

UNITED STATES – JAPANESE
PLAYER CONTRACT AGREEMENT

- 1) If a Japanese Professional Baseball Club (hereinafter referred to as a “Japanese Club”) wishes to contact and engage a baseball player, professional or amateur, who is currently playing or has played baseball in the United States or Canada, and/or is under contract with a Club that is a member of the National League or American League of Professional Baseball Clubs (hereinafter referred to as an “American Player”), the Japanese Club shall first request that the Office of the Commissioner of Japanese Professional Baseball (hereinafter referred to as the “Japanese Commissioner”) determine the status and availability of the American Player as hereinafter provided by communicating with the Major League Baseball Office of the Commissioner (hereinafter referred to as the “U.S. Commissioner”). The U.S. Commissioner shall respond to a request from the Japanese Commissioner within four (4) business days. The Japanese Commissioner shall keep the identity of any Japanese Club(s) inquiring as to the status of an American Player confidential in his communications with the U.S. Commissioner.

- 2) If the American Player is on the Reserve, Military, Voluntarily Retired, Restricted, Disqualified, Suspended or Ineligible List of any Club that is a member of the National League or American League of Professional Baseball Clubs (“hereinafter referred to as a “U.S. Major League Club”), as such Lists are described in the Major League Rules adopted January 20, 2000, the Japanese Club shall not contact or engage the American Player unless approval to do so has been given by such U.S. Major League Club through the U.S. Commissioner.

- 3) If the American Player is not one concerning whom approval must be obtained under paragraph (2), the U.S. Commissioner shall so notify the Japanese Commissioner and the Japanese Club may then contact and engage the American Player. If approval is required under paragraph (2), the U.S. Commissioner shall transmit to

the Japanese Commissioner the approval or disapproval of the U.S. Major League Club.

- 4) If a U.S. Major League Club wishes to contact and engage a baseball player, professional or amateur, who is currently playing or who has played baseball in Japan and/or is under contract with a Japanese Club (hereinafter referred to as a “Japanese Player”), the U.S. Major League Club shall first request that the U.S. Commissioner determine the status and availability of the Japanese Player in the same manner that the status and availability of an American Player is determined hereunder. The Japanese Commissioner shall respond to the request from the U.S. Commissioner within four (4) business days. The U.S. Commissioner shall keep the identity of any U.S. Major League Club(s) inquiring of the status of a Japanese Player confidential in his communications with the Japanese Commissioner.

- 5) If the Japanese Player is on the Reserve, Military, Voluntarily Retired, Restricted, Disqualified, Suspended or Ineligible List of any Japanese Club, as such Lists are described in the Japanese Professional Baseball Rules as of February 1, 2000, the U.S. Major League Club shall not contact or engage the Japanese Player unless approval to do so has been given by the Japanese Club through the Japanese Commissioner and then only pursuant to the procedures set forth in paragraphs (8) through (12) below.

- 6) If the Japanese Player is not one concerning whom approval must be obtained under paragraph (5), the Japanese Commissioner shall so notify the U.S. Commissioner and the U.S. Major League Club may then contact and engage the Japanese Player. If approval is required under paragraph (5), the Japanese Commissioner shall transmit to the U.S. Commissioner the approval or disapproval of the Japanese Club. If approval is granted, the procedures set forth in paragraphs (8) through (12) below shall apply.

- 7) If, in response to an inquiry by a U.S. Major League Club or on its own initiative, a Japanese Club wishes to make a Japanese Player concerning whom approval must be obtained under paragraph (5) available to U.S. Major League Clubs, such Japanese Club may make such Japanese Player available to U.S. Major League Clubs only pursuant to the procedures set forth in paragraphs (8) through (12) below.

- 8) With respect to a player covered by paragraph (5) whom a Japanese Club wishes to make available to the U.S. Major League Clubs, the Japanese Club shall request that the Japanese Commissioner notify the U.S. Commissioner of the Japanese Club's desire to make the Japanese Player available. The U.S. Commissioner then shall post the Japanese Player's availability by notifying all U.S. Major League Clubs of the intention of the Japanese Club to make the player available.

- 9) All requests by Japanese Clubs for postings must be made during the period commencing on November 1 of a given year and ending on March 1 of the following year and must be accompanied by the Japanese Club's medical records, i.e., trainers' reports and doctors' reports in the possession of the Japanese Club for the Japanese Player in question, which will be made available to the U.S. Major League Clubs. Within four (4) business days of the posting of the availability of the Japanese Player by the U.S. Commissioner, any interested U.S. Major League Club must submit to the U.S. Commissioner a bid, composed of monetary consideration only, to be paid to the Japanese Club as consideration for the Japanese Club relinquishing its rights to the player in the event that the U.S. Major League Club reaches an agreement with the Japanese Player. No direct or indirect contact may be made between a U.S. Major League Club and the Japanese Club concerning a posted player and/or the amount of the bid to be submitted by a U.S. Major League Club. The U.S. Commissioner shall have the authority, pursuant to paragraph (13) below, to take action that he deems appropriate in the event he concludes that a contact prohibited by the preceding sentence has been made concerning a posted player.

- 10) At the conclusion of the bidding period, the U.S. Commissioner shall determine the highest bidder among the U.S. Major League Clubs and that determination of the highest bidder shall be conclusive and binding on all parties. The U.S. Commissioner then shall notify the Japanese Commissioner of the amount of the bid submitted by the successful bidder, and the Japanese Commissioner will have four (4) business days to notify the U.S. Commissioner of whether that bid is acceptable to the Japanese Club involved.

- 11) If the highest bid is not acceptable to the Japanese Club making the Japanese Player available, the Japanese Player's posting will be withdrawn and another request for posting with respect to that Japanese Player shall be prohibited until the following November 1. If the highest bid is acceptable to the Japanese Club, the U.S. Commissioner shall award the sole, exclusive, and non-assignable right to negotiate with and sign the posted Japanese Player to the U.S. Major League Club that submitted the highest bid. That U.S. Major League Club then shall have 30 days from the date of the notice by the U.S. Commissioner that the bid is acceptable to the Japanese Player's Japanese Club in which to sign the Japanese Player. If the Japanese Player signs a contract with the U.S. Major League Club within 30-day period, the U.S. Major League Club shall pay the Japanese Club the amount of its successful bid within five (5) business days of the confirmation of terms with the Major League Baseball Players Association in the case of a Major League Contract or within five (5) business days of the reporting of terms to the U.S. Commissioner's Office in the case of minor league contract.

- 12) If the U.S. Major League Club, for any reason, fails to sign the Japanese Player within the 30-day period, the U.S. Major League Club's negotiation rights shall lapse and the U.S. Major League Clubs shall have no obligation to pay the Japanese Player's Japanese Club the amount of its successful bid (or any other obligation whatsoever). Further, another request for posting with respect to that Japanese Player shall be prohibited until the following November 1.

- 13) The U.S. Commissioner shall have the authority to oversee the bidding procedures set forth in paragraphs (8) through (12) above to ensure that they not been undermined in any manner. Among other actions that he may deem appropriate and in the best interests of baseball, the U.S. Commissioner shall have the authority to revoke a U.S. Major League Club's exclusive negotiation rights with respect to a Japanese Player (and, subject to the Japanese Club's approval pursuant to paragraph (11) above, to award such rights to the next highest bidder, if any) and to declare null and void any contract between a Japanese Player and a U.S. major League Club that the U.S. Commissioner deems was the result of conduct that was inconsistent with this Agreement or otherwise not in the best interests of professional baseball.

- 14) U.S. Major League Clubs and Japanese Clubs are free to enter into working agreements. Such working agreements, however, cannot provide a U.S. Club with exclusive or preferential rights to contract with Players on the Reserve, Military, Voluntarily Retired, Restricted, Disqualified, Suspended or Ineligible Lists of a Japanese Club. All working agreements must be filed with the U.S. and Japanese Commissioners, and either Commissioner may take action to require modifications of terms deemed to be inconsistent with this Agreement or otherwise not in the best interests of professional baseball in that country. The U.S. Commissioner shall be advised immediately of any negotiations or transactions between Clubs and/or Players of the United States and Japan.

- 15) This Agreement is subject to current and future legal restrictions in the United States and Japan.

- 16) If either party to this Agreement has a material change in its reserve rules or any other rule identified in paragraph (2) or (5) herein, that party shall have an obligation immediately to notify the other party of the change, and the other party shall have the right to seek renegotiation of and/or void this Agreement upon ten

(10) days' written notice.

17) Subject to paragraph 16 above, this Agreement shall have a term of two (2) years commencing on December 15, 2000 and ending on December 15, 2002 ("the Initial Termination Date"). One hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the Initial Termination Date, either the U.S. Commissioner or the Japanese Commissioner shall have the right to give notice of his intention to modify or terminate this Agreement and, promptly after the issuance of such notice, the parties shall commence discussions concerning the extension or amendment of this Agreement. If neither the U.S. Commissioner nor the Japanese Commissioner gives notice of his intention to modify or terminate this Agreement 180 days prior to the Initial Termination Date, this Agreement shall continue from year-to-year until either the Japanese Commissioner or the U.S. Commissioner gives notice of his intention to modify or terminate this Agreement one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to any anniversary of the Initial Termination Date.

* Supplemental Procedures

- 1) A Japanese club may, at any time up to 30 days before making a player available to all MLB clubs through the posting procedure, make information about the player (statistics, video, etc.) available to all MLB clubs, provided that the Japanese club first notifies the Japanese Commissioner's Office. Any information sent by the Japanese club to any MLB club must be sent to all MLB clubs simultaneously, on an equal basis, with copies of the information sent as well to the Japanese Commissioner's Office and to the U.S. Commissioner's Office.
- 2) If there are no bids on a player through the posting procedure, a Japanese club may post such player again during the same off-season (from November 1 to March 1), until it receives a bid.