

# Phoenix Suns/Arizona Diamondbacks

Scores Big with Advanced Functionality through UltiPro



## Company Profile:

In the heart of downtown Phoenix are locations of America's finest professional sports clubs. On one corner is the US Airways Center, the home of the National Basketball Association's Phoenix Suns, Women's National Basketball Association's Phoenix Mercury, and the Arena Football League's Arizona Rattlers. A few blocks away is Chase Field, the playing field for Major League Baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks.

## The Challenges:

Even when working together in its team setting, the payroll team for this organization experienced frequent difficulties for processing payroll. The sports organization's 2,000 employees actually work for more than five smaller companies under one payroll umbrella.

Previously, the parent organization for the Phoenix Suns and Arizona Diamondbacks had been using outdated software, and the system lacked the necessary flexibility to handle the payroll requirements typical of sports teams and multi-entity organizations.

Many states have complex and varied taxation rules that require professional athletes to pay taxes to that state when they play there, even if it's only for a few hours.

With outdated software and spreadsheets, the Phoenix sports company spent too much time manually calculating all the applicable tables.

## The Solution:

"We were looking for a highly functional, cost-effective technology that would help us meet the complex payroll demands of our multiple teams and organizations," said Sheila Yammer, director of payroll services for the Phoenix sports clubs.

"Having a one cohesive solution to automate our payroll processing is enabling our teams to spend more time on strategic decision-making."

After intensive one-on-one meetings with key industry players, the organization went live on Ultimate Software's cloud-based UltiPro solution, and the HR and payroll departments saw immediate advantages:



## The Customer

Phoenix Suns/Arizona Diamondbacks

## Industry

Recreation/Hospitality

## Number of Employees

3,000

## Key Benefits

- Reduced time for payroll processing to 20 minutes
- Eliminated manual tax calculations
- Achieved deeper levels of business intelligence with real-time and historical reporting

- The time for processing payroll has been reduced from six hours on average to only 20 minutes.
- State tax formulas are stored in UltiPro, eliminating the need for manual calculations and reconciliation. This streamlined efficiency saves the payroll department substantial time and results in increased productivity.
- UltiPro offers hundreds of standard and customizable reports, giving each team the ability to immediately perform trend analyses.
- Historical records and background information are instantly accessible on all active and inactive players and managers.
- UltiPro allows the entry and calculation of a flat percentage tax. Users can enter a specific percentage amount to withhold instead of using the standard method of specifying a filing status (single, married, etc.) and a number of allowances. This is particularly useful for players with large salaries who want a specific percentage withheld based on their accountant's computations.



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Sheila Yammer  
Director of Payroll Services  
Phoenix Suns/Arizona Diamondbacks  
and Related Companies

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