

Major League Baseball Season Structure

Horrid weather is plaguing the 2008 World Series between the Rays and Phillies. As we approach November, on the eve of the NBA season opener, I would like to make a few suggestions about the MLB season and playoff structure.

1. The MLB season is too long! Not counting the preseason, we have seven full months of games - April through October. That is about 30 weeks. I propose we shorten the regular season / playoff season to 28 weeks, to begin the first week in April, and conclude in mid-October.
2. The regular season will last 23 weeks, with each team playing roughly 6 games per week, for a total of about 135 games (taking a few days off for the All-Star break). A shorter regular season cuts down on monotony by enhancing the importance of each game.
3. I know - you worry that no pitcher would ever reach 20 wins, or a hitter have 50 HR in a season. So what? Isn't baseball a team game?
4. The playoffs will consist of:
 - (a) wild card round - best of 9 games, to be played within 11 days
 - (b) league championship series - best of 9 games, to be played within 11 days
 - (c) world series - best of 11 games, to be played within 14 days
5. Lengthening the series will increase the chance of the better team advancing.
6. There shouldn't be extra days off during the playoffs. With a playoff schedule roughly equivalent to the regular season, no team with two dominant pitchers can avoid the rest of their rotation.

Kenneth Massey
masseyratings.com
Oct 28, 2008