

Office of the Commissioner
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



ROBERT D. MANFRED, JR.
Commissioner of Baseball

MEMORANDUM

**TO: ALL MAJOR LEAGUE CLUBS
ALL MLB ENTITIES**

FROM: Commissioner Robert D. Manfred, Jr.

DATE: February 15, 2019

RE: MLB POLICY ON SPORTS BETTING

This bulletin sets forth Major League Baseball's policy with respect to sports betting. Although many of the principles in this bulletin are already addressed in Major League Rule 21, we believe that additional rules are required to safeguard our sport as legalized sports betting becomes more pervasive. A separate bulletin addresses the rules regarding Club commercial arrangements with operators of sportsbooks, and together these documents supersede the "Legalized Gaming Enterprises" regulations dated February 27, 2018 and the Fantasy Policy dated March 30, 2016 unless otherwise noted. This bulletin must be distributed to all central Baseball and Club employees.

I. Coverage of the Policy

This policy covers the following groups of individuals:

- A. "**Club Personnel**" means any director, officer or employee (whether full-time, part-time or seasonal, and including, without limitation, Minor League players) of any Club. The existing policies with respect to Major League players (as reflected in the above referenced bulletins) will remain in place subject to bargaining with the Major League Baseball Players Association on revisions to those policies.
- B. "**MLB Personnel**" means any employee of any central Baseball entity, including, without limitation, the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, MLB Advanced Media, L.P., Major League Baseball Properties, Inc., The MLB Network, LLC and Tickets.com, LLC.
- C. "**Club Owners**" means any owner (whether direct or indirect, or as sole proprietor,

shareholder, member, general or limited partner, or trustee) of any Club.¹

Club Personnel, MLB Personnel and Club Owners together will be referred to as “Baseball Personnel” in this bulletin.

II. Prohibited Conduct by Baseball Personnel

- A. No Betting on Baseball or Softball.** Baseball Personnel may not bet on any professional or amateur baseball or softball games (including, without limitation, Major League Baseball, Minor League Baseball, international, college, high school and youth games) (hereinafter referred to as “Baseball Games”) or events (including, without limitation, home run derbies, all-star games, skills competitions and tournaments) (hereinafter referred to as “Baseball Events”). Baseball Personnel may not ask others to place bets on their behalf, or otherwise benefit financially from, or assist with, bets placed by others. This prohibition applies to all bets related to Baseball Games or Baseball Events, including, without limitation, bets on the outcome of games, any all-star game or home run derby, postseason qualification or results, the performance of players, actions that take place during games, transactions or the draft. See also Major League Rule 21(d).
- B. Fantasy Games.** Baseball Personnel are prohibited from participating in, asking others to participate on their behalf, assisting any third party with or otherwise benefitting financially from any baseball-related fantasy games (e.g., daily fantasy or full-season fantasy) in which prize money or other things of value are available to participants.
- C. Illegal Betting.** Baseball Personnel may not place illegal bets on any sport or event, including bets placed with illegal bookmakers or illegal off-shore sports betting websites or applications. See also Major League Rule 21(d)(3).
- D. Betting on Sports Other Than Baseball or Softball.** Baseball Personnel may place legal bets on sports other than baseball or softball in jurisdictions in which sports betting is legal, provided that the person placing the bet is eligible under applicable law to place the wager. Similarly, Baseball Personnel may participate in legal fantasy games relating to sports other than baseball or softball for prizes or other things of value.
- E. Game Fixing.** Baseball Personnel are prohibited from influencing or manipulating (or attempting to influence or manipulate) any Baseball Game or Baseball Event so that the final outcome or any other outcome or aspect of the game or event is fully determined by anything other than its merits. Baseball Personnel shall be in violation of this rule if they engage in any activity that, in whole or in part, is motivated by an intent to influence the final outcome or any other outcome or aspect of a Baseball Game or Baseball Event, and applies irrespective of whether they benefit financially from their wrongful conduct. Baseball Personnel shall also be in violation of this rule by failing to report any attempt to solicit them to influence or manipulate any aspect of a Baseball Game or Baseball Event, or any information they receive regarding

¹ Restrictions applicable to beneficial owners of Clubs (including trust beneficiaries) who have no involvement in the governance or operations of the Club will be determined on a case by case basis by the Commissioner.

potential violations of this rule. See also Major League Rule 21(a).

F. No Tipping or Disclosure of Confidential Information. Confidential information, including information regarding player health, rosters, lineups, transactions, discipline or umpires, may be sought by individuals who desire to exploit such information in the betting markets. Baseball Personnel are prohibited from disclosing such confidential information regarding their Clubs, their Club's Minor League affiliates or MLB, or any professional or amateur baseball or softball team or league, to any person unless authorized to do so under the policies of both their Club and MLB. Baseball Personnel must exercise care not to unintentionally disclose confidential information to individuals who seek to utilize that information to place wagers.

G. Performance of Services For Entities that Operate Sportsbooks. Baseball Personnel may not perform services in any capacity involving sports betting for any third party (including, without limitation, consulting or advising on sports betting issues, or advertising, promoting or endorsing sports betting products or services). Notwithstanding the foregoing, Club Personnel may perform services for an entity that operates a sportsbook (e.g., casino) only if: (i) the entity derives less than 10% of its total annual gaming revenue from sports betting; (ii) the services are wholly unrelated to the operation of the entity's sportsbook (e.g., restaurant employee, dealer); and (iii) both the individual's Club and the Commissioner's Office approve of the concurrent employment.

Failure to abide by the rules described above will result in disciplinary action, which may include fines, suspensions, termination of employment and/or permanent ineligibility to play for, associate with or work in Major or Minor League Baseball.

III. Reporting of Prohibited Conduct to the Commissioner's Office

A. Obligation to Report Prohibited Conduct. Baseball Personnel must immediately report to the Department of Investigations any information they possess involving a violation, or suspected violation, of the rules described above, including attempts by or requests to Baseball Personnel to engage in conduct that may violate the rules.

B. Discipline for Failure to Report. Failure to report such information may result in disciplinary action. Retaliation against any individual who, in good faith, reports a violation of the rules set forth in this bulletin, even if an investigation finds that misconduct did not occur, is prohibited.

IV. Ownership Interest in an Entity Involved in Sports Betting

Section IV.A below sets forth the restrictions on Club Personnel and MLB Personnel with respect to holding an ownership or economic interest in, or serving as a director of, an entity involved in sports wagering. Section IV.B below sets forth the restrictions on Club Owners (as defined in Section I.C. of this bulletin).

A. Club Personnel and MLB Personnel. Club Personnel (other than Club Owners) and MLB Personnel are prohibited from being a director of or holding a direct or indirect ownership or economic interest ("Ownership Interest") in a casino, racetrack, fantasy baseball company, sportsbook or other entity that offers or accepts wagering

relating to sporting events (“Sports Gaming Company”). The determination of whether an entity is a Sports Gaming Company will be made by the Commissioner. Notwithstanding the foregoing, and subject to Section IV.B below, Club Personnel and MLB Personnel may own shares in a Sports Gaming Company provided that the individual does not own directly or indirectly more than 1% of any class of securities (or class of other ownership interests) in such company and does not serve as an officer, director, employee or consultant of the company.

B. Club Owners.

- 1. Restricted Club Owners.** For purpose of this Section IV.B, a “Restricted Club Owner” is any Club Owner that either: (i) owns or controls (directly or indirectly) 5% or more of all equity interests in any Club; (ii) is a director, officer, employee or consultant of a Club; or (iii) has involvement in the business or operations of a Club.
- 2. Ownership Interest of Less Than 10% of Sports Gaming Company.** A Restricted Club Owner may hold an Ownership Interest in a Sports Gaming Company that represents less than 10% of all equity interests of the Sports Gaming Company only if the following criteria are satisfied:
 - a. The Restricted Club Owner is not an officer or director of the Sports Gaming Company;
 - b. The Ownership Interest held by the Restricted Club Owner does not subject any Baseball Personnel (other than the Club Owner in his or her individual capacity), any Club or Major League Baseball to the licensure/regulatory requirements imposed on the Sports Gaming Company by any government authority;
 - c. The Restricted Club Owner does not have any day-to-day involvement in the business or operations of the Sports Gaming Company that relate to or involve betting on Baseball Games or Baseball Events;
 - d. The Restricted Club Owner and the Sports Gaming Company must put in place safeguards approved by the Commissioner to ensure that no confidential or propriety information relating to Major League Baseball, Minor League Baseball, Major League Clubs or Minor League Clubs (including, without limitation, information regarding players, transactions and league and Club business) is disclosed to any person involved in the Sports Gaming Company’s sports betting operations; and
 - e. The Commissioner and the Club’s control person have approved in writing (i) the acquisition of the Ownership Interest in advance of such acquisition or (ii) the retention of an Ownership Interest in a company that has become a Sports Gaming Company within 90 days of such company becoming a Sports Gaming Company.

The Commissioner may impose additional criteria or modify the criteria set forth above in his or her sole discretion.

3. Ownership Interest of 10% or Greater of Sports Gaming Company.

Restricted Club Owners whose Ownership Interest in a Sports Gaming Company represents 10% or more of all equity interests of the Sports Gaming Company, or who serve as officers or directors of the Sports Gaming Company, must satisfy, in addition to the criteria set forth in Section IV.B.2(b)-(e) above, the following criteria:

- a. The Sports Gaming Company does not directly or indirectly conduct, offer, accept or facilitate the following types of sports bets:
 - i. Any wagering involving the Restricted Club Owner's Major League Club (including opponents in games involving the Major League Club);
 - ii. Any wagering on the All-Star Game, Home Run Derby or any other Baseball Event;
 - iii. Any wagering involving Minor League Clubs affiliated with the Restricted Club Owner's Major League Club (including opponents in games involving such Minor League Club);
 - iv. Any wagering involving Minor League Clubs in which the Restricted Club Owner has an ownership or economic interest (including opponents in games involving such Minor League Clubs); and
 - v. Any wagering related to the performance of any player on the Restricted Club Owner's Major League Club, Minor League Club (if any) or Minor League affiliates of such Major League Club (including the performance of any players on the opponents in games involving such Clubs).
- b. If applicable, the Commissioner and the Club's control person have provided advance written approval for the Restricted Club Owner serving as an officer or director of the Sports Gaming Company.

4. Other Club Owners. A Club Owner who is not a Restricted Club Owner under the definition set forth in Section IV.B.1 above may hold an Ownership Interest in or serve as an officer or director of a Sports Gaming Company if (a) written approval is given by the Commissioner prior to the acquisition of the Ownership Interest or the Club Owner becoming an officer or director of the Sports Gaming Company and (b) the Club Owner complies (and remains in compliance) with any conditions imposed by the Commissioner as a prerequisite for approving the acquisition of the Ownership Interest and/or service as an officer or director of the Sports Gaming Company.

C. Disclosure Requirement. Each Club must disclose any Ownership Interest in, or any position with, a Sports Gaming Company held by Club Personnel or Club Owners in its annual Statement of Club Ownership & Affiliations. See also MLR 20(h). Any Club Personnel or Club Owner holding an Ownership Interest in, or a position with, a Sports Gaming Company must provide a certification on an annual basis attesting that the criteria for holding such an interest or position have been, and continue to be, satisfied.

This bulletin may not cover all future questions and proposals. If necessary, the Commissioner will review each case on its own merits and make such determinations as may be warranted consistent with the policies embodied herein.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Dan Halem.