



March 4, 2008

Mr. Allen H. (Bud) Selig  
Office of the Commissioner of Baseball  
777 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 3060  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Commissioner Selig:

The Online News Association strongly objects to the terms on which Major League Baseball proposes to credential journalists and urges you to work collaboratively with representatives of the media to develop credentialing terms that better serve the relevant business, journalistic, and societal interests.

Our association, which represents more than 1,200 online news media members, believes that many of the proposed restrictions are contrary to the interests of Major League Baseball, to baseball fans and to our members, who cover sports news in an emerging multimedia environment.

These terms interfere with our members' ability to do their jobs as journalists and cover news of public importance.

We request that MLB collaborate with the news media to develop new credential terms that would mutually protect our interests -- and the public interest -- while encouraging open and robust coverage of baseball players and games.

Among the issues the Online News Association finds most objectionable:

- Limiting the number of photographs from each game that may be displayed online to seven. This restriction is particularly troubling because it applies regardless of whether an organization took the photos itself. This limit could be interpreted to include reader-submitted photos, potentially limiting the ability of news organizations to publish user-generated content and "citizen journalism."
- Prohibiting the use of game photographs as part of a photo gallery, and having the Commissioner's office determine the definition of a "photo gallery." Leaving the Commissioner's office to define, on an ad hoc basis, an online "photo gallery" would make it impossible for our members to plan coverage because the commissioner's office would have the ability to define, unilaterally and after the fact, what does and doesn't fall within the restriction.
- Prior written notice of the intention to display non-text accounts: This restriction is unnecessarily onerous and inconsistent with the need to communicate news in a timely manner.
- Restrictions on recording audio and video from 45 minutes prior to a scheduled game until that game has concluded. This is unnecessarily restrictive, as news often develops

in the time immediately preceding a game.

- Restrictions on the length of time non-text content may be archived online. Among other things, non-text content serves as an important part of the historical record, which would be undermined by the proposed restrictions.

The restrictions in these credentials make it harder for the members of ONA to do their jobs as journalists.

We urge you to reconsider these restrictions and collaborate with the news media to develop credential terms that serve our mutual interests and thereby better serve the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jonathan Dube".

Jonathan Dube  
President  
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