

# CHICAGO BLACK SOX



*"If you are coming to play ball in **The Black Diamond**, you better bring your sticks"*

## 2022 Instructions


Once again the Chicago Black Sox will welcome you to the Black Diamond! If we are welcomed on the road it will be done so knowing you will see a typical Black Sox lineup with plenty of hitting, improved on-base and though not our most powerful team there is plenty of HR opportunities throughout the lineup. We snuck into the playoffs last year with a third place division finish – were quickly vanquished – and now are suffering through a three year World Series drought that we hope to change this year.

## Overview

Offense and Defense: Sit back and let them hit. Like last year this team can pound the ball. We do not do a lot of strategy baseball – bunting is only with the pitchers, no hit-and-run, and not much in platoons to worry about. Most of our starting lineup can hit against lefty or righty pitching so let them swing away. Improved defense up the middle will help keep us in it. Left side (3B and LF) is the weak ink defensively so a key will be to get them out of there with a lead after 6 innings or so. See Usage Guidelines below.

Pitching: The guys starting on the road should get us into and often through the 6<sup>th</sup> and even into the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. That should shorten the bullpen innings for your reliever decisions. We had to completely rebuild the starting staff, along with the early and middle bullpen, but they are good enough to keep us in the games. We do not throw games away because if the pitching can keep the game within reach the offense will always give us a chance.

## Starting Line-ups

Lineup 1, vs. L		Lineup 2, vs. L		Lineup 3, vs. R		Lineup 4, vs. R		THE BLACK DIAMOND
4	Hernandez	8	Hernandez	6	Turner	6	Turner	
9	Acuna	4	Cronenworth	4	Cronenworth	4	Hernandez	
6	Turner	6	Turner	9	Acuna	9	Acuna	
3	Ruf	9	Acuna	3	Freeman	7	Martinez	
2	Gomes	3	Freeman	7	Martinez	3	Ruf	
9	Martinez	7	Ruf	5	Moran	5	Moran	
8	Daza	2	Gomes	2	Navararez	8	Daza	
5	Toro	5	Toro	8	Daza	2	Gomes	
<b>Versus:</b> Kim, Kershaw, Snell, Suarez and Sandoval		<b>Versus:</b> All Lefty Starters not listed in Lineup 1.		<b>Versus:</b> All Righty Starters not listed in Lineup 4.		<b>Versus:</b> Glasnow, Greinke, Kelly, Flexen, J.Gray, Mahle, and Paddack.		

## Additional Notes on Lineups

- In Lineups 1 & 4 please pay close attention to the early exit discussions, below. Typical later inning switch in this lineup is Freeman for Martinez (Ruf to LF).
- In Lineups 2 & 3 you will have limited platoons – only at catcher (Gomes and Narvaez) and third base (Moran and Toro). Anyone else would only switch out late in the game when trailing using COMPARE, per below instruction.



**Injury, Platoon and Player Usage Guidelines**

- Catcher: **Narvaez** and **Gomes** share the work. Narvaez against the RHP and **Gomes** starts against all LHP. Trailing in the late innings look for best pinch hit options if trailing, otherwise the starter will usually finish the game. Both would bat 8<sup>th</sup> in any injury situation (if R v R or L v L).
- 1B: **Freeman** and he never comes out when he starts. **Ruf** backs him up; **Moran** if both are out.
- 2B: **Cronenworth** and he never comes out when he starts. **Hernandez** backs him up.
- SS: **Turner** and he never comes out. **Cronenworth** backs him up (**Hernandez** to second).
- 3B: **Moran** starts against most RHP is spelled by **Toro** for defense and/or when facing a lefty reliever. **Toro** starts against most LHP and will stay in unless trailing late for a better match-up. Use COMPARE.
- OF: **Daza** (CF) and he never comes out. **Hernandez** is the injury replacement and would bat 8<sup>th</sup> against the RHP. **Martinez** in LF and will come out for defense later in the game with a lead. **Acuna** in RF is the injury risk but there are a lot of options if that happens. Typically it is **Ruf** (to LF and **Martinez** to RF v. RHP) and he just bats in the same position in the lineup. Versus the LHP consider **Martinez** if not starting, **Pederson** versus the left bat left, or **Cronenworth** (**Hernandez** to RF). Use COMPARE to guide you.

**WHEN YOUR LEFTY STARTER EXITS THE GAME**

Before the 6<sup>th</sup>: No changes.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>: **Lineup 1** if leading bring in Cronenworth for Martinez after he bats (Hernandez to LF). If trailing pinch hit for Gomes and Hernandez with runners on (use COMPARE). Look for double switch opportunities to get Martinez out after he hits. **Lineup 2** no changes unless tied or trailing and Gomes up with runners on. Go to best pinch-hitter then replace either directly or through double switch with Narvaez.

After the 7<sup>th</sup>: Best defense if leading; go to best pinch-hit options if tied or trailing and runners on base.

**WHEN YOUR RIGHTY STARTER EXITS THE GAME (for a lefty reliever)**

Before the 6<sup>th</sup>: Moran should not face a lefty reliever – sub with Toro. Narvaez can be pulled facing a lefty reliever and runners in scoring position. He stays in with no runners on. No other changes. See the pinch hitting discussion, below.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>: Same instruction as before the 6<sup>th</sup>. Use COMPARE for Martinez (LF) with runners on for possible better options. If no one on he stays in if trailing; then out for defense tied or leading.

After the 7<sup>th</sup>: Best defense if tied or leading; go to best pinch-hit options if trailing.

**Pinch Hitting and the Double-Switch**

Our bench is not deep and certain players have to be saved for later in the game. **I do not want to waste a pinch-hitter on a meaningless at bat early in the game.** For the standard lineups (Lineups 2 or 3) if we are in innings 1 through 5 and you are pulling my pitcher do not double switch and do not use the bench if there are no runners on base. Just bat the pitcher and start him at the next half inning for at least a batter (milk him). If there are runners in scoring position in a close game then you can consider using the bench.

After the 5<sup>th</sup> and against the RHP Toro and Gomes are needed for late defense; Ruf is where you need a big bat and Pederson when you need a clutch hit (he is +11 in the clutch). Hernandez is the variable. Double-switch opportunities are at third base (Moran/Toro), or in LF (Martinez/Ruf; Hernandez for defense).

**Defense Matrix – Best Defense in Bold – Look to use as early as the 7<sup>th</sup> inning with any lead.**

C	1B	2B	SS	3B	LF	CF	RF
<b>Gomes</b>	<b>Freeman</b>	<b>Cronenworth</b>	<b>Turner</b>	<b>Toro</b>	<b>Hernandez</b>	<b>Daza</b>	<b>Acuna</b>
Narvaez	Ruf	Hernandez	Cronenworth	Moran	Pederson	Hernandez	Hernandez
	Cronenworth	Toro	Hernandez		Ruf	Acuna	Pederson

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Pitcher hitting / Pinch running

- Pitchers Hitting: No, there isn't any. With men on – see "Sacrifice" below.
- Pinch Running: **Gausman** or **Eflin**; **Hernandez** or **Toro** if considering a double-switch.

### Game Strategies

- Typical stealing decisions: Steal 2<sup>nd</sup> at 70%. Steal to 3<sup>rd</sup> at 75%. **Turner, Acuna, and Toro**. No one else.
- Who to H&R and when: Nope, not a strategy we will use this year.
- Sacrifice: Sacrifice is **only** with pitchers. All pitchers will try to sacrifice to move a runner from 1<sup>st</sup> base to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Only sacrifice to third when first base is open if the percentage is more than 80%.
- Squeeze Plays: Same as sacrifice. Use this small ball only with "B" or better bunting pitchers.
- Scoring: Same as your team. Run home at 65%; 50% with two outs; always with two outs and the pitcher coming up. If trailing by more than three runs or more after the 6<sup>th</sup>, take a more conservative run to home with less than two outs.
- Advancing to 3B: Always try to tag up to go to 3B on a fly out unless the "out" percentage is more than 15%. Advance from 1B to 3B on singles at 70%.
- Trailers: To second 55% and above, but to third at 65%. Send the lower percentage trailer only with two outs and we are down by a run or tied, from the 7th inning on.
- Throwing Guidelines: Cut the throw off from the outfield early in the game unless runner is heading home with a safe chance at less than 55%. Let the throw through even if the runner is as high as 65% with two outs and the 8th or 9th hitter is due up.
- Defense: Always get the sure out on Defense Option plays, unless runner represents the go-ahead run and his safe chance is less than 35%. Same with the trailing runners.
- Intentional Walks: Use your best judgment. I do **not** like being too aggressive with this – but there are guys/situations in **big moments** I would consider walking. Look at Hits+HR chances and clutch factors, but also who is going to follow.

## THE STARTING ROTATION

### LOOK HERE!

YOUR GAMES (to play at your park)					My Games (The Black Diamond)				
Opp.	Game #1	Game #2	Game #3		Game #1	Game #2	Game #3		
BAG	Desclafani	Gausman	Gibson		Bauer	Desclafani	Gibson		
PBC	Desclafani	Gausman	Eflin		Bauer	Gibson	Eflin		
SBM	Bauer	Gausman	Eflin		Eflin	Desclafani	Gibson		
SCT	Desclafani	Gausman	Gibson		Bauer	Desclafani	Gibson		
CDS	Bauer	Gausman	Gibson		Bauer	Desclafani	Gibson		
PHB	Bauer	Gausman	Gibson		Bauer	Desclafani	Gibson		
SDB	Bauer	Gausman	Gibson		Bauer	Desclafani	Gibson		
UTP	Gibson	Gausman	Eflin		Eflin	Desclafani	Gibson		
CHI									
AGN	Bauer	Gausman	Gibson		Gausman	Desclafani	Gibson		
STL	Desclafani	Gausman	Eflin		Gausman	Desclafani	Eflin		
VBS	Bauer	Gausman	Eflin		Gausman	Desclafani	Eflin		
Divisional Games – AWAY GAMES					Divisional Games – Home Games				
Opp.	Game #1	Game #2	Game #3	Game #4	Game #1	Game #2	Game #3	Game #4	
AGN	Bauer	Desclafani	Gausman	Gibson	Bauer	Gausman	Desclafani	Gibson	
STL	Bauer	Desclafani	Gausman	Eflin	Eflin	Gausman	Desclafani	Gibson	
VBS	Bauer	Desclafani	Gausman	Eflin	Eflin	Gausman	Desclafani	Gibson	

# Starts: Gausman (20); Desclafani (20); Gibson (20); Bauer (16); Eflin (14)



### Starting Pitcher Overview

<b>Kevin Gausman (7*)</b> 192 IP	The #1 starter. I expect him to go deep into games and even complete a few. He is not as good as the back end of the pen so he will surrender the mound in all save situations. He can work in “dots” early in the game (prior to the 5 <sup>th</sup> inning) but he shall NOT take one for the team so pull at the next sign of trouble (two runners on). From the 6 <sup>th</sup> inning on pull him if tired, unless we have a really big lead then milk it a bit until he gets into trouble.
<b>Anthony Desclafani (6)</b> 168 IP	The #2. A similar instruction as to Gausman but with a slightly less expectation on how deep into the game he will go. 6-7 innings is a good start and he can go longer with leads greater than 3 runs. Less than that he will turn it over to the pen somewhere in innings 6-8, situation depending, and ballpark depending (earlier in small parks, more patience in large parks). He is always out in “dots”.
<b>Trevor Bauer (7)</b> 108 IP	The #3. Would be the #1 starter if were not for the HR/Diamond issue against the lefty hitter. He will be spotted on the road in large parks for the lefty hitter. He should average 6-7 innings per start. Should not pitch to tying run lefty bopper in the 7 <sup>th</sup> inning. Let’s limit him to 7 innings per start and always out in “dots”.
<b>Kyle Gibson (7)</b> 182 IP	The best pitcher we have on keeping the ball in the park has him starting the majority of the time at home or where we have smaller parks to contend with. Generally 6-7 innings will be a good start for him. He can also work in “dots” early in the game like Gausman, but if we are still in it after 5 he will be an automatic pull in “dots”.
<b>Zach Eflin (7)</b> 106 IP	His starts are going to be focused on lefty heavy lineups where we can. Therefore we should be able to milk a good 5-6 innings out of him in most starts, more if we have built some big leads. Always out in dots. If facing a number of righty hitters we will want to use the pen earlier than later so do not shy on pulling him even if not in dots in the mid-innings in close games (innings 5 or 6).

### Managing the Bullpen

We have 7 relievers - 351 innings. I am hoping our starters get us through the 6<sup>th</sup> and into the 7<sup>th</sup>, and then we use short work using a combo of **Alvarez, Littell, Knebel** and **Sadler** coming into the 7<sup>th</sup> and through the 9<sup>th</sup>. If earlier use a number of relievers to the finish. Early exits will use **McGowin** to get us the last out or two against the righty lineup. Longer use requirements will be May against righty lineups and Boxberger against lefties per the below overview. If the starter is out early, use the pen to switch your lineup around. And per the pinch-hitting discussion, if an early exit you do not need to use the hitting bench early in the game – you may want to let the first reliever in go a while if you are keeping your lineup intact.

The Three Batter Minimum: **Not something to consider early in the game on any early exits by the starter.** When **McGowin** comes in he works to the end of the inning against the righty and then he is out of there. **Boxberger** and **May** are in for the longer stints for early exits so do not worry on the 3-batter rule. You can use either of the two in late (innings 7 or 8) if a large park using the 2 out of 3 rule, and their use in that situation is for a short stint using their lefty / righty strength. **Littell** should avoid facing a string of, or where 3 of the next 4 hitters are likely lefties.

## Relief Pitcher Overview

<b>Casey Sadler</b> Closer	Sadler is the closer and is in the game in all save situations. With a “1” inning endurance rating he can get the last out in the 8 <sup>th</sup> before trying to close it out in the 9 <sup>th</sup> , but no earlier. He does pitch the 9 <sup>th</sup> in all save situations.
<b>Corey Knebel</b> Stopper	Only 26 innings but Knebel is the late inning stopper and alternate closer in the 9 <sup>th</sup> . He never starts an inning rather he closes out opponent rallies any time in innings 7 and 8. He would start the 9 <sup>th</sup> in save situations when Sadler is unavailable. Try not to use more than 1.3 innings per 3-game series.
<b>Zach Littell</b> Set-up	He pitches in innings 6-8 and tougher against the righty hitter. He can pitch against balanced lineups. Prefer not to use against a string of lefty hitters. Heavy righty hitters in small parks may require a different solution (May). Large parks just fire away.
<b>Jose Alvarez</b> Set-up	Only lefty in the pen. I like him pitching in innings 6-8. He will generally follow Bauer, Gibson or Desclafani where the game is still close or we have a lead. He can go an inning plus as long as there are favorable match-ups. No HR’s or diamonds on that card so he can be effective in small parks.
<b>Brad Boxberger</b> Situational against lefty laden lineups and long relief	Really tough on lefties and not bad against righties except for that HR and diamond issue. So, he pitches where 2 of the next 3, or 3 of the next 4 are lefty, but can stretch that out a bit where diamond issues for righty hitters are 5 or less. He is also a “mop-up” specialist with plenty of innings as needed. Use him early (innings 4-7). EARLY EXIT – First in for starts by Bauer, Gibson or Desclafani.
<b>Trevor May</b> Situational against righty laden lineups and long relief	Really tough on righties and not bad against lefties except for that HR and diamond issue. So, he pitches where 2 of the next 3, or 3 of the next 4 are righty, but can stretch that out a bit where diamond issues for lefty hitters are 5 or less. He is also a “mop-up” specialist with plenty of innings as needed. Use him early (innings 4-7). EARLY EXIT – First in for starts by Eflin or Gausman.
<b>Kyle McGowin</b> Situational	Pitches anywhere prior to the 8 <sup>th</sup> when we need to get some righty hitters out. Careful on his use in small parks (UTP, SCT, BAG, et al). Key use is where he can close out an inning and then we go to another reliever in the next inning.

## Paradise Canyon League Championship Banners

