



## *The Future Of Major League Baseball Now*

### **Facts**

- **2007 Fall League Hall of Fame Inductees**  
Jermaine Dye  
Torii Hunter  
Derrek Lee  
Ken Macha
- **Nearly 1,500 former Fall Leaguers have reached the major leagues**
- **407 Ex-AFLers On '07 MLB Opening-Day Rosters**
- **83 Class of '06 Fall Leaguers reach major leagues in '07**
- **Over 100 MLB All-Stars including 23 in 2007**
- **4 MLB MVPs**  
Jason Giambi  
Ryan Howard  
Justin Morneau  
Albert Pujols
- **3 Cy Young Award winners**  
Chris Carpenter  
Roy Halladay  
Brandon Webb
- **14 MLB Rookies-of-the-Year**
- **7 MLB batting champions**
- **10 MLB hits leaders**
- **3 MLB RBI leaders**
- **1 MLB home-run leader**
- **30 MLB Silver Sluggers**
- **20 MLB Gold Glove Awards**
- **20 MLB managers**
- **30 MLB umpires**
- **68 administrators serving the baseball industry**

### **Phoenix Municipal Stadium**

5999 E. Van Buren  
Phoenix, AZ 85008  
Office: 602.681.9362  
FAX: 602.681.9363

[www.mlbfallball.com](http://www.mlbfallball.com)

# 2007 Arizona Fall League

## **Q: What is the Arizona Fall League (AFL)?**

A: Major League Baseball created the Arizona Fall League in 1992 to serve as an off-season “graduate school” for top prospects. The AFL often is known as a showcase league because its players have the opportunity to display their skills for baseball scouts, general managers, and farm directors. For baseball fans, it’s a 40-day Valley homestand featuring many of baseball’s elite prospects.

## **Q: What is the genesis of the Arizona Fall League?**

A: Long-time baseball executive, current special assistant to the president of the Arizona Diamondbacks, and Phoenix resident Roland Hemond is considered the “Architect of the Fall League.” His dream to create a six-week off-season league for baseball’s top prospects in Arizona each fall became reality when the Arizona Fall League began play in 1992 after two years of selling the concept to baseball’s hierarchy — first general managers, then owners. After veteran baseball front-office executive Mike Port shepherded the Fall League through its maiden voyage in 1992, former Cincinnati Reds’ traveling secretary and Triple-A Columbus Clippers’ executive Steve Cobb was hired as the Fall League’s executive director.

## **Q: Who oversees the Arizona Fall League?**

A: Major League Baseball owns and operates the Arizona Fall League. Steve Cobb has been the executive director since 1993. Major League Baseball’s Fall League oversight committee is comprised of four team general managers: Josh Byrnes (Diamondbacks), Wayne Krivsky (Reds), Doug Melvin (Brewers), and Terry Ryan (Twins).

## **Q: Who is eligible to play in the Arizona Fall League?**

A: Roster size is 35 players per team. Each major-league organization is required to provide seven players subject to the following eligibility requirements. All Triple-A and Double-A players are eligible provided they are on Double-A rosters no later than August 1. One player below the Double-A level is allowed. Foreign players are allowed as long as the player is not on his native country’s protected player list. No players with more than two years of credited Major League service as of August 31 (including Major League disabled list time) are eligible except a team may select one player picked in the most recently concluded Major League Rule 5 draft. To be eligible, players on Minor League disabled lists must be activated at least 45 days before the conclusion of their respective seasons. Each team is allotted 20 pitchers, but only 15 are designated “eligible” each game day. No game will exceed 11 innings, the “Robinson Rule.” Games tied after 11 innings will be considered suspended. They will not be made up but statistics will count.

## **Q: Where is the Arizona Fall League located?**

A: The Fall League is housed in the spring-training offices of the Oakland Athletics at Phoenix Municipal Stadium during the Fall League season.

Phoenix Municipal Stadium, 5999 E. Van Buren, Phoenix, AZ 85008

Office: 602/681-9362, FAX: 602/681-9363

## **Q: Where is Fall League information available online?**

A: Visit [www.mlbfallball.com](http://www.mlbfallball.com) for updated Arizona Fall League information.

## **Q: What changes have been made to the 2007 Fall League since last season?**

A: The Grand Canyon Rafters have been renamed the Surprise Rafters to more readily identify the team with its playing site, Surprise Stadium in Surprise, Arizona. First-pitch start times of afternoon games have moved from 1:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. to facilitate baseball scouts seeing as many teams as possible in a single day. Team USA and Team China will play each Fall League team once to prepare for their upcoming international competitions. The outcomes will count in the Fall League standings. As always, the composition of the six Fall League teams changes. See below for this year’s organizational affiliations.

**Q: What is the league’s schedule?**

A: The six AFL teams each play a 32-game schedule from October 9-November 15. The league championship game is November 17 at Scottsdale Stadium. The second “Rising Stars Showcase” game will be played at Surprise Stadium on October 26.

**Q: Where are the games played?**

A: The 2007 Fall League will utilize five of the Valley’s outstanding spring-training stadiums.  
Mesa Solar Sox—Mesa Hohokam Stadium (spring home of the Cubs)  
Phoenix Desert Dogs—Phoenix Municipal Stadium (spring home of the Athletics)  
Peoria Javelinas—Peoria Sports Complex (spring home of the Mariners/Padres)  
Peoria Saguaros—Peoria Sports Complex (spring home of the Mariners/Padres)  
Scottsdale Scorpions—Scottsdale Stadium (spring home of the Giants)  
Surprise Rafters—Surprise Stadium (spring home of the Rangers/Royals)

**Q: How are the teams assembled?**

A: Five-organization groupings comprise the six AFL teams. The 2007 groupings follow.

**East Division**

**Mesa Solar Sox**

Boston Red Sox  
Chicago Cubs  
Houston Astros  
Milwaukee Brewers  
St. Louis Cardinals

**Phoenix Desert Dogs**

Baltimore Orioles  
Chicago White Sox  
Minnesota Twins  
Oakland A’s  
Pittsburgh Pirates

**Scottsdale Scorpions**

Arizona Diamondbacks  
New York Mets  
San Francisco Giants  
Tampa Bay Devil Rays  
Toronto Blue Jays

**West Division**

**Peoria Javelinas**

Atlanta Braves  
Colorado Rockies  
New York Yankees  
Seattle Mariners  
Washington Nationals

**Peoria Saguaros**

Detroit Tigers  
Florida Marlins  
Los Angeles Dodgers  
Philadelphia Phillies  
San Diego Padres

**Surprise Rafters**

Cincinnati Reds  
Cleveland Indians  
Kansas City Royals  
Los Angeles Angels  
Texas Rangers

**Q: What impact has the Arizona Fall League had on Major League Baseball?**

A: As the Arizona Fall League stages its 16<sup>th</sup> season, the contribution the league has made to major-league baseball is undeniable. Over 50 percent of Fall League players — nearly 1,500 — have become major leaguers, including 83 players from a year ago who reached the big leagues in 2007. Over 400 former Fall Leaguers dotted MLB rosters in 2007, including 12 from the 2006 Fall League who made Opening Day rosters. Over 100 ex-Fall Leaguers have been named to major league all-star teams. In the past four seasons, the major-league all-star teams included 18 AFL alums in 2004, 23 in 2005, a record 30 in 2006, and 24 in 2007. Former Fall Leaguers also have won numerous MLB awards, including 4 MVPs, 3 Cy Youngs, 14 rookies-of-the-year, 7 batting champions, 10 hits leaders, 3 RBI leaders, 1 home run leader, 30 Silver Sluggers, and 20 Gold Gloves.

**Q: What contributions has the Arizona Fall League made to baseball off the field?**

A: Twenty-one former AFL managers and players have become major-league managers, including five 2007 skippers — Cecil Cooper (Astros), Terry Francona (Red Sox), Grady Little (Dodgers), Bob Melvin (Diamondbacks), Mike Scioscia (Angels), Ron Washington (Rangers), and Eric Wedge (Indians). Nearly 50 former AFL managers and coaches have coached in the major leagues. Twenty-three ex-AFL trainers and 29 umpires were in the major leagues in 2007. And, 68 former AFL administrators now hold full-time positions in the baseball industry.

**Q: Is the designated hitter rule employed in the Arizona Fall League?**

A: Yes, the designated hitter is utilized in all Fall League games.

**Q: What is the Fall League ticket information?**

A: Tickets are priced at \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors (55+) and youth (17 and under), and \$3 for groups of 20 or more. For group tickets and information, call 602/681-9362. Tickets may be purchased on game day at the respective ball park ticket offices beginning one hour prior to game time. There are no advance ticket sales. All seating is general admission except for groups. Gates open one hour prior to first pitch. Game times and special appearances are subject to change.

**Q: Why are international clubs participating in the Fall League this season?**

A: Team USA and Team China will prepare for international competitions with one game against each Fall League team that will count in the standings. Team USA, after its final Fall League contest on November 1, will depart Arizona to compete in the 2007 International Baseball Federation World Cup in Taiwan from November 6-18. The club will be managed by former Major League player and manager Davey Johnson. Team USA’s two Fall League “home games” will be played at Scottsdale Stadium. Team China, managed by former major-league manager Jim Lefebvre, will be preparing for a 2007 competition in Japan and next year’s Olympics in China.

**Q: Why has the start time for day games changed for 2007?**

A: First pitch for day games will be 12:30 p.m., 30 minutes earlier than in past years to give scouts more time between day and night games.

**Q: Why have the Grand Canyon Rafters been renamed?**

A: The Grand Canyon Rafters have been renamed the Surprise Rafters to better reflect their home playing site at Surprise Stadium.

**Q: What is the scoring change relative to pitching decisions?**

A: Fall League officials identified an inequity in the opportunity for starting pitchers to earn wins due to the limited number of innings they usually pitch. Beginning in 2007, the Fall League has adopted baseball’s scoring rules for non-championship competition such as the All-Star Game. Simply stated, the mandatory five-inning minimum for starting pitchers to earn a win has been waved. The winning pitcher will be at the discretion of the official scorer.

Major League Rule 10.17(c)

“A league may designate a non-championship game (for example, the Major League All-Star Game or an exhibition game) for which Rules 10.17 (a) (1) and 10.17(b) do not apply. In such games, the official scorer shall credit as the winning pitcher that pitcher whose team assumes the lead while such pitcher is in the game, or during the inning on offense in which such pitcher is removed from the game, and does not relinquish such lead, unless such pitcher is knocked out after the winning team has attained a commanding lead and the official scorer concludes that a subsequent pitcher is entitled to credit as the winning pitcher.”

**2007 Arizona Fall League Staff**

**Executive Director**

Steve Cobb

**Senior Administrator**

Joan McGrath

**Director of Baseball Operations**

Tyler Holmes

**Assistant Director of Baseball Operations**

David Stearns

**Media Relations Director**

Paul Jensen

**Media Relations Assistants**

Ed Collari, John Meyer

**Administrative Assistant**

Brenda Crosswait

**Team Operations Managers**

Ben Barood (Desert Dogs)

Chuck Heeman (Javelinas/Sagueros)

Joe Holloway (Scorpions)

Brian Johnston (Solar Sox)

Blake Schilly (Rafters)

**League Statistician**

MLB Advanced Media (BAM)