to know who is doing well. Beating other owners is fun. Winners get all the bragging rights.

CO-OWNING A TEAM

Following baseball all season can seem like too much. However, there's another solution. Sometimes people co-own a team. It cuts down on the work. There are a lot of MLB players. Having two people to scout players and set **lineups** can make things easier. Finding the right friend to help can be tricky. But a good partner can lead to success.

GLOSSARY

cheat sheet

A ranking of players, sorted by position, to help owners in fantasy baseball drafts.

draft

The most popular way for owners to select players for their fantasy baseball teams.

free agents

MLB players who aren't on fantasy baseball teams in a league.

mock draft

A practice draft used as a tool to help owners prepare for their real draft.

position eligibility

Rules about which players can be used for different positions in a fantasy baseball lineup.

position scarcity

The amount of talent at a position compared with the amount of talent at other positions.

waiver rules

Guidelines for picking up and dropping players from a fantasy team.

SOURCE NOTES

CHAPTER ONE: WHAT IS FANTASY BASEBALL?

1. Eno Sarris, "The Best Settings for Your Fantasy Baseball League," *Fangraphs*, February 3, 2014. fantasy.fangraphs.com.

2. Rick Paulas, "Fantasy World: The Debate Begins," *ESPN.com*, February 18, 2009. www.espn.com.

CHAPTER TWO: HOW DO FANTASY BASEBALL LEAGUES GET STARTED?

3. George Kurtz, "7 Ways to Make Your Fantasy Baseball League Better," *Fantasy Data*, March 15, 2019. fantasydata.com.

4. "Drafting Multi-Position Eligible Players Gives You an Edge," *RotoExperts*, March 10, 2017. rotoexperts.com.

CHAPTER THREE: HOW DO FANTASY BASEBALL OWNERS PREPARE?

5. Matt Cott, Matthew Schwimmer, and Moe Koltun, "Fantasy Baseball Edge: Three Big Tips for Winning Your League," *CBS Philly*, March 13, 2013. philadelphia.cbslocal.com

6. "How to Handle Position Scarcity," *ESPN.com*, February 26, 2018. www.espn.com.

CHAPTER FOUR: HOW DO OWNERS MANAGE A TEAM?

7. Ghoji Blackburn, "Fantasy Baseball Draft Strategies," *Fake Team* (blog), *SB Nation*, March 21, 2017. www.faketeams.com.

8. "Fantasy Baseball 101: How to Play Our Most Popular Game Formats," *ESPN.com*, February 26, 2018. www.espn.com.

FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

BOOKS

John Allen, *The Science and Technology of Baseball*. San Diego, CA: ReferencePoint Press, 2020.

Marty Gitlin, *Baseball: Underdog Stories*. Minneapolis, MN: Abdo Publishing, 2019.

Allan Morey, *Fantasy Baseball Math: Using Stats to Score Big in Your League*. North Mankato, MN: Capstone Press. 2017.

INTERNET SOURCES

Andrew Gould, "How to Play Fantasy Baseball: Tips and Advice for Your MLB League," *Bleacher Report*, March 12, 2019.
www.bleacherreport.com.

"Fantasy Baseball Cheat Sheet Central," *ESPN.com*, February 21, 2018.
www.espn.com.

"Fantasy Baseball Draft Simulator," *FantasyPros*, n.d.
draftwizard.fantasypros.com.

INDEX

- auction, 4, 42, 69
- Blackburn, Ghoji, 66
- Bregman, Alex, 63
- cheat sheet, 53–54
- commissioner, 4, 30–31, 34
- Cott, Matt, 57
- draft, 4, 22, 30, 42–44, 47, 53–57, 58, 60, 70, 72
- dynasty leagues, 22, 36, 54, 72
- Escobar, Eduardo, 43
- 5x5 leagues, 18, 54
- Florio, Michael, 41
- 4x4 leagues, 19, 54
- free agent acquisition budget (FAAB), 69
- Garver, Mitch, 58
- Hader, Josh, 58
- head-to-head leagues, 4, 19, 23, 26, 54
- Injured List, 65
- Jansen, Kenley, 58
- Karabell, Eric, 70
- keeper leagues, 22, 36, 54, 72
- Kepler, Max, 8
- Kurtz, George, 31
- league constitution, 31–33
- Lindor, Francisco, 72
- lineup, 5, 16, 34–36, 38, 41, 62–65, 68, 73
- Mass, AJ, 58
- Meadows, Austin, 59
- mock draft, 51–53
- Muncy, Max, 43
- Ohtani, Shohei, 37
- Okrent, Dan, 19
- Paulas, Rick, 26
- position eligibility, 38
- position scarcity, 57–58
- Rendon, Anthony, 63
- Rizzo, Anthony, 41
- Rotisserie leagues, 4, 19–20, 23, 26
- Sarris, Eno, 18
- trades, 5, 30, 70–73
- Trout, Mike, 8, 24, 51
- Verlander, Justin, 9