

Roster number changes were part of the temporary rules. The designated hitter would be used in both leagues. In regular-season games, each half-inning of an extra inning automatically starts with a runner on second base. The runner is the player in the batting order position immediately before the lead-off batter for the inning. A separate IL exists for players who test positive for, have symptoms of, or have confirmed exposure to COVID-19.

There is no maximum or minimum number of days for this IL. Doubleheaders consist of two seven-inning games. The stunner rule is the postseason is expanded to include eight teams from each league. The first round is a best-of-three series with the better seed hosting all three games. The venues will be neutral sites. Some players did decide to opt out of the season. Ryan Zimmerman, David Price and Buster Posey were big names who decided not to play. Yoenis Cespedes changed his mind about playing in mid-game!

What are your hopes for the 2021 baseball season?

Susan Riggs  
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# 2020

## The Lost Season



There have been a number of work stoppages in baseball. The 1981 strike began on June 12 and forced the cancellation of 713 games (or 38 percent of the Major League schedule) in the middle of the regular season. The two sides reached an agreement on July 31, and play resumed on August 9 with the All-Star Game, with regular season play resuming one day later. (*Wikipedia*) The 1994–95 Major League Baseball strike was the eighth work stoppage in baseball history, as well as the fourth in-season work stoppage in 22 years.

The strike began on August 12, 1994, and resulted in the remainder of that season being cancelled, including the postseason and, for the first time since 1904, the World Series. (*Wikipedia*) Then came Covid and baseball stopped in 2020 for an entirely different reason. The players wanted to play but wanted to be safe and to be paid a good amount even with no fans in the seats. After much negotiation, the season started on Thursday, July 23. There is to be a 16 game post-season playoff. There were some permanent rule changes for the 2020 season, but there were also temporary rule changes for the season.



*Dallas News*

Some players chose to play in masks but not many and as the season progressed, fewer players wore them. Baseball had strict protocols for dugouts.



*New York Times*

There were no actual fans in the stands, but for tv sometimes computer generated fans or cardboard cut outs.