



# 2017 Brobdingnag Barbarian Instructions

*In pursuit of Zion*

## The 2017 Mood Statement

Spring baseball has a syncope all its own. Rookies are clueless, be they talented or not. No matter how bad the previous season, the approaching one is bathed in optimism. Pitchers & catchers chip rust off their arms. An unknown kid gets six hits in his first two games and becomes a new phenom. Last year's winners become the seed of a new trend all the losers try to copy.

So to, spring training ends with formal ritual. In Brobdingnag it is marked by Vlad's dinner. The phenom flamed out. The new faces have been accepted as full-blooded Barbarians. Those fated to break camp on the major league roster learn it by receiving an invitation to Vlad's Dinner. Unexpected relief for some, disbelieving disappointment for others.

The Madrigal lutes and lyres accompany roast pheasant, brandied goose, and rich honeyed mead brewed from centuries old recipes. The servers clear dishes as Alex Rodrigues is introduced as the team's new batting instructor. Glasses are chimed as recently departed Joe Mauer is saluted and inducted into the Valhalla Thrown Room, the team's hall of fame. As an exquisite crème brulee with golden raspberries is served Vlad arises, strides to the podium, and signals to two men to unveil the room's newest furnishing. Burnished oiled mahogany that would—and did—look at home in Queen Elizabeth's—the original one—banquet hall. Silver hinges and keyplate shine in the glow of recessed lighting. Inside, two rows each divided into three recesses lined with silk, the first five each holding a TBL Championship Trophy.

Pointing to the cabinet Vlad solemnly speaks. "These are the most cherished items I own. The grandest trophies of valor on the field. It is still one less than in the high offices of Zion. I am confident that by this time next year this cabinet will hold a sixth trophy. Or it will hold someone's head."

There was no need to drop the microphone. Or pound the table. The message was delivered and received with due gravity He walked out of the room—while the crème brulee stayed untouched.

## Odds & Ends

Brobdingnag will play on the boards.

Computer gamers:

- You do not need to send transcripts.
- Please do not use computer managers.

If you want to play NL rules I will play without the DH at your place. Let me know in advance (preferably in March).

I *do* expect to send lineups each month.

## Cuts

**Carded:** Wallace, Loup, Holt, Choi

**Uncarded:** Arencibia, Ackley, Tejada, Venidetti

**Other:** Alex Rodriguez is also cut. If he clears waivers he will retire and sign on as the Barbarians' hitting coach.

*Enjoy, use good baseball sense to override theses where it makes sense, and enjoy the games!*

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## Pitching

**General Comments About Relief:** The most difficult part of play-by-mail instructions is trying to convey precise rules for relievers. Instead, I want to give an overview, some basic philosophy, and then let you apply good, aggressive, on-site judgement. All together we have 570 innings of useable (grade 9+) innings. Be aggressive with the relievers, I will use more than the six who are up any given month. The shuttle between Brobdingnag and Lilliputia will be busy this season. Once the starter has left the game I expect to use 4+ relievers more often than not. Generally no one pitches more than an inning, often only one or two batters. I don't care who gets saves, but Oh will likely get the most of them.

**Relieving the Starters:** Do not relieve a starter who is presently a grade 18+. Otherwise:

**Innings 1-3:** Only remove if the rules require it

### **Inning 4:**

If the starter is currently grade 10+: Remove if the score is +4 to -3 **and** two runners get on base

If the starter is grade 9-: Remove if the score is +3/-3 **and** a runner gets on base

**OR** the score is +5 to -3 and two runners get on base

**Innings 5+:** Stay w/the starter if grade 18+, otherwise remove **if any** of the following apply:

--Starter is downgraded/fatigued **and** score is within +/-5

**OR**--Score is within +4/-3 **and** a runner gets into scoring position

**OR**--Score is within +3/-2 **and** a runner gets on base

**Inning 8+:** Same as for inn 5+, but **also**: If I am up 1 or 2 runs and the starter is not a grade 18+

**Who to Use:** Below are some roles as guidelines. Please use them along with good judgement to give my team a good chance to win.

**The Closers:** Oh, Kimbrell, Bedrosian, and Butcher. 3 of the 4 are up each month, 2 RH & 1 LH. Their job is to get out of trouble, and to pitch the 9<sup>th</sup> if I lead by 1-2 runs. They can kill 2 rallies and **then they usually leave at the start of the next inning**. I have no problem using all three if it takes that to win a close game. Usually the grade 20+ will be the rally killers and Oh will close, but not necessarily. Use your best judgement about when to use the RH and LH options to get the +5s and to inflict maximum pain.

**The Set-Up RHRPs:** Osuna, Harris. One or both will be active. They usually start an inning after a Closer. They can pitch until the next crisis or 2.7 IP. If you use both of these you can use the Long Reliever or the LHRP below if another Closer is not appropriate. Often one of these starts the bases-empty 8<sup>th</sup>.

**The LHRPs:** Claudio, Norris. Primarily LH specialists used for a few batters at tactical points.

**The Long Guy:** Broxton. His role is to absorb innings when the starter is gone early and/or if the game is out of hand either way (generally +/-5 or more). If the game gets closer, revert to the other pitchers.

## Offense

**General Comments About the offense:** This team has good bats top to bottom, with at least 7 legitimate hitters and power (250+ HRs is likely)—but the steals are limited. Half the roster is fast, but only Betts, Trout, Ramirez, Polanco, Gordon, and Correa steal bases. We will still H&R some, but not as much as we would like to. Generally we will use the H&R in the first part of the game, and straight steal later in the game.

We have never been a huge fan of bunting, but it has its place on this roster. If we get a lead, bring in the gloves, and then lose the lead we can have some very weak hitters who will bunt at times. Additionally, sometimes a shift penalty will argue for a bunt at times.

**Innings 1-6:** No bunts, only Gordon straight steals (has priority). H&R in the following situations:

**Steal:** Gordon can steal 2<sup>nd</sup> any time the score is +3/-3 and adjusted SSN is 28. No other straight steals.

### **Hit & Run:**

--Score: +2/-2

--Runners: Polanco, Gordon, Betts, Correa, Trout, Ramirez

--SSN after adjustments: 24

--Hitters: Leon, Polanco, Machado, Betts, Correa

**Innings 7+:** Priority order is straight steal, bunt, H&R:

### **Straight Steal:**

--Score: +2/-2

--Runners: Polanco, Betts, Correa, Trout, Ramirez, Gordon

--SSN after adjustments: 28

--Steal 2<sup>nd</sup> only, no steal of 3<sup>rd</sup> or home

### **Sacrifice:**

--Score: +2/-1

--Runners: on 1<sup>st</sup> (zero or one out), 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> (zero out)

--Hitters: Ahmed, Goins, Gordon

### **Hit & Run:**

--Same as above, just lower priority

**Limits (H&R steals & straight steals combined):**

**--1 SBA per series for Polanco, Correa, Ramirez**

**--2 SBA per series for Betts, Trout**

**--Unlimited attempts for Gordon**

## **Catcher, 2B, and Shortstop Substitutions (PH, PR, Def changes)**

This team will make a lot of substitutions, often three to five a game. Most of those will revolve around the catcher position and will occur between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> innings. These will often result in multiple moves happening between my at bat and the start of the next inning. ***Please look at the whole half-inning+ and make the combination of moves/batting line-up that make sense.***

--Betts, Trout, Bradley, and Machado only come out for injury

--Papi/Davis only come out for a PR, tie/winning runner, 8<sup>th</sup> inn+ (see below)

--Correa only comes out for defense (Ahmed)

--Catcher & 2B are more complex, described below. It differs depending upon which catcher starts.

**If Rupp starts:** I will *always* PH for Rupp. ***Never PH for Rupp with Leon!!!!*** Both catchers will be PA-limited and the intent is to stretch their plate appearances and not need Bethancourt. When Rupp comes to bat in the 6<sup>th</sup>+ inning, PH for him—usually with **Davis**—and bring in Leon to catch, often as part of a double or triple switch (see below). If, after I bat, I am tied or trailing, Leon comes for Davis. If, after I bat, I am leading, Davis stays in at 1B and Leon replaces Ramirez or the 2B or SS. If **Ahmed and/or Goins** are going to come into the game anyway, ***and I lead by 5 or more***, use one of them to PH and stay in defensively as part of a double or triple switch.

**If Leon starts:** When Leon comes up to bat 6<sup>th</sup> inning or later, I will generally do the following:

--***If I lead by 1 or 2 runs*** leave Leon in for his throwing arm. ***Never PH for Leon with Rupp!!!!***

--***Otherwise*** PH with Davis, Ahmed, or Goins (see above) and bring in Rupp

**Second base:** Polanco and Drew are a platoon.

--When either comes up in the 6<sup>th</sup>+ in a meaningful AB, the other can PH if it makes sense and stay in the game

--If power is called for and Davis is not needed to PH for the catcher (i.e. Leon started and I am ahead by a little) consider him as the PH if his power is more appropriate

--If the 2Bman hit in the home 6<sup>th</sup> or later and I lead by 3+, bring **Goins** in to start the 7<sup>th</sup>

--If I lead by any amount starting in the 8<sup>th</sup>+, bring in **Goins** regardless of whether the 2Bman hit or not.

**Shortstop:** No pinch hitting needed here, but:

--If Correa hit in the home 6<sup>th</sup> or later and I lead by 3+, bring **Ahmed** in to start the 7<sup>th</sup>

--If I lead by any amount starting in the 8<sup>th</sup>+, bring in **Ahmed**

**Pinch Running:** About the only other sub I will typically use is to pinch run:

--In the 8<sup>th</sup>+ inning for Ortiz if the score is +1/tied/-1

--In the 9<sup>th</sup>+ inning for Davis if I trail by 1 run

A faster starting pitcher, Ahmed, or Goins are the most likely—the starting pitcher preferred unless I am up one run (i.e. for Ortiz) and Ahmed/Goins will come in at the top of the 9<sup>th</sup> inning anyway.

***I have tried to explain what I am looking to do, but, these moves will often occur in the same half inning, so please look at what makes sense where you make the defensive switches if I lead. The ideal infield when I lead late is Davis-Goins-Ahmed-Machado with Leon catching.***

April 2017 Barbarians

Pitcher	Ag	Tm	Th	Gd	BB	HRA	fa	GS	RIP	MF	WP	Bk	HB	J	Sp	P	A'q'd	Fielding
FERNANDEZ, Jose	24	MIA	R	14	XY	15	32	25	29	0.0	3	3		4	8	1	D-14	
SANCHEZ, Aaron	25	TOR	R	14	Y	-13	33	26	30	0.0	0	2	0	4	S6	2	D-15	
STRASBURG, Stephen	28	WSN	R	13	XY	13	15	25	24	0.0	2	1	0	4	7	2	D-11	
TILLMAN, Chris	29	BAL	R	12	Y	-24	16	24	30	0.0	3	3	0	4	S6	1	D-11	
VENTURA, Yordano	26	KCR	R	8		-26	14	27	32	0.0	3	3		4	8	1	T-BH	
PINEDA, Michael	28	NYV	R	7	XY	13	-13	26	32	0.0	1	3	0	4	S4	1	D-12	
URENA, Jose	25	MIA	R	2		21	-11	28	12	20.0	0	0	0	4	9	1	D-16	
BEDROSIAN, Cam	25	LAA	R	22	XY	-13	55	6		40.3	2	3	0	4	7	1	D-16	
BUTCHER, Ryan	30	SD	L	22		-46	34	6		63.0	3	3	0	3	S5	2	T-KNX	
KIMBREI, Craig	29	BOS	R	21	XY	-62	34	6		53.0	0	3	0	4	7	1	D-11	
OH, Seung-hwan	34	STL	R	18	XY	32	34	6		79.7	1	3	0	3	7	1	D-17	
OSUNA, Roberto	22	TOR	R	15	XY	41	0	6		74.0	0	3		3	S5	2	D-16	
HARRIS, Will	32	HOU	R	15	XY	24	45	6		64.0	0	3	0	3	S5	2	T-MEL	
CLAUDIO, Alex	25	TEX	L	10		32	52	8		51.7	0	0	0	4	7	2	D-17	
NORRIS, Daniel (No +5)	24	DET	L	9	XY	11	-11	6	13	69.3	2	1	0	4	7	1	T-STM	
BROXTON, Jonathan	33	STL	R	10	Y	12	12	6		60.7	0	1	0	3	S4	1	T-MLR	
BAILEY, Homer	31	NC															D-MID	
HOLLAND, Greg	31	NC															T-MID	

Hitters	Ag	Tm	B	VL	VR	SA	G	PA	SBA	H/R	BA	OBP	SLG	J	Ar	Sp	St	A'q'd	Fielding
LEON, Sandy	27	BOS	B	9	-5	0	77	281	0	Y/N	.311	.368	.478	3	36	S4	N	D-17	8
RUPP, Cameron	27	PHI	R	10	-4	4	104	415	1	N/N	.255	.306	.452	3	33	S5	26	D-16	7
BETHANCOURT, Christian	24	SDP	R	2	-2	1	73	204	3	N/N	.228	.265	.368	3	30	S6	14	T-MAR	8
ORTIZ, David	40	BOS	L	-7	1	R4	150	622	2	N/N	.317	.404	.625	1	27	S2	31	T-MEL	2
RAMIREZ, Hanley	32	BOS	L	8	-4	3	146	616	12	Y/Y	.286	.360	.500	1	34	12	29	T-NW	2
DAVIS, Chris	30	BAL	L	-4	0	R2	156	661	1	N/N	.221	.333	.461	0	35	S6	26	D-09	5
DREW, Stephen	33	WSN	L	-10	1	R5	69	160	1	N/N	.271	.338	.536	3	34	12	14	T-BH	7
POLANCO, Jorge	22	MIN	B	2	-3	0	68	265	7	Y/N	.282	.335	.427	3	29	F16	23	D-17	7
GORDON, Dee	28	MIA	L	-4	-1	2	78	342	36	Y/Y	.264	.302	.332	3	34	F20	31	D-HOB	7
GOINS, Ryan	28	TOR	L	-8	1	5	77	196	2	Y/N	.186	.228	.306	3	31	F15	20	T-STM	2
CORREA, Carlos	21	HOU	R	-4	0	0	153	660	16	Y/Y	.274	.361	.451	1	36	13	31	D-16	6
AHMED, Nick	26	ARI	R	2	-3	1	90	308	7	N/N	.218	.265	.299	3	35	F15	28	T-BH	7
MACHADO, Manny (C)	23	BAL	R	2	-2	1	156	692	3	Y/N	.294	.344	.535	0	35	13	7	D-13	6
TROUT, Mike	24	LAA	R	-2	-1	0	158	677	36	N/Y	.314	.439	.550	0	33	F18	31	D-12	3
BETTS, Mookie	23	BOS	R	-6	0	0	157	726	30	Y/Y	.320	.365	.537	0	32	F18	33	D-15	3
BRADLEY, Jackie	26	BOS	L	-8	2	5	155	632	11	N/Y	.268	.350	.488	1	33	F17	31	T-WAR	3
ARCIA, Oswaldo	26	SD	L	-4	-1	2	69	222	2	N/N	.203	.270	.366	3	29	8	20	WW-17	1

Leon: Pb2/Th+5 Rupp: Pb2/Th-1 Bethancourt: Pb3/Th+1 Betts, Trout, Bradley are CF eligible

2017 Barbarian Rotation

A	@HOB	Sn	F	V	T	X
P	MID	P	Sn	F	X	
R	KNX	V	T	P	Sn	
(20)	IND	F	V	T	P	X
	@RIV	Sn	F	V	T	P
M	@WHI	Sn	F	V	T	St
A	@MUN	Sn	F	V	T	X
Y	DET	St	Sn	F	V	
(21)	CAY	T	St	Sn	F	X
	NBO	V	T	St	Sn	
J	@MID	F	V	T	St	X
U	@KNX	P	F	V		
N	HOB	T	St	P		
(19)	RYE	F	V	T	St	P
	@MAR	F	V	T	St	X
J	NW	Sn	F	V	T	St
U	BH	Sn	F	V	T	X
L	@KAN	St	Sn	F	V	
(21)	@STM	T	St	Sn	F	
	@GC	V	T	St	Sn	X
A	ZIO	P	V	T	F	
U	WAR	Sn	P	V	T	X
G	@RYE	F	Sn	P	V	
(20)	@LV	T	F	Sn	P	
	@MLR	V	T	F	Sn	X
S	@HOB	X	X	St	V	T
E	MID	P	Sn	St	V	
P	KNX	T	P	Sn	X	
(19)	RIV	St	V	T	P	
	@BH	Sn	St	V	T	P
O	COL	F	Sn	V	T	X
C	WHI	F	Sn	St	V	
T	@IND	T	F	Sn	St	V
(22)	@HUD	T	F	Sn	St	
	GC	V	T	F	Sn	St
N	MAR	X	V	F	Sn	St
O	@NW	T	T	Sn	St	
V	@MID	V	T	F	X	
(20)	@KNX	Sn	St	V	P	
	HOB	F	Sn	St	V	X

Lineup vs LHP on boards

2B	1	Polanco	2	-3
C	2	Leon	9	-5
RF	3	Trout	-2	-1
1B	4	Ramirez	8	-4
DH	5	Ortiz	-7	1
3B	6	Machado	2	-2
LF	7	Betts	-6	0
SS	8	Correa	-4	0
CF	9	Bradley	-8	2
		Drew	-10	1 2B sub
		Rupp	10	-4 2nd C
		Davis	-4	0 PH for C
		Ahmed	2	-3 Def SS
		Goins	-8	1 Def 2B

Lineup vs LHP on computer

LF	1	Betts	R	S1
SS	2	Correa	R	S0
RF	3	Trout	R	S0
DH	4	Ortiz	L	R4
3B	5	Machado	R	S1
1B	6	Ramirez	L	S3
CF	7	Rupp	R	R5
CF	8	Bradley	L	S5
2B	9	Polanco	B	S0
		Drew	L	R5 2B sub
		Leon	B	S0 2nd C
		Davis	L	R2 PH for C
		Ahmed	R	S1 Def SS
		Goins	L	S5 Def 2B

Lineup vs RHP on boards

LF	1	Betts	-6	0
SS	2	Correa	-4	0
RF	3	Trout	-2	-1
DH	4	Ortiz	-7	1
3B	5	Machado	2	-2
CF	6	Bradley	-8	2
1B	7	Ramirez	8	-4
2B	8	Drew	-10	1
C	9	Rupp	10	-4
		Polanco	2	-3 2B sub
		Leon	9	-5 Def C
		Davis	-4	0 PH for C
		Ahmed	2	-3 Def SS
		Goins	-8	1 Def 2B

Lineup vs RHP on computer

LF	1	Betts	R	S1
SS	2	Correa	R	S0
RF	3	Trout	R	S0
DH	4	Ortiz	L	R4
3B	5	Machado	R	S1
1B	6	Ramirez	L	S3
CF	7	Bradley	L	S5
C	8	Leon	B	S0
2B	9	Polanco	B	S0
		Drew	L	R5 2B sub
		Rupp	R	R5 2nd C
		Davis	L	R2 PH for C
		Ahmed	R	S1 Def SS
		Goins	L	S5 Def 2B

Sn	SANCHEZ, Aaron
F	FERNANDEZ, Jose
V	VENTURA, Yordano
T	TILLMAN, Chris
St	STRASBURG, Stephen
P	PINEDA, Michael
X	Off day

Minors: **Bethancourt, Gordon, Susac, Urena, Holland, Bailey** are in the minors April through October.  
 By month the following are aslo in the minors:

- Apr** Bedrosian, Harris, Claudio, Strasburg
- May** Kimbrell, Broxton, Norris, Pineda
- Jun** Bedrosian, Harris, Claudio, Sanchez
- Jul** Kimbrell, Osuna, Norris, Pineda
- Aug** Kimbrell, Osuna, Norris, Strasburg
- Sep** Kimbrell, Harris, Claudio, Ferrandez
- Oct** Kimbrell, Broxton, Norris, Pineda

**This will likely change!**