

Scorekeeping Guide Book

Courtesy of



East Orange Babe Ruth

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1. Starting the Scorecard for a Game

Before each game, the coaches exchange batting lineups. The person assigned by the head coach enters the starting lineup for both teams. When entering the lineups it makes sense to find two blank pages facing each other if you're using a bound scorebook. It makes it much easy to transition from the scorecard of one team to the other.

The team that bats first in a game is known as the "Visitors", and the team batting last is the "Home team".

In the scorebook, enter the Visitors' lineup on the left facing page and the Home team's lineup on the right

Entering the Game Information

Game information should be recorded on both the Visitors and Home scorecard pages for future reference. The Game information to note include:

- Visitor and Home Team Names
- Date of Game
- Start Time of Game
- Weather
- Scorer

In the example below the game information entered tells you all need to know for future reference.

The Baseball Scorecard

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Notes: | | Start Time: 2:00 pm | Attendance: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor: Mets | Date: May 25, 2008 | End Time: | Wind: None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home: Titans | Scorer: Jim Shorts | Time of Game: | Weather: Hot & Sunny |

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | AB | R | H | RBI |
|---|---------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Mets vs. Titans on May 25, 2008 @ 2:00. Game conditions were hot and sunny.

See anything missing? Where was the game played?

There's no specific field on this particular scorecard but there is a Notes section available.

2. The Scorecard Layout

The scorecard page has many columns. The leftmost columns contain the player information. Players' names are entered down the page in the order in which they are assigned to bat. The following information should be included:

Uniform Number

Shown here with a column heading titled “#”

Player Name

Shown here with a column heading titled “Line Up”

Player Position

Shown here with a column heading “Pos”. Recommend using Position Numbers instead of initials of the positions.

Located to the right of the player information are columns for recording the events of the game as they occur, by inning.

Notice in the example to the right that a “1” appears in the column heading to the right of the player’s position. The “1” represents the first inning. The innings following sequentially left to right across the scorecard.

Each player’s turn at bat is recorded in the respective cell for the inning in which they bat.

The cells of a scorebook differ from publisher to publisher but all have a lightly lined diamond in the center of each cell. The diamond represents the bases, with home plate at the bottom, first base to the right, second base at the top of the diamond and third base to the left. As batters advance their progress is recorded by drawing a line from base to base, starting at home plate and proceeding counter-clockwise around the diamond.

| Notes: | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|--------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visitor: | Mets | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Home: | Titans | |
| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
| 1 | Jones | 1B | |
| | | | |
| 32 | Adams | SS | |
| | | | |
| 10 | Smith | LF | |
| | | | |
| 23 | Odom | 3B | |
| | | | |
| 2 | Holmes | 2B | |
| | | | |
| 44 | Jackson | RF | |
| | | | |
| 15 | Duncan | CF | |
| | | | |
| 10 | Carter | C | |
| | | | |
| 41 | Richards | | |
| | | | |

Individual and Game Totals

The Scorecard allows for tallying game totals for each player and also by inning.

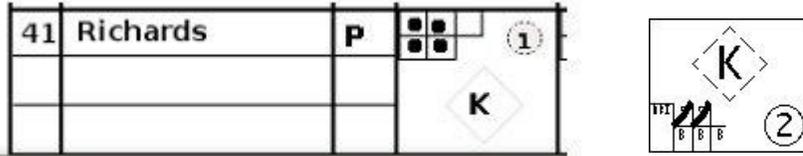
Player’s game statistics are entered in the columns at the far right side of the scorecard.

Inning statistics are placed in the section provided at the bottom of each scorecard.

3. Scorekeeping Basics

Strike Out Swinging (K)

If a batter has two strikes and swings and misses the ball for the third strike, it is recorded as a strikeout.



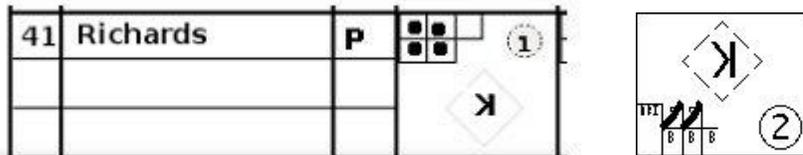
It is entered as “K” or “KS”.

If the batter foul tips the third strike and the catcher holds onto the ball without it touching the ground it is also considered a swinging strike out, entered with a “K” or “KS”.

If a batter bunts the ball foul on the third strike, that too is considered a strikeout and noted with the letter “K” or “KS”.

Strike Out Looking (Backwards K)

If the batter does not swing at the third pitch and it is called a strike by the umpire, it is a strikeout “looking”.



A distinction is made in the scorebook for a “Strike Out Looking”.

It is written as a backward “K” or “KL”.

Foul Fly Out (FF)

A fly ball caught outside of fair territory is referred to as Foul Fly out. It is entered with the letters “FF” followed by the defensive number of the player who caught the ball.

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------|---|---|---|---|--|
| 10 | Carter | C | ● | ● | ● | |
| | | | ● | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 41 | Richards | | | | | |

FF-3

The example here illustrates a Foul Fly ball caught by the First Baseman. The dash (-) between the FF and the 3 is optional

Fly Ball Out (F)

A fly ball out occurs when a batter hits the ball in the air and it’s caught before it hits the ground. It is recorded in the score book using the letter “F” followed by the defensive position number of the player who made the catch. Some folks distinguish a fly ball caught in the infield as a Pop Out. On this site, only Fly Out will be used.

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Carter | C | ● | ● | ● | ① |
| | | | ● | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 41 | Richards | | | | | |

F8

In this illustration, Carter led off the inning and hit a fly ball out to center field.

It is entered as an “F8” where “F” represents Fly Out and “8” represents the center fielder.

The number “1” with a circle around it is used to note the first out of the inning.

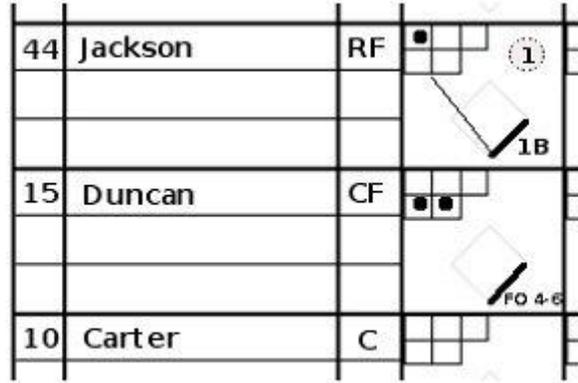
Force Out (FO)

A Force Out occurs when a runner is forced to vacate the base he is on because the runner or batter behind him has no means of retreat. Another way of putting it is if there was a runner on first base and the batter hits a ground ball; the batter has no choice but to run to first base. And that means the runner on first can't stay there – he has no recourse but to try to advance to second base.

In the illustration to the right Jackson led off the inning with a base hit to left field on 1 ball, 0 strike count.

Duncan hits a ground ball on an “0-2 pitch” to the second baseman, who flips to the shortstop covering second base for the “force out”

The Force Out is recorded in the batter’s cell as a FO 4-6 where “FO” represents Force Out, “4” represents the second baseman who caught the ground ball and “6” represents the shortstop who caught the throw and stepped on the bag for the first out.

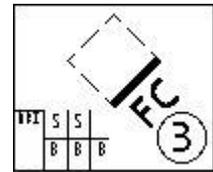


a

In the runner’s cell (Jackson) the number “1” with a circle around it is used to note the first out of the inning.

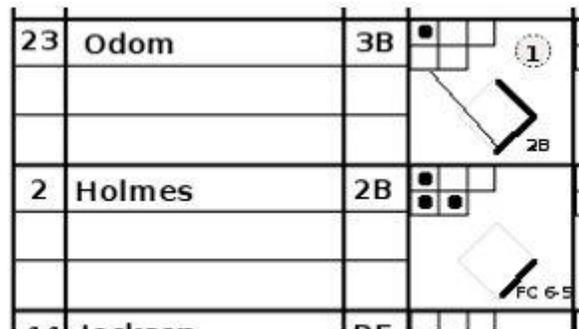
Fielder’s Choice (FC)

A Fielder’s Choice occurs when a fielder has the chance to throw out a base runner or the batter but chooses to try to get another base runner out. The end result is that the batter reaches first base safely due to the fielder choosing to try to get an out on a base runner.



In the illustration to the right, Odom led off the inning with a double. The next batter, Holmes, hit a ground ball to the short stop who, instead of throwing the ball to first base to get the batter out, threw the ball to the third baseman, who tagged the runner out.

The Fielder’s Choice is recorded in the batter’s cell as an FC 6-5 where “FC” represents Fielder’s Choice, “6” represents the shortstop who caught the ground ball and “5” represents the third baseman who caught the throw and tagged out the runner. Also, a line is drawn from home plate to first base (on the diamond) to show the batter reached first base safely



In the runner’s cell (Odom) the number “1” with a circle around it is used to note the first out of the inning.

Scoring A Ground Out

Most ground ball outs involve more than one defensive player. The out is entered by recording each defensive player in the sequential order in which they handled the ball.

The outs are entered into the hitter's cell for the inning in which they batted. The out is recorded using the Defensive Position Numbers of the fielders involved.

The scorekeeping entry to the right illustrates the ground ball out of the First Baseman, Jones the First Inning. He hit a ground ball to the third baseman who caught it and threw the ball the first baseman for the first out of the inning.

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|----|---------|-----|---|
| 1 | Jones | 1B | |
| 32 | Adams | SS | |

in
to

It is recorded in the scorebook as a “5-3”

ground out; where “5” represents the third baseman catching the ground ball and “3” represents the first baseman catching the throw from the third baseman for the out (notice the sequence of the play is repeated in the scoring).

The number “1” with a circle around it is used to help keep track of the number of outs in an inning. This is a good habit to get into!

The boxes in the upper left hand corner of each cell represents balls and strikes. You can keep track of the batter's count and count the number of pitchers by entering a dot after each pitch. The top three squares are to track balls, the bottom two for strikes. The ball that is hit in play is not recorded.

Scoring Pitches is discussed elsewhere on this site.

Ground Ball Out – Unassisted

When only one defensive player is involved in an out, it is referred to as an “unassisted” out.

In the example to the right, the second batter of the inning, Adams, hit a ground ball to the first baseman on a (1 ball 0 strikes count). The first baseman also tagged first base for the second out in the inning.

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|----|---------|-----|---|
| 1 | Jones | 1B | |
| 32 | Adams | SS | |
| 10 | Smith | 1C | |

This unassisted out is recorded with the number “3”, which represents the first baseman, followed by a “U” representing “Unassisted”.

Notice the “2” circled in the upper right hand corner of Adams' cell. It represents the second out of the inning.

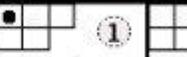
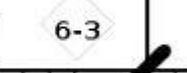
Middle of Inning

When the third out is recorded a diagonal line is drawn under the player making the third in the inning.

The first two outs of an inning are recorded by entering the out number in the upper right hand corner of the cell of the players who are out.

There are occasions when the batter up does not make the final out in an inning. This can only occur when there are runners on base.

In this situation the third out can be recorded in the cell of the player who was thrown out.

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|----|---------|-----|---|
| 1 | Jones | 1B |  |
| | | |  |
| 32 | Adams | SS |  |
| | | |  |
| 10 | Smith | LF |  |
| | | |  |
| 23 | Odom | 3B |  |
| | | |  |

NOTE: If the inning ends because a runner is thrown out stealing, the player currently at bat leads off the next inning.

4. Getting On Base

Showing Base Runner Progress

When a batter reaches first base safely it is recorded by drawing a line from home plate to first base.

The same pattern is followed as the runner advances from base to base, proceeding counter clockwise around the diamond in the cell.

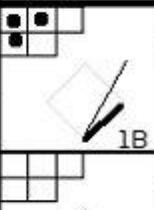
When a batter hits a home run or advances around all the bases safely, it is recorded by drawing a line from home to first, first to second, second to third and third back to home plate and the diamond is also shaded in to denote the player has scored a run.

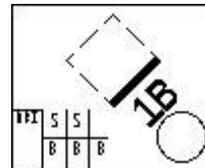
Getting a Hit (1B, 2B, 3B, HR)

If a batter hits the ball and gets to first base safely without the help of a defensive fielder missing a ground ball, dropping a fly ball or dropping a throw from another fielder, it is recorded as a hit.

Single

Scoring A Single

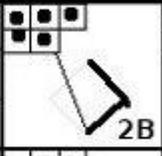
| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 | |
|---|---------|-----|---|--|
| 1 | Jones | 1B |  | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

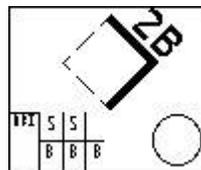


When the batter advances to first base without the defense making an error, it is considered a Single and recorded as follows:

- A line is drawn (on the diamond in the cell) from home plate to first base.
- The value “1B” (the runner got to 1st Base) is entered in the bottom right hand corner of the cell.
- An RBI is credited for EACH run scored resulting from the hit

Double

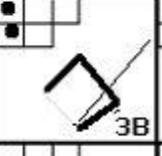
| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|---|---------|-----|---|
| 1 | Jones | 1B |  |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

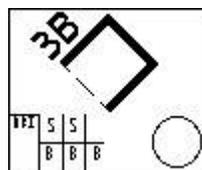


When the batter advances to second base without the defense making an error, it is considered a Double and recorded as follows:

- A line is drawn (on the diamond in the cell) from Home to First Base and from First Base to Second Base
- The value “2B” (the runner got to 2nd Base) is entered in the bottom right hand corner of the cell.
- An RBI is credited for EACH run scored resulting from the hit.

Triple

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|---|---------|-----|---|
| 1 | Jones | 1B |  |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

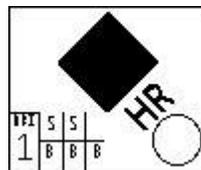


When the batter advances to third base without the defense making an error, it is considered a Triple and recorded as follows:

- A line is drawn (on the diamond in the cell) from Home to First Base, from First Base to Second Base and Second Base to Third Base
- The values “3B” (the runner got to 3rd Base) is entered in the bottom right hand corner of the cell.
- An RBI is credited for EACH run scored resulting from the hit.

Home Run

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|---|---------|-----|-----------|
| 1 | Jones | 1B | RBI HR |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



When the batter hits the ball over the fence on a fly, in between the foul lines, it is considered a Home Run.

- A line is drawn (on the diamond in the cell) from Home to First Base, from First Base to Second Base, Second Base to Third Base and Third Base back to Home Plate.
- The diamond is shaded in
- The letters “HR” (the runner hit a Home Run is entered in the bottom right hand corner of the cell.
- An RBI is credited for EACH run scored resulting from the hit.

When a batter advances all around all the bases without the defense making an error, it is considered an Inside the Park Home run. It is recorded the same as Home Run hit over the fence. If desired, the letters “IHR” can be used to distinguish it.

For youth baseball league Scorekeeping, the letters “HR” can be used exclusively for both types of Home Runs.

Noting the Direction of a Hit

It is a good idea to draw a line in the direction of the hit, starting from home plate and ending where the ball was retrieved. If the hit never left the infield draw the line in the direction it was hit and end the line in proportion to where it stopped or was fielded. **Recommend using a different color pencil to mark direction.**

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|---|---------|-----|-----------|
| 1 | Jones | 1B | RBI HR |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

This is a great tip for using the score book later in the game to make a strategic decision.

In the illustration to the right, the batter Jones, hit a double to left field. We know this because of the thin line extending from home plate to left field.

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|---|---------|-----|----|
| 1 | Jones | 1B | 2B |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Run Batted In (RBI)

When a runner scores a run resulting from a Ground Ball Out, Sacrifice Fly, A Hit (Single, Double, Triple or Home Run), Hit By Pitch, Sacrifice Bunt, Force Out or Fielder's Choice the batter is credited with an RBI (Run Batted In) for each run resulting from that specific plate appearance.

If there is an error that results in a run being scored, the batter is not credited with an RBI. In extenuating circumstances crediting an RBI may not be clear. The Official Scorer is the ultimate authority for determining if an RBI is or is not to be credited.

RBI's are not credited in the case of an Error, Passed Ball, Wild Pitch, Balk, Steal or Interference.

There are different variations for noting an RBI in the Score Book. Some scorebooks actually have a placeholder in each cell where you can mark each RBI.

However, if the Scorebook you're using doesn't, you can note the RBI on the right-hand side of the cell (where room permits).

The illustration to the right shows an RBI being credited to Jones that resulted from his home run over the left field fence.

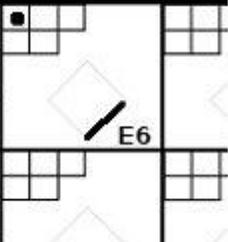
Game winning RBI's can be scored using the letters "GWRBI".

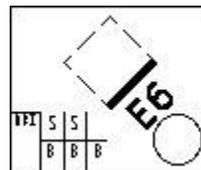
Error (E)

An Error occurs when a batter reaches a base safely because of a defensive player missing a ground ball, missing a fly ball or making a bad throw. An error is also given to a defensive player whose "bad" play results in a runner(s) advancing a base(s)

An Error is recorded with:

- A line drawn (on the diamond in the cell) from Home to First Base
- the letter "E" followed by the defensive position number of the player who made the error
- An RBI is not credited to the batter if a run(s) score due to the error.

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|---|---------|-----|---|
| 1 | Jones | 1B |  |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



Let's take an example to clarify this scenario:

There is a ground ball fielded cleanly by the shortstop but the throw to first base goes over the first baseman's head. This would be recorded as "E6" where "E" represents Error and "6" represents the shortstop who made the throwing error.

Multiple errors can occur on a single play. However, if a singular action by a fielder results in multiple runners advancing only 1 error is charged.

The terminology used is "the player was "charged" with an error.

Base on Balls aka Walk (BB)

A "Ball" is called by the Home Plate umpire when the pitch crosses home plate outside the strike zone.

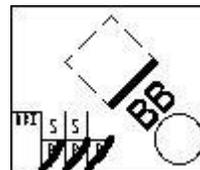
The strike zone extends roughly from the batters chest to knees and from the left edge of Home Plate to the Right Edge of Home Plate, including its black border.

The strike zone is open to interpretation by the Umpire. Calling balls and strikes is the most difficult call to make and is made by the Home Plate Umpire.

A Base On Balls occurs when a batter is pitched 4 balls (pitches that don't cross the strike zone) before he strikes out, gets a hit, or makes an out.

The batter is awarded first base on a "Base On Balls". It is also referred to as a "Walk".

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|---|---------|-----|----|
| 1 | Jones | 1B | BB |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

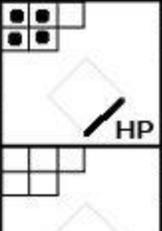


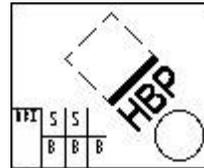
A Base On Balls is recorded with:

- A line drawn (on the diamond in the cell) from Home to First Base
- the letters "BB" entered in the bottom right hand corner of the cell
- If a runner scores a run due to a Base On Balls an RBI is credited to the batter.
- A Base on Balls is not considered an official at-bat and is not to be tallied as At-Bat in Game totals.
- The batter is credited with an RBI if a runner scores a run resulting from the Base On Balls.

Hit By Pitch (HP)

A Hit By Pitch occurs when a batter is struck by a thrown pitch, while the ball is in flight from the pitcher, on any body part. If it touches the ground before the batter is hit, it does not qualify.

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|---|---------|-----|---|
| 1 | Jones | 1B |  |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



- A line is drawn (on the diamond in the cell) from Home to First Base
- the letters “HP” is recorded in the bottom right hand corner of the cell in the score book.
 - An RBI is credited to the batter if a run(s) score due to a Hit By Pitch
 - Hit By Pitch is not considered an official at-bat and is not to be tallied as At-Bat in Game totals.

5. Men on Base

Scoring With Men on Base

The biggest difference about scorekeeping with men on base is that you have to remember to record the action of the base runners and the batter on each play. One great tip I can offer is that when an inning is over, quickly go over it and see if you can recreate the sequence of events in the inning. If you can't, then go back and update the scorebook.

If you practice this tip constantly you'll have a thorough scorebook.

Ground Ball Double Play (DP)

Let's keep it simple here. A Double Play is making two outs on the same play. The common type of double play happens with a runner on first base and a ground ball to any of the infielders.

There are so many types of double plays but this guide focuses on the ground ball. Remember, it is focused for youth baseball leagues and double plays are not that common. Let's take an example:

There are no outs and a runner on first base.

The batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop.

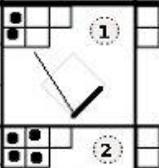
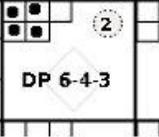
The shortstop throws the ball to the second baseman covering second base.

The second baseman catches the ball, tags second base with his foot before the runner from first reaches it and throws the ball to the first baseman at the first base bag.

The first baseman catches the ball and tags first base with his foot before the batter.

DOUBLE PLAY!

This is recorded as a DP 6-4-3 where “DP” represents Double Play and the “6” represents the shortstop catching the ground ball, while the “4” represents the second baseman catching the ball, tagging the base before the runner gets there (recording the first out), and the “3” represents the first baseman catching the ball and tagging the base before the runner (recording the second out).

| # | Line Up | Pos | 1 |
|----|---------|-----|---|
| 1 | Jones | 1B |  |
| 32 | Adams | SS |  |
| | | | DP 6-4-3 |
| 10 | Smith | P | |

The results of the Ground Ball Double Play is recorded in both the batter and base runners cell as follows:

- The number (“1” with a circle around it) is entered in the upper right hand corner of the base runner’s cell to represent the first out of the inning.
- The entry DP 6-4-3 is written across the cell of the batter to represent the double play.
- The number (“2” with a circle around it) is entered in the upper right hand corner of the base runner’s cell to represent the second out of the inning.
- The batter is not credited with an RBI if a run scores during a ground ball double play.

Balk (BK)

A Balk is committed by any illegal motions of a pitcher during the delivery of the ball to home plate. Any umpire can make the call.

In youth baseball, the balk is not often called due to the fact that pitchers use the windup rather than the stretch delivery. The stretch becomes involved when kids graduate from the Little League and Cal Ripken Baseball league, where the distances are equal to or much closer to those of the major league.

Here's an example:

There are no outs and a runner on first base. The pitcher balks and the base runner is awarded second base. This Balk situation is recorded as follows:

- A line is drawn from first base to second base in the runner(s) cell to reflect the advancing of one base.
- The letters "BK" are entered in the base runner's cell, in the space above the line drawn between first and second bases.
- Nothing is recorded in the batter's cell
- If a base runner scores due to a Balk the batter is not credited with a RBI.
- If multiple men are on base, each base runner's cell is updated accordingly.



If there are no runners on base and the batter has less than three (3) balls in the count, the batter is awarded an additional BALL. If the batter has three balls and a Balk is called, the batter is awarded first base and recorded as a BASE ON BALLS (BB).

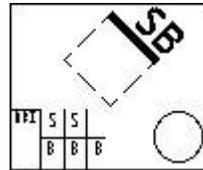
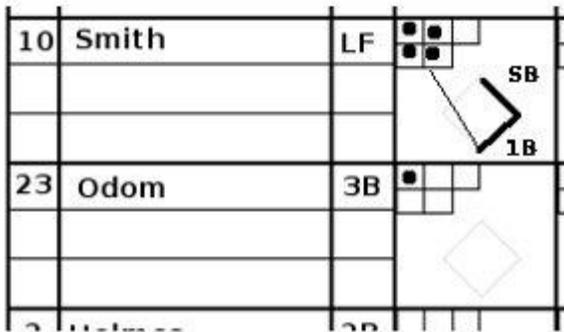
Stolen Base (SB)

A Stolen Base occurs when a runner advances to the next base while the pitcher delivers the pitch.

In most youth baseball leagues, the runner is not allowed to leave the base until the ball has crossed home plate.

Even with this limitation, stolen bases are common, especially in the leagues for kids in the 7-9 age bracket.

A runner does not get credited with a Stolen Base if it results from a Passed Ball or Wild Pitch.



However, it is not uncommon in youth leagues to score passed balls and wild pitches as stolen bases. At the youth level I don't see the harm in it. You make the call!

The Stolen Base is noted following the same rules for advancing on a Pass Ball or Wild Pitch, except that the letters "SB" are entered. RBIs are not credited for Stolen Bases.

Caught Stealing or Pick Off (CS)

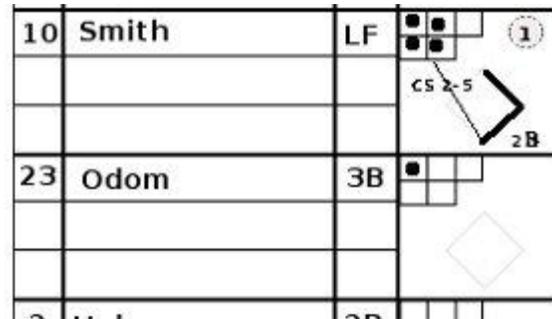
When a runner attempts to advance from one base to another without the ball being hit, and is tagged out, the runner is said to be “Caught Stealing”. Another way to put it is, a runner attempting to steal a base is tagged out.

Here’s an example:

There are no outs and a runner on second base. The base runner attempts to steal but is out. The catcher successfully caught the pitch, threw the ball to third base, the third baseman caught the ball and tagged the runner before he could touch third base.

This Caught Stealing situation is recorded as follows:

- The letters “CS”, representing Caught Stealing and the number “2” representing the catcher and “5” representing the third baseman are entered in the space between second and third base in the runner’s cell.
- The number (“1” with a circle around it) is entered in the upper right hand corner of the base runner’s cell to represent the first out of the inning.



A **Pick Off** is the term used when a fielder throws “behind” the base runner in an attempt to tag the runner who is far off the base.

The two most common scenarios of this are:

- A pitcher, pitching from the stretch, throws over to first base in an attempt to “pick off” the runner who is wandering off the base
- A catcher, after catching a pitch, throws to first base in attempt to “pick off” the runner at first, who is far off the base.

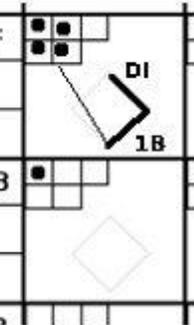
A Pick Off is always scored using the Caught Stealing “CS”.

Defensive Indifference (DI)

Defensive Indifference occurs when the team on defense allows a base runner(s) to advance without attempting to make a play to get the runner out.

Again, it's usage is dependent on the age and skill level of the youth baseball league. This occurrence is also substituted as a Stolen Base "SB".

Defensive Indifference is noted following the same rules for advancing on a Pass Ball or Wild Pitch, except that the letters "DI" are entered.

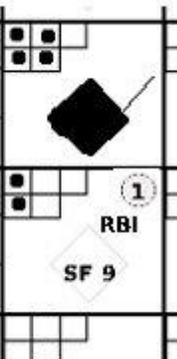
| | | | |
|----|-------|----|---|
| 10 | Smith | LF |  |
| 23 | Odom | 3B | |

Sacrifice Fly (SF)

A Sacrifice Fly ball out occurs when a batter hits the ball in the air and it's caught before it hits the ground and a runner advances from third base to home.

To be considered a Sacrifice Fly the following conditions must be met:

1. There are fewer than 2 outs
 2. The ball is hit to the outfield
 3. The batter is out – ball is caught on a fly
 4. A runner on base scores on the play
- The batter is credited with an RBI, entered as "RBI" in the upper right hand corner of the batter's cell. This the example, the batter is "Smith"
 - The out number of the inning is entered, with a circle around it, in the upper right hand corner of the batter's cell to reflect the out in the inning. Again, the batter is "Smith"
 - The letters "SF" are entered in the middle of the batter's cell
 - A Sacrifice Fly is not considered an official at-bat and is not to be tallied as an At-Bat in Game totals.

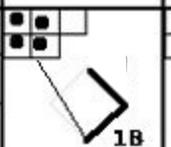
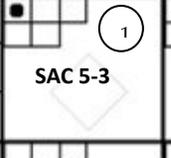
| | | | |
|----|-------|----|--|
| 32 | Adams | SS |  |
| 10 | Smith | LF | RBI ① SF 9 |
| 23 | Odom | 3B | |

Sacrifice Bunt (SAC)

A batter is credited with a Sacrifice bunt when he lays down a bunt in fair territory that results, in the batter's intention, to advance a base runner.

- The Sacrifice Bunt is recorded like a ground ball out except that the letters "SAC" precede the defensive position number of the players involved in the play's sequence.
- The out number of the inning is entered, with a circle around it, in the upper right hand corner of the batter's cell to reflect the out in the inning.
- If a run scores during the play, an RBI is credited to the batter.
- A Sacrifice bunt is not considered an official at-bat and not tallied as At-Bat in Game totals.

In the illustration, the batter, Odom, bunted the ball down the third base line, advancing the runner to scoring position (second base). He is out at first base.

| | | | |
|----|-------|----|--|
| 10 | Smith | LF |  |
| 23 | Odom | 3B |  SAC 5-3 1 |

- The value "SAC 5-3" is entered into the batter, Odom, cell. "SAC" represents sacrifice bunt, the "5" represents the third baseman fielding the bunt and the "3" represents the first baseman finishing the out at first.
- The number "1" circled, is entered in the top right hand corner of Odom's cell.
- In the base runner's cell, Smith, a line is drawn from first base to second base to denote the advance of a base on the sacrifice bunt.
- The batter is not charged with an official time at bat on a sacrifice bunt.

6. Other Situations

Infield Fly

The infield fly rule is scored in the situation where there are less than two outs, and there is a force at third base (runners on 1st and 2nd) or home (bases are loaded) and there is a pop fly to the infield, in fair territory. The batter is declared out and runners can not advance during the sequence. The letters “IF” followed by the player who catches the ball are entered into the batter’s cell.

Base Path Violation

A Base Path violation occurs when a batter or runner attempts to avoid a “tag” by running outside the base path. The letters “BV” are to be entered into the cell of the runner or batter violating the rule. Don’t forget to enter the out number appropriately.

Batting Around in an Inning

After each player has batted once in an inning, an arrow -> is drawn at the bottom of the score sheet for that inning. The arrow signifies that the all the batters have batted once and the recording of their next at-bat, in the same inning, will continue in the next column provided.

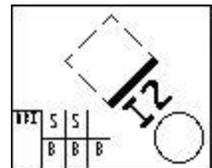
Make sure to cross out the printed inning number on the column and replace it with extended inning number. Don’t forget to continue this for the rest of the innings.

Catcher’s Interference

Catcher Interference occurs when the catcher physically interferes with the batter’s swing. An example of this is when the catcher is too close to the plate and the batter touches the catcher’s glove with the bat.

The play is ruled dead, all runners go back to their originating base. The batter is awarded first base. Then runner can advance one base if forced.

The letters “CI” can be used to note this occurrence.



Designated Hitter or Extra Hitter

A Designated Hitter is a player who bats in place of the pitcher in a baseball game. The “DH” does not play the field and cannot be substituted for a fielder at any time during the game. The letters “DH” are entered into the Position column in the player section of the score sheet

An Extra Hitter is a player who only bats and does not play the field during the game and cannot be substituted for a fielder during the game. The letters “EH” are entered into the Position column in the player section of the score sheet.

End of an Inning

When the team batting has made three outs, a slash is drawn diagonally across the bottom right hand corner of the last batter in the inning. However, be aware that if the last batter of the inning did not make the final out (for example: a base runner was caught stealing), that batter does not get credited with an at-bat and will lead off the next inning.

In this situation, the batter up last in the inning would be treated as if he never got up. And a diagonal slash is written across the bottom of the cell of the batter before him. In the cell of the runner caught stealing, the appropriate “Caught Stealing” data would be entered. And finally, the number “3” in a circle is entered in the top right hand corner (of the runner) to signify the “CS” caused the third out.

Important Players game statistics recorded are:

- Total number of At-Bats in the game (**AB**)
- Total number of Runs Scored in the game (**R**)
- Total number of Hits in the game (**H**)
- Total Runs Batted In during the game (**RBI**)

Inning statistics recorded include:

- Runs scored in the inning (**R**)
- Hits in the inning (**H**)
- Errors in the inning (**E**)
- Men Left on Base (**LOB**)

| | AB | R | H | RBI |
|---|----|---|---|-----|
| | | | | |
| > | | | | |
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| > | | | | |
| | | | | |
| > | | | | |
| | | | | |
| > | | | | |
| | | | | |

Substitutions

When a player is substituted for, the new player’s information (Name, Position, Uniform number) is added to the line below the player for which he is being substituted. A vertical line is drawn on the last at-bat of the original player.

If the new player is replacing the previous as a pinch hitter, the letters “PH” are entered as the position of that player.

If the new player is replacing the previous as a pinch runner, the letter “PR” are entered.

Scoring Pitches

Some score books provide a space to record balls and strikes. If you want to record balls and strikes simply use a dots to represent Balls and Strikes in each cell.

Use two rows with the top row for balls and the bottom row for strikes

The dots above signifies the batters count went to the 3 Balls and 2 Strike before the ball was hit.

You can use more than 2 strikes to note the actual # of pitches (just include the number of foul balls on the third strike). You can keep track of the number of pitches by counting them up at the end of each inning and keeping a rolling total.

Obstruction (OB)

Obstruction is called when a fielder interferes with a base runner when not in the act of fielding or possessing the ball. There are two categories of Obstruction:

Obstruction 1

The obstructed runner is being “acted” or played upon by the fielder.

In this case the ball is dead and the runner(s) are awarded the base that the umpire feels the runner would have reached if the obstruction never occurred.

Obstruction 2

The obstructed runner is “away” or not being played upon by the fielder.

In this case play continues and the umpire keeps a mental picture of what base the obstructed runner(s) would have reached. When the play is over the runner(s) is awarded the base(s) solely on the discretion of the umpire.

If the runner is “out” during the play the out is reversed and the player is awarded the bases based on the rule above.

Obstruction is scored with the letter “OB” followed by the fielder obstructing.

There is one thing to consider in this play and that is the fielder has the “right of way” when he is fielding or has possession of the baseball.

The “determination” by the umpire is the final word whether it’s obstruction or interference. I’ve seen some very heated arguments regarding this scenario.

Rundown Situations

A Rundown is a situation when a base runner is stranded between two bases and is in a position to be tagged out. When a runner attempts to advance a base but is cut off by a fielder who then “runs” the runner back to the originating base.

While doing this, the fielder throws the ball to another fielder at the originating base forcing the runner to reverse course and head to the next base. This scenario can be repeated over and over again.

There can be three outcomes:

- the runner is tagged out,
- the runner gets back to the originating base safely, or
- the runner successfully advances to the next base.

To score this you must include every defensive player who was involved in the play, from beginning to end.

Here is a simple example:

There is a man on second base

A ground ball is hit to the short stop

Instead of throwing to first base, the short stop throws it to the third baseman.

Seeing this, the runner on second stops before reaching third and retreats to second

The third baseman throws to the second baseman (who is covering second base)

Seeing this, the runner then reverses and heads toward third base

The second baseman throws to the third baseman who tags the runner out before reaching third.

This would be scored as a fielders choice and the rundown is recorded by the defensive position numbers of the players involved.

In the batter’s cell the entry would be “FC 6-5-4-5”; where “FC” represents a Fielders Choice, “6” represents the shortstop fielding the ball, “5” represents the third baseman catching the throw, “4” represents the second baseman catching the throw from the third baseman and “5” represents the third baseman catching the ball from second baseman and tagging out the runner.

A line would be drawn in the batter’s cell to represent he arrived at first base safely

The out number would be entered in the runner’s cell on the baseball scorecard.

Appendix Basic Terms

Balk: An illegal motion by the pitcher with one or more runners on base, entitling all runners to advance one base. A balk can be one of a number of movements related to the pitching motion but the intention is to catch the runners off balance.

Ball: A pitch which does not enter the strike zone and is not struck at by the batter.

Base: The four points of the baseball diamond (first through third bases and home plate) that must be touched by a runner in order to score a run.

Batter: The offensive player who is currently positioned in the batter's box.

Batter's Box: Either of the areas next to home plate where the batter stands during his time at bat.

Bottom: The second half of an inning.

Bunt: A legally batted ball, not swung at but intentionally met with the bat and tapped within the infield.

Catch: The act of a fielder in getting secure possession in his hand or glove of a ball in flight and firmly holding it.

Catcher: The defensive player whose position is directly behind home plate.

Defense: The team currently in the field.

Designated Hitter: A player who may be designated to bat instead of the pitcher.

Double: A play in which the batter makes it safely to second base without stopping.

Double Header: Two games played in immediate succession.

Double Play: A defensive play in which two offensive players are put out as a result of one continuous action.

Dugout: The seating area for team members not currently on the playing field.

Fair Ball: A legally batted ball that settles on or over fair territory.

Fair Territory: That part of the playing field within and including the first base and third base lines, from home plate to the playing field fence and perpendicularly upwards.

Fielder: One of the nine defensive players, including pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop, left fielder, center fielder and right fielder.

Fielder's Choice: The act of a fielder who handles a fair grounder and, instead of throwing to first base to put out the batter runner, throws to another base in an attempt to put out a preceding runner.

Fly Ball: A ball which goes high in the air when batted.

Force Play: A play in which a runner loses his right to occupy a base when the current batter becomes a runner.

Forfeited Game: A game declared ended by the umpire for violation of the rules, and awarded to the offended team.

Foul Ball: A batted ball that lands on foul territory between home plate and first base or third base, bounds past first or third base on or over third territory, first touches foul territory beyond first or third base, or touches a player, umpire or any object not part of the playing field while over foul territory.

Foul Territory: That part of the playing field outside the first and third base lines extended to the outfield fence and perpendicularly upwards.

Ground Ball: A batted ball which rolls along the ground.

Ground Rule Double: When a line drive bounces on the field and over the wall in fair territory the hit is scored as a ground rule double and the batter advances to second base.

Home Plate: The base over which an offensive player bats, and to which he must return after touching all three bases in order to score a run.

Home Run: A play in which the batter makes it safely around all bases and back to home plate without stopping.

Home Team: The team on whose field the game is played. If the game is played on neutral grounds, the home team shall be designated by mutual agreement.

Infield: The diamond-shaped portion of the playing field bordered by the four bases.

Infielder: A fielder who occupies a position in the infield.

Infield Fly: A fair fly ball which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, which first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied before the second out. Infield Fly Rule: On the infield fly rule the umpire is to rule whether the ball could ordinarily have been handled by an infielder not by some arbitrary limitation such as the grass, or the base lines. The umpire's judgment must govern, and the decision should be made immediately. When an infield fly rule is called, runners may advance at their own risk. If on an infield fly rule, the infielder intentionally drops a fair ball, the ball remains in play.

Inning: That portion of the game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three outs for each team. Each team's time at bat is a half-inning.

Line Drive: A ball which is batted directly to a fielder without touching the ground.

Offense: The team currently at bat.

Out: A declaration by the umpire that a player who is trying for a base is not entitled to that base.

Outfield: The portion of the playing field that extends beyond the infield and is bordered by the first and third baselines.

Outfielder: A fielder who occupies a position in the outfield.

Pitch: The ball delivered by the pitcher to the batter.

Pitcher: The fielder designated to pitch the ball to the batter.

Quick Return Pitch: An illegal pitch, made with obvious intent to catch the batter off balance.

Run: The score made by an offensive player who has rounded the bases and returned to home plate.

Runner: An offensive player who is advancing toward, touching or returning to any base.

Safe: A declaration by the umpire that a runner who is trying for a base has not been tagged or forced out, and is therefore entitled to that base.

Single: A play in which the batter safely makes it to first base.

Strike: A legal pitch when so called by the umpire, which:

1. Is struck at by the batter and missed;
2. Is not struck at, if the ball passes through the strike zone;
3. Is fouled by the batter when he has less than two strikes;
4. Is bunted foul;
5. Touches the batter as he strikes at it;
6. Touches the batter in flight in the strike zone; or
7. After being batted, travels directly from the bat to the catcher's hands and is legally caught by the catcher (foul tip).

Strike Zone: An area directly over home plate, from the bottom of the batter's kneecaps to the midpoint between the top of the batter's shoulders and the top of the batter's uniform pants.

Tag: The action of a fielder in touching a base with his body while holding the ball, or touching a runner with the ball, or with his hand or glove while holding the ball.

Throw: The act of propelling the ball toward a given objective, usually a teammate. A pitch is not a throw.

Top: The first half of an inning.

Triple: A play in which the batter makes it safely to third base without stopping.

Triple Play: A defensive play in which three offensive players are put out as a result of one action.

Umpire: The official who judges the legality of individual plays and who otherwise enforces the rules of the game.