

# NEWPORT GULLS BASEBALL

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*"RAISING THE BAR IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE BASEBALL"*

Date: December 30, 2008  
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Immediate Release

## Newport Gulls to Change Divisions in 2009

**Newport, RI** – The New England Collegiate Baseball League Board of Directors recently voted to realign the divisions due to the relocation of the Torrington, Connecticut franchise from western Connecticut to New Bedford, Massachusetts located in southeast Massachusetts. The decision to realign the divisions was based on reducing travel for the players and the expense to individual franchises. All teams travel by motor coach bus and in recent years the expense has gone up due to the expansion of the league and the cost of transportation.

Another benefit to realignment is the opportunity to play in different cities and parks because six games are played between teams in the same division, three games at home and three games away. This creates rivalries between two teams that may be playing in the same geographic area. Inter-division play allows for two games between the two teams, one game at home and one game away so the exposure to some venues is limited.

The New England League has 12 teams located in all six New England States. Teams are represented by Danbury and Manchester in Connecticut; North Adams, Pittsfield, Holyoke, New Bedford, Lowell, and Lynn in Massachusetts; Sanford, Maine; Montpelier, Vermont; Keene, New Hampshire and Newport, Rhode Island. The old divisions consisting of the Northern and Southern Divisions will now be the East Division and the West Division.

The West Division will include the Vermont Mountaineers, Keene Swamp Bats, North Adams SteepleCats, Holyoke Blue Sox, American Defenders of Pittsfield and the Danbury Westerners.

The East Division will include the Lowell All Americans, Sanford Mainers, North Shore Navigators, Manchester Silkworms, New Bedford Bay Sox and the Newport Gulls.

The complete schedule can be found on the NECBL website at [www.necbl.com](http://www.necbl.com). The Gulls begin the 2009 season on June 4, 2009 in Manchester, Connecticut against the Silkworms. For more information, please go to [www.newportgulls.com](http://www.newportgulls.com).

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