

**2025 TULANE INTERNATIONAL  
BASEBALL ARBITRATION COMPETITION**

**Jarren Duran v. Boston Red Sox**

Submission on Behalf of the Boston Red Sox

Service time: 2.155 (1TE)  
Player filing: \$4,500,000  
Club filing: \$3,500,000  
Midpoint: \$4,000,000

Submission by Team 15

***Disclaimer:** In accordance with arbitration guidelines, all 2020 counting statistics and any relevant career totals have been extrapolated to reflect a full season, using the standard multiplier of 2.7. These adjustments have been applied consistently across all comparable players and are reflected in the tables and analyses presented herein.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Prorated Statistics, <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WxmV7YfhausWxgvsntmYulw2BYtchz-icSc-8KJjC0/edit?usp=sharing>

## **I. Introduction**

This brief demonstrates why Jarren Duran (“the Player” or “Mr. Duran”) should receive a salary of \$3,500,000, reflecting his contributions to the Boston Red Sox (“the Club”). The Major League Baseball (“MLB”) Collective Bargaining Agreement (“CBA”) governs this arbitration hearing and establishes six criteria for determining a player’s award: contributions during the platform season, career contributions, comparative baseball salaries, past compensation, physical or mental defects, and the Club’s recent performance.<sup>2</sup> For competitive salary purposes, the arbitration panel shall give particular attention to the contracts of players with Major League service not exceeding one annual service group above the Player’s annual service group.<sup>3</sup> Jarren Duran has filed for \$4,500,000, while the Red Sox have filed for \$3,500,000, creating a midpoint of \$4,000,000.

While Mr. Duran’s 2024 platform season demonstrated significant productivity, his prior career contributions do not reflect the level of consistency or elite performance necessary to justify a salary above the midpoint. Comparative baseball salaries indicate that players with similar service time and statistical profiles have received compensation at or below this range. Additionally, Mr. Duran’s past compensation reflects the appropriate valuation of a player who was optioned to the minors for portions of his career, and his trajectory lacks the sustained elite performance seen in other players who command higher arbitration salaries. No physical or mental defects impair his value, but the Club’s recent underperformance, coupled with Duran’s role during these seasons, underscores the need for careful evaluation of his contributions. Based on these six criteria, Mr. Duran’s proper valuation is below the \$4,000,000 midpoint, and the panel should

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<sup>2</sup> MLB Collective Bargaining Agreement. “2022-2026 Basic Agreement,” Article VI(E) § 10(a)-(b) pp. 20-22.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at § 10(a)

award him \$3,500,000 for the 2024 season. This figure accurately reflects his productive but inconsistent career contributions and aligns with precedents set by comparable players.

## II. Quality of the Player’s Contribution During the Platform Season (2024)

Player	PY	MLS	WAR	IL	G	GS	PA	R	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Jarren Duran <sup>4</sup>	2024	1.000	8.7	0	160	160	735	111	21	75	34	.285	.342	.492	.834

Jarren Duran’s 2024 platform season was productive, highlighted by league-leading totals in doubles (48) and triples (14), as well as solid contributions in home runs (21), RBIs (75), and stolen bases (34).<sup>5</sup> His .285/.342/.492 slash line resulted in an above-average .834 OPS, and his 8.7 WAR ranked 5th in MLB, reflecting his ability to impact games in multiple ways. However, several areas of his performance warrant closer scrutiny to contextualize these achievements.

Duran’s 2024 contributions were heavily reliant on speed and extra-base hits, which limit his overall offensive profile when compared to the league’s truly elite players. While his doubles and triples totals are impressive, they do not carry the same game-altering impact as home runs or a higher on-base percentage, which he lacked relative to top-tier peers. His .342 OBP, while respectable, ranked only 54th in MLB, highlighting an area where improvement is needed.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, his 160 strikeouts ranked among the highest in the league, pointing to a tendency for inconsistency at the plate.<sup>7</sup>

Off-field considerations also factored into the season. Duran’s two-game suspension for an insensitive remark required intervention by the club and briefly removed him from the lineup.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/d/duranja01.shtml>

<sup>5</sup> Id.

<sup>6</sup> Id.

<sup>7</sup> Id.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.mlb.com/news/jarren-duran-suspended-two-games-by-red-sox>

While the issue was resolved, it reflects an incident that must be taken into account when evaluating his overall platform season contributions.

In sum, Duran’s 2024 season was undeniably impactful, but it was not without limitations. His achievements highlight his potential but also underscore areas where further development is necessary. These factors collectively suggest that Duran’s platform season, while strong, does not justify a salary exceeding \$3,500,000.

### III.Length and Consistency of Career Contributions

Player	Year	MLS	WAR	IL	G	GS	PA	R	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Jarren Duran <sup>9</sup>	2021-2023	1.155	1.3	64	193	162	697	86	13	67	33	.258	.309	.420	.729
	2024	1.000	8.7	0	160	160	735	111	21	75	34	.285	.342	.492	.834
Career Totals	2021-2024	2.155	10.0	64	353	322	1,432	197	34	142	67	.272	.326	.457	.782

Jarren Duran’s career contributions lack the consistency necessary to justify a salary above the midpoint, particularly when evaluating his first two seasons (2021-2022) and the impact of being optioned multiple times to the minor leagues. Over his 2.155 years of MLB service, Duran’s performance has been uneven, with extended periods of underperformance punctuated by a single standout platform season in 2024.

In his first two MLB seasons (2021-2022), Duran struggled significantly, producing a combined -0.8 WAR over 91 games. His .219 batting average, .269 OBP, and .338 SLG highlight his inability to adjust to major league pitching during this time. Across 335 plate appearances, Duran struck out 103 times, an alarming 30.7% strikeout rate that far exceeded the league average. While Duran managed 17 doubles, 5 triples, and 5 home runs, his overall offensive contributions were minimal, with just 27 RBIs and 9 stolen bases. These subpar performances not only hindered

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<sup>9</sup> Baseball Reference, *supra*

the Red Sox but also led to Duran being optioned to the minors multiple times as he struggled to find his footing at the MLB level.

Defensively, Duran's early career was marked by inconsistency. His defensive WAR (dWAR) over 2021-2022 was -1.0, reflecting challenges in converting plays into outs and providing value in the field. Combined with his offensive struggles, Duran's early contributions provided little value to the Red Sox.

In 2023, Duran began to show improvement, but questions about his sustainability remained. Before suffering a season-ending injury while attempting a wall-scaling catch, Duran posted a respectable .295/.346/.482 slash line in 102 games.<sup>10</sup> However, even during this period, he struggled to consistently convert at-bats into RBIs, recording just 40 despite being a frequent baserunner. His inability to stay healthy further hindered his ability to establish himself as a reliable, everyday player.

While Duran's 2024 platform season was undeniably impressive, it must be viewed in the context of his earlier struggles and the inconsistency that defined much of his career. Duran's combined contributions over his first three years in the majors resulted in a career WAR of just 1.3 entering his platform season. This trajectory is far from comparable to players who have consistently performed at a high level throughout their pre-arbitration years.

Moreover, the Red Sox's decision to option Duran multiple times during 2021 and 2022 reflects the club's difficulty relying on him as a consistent contributor. Unlike players with steady career growth who prove their value year after year, Duran's journey to his platform season has been marked by substantial peaks and valleys.

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<sup>10</sup> [https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/\\_/id/38292422/red-sox-jarren-duran-season-ending-big-toe-surgery](https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/38292422/red-sox-jarren-duran-season-ending-big-toe-surgery)

The panel must consider the full scope of Duran's career when determining his salary. While his platform season was productive, his earlier struggles and inconsistent contributions make it clear that a salary at the filing number of \$4,500,000 would overstate his overall value. A \$3,500,000 award more accurately reflects his total career performance and mitigates the risk inherent in his uneven trajectory.

#### **IV. Past Salary Compensation**

Jarren Duran's pre-arbitration salaries totaled \$570,500 in 2021, \$700,000 in 2022, \$720,000 in 2023, and \$760,000 in 2024.<sup>11</sup> These figures align with the MLB Collective Bargaining Agreement and represent the compensation for pre-arbitration players based on service time.

#### **V. Comparative Baseball Salaries**

The arbitration panel should carefully evaluate Jarren Duran's 2024 arbitration case by comparing his contributions to those of similarly situated players. Duran's Super Two status, offensive profile, and career trajectory provide clear parallels to several comparable players. However, these comparisons demonstrate that while Duran's platform year was strong, his overall career consistency and sustained contributions lag behind the benchmarks set by these players. The following comparisons outline why Duran's appropriate salary is \$3,500,000, as filed by the Club.

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<sup>11</sup> [https://www.sportrac.com/mlb/player/\\_id/26253/jarren-duran](https://www.sportrac.com/mlb/player/_id/26253/jarren-duran)

## A. Mike Yastrzemski

Player	Years	MLS	WAR	IL	G	GS	PA	R	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Mike Yastrzemski <sup>12</sup>	2019-2021	2.128	12.4	21	300	260	1,168	178	56	161	8	.255	.336	.500	.836
Jarren Duran	2021-2024	2.155	10.0	64	353	322	1,432	197	34	142	67	.272	.326	.457	.782

Mike Yastrzemski is the closest and most compelling comparison for Jarren Duran due to his Super Two status, overall career contributions, and similar offensive profile. Yastrzemski earned \$3,700,000 in his first arbitration year, reflecting his sustained value and consistency.<sup>13</sup>

Over his career through the platform year, Yastrzemski accumulated a 12.4 WAR across 300 games, showcasing steady contributions both offensively and defensively. His career slash line of .255/.336/.500 with an .836 OPS highlights his ability to combine power with on-base skills, including 56 home runs and 161 RBIs across 1,168 plate appearances. Additionally, his durability and consistent presence in the lineup further solidified his value, playing 260 games over three seasons.

Player	PY	MLS	WAR	IL	G	GS	PA	R	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Mike Yastrzemski <sup>14</sup>	2021	1.000	2.5	21	139	119	532	75	25	71	4	.224	.311	.457	.768
Jarren Duran	2024	1.000	8.7	0	160	160	735	111	21	75	34	.285	.342	.492	.834

While Duran's 2024 platform season (8.7 WAR, .285/.342/.492, 21 HR) was undoubtedly impactful, Yastrzemski demonstrated a greater cumulative impact during his Super Two-eligible seasons. Yastrzemski's career WAR of 12.4 over 300 games reflect his ability to sustain a high level of performance throughout his career, while Duran's 10.0 WAR over 353 games includes two seasons of negative WAR and underperformance.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/y/yastrmi01.shtml>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.sportrac.com/mlb/player/\\_id/18482/mike-yastrzemski](https://www.sportrac.com/mlb/player/_id/18482/mike-yastrzemski)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/y/yastrmi01.shtml>

Yastrzemski’s \$3,700,000 salary underscores the arbitration panel’s emphasis on consistency and multi-year contributions. While Duran’s platform year arguably surpasses Yastrzemski’s strongest single season, the \$3,700,000 salary reflects the value of a player who has delivered more consistent results. As such, Duran’s \$3,500,000 filing aligns closely with arbitration precedent for players like Yastrzemski and accounts for the difference in cumulative career performance.

### B. Daulton Varsho

Player	Years	MLS	WAR	IL	G	GS	PA	R	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Daulton Varsho <sup>15</sup>	2020-2022	2.128	6.8	0	346	287	1,218	163	46	136	30	.226	.302	.422	.724
Jarren Duran	2021-2024	2.155	10.0	64	353	322	1,432	197	34	142	67	.272	.326	.457	.782

Daulton Varsho is another meaningful comparison for Jarren Duran due to his Super Two status and similar career trajectory. Varsho earned \$3,050,000 in his first arbitration season after accumulating a 6.8 WAR across 346 career games.<sup>16</sup> His career slash line of .226/.302/.422 with an OPS of .724 reflects modest offensive production balanced by strong defensive value.

Player	PY	MLS	WAR	IL	G	GS	PA	R	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Daulton Varsho <sup>17</sup>	2022	1.000	4.8	0	151	136	592	79	27	74	16	.235	.302	.443	.745
Jarren Duran	2024	1.000	8.7	0	160	160	735	111	21	75	34	.285	.342	.492	.834

Varsho’s career trajectory mirrors Duran’s in several ways. Both players began their careers with slow starts: Varsho posted a .188 average in 2020, while Duran’s first two years (2021-2022) resulted in a combined -0.8 WAR. In their second years, both players showed improvement, with Varsho posting a .246/.318/.437 line and Duran making strides toward consistency. Their platform seasons marked their best performances: Varsho’s 4.8 WAR in 2022

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/v/varshda01.shtml>

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.sportrac.com/mlb/player/\\_id/23277/daulton-varsho](https://www.sportrac.com/mlb/player/_id/23277/daulton-varsho)

<sup>17</sup> Id.

featured 27 home runs and a .235/.302/.443 line, while Duran’s 2024 platform year resulted in 8.7 WAR, 21 home runs, and an .834 OPS.

While Duran’s platform year outperformed Varsho’s, arbitration precedent shows that Super Two players are evaluated holistically. Varsho’s \$3,050,000 salary reflects his balanced contributions, and Duran’s career inconsistency, particularly his poor first two seasons, should temper the impact of his platform season. Accordingly, a salary near \$3,500,000 is appropriate given the similarities between the two players.

### C. Tyler O’Neill

Player	Years	MLS	WAR	IL	G	GS	PA	R	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Tyler O’Neill <sup>18</sup>	2018-2021	3.059	10.0	79	394	303	1,254	190	67	170	26	.260	.324	.497	.821
Jarren Duran	2021-2024	2.155	10.0	64	353	322	1,432	197	34	142	67	.272	.326	.457	.782

Tyler O’Neill provides an important comparison based on the strength of his platform season and overall career impact. O’Neill earned \$3,400,000 in his first arbitration season, supported by a career WAR of 10.0 and a .260/.324/.497 slash line with an .821 OPS.<sup>19</sup>

Player	PY	MLS	WAR	IL	G	GS	PA	R	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Tyler O’Neill <sup>20</sup>	2021	1.000	6.1	22	138	130	537	89	34	80	15	.286	.352	.560	.912
Jarren Duran	2024	1.000	8.7	0	160	160	735	111	21	75	34	.285	.342	.492	.834

O’Neill’s 2021 platform season was his strongest, posting a 6.1 WAR with 34 home runs, 80 RBIs, and a .912 OPS. This performance elevated him as a key offensive player, much like Duran’s 2024 season highlighted his ability to contribute across multiple facets of the game. However, O’Neill’s career trajectory demonstrates greater balance between power and overall

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/o/oneilty01.shtml>

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.sportrac.com/mlb/player/\\_/id/24564/tyler-oneill](https://www.sportrac.com/mlb/player/_/id/24564/tyler-oneill)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/o/oneilty01.shtml>

contributions, allowing him to achieve a higher level of sustained excellence across his arbitration-eligible years.

While Duran's platform season WAR (8.7) outpaces O'Neill's best season, O'Neill's stronger career metrics, including more consistent offensive performance and a better career OPS, illustrate why his salary of \$3,400,000 is appropriate. Duran's lack of sustained contributions over his early career weighs against a salary significantly above O'Neill's filing, even with his strong 2024 platform year.

## **VI. Existence of Physical or Mental Defects**

The existence of a physical defect is not an issue in this case.

## **VII. Recent Performance of the Club (2021-2024)**

The Boston Red Sox have experienced a challenging four-year period from 2021 through 2024, missing the postseason in three of those seasons and averaging only 78 wins per year.<sup>21</sup> Despite moments of individual excellence from players like Duran, the team failed to secure a Wild Card berth or contend meaningfully for a playoff spot in recent years, reflecting the limited overall impact of his contributions on team success. In 2021, the Red Sox made the postseason but relied on more established players to reach the ALDS. Duran, after being away from the team for over a month, was added to the roster for the AL Wild Card Game but was not utilized and was removed before the ALDS. This underscores his marginal role during that season. The subsequent seasons of 2022 and 2023 saw continued struggles for the team, with the Red Sox failing to surpass the .500 mark. Although Duran began to improve in 2023, a season-ending injury in August further limited his ability to contribute meaningfully during a pivotal stretch for the team. In 2024, the

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.baseball-reference.com/teams/BOS/index.shtml>

Red Sox finished at .500, five games out of a Wild Card spot. While Duran had a productive season individually, his contributions were insufficient to elevate the team into playoff contention. When assessing Duran's requested salary, the panel should consider the Red Sox's ongoing struggles and his inability to deliver team-wide results despite his improved personal performance.

### **VIII. Conclusion**

Jarren Duran's 2024 platform season showcased notable improvement, but a full evaluation of his career under MLB's six arbitration criteria demonstrates that a salary at or above the midpoint is not warranted. Over four seasons spanning 2.155 years of MLB service time, Duran compiled just 1.3 WAR across his first three years, marked by significant struggles, including a -0.8 WAR over his first two seasons. While his platform year was productive, it does not outweigh his career inconsistencies, including limited early contributions, repeated minor league demotions, and gaps in his offensive profile. Duran's prior salaries, all at or near the league minimum, reflect his developmental stage and performance history through 2023. The Club's filing of \$3,500,000 is a fair reflection of Duran's complete body of work. This figure balances his 2024 success with his broader career context, aligning with arbitration standards. For these reasons, the panel should award Jarren Duran a salary of \$3,500,000 for the 2025 season.