GUIDE TO THE RULES COMMITTEE MEETINGS & CORRESPONDENCE

National Baseball Hall of Fame Library

25 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326

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This guide to the collection was prepared by Claudette Scrafford in March 2009.
Collection Number:
BA MSS 63
BL-57.2009

Title:
Rules Committee Meetings & Correspondence

Inclusive Dates:
1925 – 1969

Extent:
1.7 linear feet (4 archival boxes)

Repository:
National Baseball Hall of Fame Library
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25 Main Street
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Abstract:
This is a collection of meetings and correspondence from Major League baseball’s Rules Committee.

Preferred Citation:
Rules Committee Meetings & Correspondence, BA MSS 63, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY.

Access Restrictions:
By appointment during regular business hours, email research@baseballhall.org. Meeting minutes have a 65-year release restriction imposed by the Office of the Commissioner. See content list below for release dates.

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History:
The Official Rules are devised by the Official Playing Rules Committee of Major League Baseball. This committee currently includes current and former players, umpires and executives, plus an advisory member from amateur baseball, in recognition of the fact that the rules are used much beyond MLB. The committee makes yearly recommendations for changes or adjustments to the rules, announced at Baseball’s Winter Meetings. Daniel "Doc" Adams (1814–1899) was elected President of the Knickerbockers in 1846. Two years later he headed the Committee to Revise the Constitution and By-Laws with Cartwright serving under him. Considered by some to be the true
"Father of Baseball," Doc Adams was elected president of the first Base Ball Convention in 1857 and headed the Committee on Rules and Regulations. Adams was elected as Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Regulations during the March 1858 Base Ball Convention in which the National Association of Base Ball Players was formed.


**Scope and Content**

A collection of meeting minutes, correspondence, telegrams and newspaper clippings from the Rules Committee. The correspondence relates primarily with amendments to playing rules but there is discussion on field dimensions and equipment. There is correspondence from publishers and other leagues on obtaining permission to publish the official rule book. Content list below list items of interest only, this is not a full inventory. This collection covers primarily the 1930’s, late 1940’s and early 1950’s.

This collection is organized chronologically into one series.

**Controlled Access Terms**

These records are indexed under the following terms in the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s Library catalog. Researchers wishing to find related materials may wish to search under these terms.

**Corporate Names**
- American League
- National League
- Office of the Commissioner
- International League
- Rules Committee

**Personal Names**
- Landis, Kenesaw Mountain, 1866 - 1944
- Mack, Connie, 1862 - 1956
- Connolly, Thomas, 1870 - 1961
- Sanborn, I. E.,
- Johnson, Ban, 1864 - 1931
- Harridge, William, 1883 - 1971
- Griffith, Clark, 1869 - 1955
- Frick, Ford, 1894 - 1978
- Adams, Daniel “Doc”, 1814 - 1899

**Subject Headings**
- Meetings & Procedures
- Correspondence
Clippings
Rules
Telegrams

Content List

Box 1

Folder 1  Dec. 1925 American League appointed members
Jan. 26, 1926 meeting
Resin Rule fan letters
1926, 1929, 1931 Resin Rule, use of rosin bag

Folder 2  Mar. – Jul. 1929  Feb. – May 1930
- Balk rule
- Balks committed by pitchers
- Correspondence, telegrams

Folder 3  May 1928 torn sleeve complaint
Nov. 1928 home runs v. fouls, includes drawing
Dec. 1928 batting average, RBIs v. total bases
1929 definition of a ‘legal game’
1930 Rule 28, Sect 2 added
Aug. 1930 home plate dimensions
Oct. – Nov. distance from home plate to grandstand
- measurements received from six teams
Nov. – Dec. 1930 rule change suggestions

Folder 4  1930 Official Baseball Rules with 1931 amendments

Folder 5  Jan. – Feb. 1931 correspondence re: 1931 Galley Proofs

Folder 6  1931 Galley Proofs, 3 copies

Folder 7  Dec. 1935 – Mar. 1936 first baseman’s glove
May 1936 W.B. Carpenter to Wm Harridge
May – Sept. 1937 re: gloves
Aug. 1937 Intentional Pass rule

Folder 8  Jun. 1938 Intentionally dropped ball
- written by International League
Balk rule
July 5, 1938 meeting minutes

Folder 9  1939
Jan.  Pitching rule
Mar. Scoring rules
Mar. – Apr. Balk rule, intentionally dropped ball
May – Jun. – first baseman’s glove, hand drawings
Jun. Regulation game – 4.5 to 5 innings
Jun. – Sept. ‘Deliberate’ dropping of infield line drive
  - do away with Rule 49, Sect. 2
Oct. - No pitches to intentionally walked batters
  - suggestion by NY club, E.G. Barrow

Folder 10 Jan. 10, 1940 Wm Harridge to Tom Connolly re: meeting
  Two 1939 rule books with amendments and suggestions

Folder 11 Jan. – May 1940 Bat definition, catcher’s box
  Feb. 12 – 13, 1940 meeting minutes
  Dec. 1940 National Defense List

65-YEAR RELEASE DATE ON MINUTES
Box 2
Folder 1 1946 First baseman’s glove – with a hand drawing
  Ripon Knitting Works – re-design of glove
  New appointments to committee
  Feb. 11, 1947 meeting minutes
  1948 Rule 46, Sect. 3 clarification

Folder 2 Feb. – Mar. 1949 Trapper’s glove
  Mar. 1949 Rule changes
  May 1949 Catcher’s box

Folder 3 Oct. 1949 Proposed Recodification of the Playing Rules

Folder 4 1950 Jan. Financial statement
  Feb. Copyright issued to print rule book
  Apr. Rule 8.01 – pitching, 8.05 balk
  May Committee on Interpretation of Rules
  Nov. Financial statement

Folder 5 1951 – 1953 Correspondence re: laminated bat rule

Folder 6 Mar. 1951 meeting minutes, MAR 2016
  1951 – 1952 general correspondence

Folder 7 1953 Jul. – Aug. ‘in-one-piece’ bat
  Nov. 2 & 5 meeting, NOV 2018
  Dec. 2 meeting, DEC 2018

Folder 8 Mar. – Apr. 1954 Removal of gloves/equipment from field

Folder 9 1954 Mar. use of laminated bats approved
Oct. Scoring Rules Committee minutes, **OCT 2019**
Dec. meeting minutes, **DEC 2019**

**Box 3**

**Folder 1**  1954 – 1956 Correspondence
   - To and From James Gallagher, Chair Rules Committee

**Folder 2**  1956 *Tar Heel League*, printing of rule book

**Folder 3**  1954 – 1956 *A.G. Spalding & Bros of Canada*
   - Permission to print rules
   - Rule Book 1954

**Folder 4**  1954 – 1956 *National Baseball Congress*
   - Permission to print rules

**Folder 5**  1955 *McLaughlin-Millard, Inc.*
   - print rules in Spanish

**Folder 6**  1954 – 1956 *MacGregor Co.*
   - Permission to print rules
   - Rule books 1954, 1955
   - Proofs

**Folder 7**  1955 Galley sheets official rules

**Folder 8**  1955
   Apr. – May Rule 4.09 & 7.08
   Sept. College rules
   Nov. New pitching rule 8.02(e)

**Folder 9**  1956
   Jun. ‘Bounced into stands’ home run
   Sept. Bat grip wrapped, Rule 1.13

**Folder 10**  1957 General correspondence
   - Rule book, 1957

**Folder 11**  1958 General correspondence
   - clarification Rule 4.09
   Mar. Questions for N.L. umpires, spring meeting
   Dec. A.L. officers and committees

**Folder 12**  1959  Feb. Proposed amendments
   Sept. re: possible three-way tie for NL championship
**Folder 13**
Jan. 1960 Earned runs
Jan. 1961 Rule 10.04 (c)
Jan. 1961 Amendments to rules
Apr. 1961 Change in restrictions on bat handle
Dec. 1962 Amendments to scoring rules
Jan. 1964 Amendments to rules

**Folder 14**
1969 newspaper clippings re: spring training trial rules

**Folder 15**
Undated rules
1921 rule book

**Box 4**

**Folder 1**
Dec. 12, 1930 Minutes, transcript, copy 1
- Ideas & suggestions
- Rules, scoring rules

**Folder 2**
Dec. 12, 1930 Minutes, transcript, copy 2

**Folder 3**
Feb. 1, 1947 Minutes, transcript, Commissioner’s copy

**Folder 4**
Feb. 1, 1947 Minutes, transcript, copy 2

**Folder 5**
Mar. 3, 1949 Minutes, transcript, copy 1,2