



ABA Recognition Payment Information

In July 2022, it was announced that former players from the American Basketball Association (ABA) would receive “recognition payments”, similar to NBA pension payments, acknowledging their contributions + growing health concerns.

ABA RECOGNITION PAYMENT NOTES

Led By: Dripping Dimes Foundation (Scott Tarter), NBPA (Ron Klemperer)

- Announced July 2022, began payments 2023 → NBA + NBPA jointly created a program to pay former ABA players
- About 115 eligible former ABA players - played at least 3 ABA seasons + don't qualify for NBA pension
- Total funding for the program is approximately \$24.5 million
- Payments are roughly \$3,828 per year of ABA service
 - Example: player w/ 5 seasons in the ABA would receive about \$19,140 annually
- Adam Silver said this was done: *“On behalf of these former ABA players who are aging and, in many cases, facing difficult economic circumstances.”*
- Dropping Dimes/Scott Tarter (Attorney) + Advocacy: The program was initiated because of long-term pressure from the Dropping Dimes Foundation, nonprofit that supports former ABA players

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible:

- Anyone who played at least 3 years in the ABA (were on a roster, active or IR, and under contract with an ABA team, for at least 50% of the games during each of 3 seasons) and NEVER vested in an NBA pension benefit at any time.

What the payment will be:

- Somewhere between \$319 and \$400 per month, per season of ABA play (as defined above), depending on whether the player has previously received an ABA-related pension payout (the NBA has not informed us of how this will be determined so we don't yet know whether any payout you've received in the past applies).
- All questions should be directed to the NBA via phone at 1-888-996-1727.

WAITING GAME DOCUMENTARY

Summary: Incredible story of ABA players who created much of what the billion dollar NBA is today—the 3-point shot, slam dunk contest, fashion + culture innovators—are forgotten in a business deal gone bad. A tiny NFP fights back in this David vs. Goliath film. Released October 18, 2024

- Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/1009585155>
- Stream online: <https://watch.eventive.org/hiff2024/play/66c4bd990d46ec008beb0160>
- Legends Featured in Documentary:
 - Darnell Hillman, Bob Netolicky, Ralph Simpson, James Jones, Julius Erving, Spencer Haywood, Jim Eakins

NON-QUALIFYING ABA LEGENDS

There were 23 former players who did not qualify for either the ABA recognition payments or the NBA pension. Would take \$5M to cover expenses and fill this gap (NBA refused to cover)



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LINKS

<https://droppingdimes.org/>

<https://frontofficesports.com/nba-to-give-aba-players-recognition-payments-from-24-5m-fund/>

<https://nbpa.com/news/nbpa-and-nba-announce-recognition-payments-for-former-aba-players>

<https://waxmuseum.podbean.com/e/episode-261-scott-tarter-darnell-hillman-discuss-aba-recognition-payments-all-star-weekend-and-more/>

<https://cdn-uat.nba.com/news/nba-nbpa-announce-recognition-payments-for-former-aba-players>

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