Collection Number
BA MSS 177
BL-198.2013

Title
Major League Agreements

Inclusive Dates
1883 – 1970; 1920 – 1953 (Bulk)

Extent
.41 linear feet (1 archival box)

Repository
National Baseball Hall of Fame Library
25 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Abstract
This collection has correspondence and agreements regarding the National Agreement, the Major League Agreement and the Major-Minor League Agreement.

Preferred Citation
Major League Agreements, BA MSS 177, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY

Access
By appointment during regular business hours, email research@baseballhall.org.

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History
The first National Agreement was signed between the National League and the American Association in 1883. A third league, the Northwestern League, which is not usually considered a major league, was also a party to the agreement, which is sometimes called the “Tripartite Agreement”.

A second National Agreement was signed in 1903, ending the two-year war between the National League and the upstart American League. The two leagues
created a three-member National Commission to settle disputes regarding player contracts and arrange for an annual post-season championship series.

The **Major League Agreement** was the successor of the 1903 National Agreement. Adopted in 1920, it confirmed the existing close cooperation between the National League and American League and created the position of Commissioner, replacing the National Commission as the major league's chief executive authority.

**Scope and Content**
Included with the agreements are amendments and resolutions as well as 'certified resolutions' signed by the team secretary or owner. An item of note is an original executed Major League Agreement dated Feb 3, 1945.

**See Also**
BA MSS 30 American League Agreements, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY

**Controlled Access Terms**
These records are indexed under the following terms in the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s Library catalog.

**Corporate Names**
- American League of Professional Baseball Clubs
- National League of Professional Baseball Clubs
- American Association (Baseball)
- National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues
- Minor League Baseball

**Personal Names**
- Landis, Kenesaw Mountain, 1866-1944
- Frick, Ford C., 1894-1978

**Subject Headings**
- Letters (correspondence)
- Collective Labor Agreements

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Major League Joint meetings
- suggested amendments to Major-Minor League agreement
- correspondence and resolutions
- 1927 new uniform player’s contract, printer’s proof

Folder 5  Major-Minor League Agreement, undated, expires Jan 12, 1944

Folder 6  Major-Minor League Agreement, undated, 2 copies

Folder 7  1946, Major-Minor League Rules, 31 pages

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Correspondence by John Heydler to explain new agreements

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- 3 photocopies
Feb – Mar 1945, Correspondence

Folder 22  Certified Resolutions of American League teams
- approving amendments to Feb 3, 1945 agreement

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- 1 signed by Warren Giles

Folder 24  1952, Major League Agreement amendments

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