



The Silhouette



September Edition

Privilege or Punishment?: Instant Reactions to Senior Privilege Passes

Sydney Christner

Emotions are high as seniors adjust to the newly implemented senior privilege pass policy. Up to the beginning of this school year, the policy for senior privileges focused on granting privileges until there was a reason to take them away. However, as announced at the beginning of this school year, seniors must earn privileges before having them. This requires students to be extra cautious of whether or not they are meeting qualifications for basic senior privileges, such as access to the senior commons or eligibility for early release. Considered on a monthly basis, seniors may earn their senior privilege pass by meeting the following criteria:

- Grades in all courses must be 83% or higher
- Attendance rate must be 90% or higher
- No ISS or OSS infractions
- All obligations must be met.
 - No course fees, negative balances in food service accounts, Saturday school hours, etc.

If granted a senior privilege pass, it becomes an individual's responsibility to have it with them each time they wish to take advantage of a senior privilege. Without the physical pass, it is as if the individual never earned the privileges to begin with.

As with every new policy, student reactions seem to be quite mixed. I took the opportunity to discuss this new policy with some seniors in order to dig deeper into how they are feeling a

full month into the use of senior privilege passes.

On one side, there are students who firmly believe that the senior privilege pass idea is a great policy, noting that **"it's a privilege pass, not a right. You have to earn it."** In opposition, there are students who disagree with this new policy, suggesting that **"[senior privilege passes] are dumb"** and serve more as punishment for past actions the Class of '23 should not be held responsible for: **"It's a little tricky because I understand the issue with the seniors last year leaving food and trash all over the place [in the senior commons], but I think it's a bit restrictive for us because we're not the same people. Maybe if they were to [require senior privilege passes] if we were to leave trash there, that may be a better approach than taking it away for a month before giving us a chance."** Of course, there are also those students who truly have no opinion and respond with **"I don't care"** when questioned on the matter.

The most common response recognized the positive intentions of the administration to be proactive, yet found the execution to be flawed: **"Personally, I think they have good intentions, but they are useless and cause too much confusion and problems. It's the right idea of trying to keep students doing the right things, but they aren't giving us a chance. They are punishing us for what the**

Privilege or Punishment? (*continued*)

seniors did last year." Many who feel this way were quick to offer suggestions that would help them be more supportive of this new policy, saying that **"you should have to have two C's instead of one [to be ineligible],"** or that eligibility consideration **"shouldn't be by month, it should be by quarters."**

The final concern that came up in these discussions surrounded the use of last year's second semester grades to determine senior privilege eligibility for the month of September. Some felt that it was unfair for their past grades to decide whether or not they have senior privileges, claiming that **"everyone deserves a clean slate."** Also, some believed that taking grades from before summer break fails to reflect a student's abilities and motivation in the present: **"It doesn't make sense why they would decide to punish kids for the last semester without giving them the chance to show that they can**

do better. It's a whole new year and people can definitely change over the summer." This concern, however, only is applicable to the month of September, and I foresee this concern fading once October senior privileges are granted.

As this policy is still fairly new, I expect opinions to shift as the school year progresses and the Class of '23 adjusts further to senior privilege passes. I certainly believe that senior privilege passes can be an incentive for students to meet the requirements. They have the potential to act as a proactive step in the right direction towards a better school community. Yet, I fear the Class of '23 may continue to feel blocked from senior privileges that we have waited years to access, affecting our senior experience. I've already found myself worrying more about not losing the small slip of paper that is my senior privilege pass, rather than focusing on having a good time with my friends at lunch. I hope as senior

privilege passes continue, they serve as a reward and privilege, not a punishment.

More to come on this topic in future Silhouette editions...

(All bolder quotes directly from various NOHS Seniors)

Cheers & Jeers

Carson Heeney

Cheers:

- Cheers to the New Oxford Football Team for advancing to (4-1)
- Cheers to the Girl's Tennis Team for going 15-0 and becoming the league champs
- Cheers to those Academic Weapons sitting in the front of class and paying full attention during class time.
- Cheers to the single ladies, hit me up anytime

Jeers:

- Jeers to the Queen, may she rest in peace
- Jeers to climate change, polar bears dying, and such
- Jeers to Jonathan Rineman's torn ACL, heal up my brotha
- Jeers to lost socks, maybe we'll meet again in another life

Hispanic Heritage Month

Betsy Figueroa

What is Hispanic Heritage Month?

It is a month in which the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America are honored and celebrated. Now before we dive deeper, you need to know the difference between Hispanic and Latino. The term Hispanic refers to someone who comes from or is a descendant of a Spanish-speaking country. Latino refers to someone who comes from Latin America or is a descendant from any Latin American country. This celebration began in 1968 as a Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to be from September 15 to October 15. You may be asking yourself why it takes place in the middle of the month? The reason for that is on September 15, several Latin American countries such as Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua celebrate their independence. Mexico celebrates their independence on the 16th.

Why is Hispanic Heritage Month important?

So often in history, Hispanic/Latino figures are overlooked, including in the curriculum for history courses. If you were to ask most American students who Cesar Chavez is, they wouldn't know. How about Ellen Ochoa? Nope, still nothing. They are both monumental historical figures in American history. Cesar Chavez was a civil rights activist that fought for the rights of agricultural workers. He, along with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National

Farm Workers Association. Ellen Ochoa is the first Hispanic woman to go to space. There are hundreds of others just like them. This month is about giving them their long awaited recognition. It's especially important to celebrate it in the United States considering that 18.9% (according to the U.S. Census Bureau) of the population is Hispanic or Latino. This may not seem like a lot, but that's about 62,727,918 people.

How can you celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month?

Take time and learn about all of the overlooked Hispanic/Latino figures. Learn more about the culture itself. Since every nationality that identifies as Hispanic/Latino is different, you could learn about one or multiple nationalities. The customs and traditions are often very different and it opens your eyes. You can learn about them by reading a book, visiting museums, watching documentaries or simply asking those around you. If you are truly interested in learning more about the culture, ask any of your Hispanic or Latino friends in a respectful manner. The more you learn about the culture the more you fall in love with it. I urge you to do something this month to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.



FALL PLAYLIST

By: Jennie Brady



literally
referencing the
barren trees after
the leaves fall off
and before snow

duh.

Very Michael
Jackson's "Thriller" vibes

Slower song with
instrumentals that
feel slightly spooky
↳ perfect for fall
nights!

search baby, re: stacks, for emma
ceilings, doomday, pancakes for dinner, apple pie
stick season, northern attitude

leader of the landladies, left for denver, donna,
gale song, newington, waltz

movement, like real people do, strike

all too well (10 min.), mirrorball, my tears, ricochet,
right where you left me, willow

back to the old house, heaven knows im miserable,
there is a light that never goes out, this night has opened my eyes

sweater weather

feels like

lady lord

paper boats

love like ghosts

dreams

we fell in love in october

somebody's watching me

garden song

1999

mr rattlesbone

golden leaves

apple tree blues, day and age

BON IVER

LIZZY McALPINE

NOAH KAHAN

THE LUMINEERS

HOZIER

TAYLOR SWIFT

THE SMITHS

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

GRACE ABRAMS

PETER MCPOLAND

GREER

LORD HURON

FLEETWOOD MAC

GIRL IN RED

ROCKWELL

PHOEBE BRIDGERS

BEABADOBEE

MATT MAESON

PASSENGER

CAAMP

*king of fall!

folklore + evermore = so fall

"strange trails" album is
a perfect eerie fall album

perfect folk songs
for fall

top FALL artists:

- ↳ HOZIER
- ↳ THE SMITHS
- ↳ BON IVER
- ↳ FLEETWOOD MAC
- ↳ TAYLOR SWIFT
(especially red,
folklore, evermore)
- ↳ GIRL IN RED



SCAN FOR APPLE
MUSIC PLAYLIST



SCAN FOR
SPOTIFY PLAYLIST

Serena's Last Match

Anna Farmer

As most people know by now, tennis legend Serena Williams, stepped off the tennis court for the last time. Williams officially began her retirement from the sport on Friday, September 2 after being defeated in the third round of the US Open by Ajla Tomljanović. Following the intense 3-set match, Serena thanked her family, along with those that have been by her side throughout the years and waved one final goodbye to her fans.

Throughout her career, Serena has accomplished many things. She became the first African American woman to win a grand slam singles title in the open era. In her 27 years of playing, she collected a total of 23 grand slam singles titles which puts her just below Margaret Court's all time record of 24. Williams also competed in three different Olympic Games. In 2000, she competed in Sydney, Australia to win a gold medal in doubles with her sister, Venus. Then in 2008, the duo won another gold medal for Team USA in Beijing, China. She returned to the games in 2012 in London, England where she won a gold medal in singles and a gold medal in doubles. Her latest record occurred during her final match in the US open. The match became the most-viewed tennis match, men's or women's, in ESPN history with an average of 4.6 million viewers.

Serena not only wants to be remembered for all of her wins, but also for the impact she has made. In a VOGUE Magazine article, Serena stated that she wants people to see her as a symbol for "something bigger than tennis." She has become the inspiration for many women and African Americans in sports. After facing many struggles while growing up in the sport, she has taught others that they can overcome any challenges they may face.

Following the news of her retirement, many other public figures have reached out over social media to thank Serena for her contributions. Former First Lady, Michelle Obama, tweeted "Congrats on an amazing career...I can't wait to see the lives you continue to transform with your talents." Simone Biles, Olympic gymnast, tweeted "thank you @serenawilliams for transcending sports for black athletes, female athletes and every athlete." Michael Phelps, Olympic swimmer, tweeted "It's been truly fun to watch Serena not only change the sport of tennis, but more importantly, how she's helped empower the next generation. Her tennis accomplishments speak for themselves, but one of the things I admire about her is she simply doesn't quit."

So why did Serena choose to retire? In her article in VOGUE Magazine, Serena discussed how difficult the decision was. Tennis had been her life for so long that it would be hard to leave. But, she wants to grow her family and her business. She already has a daughter, Alexis, but is planning on having another child. Williams explained the difficult choice female athletes have to make regarding starting families. Serena played tennis while she was pregnant with Alexis and was even able to win the Australian Open during that time, but she does not want to do both this time around. Along with focusing on her family, Serena also wants to focus on her company. In 2014, she opened Serena Ventures, a venture capital firm. In her retirement, she wants to work on growing her firm. When saying her final goodbyes, Serena stated that she does not think she will come back to the sport, "but you never know."

Playing for Ken

Cora Diviney

As many students from New Oxford know, a significant person from our school district passed away last fall. This outstanding man was Ken Armacost. Better known as Dr. Armacost to the hundreds of kids that were able to have him as their principal throughout intermediate school, and Coach Ken to the select group of girls that had the pleasure to be coached by him on the girls volleyball team this past season.

As a way to remember and honor him, the girls volleyball team decided to dedicate their first home game to Coach Ken. This game took place on August 30th against Gettysburg. The team decided to make posters and hang them up around the gym in remembrance of their coach, as well as establish the student section theme as polo because Coach Ken was known by his team for always wearing polos. The team also made sure to include the song "What About Us" by P!nk in their warm up because of the special meaning Dr. Armacost gave it. His saying the year before had always been "What about us" reminding the team to never count themselves out,

and in the process had given the song a more significant meaning to his players. The volleyball team used this, along with a speech given by senior captain, Autumn Lehigh, to motivate them throughout the game.

Shortly after Lehigh's speech, the team quickly began racking up point after point to take the first set. Going into the second set the momentum switched. The Warriors had begun to take the lead and the Colonials couldn't come back. After the Warriors took the second set, the team was brought in for a talk. Head Coach Brandon Dinges quickly reminded the team why they were playing and who they were playing for; the Colonials went back out and took both the third and fourth set to claim a victory. A victory that meant so much more than just winning the game. Even today, almost a year after his passing, Coach Ken still holds a special place in so many hearts, and his memory will forever be ingrained in the Conewago Valley School District, and especially in the girls volleyball program.

The Real Hero of Our Marching Band

Brooklyn Green

Our band director, Mr. Campopiano has done something extremely brave and selfless that I think he deserves to be recognized for. This summer, he made the decision to donate a portion of his liver to his former percussion instructor. This mentor had been diagnosed with stage 3 liver cancer and was in search of a donor. Mr. C traveled to Pittsburgh and got tested to see if he could be a possible match. And turns out, he was. The surgery would occur at the end of July, meaning that Mr. C would most likely be out of commission for a very important part of the marching band season- band camp. From my understanding, Mr. C was very concerned because how would we have band camp without a director? Despite all of the worry, the band was fine!

Before he left, Mr. C had written out an entire spreadsheet of our schedule for camp. In all honesty, that chart kept us on the right track. This year's show (what we were learning during band camp) is titled 'Heroic'. As with any marching band show, 'Heroic' has an important message. I think the back of our shirts explain it best: "A hero is an ordinary person who does extraordinary things." Mr. C is a true example of this message, he has done something that may add years onto another person's life. We, as a marching band, music department, and school community are lucky to have such a great example of a human. I have the highest respect for Mr. C, not only because he's done something very brave, but also because I believe not everyone has the guts to do as he has done. In my opinion, Mr. C is a true example of a hero.

How Do Teachers Spend Their Summer?

Jennie Brady

Like many other students, I'm always intrigued by the personal stories my teachers choose to share. It's always a reminder that they're humans just like us students. In an attempt to bridge the somewhat nerve wracking gap between students and teachers during the first month of school, I decided to interview five teachers about what they did over summer break. Their answer could be their favorite thing they did, the most interesting thing they did, and anything in between.

If you've had Mrs. Murren, you likely know that she always has some sort of story to tell. Mrs. Murren's most memorable summer moment was being the emergency contact for her pregnant best friend, as her husband was deployed. The plan was for Mrs. Murren to be with her friend when she gave birth. She went down a few weeks early, in order to learn the routine of her best friend's two other children. This turned into a much longer trip than planned. Mrs. Murren's friend started having health issues and had the baby earlier than expected. Originally, the deployed husband was going to miss the birth, but because of the circumstances, he was able to come home for the birth. The craziest things seem to happen to Mrs. Murren, so it's not surprising that she had a chaotic story to share.

Many people use their summer break to travel, which is exactly what Mr. Chrismer did. He got to explore cities like Boston and Salem, Massachusetts. In Salem, he did a night tour of the city, which included the history of the witch trials. Also, while in Boston, Mr. Chrismer reveled in his huge sports fan side by touring Fenway Park. He got to visit Newport, Rhode Island, as well. Newport is famous for the huge mansions that overlook Easton Bay, which are easily accessed through a cliff walk. Considering he's a social studies teacher, it's unsurprising that his trip included historically rich locations.

In true Mrs. Neiderer fashion, her family's plan to host a foreign exchange student this year turned into opening their home to two students, instead of just one. At the orientation for the exchange hosts, she and her husband saw how many kids had yet to be hosted. As this meant all these kids wouldn't get to have an exchange year, they

decided to welcome another student into their home. If you don't know, four years ago, Mrs. Neiderer and her family lived abroad in Saudi Arabia. They were asked if they wanted to host a student from there and after saying yes, they found out that his home in Saudi Arabia is about 5 miles from where they used to live and his father works for the same company that they worked for. All these coincidences really makes it seem like this was meant to be. Already preparing your home for two extra people to live with you makes for a hectic end of summer. But, Mrs. Neiderer's family had also just moved into their new home, not even two weeks prior. Anyone who has had Mrs. Neiderer is likely not surprised by the quick turnaround from moving into a new home as a family of six to becoming a family of eight for the next nine months. A very normal end to the summer in the Neiderer household.

Mr. Horick had to think for a few moments, but pulled out a very meaningful memory he was able to create over the summer break. He informed me that since he was a young kid, he has gone on a float trip down the Susquehanna River. This summer, for the first time, he was able to include his son in this tradition. Now what was once a memory for him has become something he can share with his son for years.

While most teachers spend their summer relaxing and traveling, Mr. Campopiano took a very non-traditional route to celebrate finishing another year of teaching. A few months ago, Mr. C found out an old mentor of his, from his high school band days, needed a liver transplant. Mr. C then found out he was a match and could donate part of his liver. Needing to bring the 2022 marching band show, "Heroic", to life, Mr. C decided he would travel to Pittsburgh, donate 68% of his liver, and miss most of band camp. But as any normal person does, as soon as he got back from the hospital, he came to band practice. When asked how he would rate the experience, he said "the hospital stay was a 2/10, but the recovery has actually been going very well." He also said he has been enjoying napping at home while recovering. Clearly the 2022 summer will not be one Mr. C forgets.

Trisha Paytas's Newborn is the "Reincarnation" of Queen Elizabeth?

Madison Cohee

Famous social media influencer, Trisha Paytas, was 9 months pregnant with her first child, when Queen Elizabeth passed away peacefully on September 8th, at 96 years old. Minutes after the Queen's passing, Trisha made a tweet claiming she was 1 centimeter dilated. This tweet then began the rumor that Trisha had gone into labor and was giving birth to her child. The allegation then escalated and Trisha Paytas was giving birth to the "reincarnation" of Queen Elizabeth.

Trisha posted a TikTok on September 9th, showing she was still pregnant and had not yet given birth. Trisha was very distraught that

a great tragedy occurred in England, and the internet started a misleading statement about Trisha giving birth to the "Queen" on the same day. The basis of this rumor was solely for jokes, but Trisha was extremely inconsolable that people were finding humor in Queen Elizabeth's death, and the birth of her first child.

On September 14th, 2022, Trisha Paytas gave birth to her baby. Trisha named her baby after a famous children's doll, Malibu Barbie Paytas-Hacmon. To counter all of the rumors, her child is not the "reincarnation" of Queen Elizabeth.

Her Majesty's Death: The Impact Across Generations

Ava Miles & Brayden Linsey

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor II, passed away on September 8th, leaving England and all its people with a wide range of emotions. We took the opportunity to speak with three different generations of citizens to hear their thoughts and feelings on this impactful event. Here are their thoughts.

To begin, we spoke with Elaine, a 62 year old woman from Chelmsford, England. Elaine explains that the queen was well respected in her eyes and will be greatly missed. She admired her by saying, "Royalists or not, no one could question her sense of duty and impeccable personal behaviour." She spoke about how she got slightly choked up when the news first broke and their national anthem began to play. She goes on to say that this will be a big change, as no one has ever seen anyone else as head of state. To wrap up, in her own words, "Our glorious Queen is dead,

LONG LIVE KING CHARLES III!"

Alice was the next to speak with us, a teacher in her mid-thirties, also from Chelmsford. While being upset and having respect for the Queen, her reaction was not comparable to the tears of Elaine. Alice spoke about how monumental the Queen's death was, as it will usher in a new head of state, changing the status-quo of over seventy years. Alice mentioned "It probably isn't going to affect my daily life, but it will be strange to think we don't have a queen anymore." Also, Alice brought up that, "it is very unlikely that I will ever see another queen as our monarch!" In somewhat agreement to Elaine's personal opinions on the queen's service, Alice said, "She really embodies the notions of hard work, and loyalty [to our] country." Finishing off our interview, we also asked Alice if school would be closed for the queen's death. She said, in

Her Majesty's Death: The Impact Across Generations (*cont.*)

opposition to the common misconception that schools close for a week, "If the funeral falls on a weekday we may get a day off. Schools will definitely be celebrating her life and her achievements."

Our final citizen interview was with Hannah, an 18 year old, high school equivalent, student and nail tech from the Manchester area. Her opinions varied drastically from Elaine and Alice. Hannah was doing nails as the news of the queen's death broke and claimed to be completely unbothered by the news. She continues on and speaks about the common misconception that you get off work and school for 10 days when the queen dies by saying "that's not the case and it's not true it's all just a big misconception." Deeper into the interview, Hannah speaks about how it's annoying seeing the Queen's death all over TV

and social media saying, quote "My mom was really pissed off...a lot of television shows that were supposed to air tonight have not been on because they've been covering the queen's death." She elaborates on that idea explaining how it's honestly an "inconvenience" for the people because everything is covering the queen: TikTok, Facebook, Twitter, TV, news channels, radio stations, etc. Finishing off her interview, Hannah comments on the general opinions of the younger population by stating boldly "A lot of young people literally do not care. I will tell you that now 100%, a lot of young people will not give a single flying [redacted]."



Wpa Pool via Getty Images

What Comes Next?

Bailey Bodvin

As previously written, Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8, 2022. However, many people have been left confused as to what comes next. Her funeral will take place ten days after her death, where the public will have the opportunity to come and pay respects. But, that's not what most people want to know; they are all wondering who is next in line. After all, there is not a time in England where there is not a reigning monarch. And it comes down to Charles III, of course.

At the moment of the Queen's death, Charles took over as king, at age 73. His wife, Camilla, became the Queen Consort, which is a fancy way of saying that she is not, and never will be, the Queen of England. Although they received their titles when the queen died, there will not be a coronation for months. After all, Queen Elizabeth's ceremony wasn't for over a year after her father had died.

King Charles gave his first address on Friday, September 9th at 1pm EST where he said, "During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which The Queen was so widely held." This is ironic, because while his mother was (mostly) respected and loved by the people of England, Charles has not always had the highest approval rates.

This begins with Princess Diana, where both parties were pushed into an unloving marriage full of fights and affairs, on both sides. They inevitably divorced, and years later, Diana was in a fatal car accident, which many people believed that Charles caused by ordering paparazzi to hit the car; Charles was not able to marry Camilla if Diana was still alive. People also believe that Charles holds prejudices against people of color. He has been recorded laughing during native performances, though it has not been confirmed that he was

laughing at the women. Also, in Harry and Meghan's interview with Oprah Winfrey, they stated that someone in the family made a rude remark about what the color of their son, Archie's, skin would be, and many suspected it was Charles. However, the couple said they would not reveal who it was.

Regardless of the poor things he has done, King Charles has always been an environmental activist. A few years ago, he said "I remember years ago, in the '60s, when I was a teenager, minding so much about all the things that were going on, the destruction of everything. The uprooting of trees and hedgerows and draining of wet places ... this sort of white heat of progress and technology, to the exclusion of nature ... this complete determination, somehow, to defeat nature." His fight for the environment began in the 1970s with his speech calling for changes in how we treat the environment, in a time when the idea of climate change barely existed. Charles has dedicated a large part of his life to inspire people to help the environment and make our world a better place to live, and will most certainly continue to do so during his reign.

Hoping for a peaceful transition, in February of 2022, Queen Elizabeth had said, "When, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes king, I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support you have given me. And it is my sincere wish that, when that time comes, Camilla will be known as queen consort as she continues her own loyal service."

Nevertheless, Charles is a 73 year old man with oedema, the cause of his swollen hands and limbs, and people are not sure how long he will be able to rule, and the crown may soon be passed down to Prince William. Despite this, God Save the King.

Movie movie skull & crossbones skull & crossbones

NOTES

BIRD BOX

SURETH

GET OUT

VS

HEREDITH

ANABELLE

THE LONGMARCH

STAND BY ME

THE BABYDOL

TRUTH OR DARE

YOUNG SHON

MIDSONMAR

IT

DO NOT DISTURB

CHERRY

The Innovation of Major Sports

Curtis Smith

The "One and Done Rule"

The NBA has had a rule called the "one and done rule" for roughly 20 years now, establishing the system that aspiring NBA players must play at least one year in college before being able to be in the draft. As of September 19th, 2022, the NBA and the NBPA (National Basketball Player Association) plan to end the "one and done rule" and allow players to go straight to the draft out of high school. This changes the draft age minimum from 19 years old to 18, which could cause some interesting changes in the league. One year in college is a maturing stage in a lot of young adults' lives. Skipping this step could cause some conflicts between the interaction between the up-and-coming 18 year olds and the old veterans of the league.

Although one may think this is unprecedented, this rule has been changed a couple of times throughout the history of the league. In particular, the "one and done rule" was implemented in 2005. Before this time, the league had players pursue the NBA straight out of high school and shockingly, they played with the best of them. Notable players such as Kevin Garnett, Kobe Bryant, Tracy McGrady, LeBron James and Dwight Howard made huge impacts on the league in their early years and played on to have Hall-of-Fame caliber careers. All in all, this is going to be a familiar change for this major sport league and the audience is prepared to watch history repeat itself or witness something new.

MLB Innovations

As many sports fans can tell, the MLB has been really working to create a new system to stop the decline in their viewership. Baseball has become a sport that people have strayed away from watching due to long at-bats, long innings, low action, and sometimes very long games. For instance, on October 27th, 2015,

the Kansas City Royals took on the New York Mets. The final score was five to four with the Royals coming out on top in 14 innings. This game took a total of five hours and nine minutes to play. The average person does not have five hours of time to watch a sports game on a weeknight, and this is reflected in the viewership numbers. In 1991, the MLB had an average viewership of about 35.68 million viewers whereas in 2020, they had roughly 9.78 million. That drop of 25.9 million people caused a 73 percent drop in viewership. The league has recognized this problem since then and have been renovating the game ever since.

The league created rule changes in game play, post season, and uniforms for the 2023 season. Starting with game play rules, the MLB will adopt a pitch clock ensuring that the game is moving at a reasonable pace. This allows for quicker innings, leading to quicker games, leading to happier fans. Another game play rule is a ban on defensive shifts. A defensive shift is when the defensive teams stack their infielders to one side of the field depending on the type of hitter batting. For example, a left-handed hitter will primarily hit the ball to right field. The defense would choose to stack that side of the field to have better odds for an out. With this tactic being banned, fans can expect higher scores and higher hit totals due to more of the field being uncovered. One last game play rule is an automatic ball/strike zone. One of the most frustrating parts of baseball for fans and players is the umpires. Umpires can mess up on calls as they are human and make errors. The MLB has not clearly laid out how they plan to accomplish this, but expect more accurate calls in 2023. Moving onto postseason rule changes, the MLB created two new rules. There will be a 12-team post season so more fans can be involved and have a higher chance of seeing

The Innovation of Major Sports (*cont.*)

their team make it. Currently it is 10-team, but every change will create a more exciting end to the season. Secondly, there will be no runner on second base to start extra innings. This rule was added recently to regular season games to quicken games, but the MLB wants to make sure a fair winner is determined in the higher stakes games. Finally, there has been a rule change in the uniforms. Unlike most sports, baseball has not allowed advertisers or decals on any equipment the players use. Next year, they are going to change this rule to promote more sponsors and to evidently make more money. Through the ups and downs, the MLB has embraced their adversity and are planning to be back on top in the sports world in the near future.



<https://theathletic.com/3607520/2022/09/19/nba-draft-age-rule-change-nbpa/>

<https://www.nbcsports.com/philadelphia/phillies/here-are-new-mlb-rules-2022-season>

<https://www.baseball-almanac.com/ws/wstv.shtml>

A decorative horizontal line with a wavy pattern, featuring a series of small yellow circles representing lights.

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