

**2021**  
season



# News Release

MLB OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER ★ MLB.com ★ MLBPRESSBOX.com ★ @MLB\_PR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 12, 2021

**MLB ANNOUNCES MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAMS  
Teams Will Be Part of New Model to Better Serve Fans, Players and Clubs  
Minor Leagues to Include Player Salary Increases,  
Modernized Facility Standards and Reduced Travel**

**MLB Preserves High-Level Baseball in Communities, Expands MLB-Supported Baseball**

Major League Baseball today announced that all 120 Minor League Clubs offered an invitation to become Professional Development League (“PDL”) license holders have officially agreed to accept. These teams, selected as partners by Major League Clubs and being announced in full today, will provide both facilities and communities that are essential to the development of the next generation of big-league stars.

Commissioner of Baseball Robert D. Manfred, Jr. said: “We are excited to unveil this new model, which not only provides a pipeline to the Majors, but continues the Minor Leagues’ tradition of entertaining millions of families in hundreds of communities. In modernizing our Minor League system, we prioritized the qualities that make the Minor Leagues such an integral part of our game while strengthening how we develop professional athletes on and off the field. We look forward to demonstrating the best of our game throughout local communities, supporting all those who are working hard to grow the sport, and sharing unrivaled technology and resources with minor league teams and players.”

As a part of MLB’s realignment, many Minor League affiliates will be in significantly closer geographic proximity to the Major League Clubs with which they are associated. On average, Major League Clubs will now be over 200 miles closer to their Triple-A affiliates. By creating better geographical synergy between a Major League Club and its affiliates, more fans will be able to watch an organization’s players progress in their careers from the Minor Leagues to the big leagues in their home region.

Each MLB Club will provide Minor League players and staffs to their four affiliates – one at each of the Triple-A, Double-A, High-A and Low-A levels. Minor League Clubs will receive PDL licenses from MLB that entitle them to operate in the Professional Development Leagues, ensuring a new set of standards in terms of facilities and player working conditions. The licenses will create many improvements to the experience and lifestyle of Minor League players, such as:

- Player salary increases ranging from 38-72% for the 2021 season.
- Modernized facility standards better suited for professional athletes.
- Improved amenities and working conditions for players and staff.
- Reduced in-season travel for players and coaches.
- Better geographical alignment.

This announcement follows other recent announcements made by Major League Baseball detailing elements of its new comprehensive player development system. The new system will better serve fans, players and Clubs throughout the United States and Canada; preserve high-level, sustainable baseball in nearly every community where the game has historically been played; and position the sport for growth in future years. In combination, the integrated player development system now includes 179 teams across 17 leagues in 43 states and four provinces. Including the Arizona and Gulf Coast Leagues, there are 209 teams across 19 leagues in 44 states and four provinces.

More teams will be joining the broader MLB player development system and other baseball leagues in the coming weeks and months, further enhancing the landscape for fans to continue to cheer on future stars. MLB has nearly completed its work towards ensuring baseball's presence in almost all of the previous affiliated communities.

The full list of the teams in the Professional Development Leagues accompanies this press release.

# # #

**Contact:** Michael Teevan or Donald Muller, Major League Baseball, (212) 931-7878, [mlbpressbox.com](http://mlbpressbox.com), [@MLB\\_PR](https://twitter.com/MLB_PR).

**2021 AFFILIATE MAP**

**AAA SUMMARY**

East: 20 | West: 10

**Triple-A East**

MLB	AFFILIATE	DIV
CLE	Columbus Clippers	MW
PIT	Indianapolis Indians	MW
CHI	Iowa Cubs	MW
CIN	Louisville Bats	MW
KC	Omaha Storm Chasers	MW
MIN	St. Paul Saints	MW
DET	Toledo Mud Hens	MW
TOR	Buffalo Bisons	NE
PHI	Lehigh Valley IronPigs	NE
WSH	Rochester Red Wings	NE
NY	Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders	NE
NY	Syracuse Mets	NE
BOS	Worcester Red Sox	NE
CWS	Charlotte Knights	SE
TB	Durham Bulls	SE
ATL	Gwinnett Stripers	SE
MIA	Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp	SE
STL	Memphis Redbirds	SE
MIL	Nashville Sounds	SE
BAL	Norfolk Tides	SE

**Triple-A West**

MLB	AFFILIATE	DIV
COL	Albuquerque Isotopes	E
SD	El Paso Chihuahuas	E
LA	Oklahoma City Dodgers	E
TEX	Round Rock Express	E
HOU	Sugar Land Skeeters	E
OAK	Las Vegas Aviators	W
ARI	Reno Aces	W
SF	Sacramento River Cats	W
LAA	Salt Lake Bees	W
SEA	Tacoma Rainiers	W

**AA SUMMARY**

Central: 10 | Northeast: 12 | South: 8

**Double-A Central**

MLB	AFFILIATE	DIV
SEA	Arkansas Travelers	N
KC	Northwest Arkansas Naturals	N
STL	Springfield Cardinals	N
LA	Tulsa Drillers	N
MIN	Wichita Wind Surge	N
ARI	Amarillo Sod Poodles	S
HOU	Corpus Christi Hooks	S
TEX	Frisco RoughRiders	S
OAK	Midland RockHounds	S
SD	San Antonio Missions	S

**Double-A Northeast**

MLB	AFFILIATE	DIV
NY	Binghamton Rumble Ponies	NE
COL	Hartford Yard Goats	NE
TOR	New Hampshire Fisher Cats	NE
BOS	Portland Sea Dogs	NE
PHI	Reading Fightin Phils	NE
NY	Somerset Patriots	NE
CLE	Akron RubberDucks	SW
PIT	Altoona Curve	SW
BAL	Bowie Baysox	SW
DET	Erie SeaWolves	SW
WSH	Harrisburg Senators	SW
SF	Richmond Flying Squirrels	SW

**Double-A South**

MLB	AFFILIATE	DIV
CWS	Birmingham Barons	N
CIN	Chattanooga Lookouts	N
LAA	Rocket City Trash Pandas	N
CHI	Tennessee Smokies	N
MIL	Biloxi Shuckers	S
ATL	Mississippi Braves	S
TB	Montgomery Biscuits	S
MIA	Pensacola Blue Wahoos	S

**A+ SUMMARY**

Central: 12 | East: 12 | West: 6

**High-A Central**

MLB	AFFILIATE	DIV
CIN	Dayton Dragons	E
SD	Fort Wayne TinCaps	E
LA	Great Lakes Loons	E
CLE	Lake County Captains	E
OAK	Lansing Lugnuts	E
DET	West Michigan Whitecaps	E
MIA	Beloit Snappers	W
MIN	Cedar Rapidsernels	W
STL	Peoria Chiefs	W
KC	Quad Cities River Bandits	W
CHI	South Bend Cubs	W
MIL	Wisconsin Timber Rattlers	W

**High-A East**

MLB	AFFILIATE	DIV
BAL	Aberdeen IronBirds	N
NY	Brooklyn Cyclones	N
NY	Hudson Valley Renegades	N
PHI	Jersey Shore BlueClaws	N
WSH	Wilmington Blue Rocks	N
HOU	Asheville Tourists	S
TB	Bowling Green Hot Rods	S
PIT	Greensboro Grasshoppers	S
BOS	Greenville Drive	S
TEX	Hickory Crawdads	S
ATL	Rome Braves	S
CWS	Winston-Salem Dash	S

**High-A West**

MLB	AFFILIATE	DIV
SF	Eugene Emeralds	--
SEA	Everett AquaSox	--
ARI	Hillsboro Hops	--
COL	Spokane Indians	--
LAA	Tri-City Dust Devils	--
TOR	Vancouver Canadians	--

**A- SUMMARY**

East: 12 | Southeast: 10 | West: 8

**Low-A East**

MLB	AFFILIATE	DIV
MIL	Carolina Mudcats	C
TEX	Down East Wood Ducks	C
HOU	Fayetteville Woodpeckers	C
CWS	Kannapolis Cannon Ballers	C
BAL	Delmarva Shorebirds	N
WSH	Fredericksburg Nationals	N
CLE	Lynchburg Hillcats	N
BOS	Salem Red Sox	N
ATL	Augusta GreenJackets	S
TB	Charleston RiverDogs	S
KC	Columbia Fireflies	S
CHI	Myrtle Beach Pelicans	S

**Low-A Southeast**

MLB	AFFILIATE	DIV
CIN	Daytona Tortugas	E
MIA	Jupiter Hammerheads	E
STL	Palm Beach Cardinals	E
NY	St. Lucie Mets	E
PIT	Bradenton Marauders	W
PHI	Clearwater Threshers	W
TOR	Dunedin Blue Jays	W
MIN	Fort Myers Mighty Mustangs	W
DET	Lakeland Flying Tigers	W
NY	Tampa Tarpons	W

**Low-A West**

MLB	AFFILIATE	DIV
COL	Fresno Grizzlies	N
SEA	Modesto Nuts	N
SF	San Jose Giants	N
OAK	Stockton Ports	N
LAA	Inland Empire 66ers	S
SD	Lake Elsinore Storm	S
LA	Rancho Cucamonga Quakes	S
ARI	Visalia Rawhide	S