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ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE ANNOUNCES PARTICIPANTS AND FORMAT FOR AFL HOME RUN DERBY

PHOENIX – The Arizona Fall League has announced the participants and format for the 2026 AFL Home Run Derby at Salt River Fields on Saturday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m. MST.

The fifth-annual event, put on as a part of "Fall Stars Weekend," combines eight top sluggers from the Arizona Fall League in one showcase. Each of the six teams has one representative with two wild cards. Tickets to the event start at $20 and can be purchased at **brushfire.com/arizonafallleague**.

In 2026, the Arizona Fall League will be introducing a brand-new format where the eight (8) participants will be placed in a single-elimination head-to-head bracket. The participants include:

Antonio Anderson (BOS – Mesa Solar Sox)
Eric Bitonti (MIL – Scottsdale Scorpions)
Brooks Bryan (KC – Surprise Saguaros)
Yerlin Confidan (CIN – Peoria Javelinas)
Chase Harlan (LAD – Glendale Desert Dogs)
Alex McCoy (SD – Peoria Javelinas)
Jack O'Dowd (COL Salt River Rafters)
Tai Peete (STL – Peoria Javelinas)

Seeding:

The participants will be seeded in an eight-player bracket with seeding being determined by the number of home runs they hit in the Arizona Fall League through Friday, November 6. If two or more hitters are tied, the player with the farthest hit home run will be the higher seed. If hitters are still tied, the player with the higher combined total distance of home runs hit will be the higher seed.

Preliminary Round:

To begin the derby, all eight participants will have a 90-second preliminary round. Each home run will add one (1) point to the score. All points from each participants' preliminary round will carry over into the first round. There will be no bonus for distance in any round.

First, Second & Final Rounds:

The first round will consist of four (4) head-to-head matches between all eight (8) participants with the No. 1 seed facing the No. 8 seed, No. 2 seed facing the No. 7 seed, No. 3 seed facing the No. 6 seed, and No. 4 seed facing the No. 5 seed. In each match, the higher seed will lead off. The winning hitters of the first-round matches will advance to the second round.

The second round will consist of two (2) head-to-head matchups between the No. 1/No. 8 winner facing the No. 4/No. 5 winner and the No. 2/No. 7 winner and the No. 3/No. 6 winner.

In the final round, the hitters that won the second-round matches will face each other in a head-to-head matchup to decide the Home Run Derby Champion.

The first, second and final rounds will use an out-based format. Each hitter will have nine (9) outs to accumulate the highest score possible. Each home run will add one (1) point to the score. The player with the highest total score wins the match.

Tiebreaker: Ties will be broken by the hitters engaging in successive one-swing swing-offs until there is a winner. There is no bonus for distance during the tiebreaker.

Past Arizona Fall League Home Run Derby Champions:
2025: Tony Blanco Jr. (PIT)
2024: Garrett Martin (NYY)
2023: Kalai'i Rosaio (MIN)
2022: Robert Perez Jr. (SEA)

The 34th season of the Arizona Fall League is underway. Regarded as the premier league for baseball's top prospects, the Arizona Fall League continues to develop top-caliber talent across all 30 MLB Clubs. AFL games will be held primarily at six Cactus League ballparks throughout the 2026 season - Camelback Ranch-Glendale, Peoria Sports Complex, Salt River Fields at Talking Stick, Sloan Park, Scottsdale Stadium, and Surprise Stadium. The 20th annual Fall Stars Game (Sunday, Nov. 8) will be played at Salt River Fields, and the AFL Championship Game (Saturday, Nov. 14) will be played at Peoria Sports Complex, both being televised on MLB Network. The full 2026 Arizona Fall League Schedule and online tickets can be found at the Arizona Fall League website at MLBFallBall.com. Nearly every 2026 AFL game will be available to watch live on MLB.com and the Fall League website.

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