

# COMMISSIONER COPY



## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual WFBL Winter Talks

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

1. Present: Adam, Thomas, Mike, Dennis W., Dennis C., Nolan, Daniel, Andrew, Matt, Chris

2. Check Presentations

2025 League Fees: (\$70 x 12) = \$840

2025 League Expenses: (\$150 website) + (\$12 engraving) + (\$21 ball) = \$183

2025 Prize Money: \$840 - \$183 = \$657

		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Runner Up	Spivey's Corner Knockouts (Daniel Warren) 2025 Wild Card Winner (13-10)	\$70	\$50	\$50
2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner Up	Ellicott City Black Sox (Chip Kiel) 2025 Doeren Division Winner (13-10)	\$107	\$71	\$72
1 <sup>st</sup> Runner Up	Raleigh Middle Fingers (Thomas Lipps) 2025 Avent Division Champions (15-8)	\$183	\$115	\$116
League Champion	Power Rangers (Adam Brake) 2025 Wade Division Champions (14-9)	\$297	\$181	\$182

3. Consolation Playoff Results

- Last season we implemented consolation post-season brackets for Protection Budget.
- New Hill Barrel will lose \$5 in protection money for losing both games in the consolation round.
- Fuquay Nine gains \$5 in protection money for winning both games in the consolation round.

4. Trophy Presentation

- Congrats to the 2025 WFBL Champions, Power Rangers!

### 2025 Season in Review

- The Power Rangers and Raleigh Middle Fingers both returned to the playoffs on 2025. Both the Ellicott City Black Sox and Spivey's Corner Knockouts returned to the playoffs after a 1-year hiatus.
- For the 19<sup>th</sup> time in the past 20 seasons, no team managed 20+ wins. The only team with 20+ wins since 2004 was the 2018 "Juggernaut" Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls (who ultimately lost to the eventual NL MVP Christian Yelich's Ball Hawks in the championship).
- *Trending Up:* The Spivey's Corner Knockouts improved their win total from the previous campaign by 10.
- *Trending Down:* Surprisingly, this years Champion and Runner-Up actually both had two fewer wins than in 2024.
- Other Trends
  - **18** draft picks traded in 2025 (one more than in '23 and '24) – most active was Ball Hawks (7 to, 2 away), Spivey's Corner (3 to, 4 away) and Raleigh Middle Fingers (5 away)
  - **83%** (10/12) of the league either traded away or received a draft pick in '24 (down 1 from '23 and '24).
  - **83%** (10/12) participation in the 2025 Minor League Draft (down from 92% in '24)
  - **75%** (9/12) participation in the 2025 Winter Talks (up from 67% in '24)
- A Summer Talks event was not held in 2025.
- All 2025 3<sup>rd</sup>-year protectees were either traded away or dropped during the 2025 season.
- The Raleigh Middle Fingers and Ball Hawks both continued their remarkable 28-year streaks of never having won a wild card, in spite of their combined 17 division titles and 7 WFBL championships, including 5 of the last 9 league titles. 31 wild cards have been won in the history of the league, none by either of them.

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### 5. Draft Location & Date

#### Location

- Cary
- Mike's house

#### Date

- MLB Opening Day is Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>
- 9:30-10am

### 6. 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 typically due one week before the draft).

Player Price Guide Released	Friday, March 6, 2026
Protected Lists Due	Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Schedule Released	Friday, March 20, 2026
33 <sup>rd</sup> Annual WFBL Draft	Sunday, March 15, 2026
MLB Opening Day	Thursday, March 25, 2026
Initial Roster Transaction Requests Due	Friday, April 10, 2026 (email in by 10pm)
Minor League Draft	Sunday, April 19, 2026 (online at 8pm)
Expanded Rosters	Monday, August 17, 2026
Trade/Transaction Deadline	Monday, August 24, 2026
Playoffs Begin	Monday, September 7, 2026

### 7. League Software

Cost for CBSsports.com remains \$149.99 as the "Early Bird Special" (deadline was Feb 5<sup>th</sup>)

### 8. Draft

- Online draft board: expect only minor improvements in the 24<sup>th</sup> installment of our homegrown online draft software. URL for WFBL is <https://wfbl.acbrake.org>
- Projector?

### 9. Minor League Draft

For the past 17 years now, we have 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.

### 10. Open Forum

- a) Section 11.3 of the constitution says for minor league eligibility that "Position players must have never played 20 or more Major League games in any given season". Shouldn't this include the phrase "at a single given position in any given season"?
  - a. Point to the "Position Eligibility" section, but requires that section to be reworked to pull out minor league eligibility rules into separate subsections.
  - b. No vote until updates are made.

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- b) In 2022, we changed the rules such that the salary of a minor league player who is called up during the season would be capped at \$3, regardless of their assigned value to begin the season. Last year, this rule applied to Kumar Rocker (\$5), Matt Shaw (\$9) and Jackson Jobe (\$4).
  - a. No comments or changes
- c) Last season we implemented consolation post-season brackets for Protection Budget. Thoughts on if it incentivized owners to continue to be engaged even after missing the playoffs?
  - a. Run it for a couple of years before we decide. Revisit after more data.
  - b. Didn't seem to make a difference with trading
  - c. Could do something with number of chances in the draft in the future
- d) Others?
  - a. CGs are worthless now. Should we add QS? 3 pts for QS. Add or replace?
    - i. Add but drop CG to 2 pts, so that a QS+CG still equals 5 pts
    - ii. Motion – Matt, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Thomas
    - iii. Pass 10-0
    - iv. QS is 6 innings and 3 ERs
  - b. Funding the new trophy updates:
    - i. Suggest \$100 per year
    - ii. Take out before payouts
    - iii. Figure out next year how much to finish
    - iv. If the estimate comes back short or over, we will make the adjustment
    - v. HOA assessment-style? \$20 per person this year. Does not go to the prize fund.
      - 1. \$240 total (may be adjusted based on estimate)
      - 2. Motion – Mike, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Adam
      - 3. Pass 10-0

### 11. Constitution Review

### 12. Rules Committee Nominations and Elections

Dennis Welly was elected to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2024. Daniel and Nolan were elected to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2025. So, we need 1 new guy to replace Dennis W. to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2026.

Nom by Dennis C. – Matt

Pass 10-0

### 13. Draft Lottery

2 “chances” –Power Rangers, Raleigh Middle Fingers, Ellicott City Black Sox, Spivey’s Corner Knockouts

4 “chances” – All other teams

### 14. Division Alignment

Defending Division Champs: Raleigh Middle Fingers (Avent), Power Rangers (Wade), Ellicott City Black Sox (Doeren)

1. New Hill Barrelmen (Wade)
2. Raleigh Middle Fingers (Avent)
3. Spivey’s Corner Knockouts (Doeren)
4. Durham Indians (Wade)
5. Hickory Scorpions (Avent)

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6. Fuquay Nine (Doeren)
7. Ball Hawks (Wade)
8. Mauer Patch Kids (Avent)
9. Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls (Doeren)
10. Power Rangers (Wade)
11. Fostoria Screwballs (Avent)
12. Ellicott City Black Sox (Doeren)