

2016 Final Power Rankings:

Overall Rank. Team (Record, Playoff Record) (Last Ranking)

1. Phillies (7-3, 2-0) (4) – Chris Meador reigns supreme again, becoming the second player in SWBL history to win his fourth championship, all of which have been in the franchise era. But the real story of this season was that of 2016 MVP, Spencer Bogad. Spencer had one of the best seasons on both sides of the ball in the history of the SWBL. He placed first in MVP voting, second in CY Wiffle, and even won the Gold Glove for pitchers as well. He is quickly becoming a superstar in this sport for the SWBL and around the country. Rookie of the Year, Tyler Flakne helped out with his bat more than on the mound, while Edloe Donnan had a typical even numbered year, hitting better than the odd years before that. Next year, they will play under the Twins Franchise name as they look to repeat in 2017.

2. Athletics (6-4, 1-1) (6) – Well they finally did it, the 2016 Franchise of the Year shocked the wiffle-world. In what looked like a David vs. Goliath season, they took down the giants in the American League and just missed out on a run that could have given them all their first championships. Steve Hays took this team on his back and with Luke Bakula providing some big numbers, this team took heart to an AL Championship and garnered the respect from everyone around the league. They finished with their first winning season in franchise history and got a taste of victory that will be hard to get out. With Luke Bakula set to miss next season, this team will have to have a big offseason to keep with their winning ways.

3. Royals (7-3, 0-1) (2) – Once again, the Royals playoff woes continue. Gus Skibbe has yet to win a Championship since the two-man era and even with the acquisition of 2016 CY Wiffle winner, Sam Skibbe and power hitter Paul Castellano, they couldn't bring this franchise a playoff win. Ty Butler, playing through injury, had his worse year in his young career and between him and Paul, they didn't have one hit in the playoffs. There were many positives to this season though, Sam got back to his old ways on the mound, and the Skibbe brothers dominated only giving up 58 runs all season, including a shutout and a perfect game. They had the best record for the AL in the regular season and had the best run differential in the league. It looks like the Royals will try the same formula next season with the same roster and see if they can't improve internally rather than change something up.

4. Rockies (8-2, 0-1) (1) – A disappointing end to another great overall season by the defending champions. They had all the tools to be the first team to break the pre ranking number one curse with the acquisition of top gun ace, Brett Spencer, but they couldn't get passed the Phillies and the magical season of Spencer Bogad. They only lost to two teams all season, the Phillies and Royals, on their way to the best regular season record in the league. Blake and Brett pitched great for the Rockies and Blake once again was as feared as ever at the plate. Brian Kenney stayed solid in the field and Grant Boyd took advantage of his opportunities down the stretch. With Kyle Breda rounding them out, this was the only team that consistently batted five in their lineup in 2016.

5. Yankees (5-5) (3) – After winning the American League Championship in 2015, the Yankees missed the playoffs in 2016 after a disappointing season for the pinstripes. Scott Pohle had another solid year at the plate and Jackson Crosley continues to prove he is one of the best pitchers in this league. Kevin Pohle has some growing to do in his wiffle future and John Calloway couldn't hold strong down the stretch. Sam Bakula had a good season, just not as stellar as their AL Championship run last season. Will Rath was a good compliment on the mound and gave them more options to use on their way to allowing the second fewest runs in the league. What was most surprising though, was their lack of offense, finishing 6th in runs scored in the league.

6. Brewers (5-5) (5) – On paper, the Brewers have one of the most solid overall teams in the league. Reigning MVP, Peter Leicht, just did not have a pleasant year at the plate, finishing out of the top ten in HR, RBI, and AVG. But with Peter away, Kyle came to play. In a rough offseason with this squad surrounding Kyle, he came out with a vengeance and proved he is one of the best overall players in this league, finishing second in the MVP voting. PG stayed consistent, but their fourth batting slot, rotating between Doerries, Olderman, and Rookie of the Year runner up, Jimmy Stout didn't produce for this team to have enough to overcome the Rockies and Phillies. They got a couple big wins against the Royals and Phillies but could not capitalize on the rest of their season. It will be an interesting offseason to see what Peter can come up with to get this 3-time Franchise of the Year back on their feet.

7. Expos (1-9) (7) – Well, they got their first franchise win...against the Astros...in the toilet bowl. It would have been more of a celebration had the Astros not just won a game earlier in the day, but it was still nice to see for this squad. Captain, Kevin Wiethuchter even hit some home runs on the year and had decent outings on the mound. Germer was NOT the addition they needed, but the trade for Evan Close was a key acquisition for them in the future. John Leicht didn't have as good of a year, while Jimmy Nelson and Matt Egerstrom stayed somewhat consistent from their 2015 numbers. This team is on the hunt and looking for more talent to compliment their sweet Expos bucket hats for 2017.

8. Astros (1-9) (8) – The highlight of the Astros season was defeating the Yankees in an extra innings home run Derby matchup that went multiple rounds. Their celebration was good to see and for the first time in the franchise era, no team in the SWBL finished winless on the season. Captain, Bryan Benware assembled a team that will continue to improve each season, but right now, are in some growing pains. With more reps, this team will improve. Jay Peters had a very solid season on the mound, finishing with an ERA under 10, an impressive feat by any league member. If this team can find some more offense (only 25 runs scored in 2016) and Benware can improve on an abysmal season at the plate, then you may see this team with 2-3 wins in 2017.