

Atlantic League Baseball



The Atlantic League was founded by Frank Boulton in 1998 and is generally regarded as the most successful and highest level of baseball among independent leagues.^{[19][20]} Two former Atlantic League players have been inducted into the [Baseball Hall of Fame](#): [Tim Lincecum](#) and [Rickey Henderson](#). Other notable former and future Major League ballplayers who have played in the league include [Roger Clemens](#), [Scott Kazmir](#), [Dontrelle Willis](#), [Juan González](#), [Rich Hill](#), [John Rocker](#) and [José Canseco](#), and several others have coached or managed, including [Gary Carter](#), [Tommy John](#), [Bud Harrelson](#), [Gary Gaetti](#) and [Sparky Lyle](#). The Atlantic League has consistently posted higher per game and per season attendance numbers than other independent circuits including the [American Association](#), [Can-Am League](#), and [Frontier League](#) (2019 Avg attendance was 3,147 fans/game)

In 2020, due to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), the league announced that it would cancel the season. They will use their stadiums to host recreational & community-based events, as well as local baseball activities where allowed.

The Atlantic League (ALPB) is governed by a Board of Directors with each Club having a Director and Alternate. League President Rick White oversees day-to-day operations. ALPB Board members have owned and operated more than two dozen minor league teams at all levels of professional baseball and have developed more than 20 modern multi-use ballparks.

ADMINISTRATION

Frank Boulton – Chairman and Founder

Rick White – President

Emily Merrill – League Administrator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

| <u>Club</u> | <u>Director</u> | <u>Alternate</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| High Point | Coy O. Willard, Jr. | |
| Lancaster | Bob Zuckerman | Rob Liss |
| Long Island | Frank Boulton | Seth Waugh |
| Somerset | Steven/Josh Kalafer | Jonathan Kalafer |
| Southern Maryland | Jack Lavoie | Michael Wetmore |
| Sugar Land | Robert Zlotnik | Kevin Zlotnik |
| York | Bill Shipley | Eric Menzer |

Team map [\[edit \]](#)



2019 ATTENDANCE: (Tickets distributed – not people coming through gate)

| Team | Totals | Openings | Average |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Somerset Patriots | 344,641 | 69 | 5,385 |
| Long Island Ducks | 328,194 | 70 | 4,973 |
| Sugar Land Skeeters | 304,753 | 68 | 4,482 |
| Lancaster Barnstormers | 285,441 | 71 | 4,391 |
| Southern Maryland Blue Crabs | 200,889 | 70 | 3,044 |
| York Revolution | 199,045 | 70 | 2,971 |
| High Point Rockers (<i>New in 2019</i>) | 144,486 | 70 | 2,157 |
| <u>New Britain Bees (<i>Left in 2019</i>)</u> | <u>133,141</u> | <u>70</u> | <u>2,080</u> |
| <i>League Totals</i> | <i>1,940,590</i> | <i>558</i> | <i>3,478</i> |

Other Highlights:

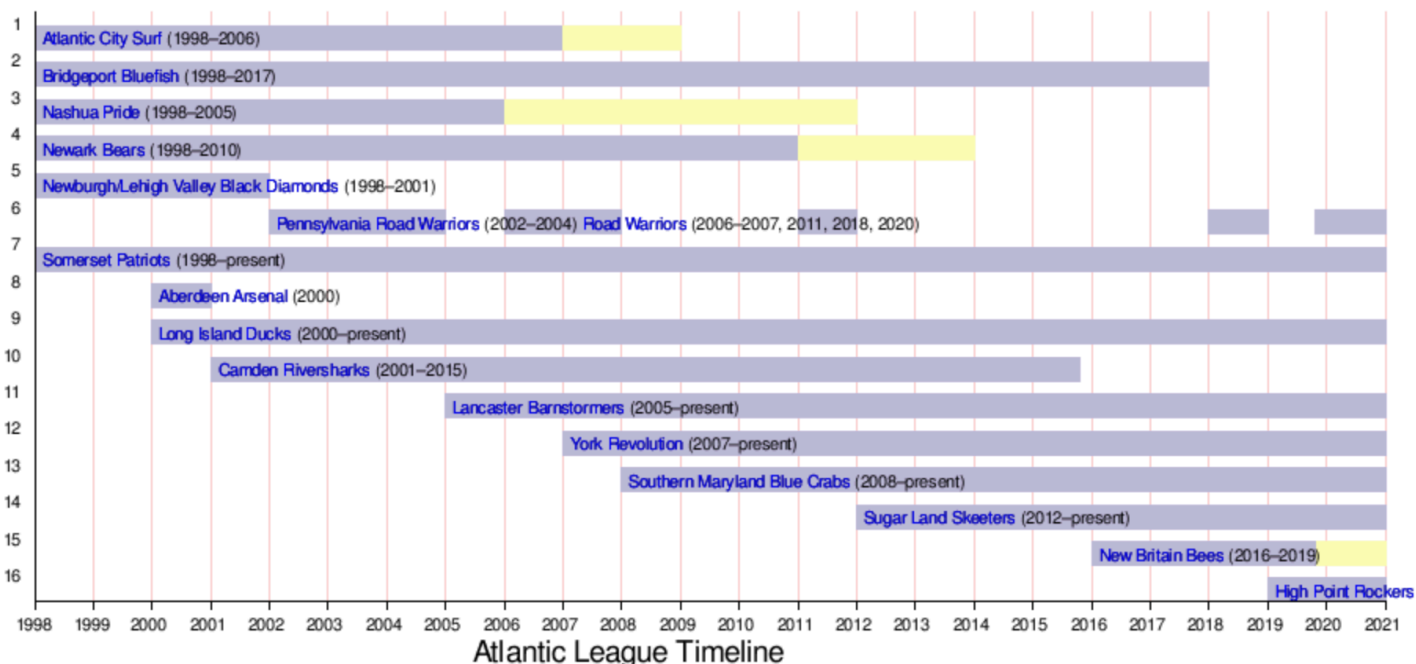
- The league consists of 8 teams divided into two divisions – 7 teams in eastern seaboard region (NY, NJ, PA, Waldorf MD, NC) plus Texas.
- The Atlantic league is an INDEPENDENT league not officially part of Major League Baseball. However, they have formal relationships and MOU's with Major League Baseball to do things like:
 - Test new rules MLB is considering to add (i.e. things to speed up game, balls/strikes called electronically, etc. ([CLICK HERE FOR 2019 test rules](#)))
 - Team owners can make money by selling their player contracts to MLB Teams (see list of players below – 50 player contracts were sold to MLB in 2019)
- The league is open to expanding to up to 4 new teams (making a total 12 teams vs 8). The contraction of MiLB may open up opportunities for expansion teams. The remaining Professional Minor League baseball teams could move to one of the Atlantic League ballparks, or the Atlantic League could expand and add teams using ballparks abandoned as part of the contraction process.
- If a community was chosen by the league to be part of their expansion, the owner(s) of the new team would need to pay a fee (several million dollars) to buy into the league as an expansion team. (This is in addition to funding a team, players, coaches, ballpark lease, and other infrastructure, etc.)
- Players play at a higher level of baseball than our current league (single A). Most players are recently out of Majors or former AA, AAA players. In general, it's composed of the top 200 players in the country NOT officially affiliated with Major League Baseball
- MLB scouts are regulars at the games as they evaluate the talent
- Atlantic League has ballparks with minimum requirements similar to MiLB AA and AAA baseball. Since this is an independent league and the players are owned and paid by each team owner, they do not require the same types of investments in "Back of the House" things that MLB requires for the players they own. Instead, more investment is in the "Front of the House" to improve the fan experience and give the owner options for multi-use activities outside of baseball during the year. All of the ballparks host many non-baseball events at their facility
- New ballparks are estimated to be \$30-35M in today's prices. Most only have "fixed seats" for a portion of their maximum capacity. The remaining capacity is filled using berms, open space for picnics, corporate events, etc. We would likely be in the 3,000 -3,500 fixed seat range based on our market
- Leases vary greatly between the different teams. It is recommended any lease be balanced so that it fairly and adequately covers a designated portion of the ballpark's debt service, but still provides the team with the ability to make a profit.

| Division | Team | First Season | City/Area | Stadium | Capacity |
|----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Freedom | Lancaster Barnstormers | 2005 | Lancaster, Pennsylvania | Clipper Magazine Stadium | 6,219 |
| | Southern Maryland Blue Crabs | 2008 | Waldorf, Maryland | Regency Furniture Stadium | 5,200 |
| | Sugar Land Skeeters | 2012 | Sugar Land, Texas | Constellation Field | 7,500 |
| | York Revolution | 2007 | York, Pennsylvania | PeoplesBank Park | 7,312 |
| Liberty | High Point Rockers | 2019 ^[34] | High Point, North Carolina | Truist Point ^{[35][36]} | 5,000 |
| | Long Island Ducks | 2000 | Central Islip, New York | Bethpage Ballpark | 6,002 |
| | Road Warriors | 1998 | Traveling team | | |
| | Somerset Patriots | 1998 | Bridgewater, New Jersey | TD Bank Ballpark | 6,100 |

Future teams [edit]

| Future teams | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Team | City | Stadium | Capacity | Joining League |
| Gastonia ALPB Team | Gastonia, North Carolina | Gastonia FUSE Ballpark | 5,000 | 2021 |

League timeline [edit]



League members Moved to another league

Former teams [edit]

| Team | City | Stadium | Seasons | History |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Aberdeen Arsenal | Bel Air, Maryland | Thomas Run Park | 2000 | Replaced by the Aberdeen IronBirds (Orioles Class-A affiliate). |
| Atlantic City Surf | Atlantic City, New Jersey | The Sandcastle | 1998–2006 | Moved to Can-Am League , folded prior to the 2009 season. |
| Bridgeport Bluefish | Bridgeport, Connecticut | The Ballpark at Harbor Yard | 1998–2017 | Folded when they lost the lease on their ballpark; replaced by the High Point Rockers . |
| Camden Riversharks | Camden, New Jersey | Campbell's Field | 2001–2015 | Replaced by the New Britain Bees |
| Lehigh Valley Black Diamonds | Quakertown, Pennsylvania | Memorial Park | 1999–2001 | Formerly the Newburgh Black Diamonds (1998). Became the first Pennsylvania Road Warriors . |
| Nashua Pride | Nashua, New Hampshire | Holman Stadium | 1998–2005 | Moved to Can-Am League , later relocated to Pittsfield, Massachusetts , folded at the end of the 2011 season. |
| Newark Bears | Newark, New Jersey | Bears & Eagles Riverfront Stadium | 1998–2010 | Moved to Can-Am League , folded prior to the 2014 season. |
| Newburgh Black Diamonds | Newburgh, New York | Delano-Hitch Stadium | 1998 | Became the Lehigh Valley Black Diamonds (1999–2001), which became the first Pennsylvania Road Warriors (2002–2004). |
| New Britain Bees | New Britain, Connecticut | New Britain Stadium | 2016–2019 | Moved to Futures Collegiate Baseball League ; Replaced by the Road Warriors for the 2020 season ^[37] |