# leaguelogo (2008 Alternate, 100x50)

# 25th Annual WFBL Winter Talks

## February 17th, 2019 ▪ Burlington, NC

1. Attendees
   * Fostoria Screwballs (Dennis Welly)
   * Spivey’s Corner Knockouts (Daniel Warren)
   * Power Rangers (Adam Brake)
   * Durham Indians (Dennis Close)
   * Ellicott City Black Sox (Chip Kiel)
   * Mauer Patch Kids (Nolan Parker)
   * Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls (Mike Rudd)
   * West Raleigh Moundchargers (Jeremy Moore)
2. Check Presentations

2018 League Fees: ($40 x 11) + ($20 x 1) = $460

2018 League Expenses: ($150 website) + ($10 engraving) + ($25 ball) = $180

2018 Prize Money: $460 - $180 = $280

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|  |  | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| 3rd Runner Up | Ellicott City Black Sox (Chip Kiel)  2018 Keatts Division Champions (13-10) | $40 | $40 | $40 |
| 2nd Runner Up | Power Rangers (Adam Brake)  2018 Wild Card Winner (13-10) | $52 | $52 | $52 |
| 1st Runner Up | Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls (Mike Rudd)  2018 Avent Division Champions (20-3) | $76 | $74 | $76 |
| League Champion | Ball Hawks (Matthew Burkett)  2018 Doeren Division Champions (16-7) | $112 | $109 | $112 |

1. Trophy Presentation

2018 Season in Review

* No team returned to the postseason in 2018.
* Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls joined Power Rangers (20), Raleigh Middle Fingers (20), and Ellicott City Black Sox (21, 2x) as the only teams in WFBL history to have had a 20+ win season. Their 18-game win streak came to an untimely end in the WFBL Championship Game.
* Trending up: Doeren Division Champion and WFBL Champion Ball Hawks were far-and-above the most improved team in 2018, winning 11 more games in 2018 over the previous season.
* Trending down: The Mauer Patch Kids lost 8 more games in 2018 than they had in the previous season, while the Defending WFBL Champion Raleigh Middle Fingers and Fostoria Screwballs both lost 7 more games than they had during the previous campaign.
* After an 8-3 start, the Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls were poised to make the playoffs, predicted to have an 85% chance. But in the final 12 games, the reigning Doeren Division Champions only managed 3 wins (one of which was against the Ball Hawks).
* Trends
  + 16 draft picks traded in 2018 (up from 11 in ‘17) – most active was Spivey’s Corner (11) and Fuquay Nine (6)
  + 66% (8/12) of the league either traded away or received a draft pick in ‘18 (down from 83% in ’17).
  + 58% (7/12) participation in the 2018 Minor League Draft (down from 75% in ’17)
  + 75% (9/12) participation in the 2018 Winter Talks (down from 92% in ’17)
* A Summer Talks event was not held in 2018.
* All 2018 3rd-year protectees except Carlos Correa (PWR), Gerrit Cole (SOX), Anthony Rendon (HAW), Adrian Beltre (HIK), and Joey Votto (WRM) were traded away or dropped during the 2018 season.

1. Draft Location & Date

Location

* Claremont/Hickory
* Chris’ house? Matt’s house? Other ideas or suggestions?
  + Chris’ house

Date

* Saturday March 23rd, Sunday, March 24th, Friday, March 29th, Saturday, March 30th, or Sunday March 31st?
  + March 23rd
* If day draft, 10am or 11am?
  + 11am
* If March 29th, 30th, or 31st, do we include Thursday (and Friday) games, or just start the season on Monday April 1st?

1. Important Dates

The official WFBL Player Price Guide must be released no later than 2 weeks prior to the draft. Ideally, it should be released 2 weeks prior to when protection lists are due (which would be 3 weeks prior to the draft, since protection lists are due 1 week before the draft).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Player Price Guide Released | Saturday, March 9, 2019 |
| Protected Lists Due | Saturday, March 16, 2019 |
| Schedule Released | Wednesday, March 27, 2019 |
| 26th Annual WFBL Draft | Saturday, March 23, 2019 |
| MLB Opening Day | Thursday, March 28, 2019 |
| Initial Roster Transaction Requests Due | Friday, April 12, 2019 (email in by 10pm) |
| Minor League Draft | Sunday, April 21, 2019 (online at 9pm) |
| Expanded Rosters | Monday, August 19, 2019 |
| Trade/Transaction Deadline | Monday, August 26, 2019 |
| Playoffs Begin | Monday, September 9, 2019 |

1. League Software

Cost for CBSSports.com remains $149.99 as the “Early Bird Special” (deadline was Feb 9th) **PAID**

1. Draft

* Online draft board: expect only minor improvements in the 16th installment of our home-grown online draft software. URL for WFBL is <http://wfbl.acbrake.org>
* Projector?

1. Minor League Draft

The last 9 years, we’ve held the minor league draft online all in one night. This alleviates issues where a player lost minor league draft eligibility during the course of the draft. Owners who cannot be available have the opportunity to submit a list.

1. Open Forum
2. Four years ago, we lowered the salary cap from $300 to $280. Last year we approved pricing adjustments for the top tier and increased the granularity of the tiers by half. How did that work out?
   1. No issues with player pricing last year, but Jeremy wanted confirmation that only Ohtani’s hitting stats would be factored into his price for this upcoming season, although he did note that he’s not very likely to protect Ohtani regardless of his price.
   2. Daniel wanted to increase it back to $300, Chip wanted to lower it to $260 – No seconds
3. Last year we tabled a vote on opening waivers immediately after the draft. Any more thoughts on this?
   1. Jeremy motioned that we start waivers immediately after the draft has been entered into CBS, such that players would be made available roughly by Monday/Tuesday, thereby eliminating the need for Initial Roster Waivers and the 2-period signing freeze at the start of the season – seconded by Dennis C., vote 5-3 in favor, but since the 5 did not represent a majority of owners in the league, the motion failed to pass. Owners asked that the language in the constitution be updated regarding the necessary votes required to pass an amendment, so there is absolutely no ambiguity. [ACTION: Adam to send out re-wording for a league vote]
4. Last year we tabled a vote on cap enforcement and penalty for violating the cap. Did Jeremy come up with a new rule/proposal?
   1. Jeremy presented his proposal, but admitted it still needed some work. Issue was tabled.
5. How are we going to handle the new “openers” movement?
   1. Owners were interested in the matter because of the success the Rays had, but not concerned enough to change our rules yet. Wait and see how/if this trend catches on with the rest of MLB. Issue was tabled.
6. Others?
   1. Jeremy proposed a 1-man DL/IR spot that a) would not count against the cap and b) could only be used if the player was out for the season. No second.
   2. Daniel brought up the fact that since there is no rule on how many picks he can trade, he would continue his strategy of trading away all his picks every year, noting there are always great players available at the end of the draft that all the other teams can no longer afford. The majority of other owners seemed to feel this was a valid strategy and it should be his prerogative to pursue it to his benefit/demise.
7. Constitution Review
8. Rules Committee Nominations and Elections

Nolan was elected to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2017. Chip and Dennis W. were elected to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2018. So, we need 1 new guy to replace Nolan to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2019.

- Jeremy nominated and approved (7-1 for)

1. Draft Lottery

2 “chances” – Ball Hawks, Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls, Power Rangers, Ellicott City Black Sox

4 “chances” – All other teams

1. Fostoria Screwballs
2. Raleigh Middle Fingers
3. Fuquay Nine
4. Hickory Scorpions
5. Mauer Patch Kids
6. West Raleigh Moundchrgers
7. Spivey’s Corner Knockouts
8. Ball Hawks
9. Power Rangers
10. Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls
11. Ellicott City Black Sox
12. Durham Indians
13. Division Alignment

Defending Division Champs:Ball Hawks (Avent), Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls (Doeren), Ellicott City Black Sox (Keatts)

Avent

1. Fostoria Screwballs
2. Hickory Scorpions
3. Spivey’s Corner Knockouts
4. Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls\*

Doeren

1. Raleigh Middle Fingers
2. Mauer Patch Kids
3. Ball Hawks\*
4. Durham Indians

Keatts

1. Fuquay Nine
2. West Raleigh Moundchargers
3. Power Rangers
4. Ellicott City Black Sox\*