Source Review

MLB Website

<https://www.mlb.com/glossary/rules/defensive-shift-limits>

This source provides insight into the defensive rule changes for the 2023 season. These rule changes stipulate that four infielders must be on the infield when the pitch is thrown, with two being on the right, and two of the left side of the infield. The goal of this rule change was to increase the batting average on balls in play (BABIP). The change also hopes to return traditional outcomes on batted balls while providing infielders the opportunity to better showcase their defensive talents. This source will be used to explain the rule change in the presentation and provide insight into Major League Baseball’s reasoning for the change.

<https://www.mlb.com/glossary/rules/base-sizes>

The larger bases is another rule change for MLB in 2023 and primarily looks to provide safer basepaths. The increase in base size from 15 inches square to 18 inches square also decreases the distance between bases. This sources includes a useful graphic to demonstrate the differences on the bases. The official MLB site does not believe this will be a major factor in stealing bases, but this will be explored further in the presentation.

<https://www.mlb.com/glossary/rules/pitch-timer>

The final rule change involves the pitch timer. There are a long list of new rules involving when a pitcher can throw a pitch. This steams from an issue in baseball games where the time it took to complete a baseball game was increasing. This source provides the exact rules changes.

Baseball Reference

<https://www.baseball-reference.com/>

This source provides large amounts of data from teams and players in baseball. This will be a primary source for team records and up-to-date season stats on players. This can provide history of any player, past or present. This will be useful for looking into specific player career splits as rule changes have evolved.

Society for American Baseball Research

<https://sabr.org/sabermetrics/data>

This source provides other sources for other websites to gather data. This source also provides historical resources of data and articles on baseball. One source explored on this page is the Lahman Database which is a large database of baseball statistics which will be used in R. Also included on this page is the Retrosheets which a computerized play-by-play statistical database for Major League Baseball data.

Analyzing Baseball Data with R

This source provides examples for baseball data research in R. This will be a valuable resource in working with baseball data as it works through various examples. The first few chapters discuss different ways to use baseball data starting with importing, working with, and visualizing the data in R. Using the chapters on run expectancy and the relationship between runs and wins will be useful in exploring similar questions in the presentation. The source will provide guidance on using baseball statistics in R and will be significantly important.

The New Ballgame: The Not-So-Hidden Forces Shaping Modern Baseball

This source provides analytical as well as anecdotal look at the changes in baseball over the years. Baseball has a long history, and this source provides insight into all of the changes to rules and the game over the history. It also provides a great example of how to tell a story while providing analytical analysis of baseball statistics. Keeping the information relatable and understandable while providing solid analysis.

Baseball Savant

<https://baseballsavant.mlb.com/>

This source will provide great data into some of the important statistics which will be studied including statistics against shifts. This source will primarily be used in tandom with studying the rule changes to the defensive alignment. Also it will provide data into strikes and balls thrown in relation to the pitch clock rule.