

Major League Baseball Labor Deal Includes HGH Testing, \$480K Minimum Salary



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NEW YORK — Baseball's new labor contract will include blood testing for human growth hormone, a rise in the minimum salary to \$480,000 and luxury taxes on both amateur draft signings and international free agents coming to the major leagues. The New York Times first reported the blood testing provision.

Blood testing for human growth hormone will start when players report to spring training in February, putting MLB ahead of the NFL. The NFL wanted to start HGH testing this season, following that sport's new labor contract, but the NFL Players Association has not agreed, causing some congressional representatives to pressure the union. The NBA's lockout came swiftly on the heels of the NFL's, and there's one significant difference: Pro football lost one exhibition game. The NBA will have a shortened season — if one is played at all.

The changes are numerous since the 1997 agreement that came nearly two years after a 7 1/2-month strike that wiped out the 1994 World Series. The five-year deal, replacing one set to expire Dec. 11, ensures 21 consecutive years of labor peace for MLB at a time when the NBA season is being threatened by a lockout that already has wiped out a quarter of the regular season. As part of the deal, baseball's minimum salary will go from \$414,000 this year to \$480,000 in 2012 and \$500,000 later in the deal — matching what the average salary was in 1989. The average salary today is slightly over \$3 million.

A tax of 75 percent to 100 percent will be imposed on the amount a team exceeds a threshold, and teams exceeding the threshold by higher amounts could lose first- and second-round draft picks. For international free agents, such as players from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, there will be a separate threshold and tax with penalties, and there will be a study committee that could put a new system in place later during the agreement. There also will be a slight increase in the total of players eligible for salary arbitration after the 2012 season, when there also will be a new method to determine compensation for clubs losing top major league free agents. There also will be modifications to the luxury tax on high-payroll teams, but the threshold will remain at \$178 million next year.

There will be no change for the most-prized free agents, such as Albert Pujols and Prince Fielder. Starting next year, teams will have to make a "qualifying offer" of a one-year guaranteed contract to their players eligible to become free agents in order to receive compensation if the player signs with another club. The highest paid player in baseball is 37-year-old New York Yankees' third baseman Alex Rodriguez with an annual salary of \$32,000,000, nearly \$6 million higher than the second highest paid player.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the revisions coupled with extensive modifications made to labor contracts throughout Major League Baseball. Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence limited solely to passage above to support your response. Create and illustrate a Venn Diagram to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. In mathematics, an inequality is a statement how the relative size or order of two objects, or about whether they are the same or not. Define a variable and write an inequality to model a situation identified in the passage above. Explain your mathematical reasoning in selecting either an open or closed dot as you graph your inequality. Explain how one might interpret phrases like "at least" and "at most" in an inequality that represents a real-world situation. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.2.1; MA.912.A.2.2; MA.912.A.3.4; MA.912.A.3.5)**
3. Effectively employ the process referred to as unit or dimensional analysis and write out the appropriate conversion factors necessary to determine the amount of money Alex Rodriguez receives per at bat, assuming he participates in 92 percent of the 162-game season and has four plate appearances per game. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.1.5)**
4. Alex Rodriguez earns approximately 67 times the league minimum. Write a function rule to describe this relationship. Evaluate your function for an input value and explain what the output represents. What advantages can you see of having a function rule instead of a table of values for a function? **(MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.2.3)**
5. Identify the percent of change amongst the MLB league minimum and the President of the United States annual salary of \$400,000. Decide whether the solution is reasonable in the context of this situation. **(MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.1.1)**
6. Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized words: *threshold*, *arbitration*, *exhibition*, and *provision* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
7. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *Raucous* (*adj.*) *Loud*. *Boisterous*. **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards adapted from floridastandards.org. Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

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