

2025 Annual International Baseball Arbitration Competition

Jarren Duran v. Boston Red Sox

Submission on Behalf of Jarren Duran

Service time: 2.155 (1TE)

Player filing: \$4,500,000

Club filing: \$3,500,000

Midpoint: \$4,000,000

Submission by Team 43

I. Introduction

This brief evaluates the contributions and performance of Jarren Duran (referred to as "The Player" or "Mr. Duran") to establish his appropriate compensation for the upcoming 2025 season with the Boston Red Sox ("the Club" or "the Red Sox"). The hearing will be conducted under the Major League Baseball ("MLB") Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA"), which outlines specific criteria for determining the Player's award. The arbitration panel will consider the following factors under the CBA criteria: (1) the quality of the Player's contribution to his Club during the past season (including but not limited to his overall performance, special qualities of leadership and public appeal), (2) the length and consistency of his career contribution, (3) the record of the Player's past compensation, (4) comparative baseball salaries, and (5) the existence of any physical or mental defects on the part of the Player.¹

The arbitration process ensures an equitable evaluation of Mr. Duran's value, considering his on-field contributions and how they align with his market value within MLB. As a first-year arbitration-eligible player with 2.155 years of Major League service time, Mr. Duran filed for a salary of \$4,500,000, and the Red Sox filed for \$3,500,000, creating a midpoint of \$4,000,000. This brief demonstrates that Mr. Duran's unparalleled contributions—highlighted by his MVP performance in the 2024 All-Star Game and his dominance in WAR—make him an indispensable asset whose value far exceeds the established midpoint. Mr. Duran is not just any player; (1) he is the heartbeat of the offense, (2) a relentless force who disrupts defenses with his unique style of play, and (3) a rare talent who embodies the complete package—making him irreplaceable on both sides of the field. Mr. Duran's value exceeds the established midpoint of

¹MLB Collective Bargaining Agreement. "2022-2026 Basic Agreement," Article VI(E) § 10(a)-(b), pp. 20-21.

\$4,000,000, and for these reasons, this panel should award him a salary that reflects his exceptional contributions and unparalleled impact.

II. Length and Consistency of Career Contributions (2021-2024)

A. Jarren Duran - Platform Year (2024)

	WAR	PA	AB	Doubles	Triples	SB	OPS	DRS
2024	8.7	735	671	48	14	34	0.834	23
Ranking in MLB	5th	1st	1st	1st	1st	4th	22nd	2nd

In the 2024 season, Mr. Duran delivered a standout platform year performance, proving himself as the heart and soul of the Red Sox's offense. He led the whole MLB in plate appearances, at-bats, doubles, and triples.² Duran has shown himself to be a player that the Red Sox can lean on to step up to the plate and deliver extra-base hits. To pair with these league-leading statistics, Duran did great with OBP and SLG, highlighted by his OPS of 0.834, ranking 22nd in the MLB, putting him just behind superstars like Francisco Lindor and Mookie Betts.³ However, Duran is also an elite base runner, ranking 4th in the MLB for stolen bases during the 2024 season.⁴ Duran's offensive versatility is rare and vital to the Red Sox's offense. Nonetheless, Duran is also an elite player defensively, ranking second in the whole MLB in defensive runs saved or DRS; he provided stability and adaptability across the outfield, consistently saving runs and contributing to the Red Sox's being a top 10 team defensively.⁵ Mr.

² *Jarren Duran, MLB Player Profile*, MLB.com, <https://www.mlb.com/player/jarren-duran-680776> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Jarren Duran Stats*, Baseball-Reference.com, <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/d/duranja01.shtml> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

⁵ *Ranking MLB's Top 10 Best Defensive Players of the 2024 Season*, Bleacher Report, <https://www.bleacherreport.com/articles/10136025-ranking-mlbs-top-10-best-defensive-players-of-the-2024-season> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

Duran's unique combination of offensive production, defensive versatility, and base-running prowess is demonstrated by his WAR statistic of 8.7, which ranks him 4th in the MLB.⁶ His platform year season far exceeds players awarded salaries above the midpoint in their first arbitration-eligible years.

B. Jarren Duran - Career Totals (2021-2024)

	WAR	PA	AB	Doubles	Triples	SB	OPS	DRS
2021	-0.7	112	107	3	2	2	0.578	-5
2022	-0.1	223	204	14	3	7	0.645	-7
2023	2.1	362	332	34	2	24	0.828	-6
2024	8.7	735	671	48	14	34	0.834	23

Mr. Duran’s ability to improve each season demonstrates his value as a cornerstone player. In 2024, he transformed into a full-time contributor, leading his team in multiple categories and setting the stage for continued success.

C. Jarren Duran: A Model of Growth, Consistency, and Elite Performance

Jarren Duran has transformed the Boston Red Sox offense with his electrifying and dynamic play style. Serving as the team’s leadoff hitter in the 2024 season, Duran embodies the classic mold of an aggressive, high-impact table-setter.⁷ His ability to get on base, paired with his league-leading hustle, routinely disrupts opposing defenses. Duran’s remarkable speed and instincts make him a constant threat to turn singles into doubles and doubles into triples, as

⁶ *Jarren Duran Stats*, Baseball-Reference.com, <https://www.baseball-reference.com/players/d/duranja01.shtml> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

⁷ *Id.*

evidenced by his major league-leading 48 doubles and 14 triples in 2024.⁸ His baserunning creates chaos, forcing errors and defensive missteps, exemplified by his ability to score on a shallow pop-up or a double steal. Mr. Duran's offensive prowess extends beyond the basepaths. He led all Major League outfielders in hits, total bases, and plate appearances in 2024 while ranking among the top in advanced metrics such as Runs Created (RC) and Win Probability Added (WPA).⁹ Mr. Duran's impact on the field extends far beyond statistics; he is the driving force behind the team's offensive success. His ability to ignite rallies and deliver in high-pressure moments underscores his unique role as the heartbeat of the offense. Whether it's clutch hits, timely runs, or setting the tone for his teammates, Mr. Duran consistently acts as a sparkplug for the lineup, making him an indispensable presence in the batter's box and on the basepaths.

Duran's unparalleled ability to disrupt defenses stems from his relentless speed, athleticism, and instinctual aggressiveness. His league-leading baserunning metrics, such as first-to-third advancements on 73% of singles (compared to the league average of 32%), highlight his exceptional ability to seize opportunities and force defenders into high-pressure situations.¹⁰ Whether it's capitalizing on a pitcher's appeal throw, scoring on a double steal, or advancing on a dropped infield pop-up, Duran's presence on the basepaths is a game-changing advantage. Opponents have struggled to contain the chaos Duran creates, as he leads the league in baserunning runs and extra bases taken. Duran's aggressiveness and ability to keep defenses on edge have directly contributed to the Red Sox's offensive efficiency and success, making him an invaluable force in high-pressure moments. Jarren Duran's ability to disrupt opposing defenses is unmatched, as his relentless speed, instinctive aggressiveness, and unparalleled hustle

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Jarren Duran, MLB Player Profile*, MLB.com, <https://www.mlb.com/player/jarren-duran-680776> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

constantly force mistakes and create opportunities. His presence on the basepaths alone causes chaos, leading to defensive errors that turn routine plays into pivotal moments. Duran's ability to exploit defensive vulnerabilities was evident in numerous game-changing instances throughout the season.

In Chicago, Mr. Duran took off for the plate during an appeal play by the White Sox pitcher. The distraction led to an errant throw, allowing Duran to score and shift the momentum of the game.¹¹ Similarly, against Tampa Bay, Duran scored on a double steal after the shortstop cut off the throw to the plate, an improbable play that only he could execute with his unique combination of speed and decision-making.¹² In Cincinnati, he tagged up on a shallow pop-up to left field in the eighth inning, scoring the go-ahead run in a situation few players would even attempt. Later in the same game, Duran robbed a potential game-tying home run in the ninth inning, leaping over the center field fence to secure the win for his team.¹³ These moments define Duran as a relentless force who constantly puts pressure on opposing defenses, turning his speed, hustle, and athleticism into an invaluable asset. His ability to create mistakes and capitalize on them elevates his impact beyond the stat sheet, making him a unique and irreplaceable player.

Duran's transformation into a bona fide five-tool player is nothing short of extraordinary. Offensively, he posted a .285 batting average and .834 OPS in 2024, alongside 21 home runs and 34 stolen bases, making him one of the most well-rounded hitters in baseball. Defensively, Duran has blossomed into an elite outfielder, ranking second in the league with 23 Defensive Runs

¹¹ *Jarren Duran Steals Home Against White Sox*, MLB.com, <https://www.mlb.com/news/jarren-duran-steals-home-against-white-sox> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

¹² *Red Sox vs. Rays MLB Recap: May 21, 2024*, WCVB.com, <https://www.wcvb.com/article/red-sox-rays-mlb-recap-may-21-2024/60864551> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

¹³ *Jarren Duran Scores Go-Ahead Run, Robs Homer in Red Sox Win*, MLB.com, <https://www.mlb.com/news/jarren-duran-scores-go-ahead-run-robs-homer-in-red-sox-win> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

Saved (DRS) and leading all MLB outfielders in assists and innings played.¹⁴ His ability to rob home runs and make critical plays under pressure exemplifies his development into a premier defender. Duran’s comprehensive impact is supported by his advanced metrics, with his batting and fielding run values ranking in the top 10% of baseball. He is tied for fourth in all of baseball in WAR, outperforming notable stars such as Mookie Betts and Bobby Witt Jr. His remarkable improvement from a 2022 season marked by struggles to a 2024 campaign as an All-Star MVP and top MVP candidate underscores his resilience and dedication to mastering every aspect of the game.¹⁵ Winning MVP honors at the All-Star Game is a rare achievement that reflects Duran’s ability to perform on the league’s biggest stages. This accolade underscores his star power and marketability, further justifying his value Duran’s evolution into one of the most valuable players in the league solidifies his status as a generational talent and an essential building block for the Red Sox.

III. Record of the Player’s Past Compensation¹⁶

Year	Age	Team	Salary	Status
2018	21	Boston Red Sox	\$189,800	Signing Bonus
2021	24	Boston Red Sox	\$570,500	Base Salary
2022	25	Boston Red Sox	\$700,000	Optioned to the Minors
2023	26	Boston Red Sox	\$720,000	Extension Contract
2024	27	Boston Red Sox	\$760,000	Extension Contract

¹⁴ *Jarren Duran, MLB Player Profile*, MLB.com, <https://www.mlb.com/player/jarren-duran-680776> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Jarren Duran*, Spotrac, <https://www.spotrac.com/mlb/boston-red-sox/jarren-duran/> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

2025	28	Boston Red Sox	Midpoint: \$4,000,000	Arbitration
------	----	----------------	--------------------------	-------------

IV. Comparative Baseball Salaries

A. Cedric Mullins

Jarren Duran and Cedric Mullins - 2024 Season

	WAR	G	PA	H	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+
Duran	8.7	160	735	191	21	75	34	0.285	0.342	0.492	0.834	129
Mullins	2.6	147	499	104	18	54	32	0.234	0.305	0.405	0.710	107

Jarren Duran and Cedric Mullins - Platform Year (Duran 2024, Mullins 2022)

	WAR	G	PA	H	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+
Duran	8.7	160	735	191	21	75	34	0.285	0.342	0.492	0.834	129
Mullins	4.0	156	672	157	16	64	34	0.258	0.318	0.403	0.721	107

Mullins 1 SAE Salary was \$4,100,000.

Cedric Mullins made \$4.1 million in 2022 (or \$4.4 million when adjusted for inflation), which is \$400,000 more than the midpoint of \$4 million. While Mullins' stolen bases match Mr. Duran's, the similarities end there. Mr. Duran significantly outperformed Mullins in every offensive stat from PAs to OPS, highlighting just how much better he is offensively. The same is true when looking at the defense side, where Duran had a DRS of 23 compared to Mullins 5. Adding on to this, Duran simply had a greater impact on his team's success which is shown through his WAR of 8.7 compared to Mullins' WAR of 3.8. Simply put, Duran had a significantly better platform year both offensively and defensively than Mullins, clearly making him worth over the midpoint of \$4 million.

B. Mike Yastrzemski

Jarren Duran and Mike Yastrzemski - 2024 Season

	WAR	G	PA	H	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+
Duran	8.7	160	735	191	21	75	34	0.285	0.342	0.492	0.834	129
Yastrzemski	2.1	140	474	99	18	57	3	0.231	0.302	0.437	0.739	110

Jarren Duran and Mike Yastrzemski - Platform Year (Duran 2024, Yastrzemski 2021)

	WAR	G	PA	H	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+
Duran	8.7	160	735	191	21	75	34	0.285	0.342	0.492	0.834	129
Yastrzemski	2.5	139	532	105	25	71	4	0.224	0.311	0.457	0.768	106

Salary: \$3,700,000

Mike Yastrzemski made \$3,700,000 or (\$4.3 million inflation-adjusted) in arbitration one, which is \$300,000 more than the midpoint of \$4 million. When looking at the data, it is clear that Duran is the better player offensively with Yastrzemski only having more HRs. When looking defensively, Duran again comes out on top with a DRS of 23 compared to Yastrzemski's DRS of 7. Additionally, Duran contributed more to his team's success with a WAR of 8.7 compared to Yastrzemski's 2.5 in his platform year. The data demonstrates that Duran is the better offensive and defensive player, justifying his getting a salary far above Yastrzemski's figure.

C. Austin Meadows

Austin Meadows did not have a 2024 season for comparison.

Jarren Duran and Austin Meadows - Platform Year (Duran 2024, Meadows 2021)

	WAR	G	PA	H	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+
Duran	8.7	160	735	191	21	75	34	0.285	0.342	0.492	0.834	129
Meadows	1.9	142	591	121	27	106	4	0.234	0.315	0.458	0.772	115

Salary: \$4,000,000

Meadows made \$4 million (or \$4.6 million inflation-adjusted) in arbitration one, which is \$600,000 over the midpoint of \$4 million. Duran leads Meadows in all offensive stats besides HRs and RBIs. On the basepaths, Mr. Duran’s 34 stolen bases showcase his elite speed compared to Meadows’ modest 4 steals. Additionally, Mr. Duran is the far better defender having a DRS of 23 compared to Meadows -3 in their platform year. Furthermore, Mr. Duran’s WAR of 8.7 far exceeds Meadows’ 3.0, demonstrating his superior all-around contributions to his team's wins.

With 34 stolen bases, Duran ranks among the league’s fastest players. His baserunning prowess complements his defensive skills, making him a versatile asset. While players like Yastrzemski and Meadows offered power, they lacked Duran’s all-around capabilities. The salaries of Mullins (\$4,100,000), Yastrzemski (\$3,700,000), and Meadows (\$4,000,000) provide a baseline. Duran’s superior metrics, particularly WAR and OPS, place him above these comparators. A salary below \$4,000,000 would undervalue his contributions. Mr. Duran’s platform season and overall contributions surpass those of comparable players who received salaries near or above the midpoint. His unique combination of speed, power, and WAR distinguishes him as a superior talent deserving of more than the \$4,000,000 midpoint.

VII. Existence of Physical or Mental Defects

In August 2023, Jarren Duran underwent season-ending surgery to repair a tendon in his left big toe, commonly known as turf toe.¹⁷ Turf toe involves a sprain of the ligaments around the big toe joint, often caused by hyperextension during athletic activities.¹⁸ Surgical intervention is typically reserved for severe cases, and when properly addressed, athletes can expect a full recovery with minimal risk of recurrence.¹⁹ Duran's successful rehabilitation was evident in the 2024 season, where he achieved a career-best performance, including leading the team in fWAR and making his first All-Star appearance.²⁰ His return to peak form indicates that he no longer suffers from any significant physical impairments, underscoring his resilience and commitment to excellence.

VIII. Conclusion

Jarren Duran's transformative journey from adversity to excellence underscores his unparalleled value as a player. From overcoming mental health challenges in 2022 to becoming an All-Star MVP and a top-four WAR leader in 2024, Duran's story is one of resilience, dedication, and remarkable growth. His ability to (1) spark the offense, (2) disrupt defenses, and (3) excel as a five-tool player makes him one of the most well-rounded and impactful players in Major League Baseball. Mr. Duran is more than a player; he is the cornerstone of the Red Sox's present and future success. For these reasons, we respectfully urge the arbitration panel to award a salary above the \$4,000,000 midpoint for Mr. Duran.

¹⁷ *Jarren Duran Undergoes Season-Ending Toe Surgery*, AP News, <https://apnews.com/article/red-sox-jarren-duran-eb5c0f1bcf0f80fd676fcbf9bd0a25ef> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

¹⁸ *Turf Toe: Symptoms, Causes, and Treatments*, MedicineNet, https://www.medicinenet.com/turf_toe_symptoms_causes_and_treatments/article.htm (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

¹⁹ *Outcomes of Surgical Management of Turf Toe: 12-Year Results*, Cureus, <https://www.cureus.com/articles/241801-outcomes-of-surgical-management-of-turf-toe-12-year-results> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).

²⁰ *Boston Red Sox Player Power Rankings: The 2024 Finale*, Over the Monster, <https://www.overthemonster.com/2024/10/1/24258197/boston-red-sox-player-power-rankings-the-2024-finale-rafael-devers-tanner-houck-jarren-duran> (last visited Jan. 2, 2025).