

MLB Lockout 2022
By Jesse Almeida 1/4/22

We are totally aware of the fact that we have not had an article looking back at the 2021 Boston Red Sox season. It is long overdue, but because of the fact that we have received questions on why no MLB teams are making moves the last month and a half, or why there might be a delay or even no MLB season at all, we have decided to put this article ahead of the 2021 Red Sox season recap. That article will be dropped after this one.

What is a lockout? Well a lockout is when the league of a sports team shuts down operation of its league. This happens when the league commissioner and owners can not agree on a new agreement with the players union.

What consists of these agreements? Well first off the revenue split. Previously every MLB team had 210 million dollars to spend on their players payroll before the luxury tax. Teams could spend more than the 210 million but would be penalized a percentage of how much they went over. Teams only do this if they are a couple steps closer in becoming legitimate championship contenders. So because teams payrolls were so high, players would get paid more. The simplest way to put this is that it is billionaires vs millionaires. The players are the ones bringing in the money to the ballparks and their performance and presence makes the owner money himself. It's like a simple business. You pay your workers to help elevate your business to help you make money and you must keep them happy. The players have every right to demand a little boost to their earnings due to the fact that they are the ones bringing people into the ballpark to watch their games, and the owners are making big revenues on tickets, merchandise, food, and more.

Another thing that these agreements consist of is how to elevate the product. What I mean by that is how can we make the sport better to bring in more revenue. This can involve rule changes within the game or in the league itself. Something that has been talked about in baseball is how slow paced the game has become and how boring it is. One thing the players and the league could be talking about is how to add more action into baseball that will bring in more fans. This could mean adding a pitch clock, backing up the mound for batters to have more reaction time. We do not know what specifically they are discussing but this does play a factor as well. This is a huge point to be addressed in baseball because it is no secret that the popularity of baseball has decreased over the years, and when popularity goes down, revenue goes down. This

has happened because the games are longer, there is not as much action in baseball as before, and that is boring to a lot of people. Once in a while they will tune in but you need people to be invested, and care about the product you are producing. More people interested and enjoying the product means more money that comes in.

What is not allowed during this time? Teams are not allowed to negotiate contracts with players. To the free agents out there like Carlos Correa (was the Astros star shortstop) or Kyle Schwarber who was on the Red Sox, those players can not reach agreements with teams. That is why this year we saw a lot of free agents sign before the lockout period because now they are guaranteed the money they got. If they took a chance and waited till after the lockout, they may not make as much if the owners end up making more money for themselves over the players making more. There is zero communication allowed between team representatives and the players. So Chaim Bloom can not call Bogaerts right now to work on restructuring his contract or he can not call Rafael Devers for a contract extension. A deal between the Owners and players association has to be agreed upon before any communications can be made between team representatives and players. The players can not enter the facilities of the owners to work out. They can not go in and use the gym to work out nothing. They have to stay away from the team's facilities. Most importantly, players can not show up to work.

When will all of this end? To be completely honest with you all, that is unknown. It all determines the progression between the two sides and how much each side is willing to give. If one side does not budge a bit and stands their ground, then that means this could take a while. But if both sides are willing to sacrifice a little to come to an agreement, then this will end sooner.

What does this mean for the 2022 season? Well as of right now seeing that there has been no update between the two sides, and that the players can not show up to work like I mentioned, that means at the moment there is no 2022 MLB season at the moment. This could change if a deal is in place before the start of spring training or before opening day, but from the looks of it right now, it looks like there will be a delay for the start of the 2022 season. If this goes too long, it could put the whole season in jeopardy. But the odds of the season being completely canceled is very unlikely.

Does this happen in just baseball? No this is something that is very similar in all of sports. It is the same procedure as baseball except the negotiations are different because it is a completely different organization.

At the end of the day there is only one group that suffers through this time. That group is the fans. The people who love baseball or any sport in general can not watch the team or players that they love the most. The fans are the ones that are hurt the most during this time. So to the MLB owners, MLB commissioner, and the Players Union, get going on this so we can watch the sport that we love and care about.

Sources:

[Reportedly No Negotiating Sessions Scheduled for This Week, as MLB Lockout Heads Into Second Month \(bleachernation.com\)](#)

[MLB lockout: Everything to know about baseball's first work stoppage since 1994-95 - CBSSports.com](#)

[MLB lockout - Are the owners and players talking? Should baseball fans be worried? Here's the latest \(espn.com\)](#)

[Pro Sports Lockouts and Strikes Fast Facts | CNN](#)