

# APBL LOOKING TO ADD FOUR TEAMS NEXT YEAR

## LEAGUE EXECUTIVES WANT MORE COMPETITION, WITH TEAMS PLAYING HIGHER NUMBER OF OPPONENTS

NEW YORK CITY (June 11, 1877) – Every Monday executives from the twelve teams of the American Professional Baseball League gather for lunch at the [St. Nicholas Hotel](#), the purpose of which is to discuss league business.

Each of the last three Mondays, however, the informal lunch gatherings have turned into more formal meetings lasting the full afternoon. The main reason: the presidents of the league's twelve member clubs have decided that they want to add to the ranks. Supposedly, the plan involves adding four teams for the 1878 season to bring the league to sixteen teams, and for the schedule to remain its current ninety games by having each team play the other fifteen teams six times – one three-game series at home, and one away.

This much is known about the prospect of adding four teams: one of the four will be Quaker State, which would restart American's rivalry with the second-oldest Philadelphian club. Since the league split ahead of the 1871 season, Quaker St. has won the Tucker-Wheaton Cup once (1871) and had a .675 Winning Percentage (300-144), the best mark of any of the 48 teams in the N.B.B.O.

Speculation about the expansion of the A.P.B.L. is that it will be much different from the process of the selection of the original members of the league, in that executives will be looking to add clubs they believe have the fanbase and infrastructure to compete at the highest level instead of focusing solely on sporting merit and picking clubs based on Winning Percentage and N.B.B.O. titles.

What the above means is that teams representing large cities like National (Washington, D.C.) and Maryland (Baltimore) may move up even though they haven't been successful on the field. Another major question surrounding the possible expansion of the A.P.B.L. to sixteen teams is if the New York metropolitan area gets a fifth team, because if so then Atlantic, Eckford, Metropolitan, or New York Athletic Club would all have the infrastructure to compete in the A.P.B.L., and Atlantic & Eckford have had plenty of success as well.

It's likely that the four teams to switch leagues will be announced at the Autumn Meetings. Until then, there will be much speculation regarding which teams will be #13-16 in the A.P.B.L.