

Top Grading Companies

(August 2025)

| Company Name | Summary | Pricing Tiers & Turneround | Details |
|--|--|--|---|
| Professional Sports Authenticator (PSA) | HQ: Southern California, USA Founded: 1991 Turnaround: 5 - 65 Days Min Price: \$24.99 | \$24.99/card: \$500 insured value, 45-day turnaround \$19.99/card: 20-card min, 1980-present or 1979-older, \$500 insured value, 65-day turnaround, collector club only \$18.99/card: 20-card min, 1992 to present, insured value \$500, 65-day turnaround, collector club only \$39.99/card: insured value \$500, 20-day turnaround \$59.99/card: insured value \$1000, 15-day turnaround \$74.99/card: insured value \$1500, 10-day turnaround \$149/card: insured value \$2500, 5-day turnaround Beyond the \$149 tier there are services at \$299, \$599, \$999, \$1,999, \$2,999, \$4,999, and \$9,999 per card depending on the value of the card with a 5-day turnaround | Grade assigned based on different qualifiers including marks on the card ("MK"), the cut of the card ("MC"), centering ("OC"), staining ("ST"), print defects ("PD"), and whether the card is out of focus ("OF") Mainly objective but there is a subjective component Branded PSA LightHouse Label provides the full information for the card including the grad and card details |
| Beckett Grading Services (BGS) | HQ: Plano, TX, USA Founded: 1979 (Beckett), 1991 (BGS) Turnaround: 2 - 45+ Days Min Price: \$14.95 | \$14.95/card: no subgrades, 45+ days turnaround \$17.95/card: includes subgrades, 45+ days turnaround \$34.95/card: includes subgrades, 20-25 day turnaround \$79.95/card: includes subgrades, 7-10 day turnaround \$124.95/card: includes subgrades, 2-3 day turnaround There are extra charges for things like autographed cards, oversized cards, relabeling, and other services. | Four subgrades: centering, corners, edges, ar surface High subgrades in all four categories: high grade based on a 10-point scale; low otherwise Encapsulation is a classy design called their BGS Case Diagram BGS is especially renowned for grading newer cards |
| Sportscard Guaranty Company (SGC) | HQ: Florida, USA Founded: 1998 Turnaround: 1 - 20 Days Min Price: \$15 | \$15/card: insured value \$1,500, 15-20 day turnaround \$40/card: insured value \$1,500, 1-2 day turnaround \$85/card: insured value \$3,500, 15-20 day turnaround \$125/card: insured value \$3,500, 1-2 day turnaround \$250/card: insured value \$7,500, 1-2 day turnaround \$500/card: insured value \$20,000, 1-2 day turnaround \$1000/card: insured value \$50,000, 1-2 day turnaround There are additional tiers available for higher valued cards | Built a reputation for its focus on older, vintage cards Their focus on vintage cards makes them a go to for collectors of historic baseball memorabilia Known for its straightforward grading scale at fast turnaround times Provide a distinctive tuxedo-like black mattin within their encapsulation |
| Certified Guaranty Company (CGC) | HQ: Florida, USA Founded: 2000 Turnaround: 2 – 65 Days Min Price: \$17 | \$17/card: insured value \$1,000, 30-day turnaround \$14/card: 25-card min, insured value \$500, 65-day turnaround \$45/card: insured value \$3,000, 10-day turnaround \$85/card: insured value \$10,000, 5-day turnaround \$275/card: insured value \$100,000, walkthrough, 2-day turnaround \$275/card + 1% FMV (\$2,500 max): unlimited insured value, 2-day turnaround Associate and Premium members save 10% on grading. Elite members save 20% on grading | Newer to the sports card grading scene, leveraging expertise from comic book grading Stands out for its state-of-the-art holder desig Card grading is a team effort, with multiple professionals examining every card aided by advanced technology Each grader enters their own grade into their proprietary system, and a consensus is then reached on the final grade for the card |