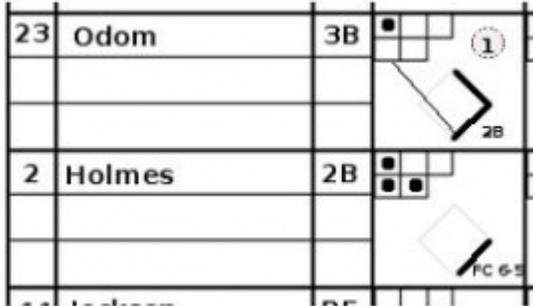


1. Intro To Scorekeeping

The following terms will be used on this site:

Cell: The term cell refers to the square in which the player's at-bat is recorded. In this illustration, the cell is the box where the diagram is drawn.



Scorecard, Scorebook: Will be used interchangeably and refer to the sheet that records the player and scoring information during a baseball game.

Scorekeeper: Refers to someone on a team that keeps the score for the purposes of the team.

Official Scorer: The designated person whose scorekeeping is considered the official record of the game. The Official Scorer is not a member of either team.

Baseball's Defensive Positions

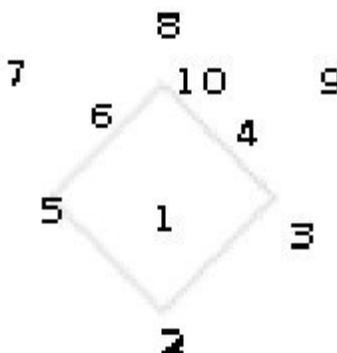
To "keep score" of a baseball game it is essential to know the defensive positions and their shorthand representation. For example, the number "1" is used to refer to the pitcher (P).

NOTE: In the younger levels of youth baseball leagues 10 defensive players are used. This 10th position is known as the *Short Center Fielder (SC)* and is positioned between second base and the second baseman, on the beginning of the outfield grass. The Short Center Fielder bats and can be placed anywhere in the batting lineup.

Defensive Positions, Numbers & Abbreviations

Position Number	Defensive Position	Position Abbrev.
1	Pitcher	P
2	Catcher	C
3	First Baseman	1B
4	Second Baseman	2B
5	Third Baseman	3B
6	Short Stop	SS
7	Left Fielder	LF
8	Center Fielder	CF
9	Right Fielder	RF
10	Short Center Fielder	SC

The illustration below shows the defensive position for the defense. Notice the short center fielder is illustrated for those that are scoring youth league games.



2. The Scorecard Explained

Recording a Plate Appearance

Baseball games are scored one turn at bat (Plate Appearance) at a time. The information entered should reflect everything that affected the player in that inning.

Not only is the player's activity at the plate recorded, but his entire life on the bases in the inning.

To start, we will keep it simple and focus on how to record a player's turn at bat. Later, we will expand the lesson to include men on base.

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.

[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:

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		

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”

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

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.

41	Richards	P	●● ●●	1

K

It is entered as “K”.

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”.

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

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”.

41	Richards	P	●● ●●	1

K

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

It is written as a backward “K”.

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	●●● ●●	

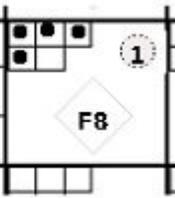
FF-3

41	Richards			
----	----------	--	--	--

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	
41	Richards		

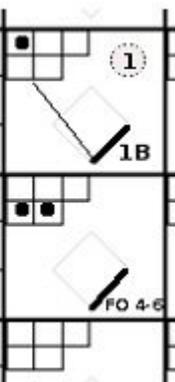
In this illustration, Carter led off the inning and hit a fly ball out to center field.

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.

44	Jackson	RF	
15	Duncan	CF	
10	Carter	C	

In the illustration to the right Jackson led off the inning with a base hit to left field on a 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.

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.

23	Odom	3B	
2	Holmes	2B	

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.

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

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

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.

#	Line Up	Pos	1
1	Jones	1B	
			5-3
32	Adams	SS	
			3U
10	Smith	LF	

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.

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.

End of an Inning

#	Line Up	Pos	1
1	Jones	1B	
			5-3
32	Adams	SS	
			3U
10	Smith	LF	
			6-3
23	Odom	3B	

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.

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

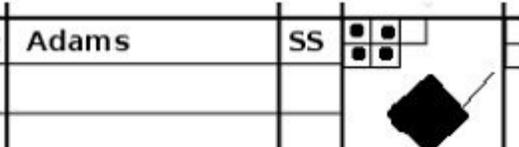
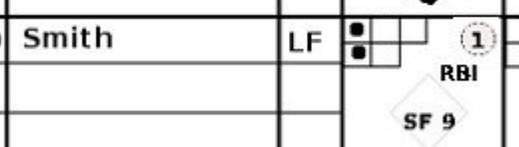
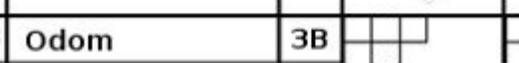
4. Getting On Base

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

32	Adams	SS	
10	Smith	LF	
23	Odom	3B	

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.

Showing Baserunner Progress

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

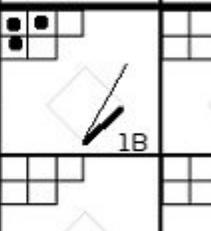
The same pattern is followed as the runner advances from base to base, proceeding counter clockwise around the diamond in the cell.

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.

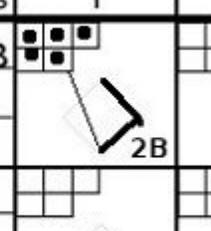
Single

#	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	

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

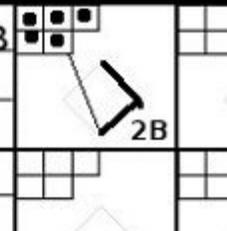
- A line is drawn (on the diamond in the cell) from Home to First Base, from First Base to Second Base, Second Base to Third Base and Third Base back to Home Plate.
- The diamond is shaded in
- The letters “HR” (the runner hit a Home Run is entered in the bottom right hand corner of the cell.
- An RBI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

#	Line Up	Pos	1
1	Jones	1B	

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.

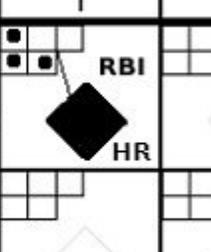
Run Batted In (RBI)

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.

RBIs 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.

#	Line Up	Pos	1
1	Jones	1B	

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.

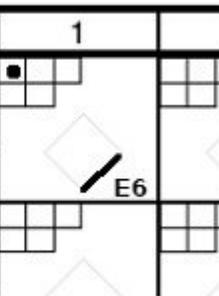
Game winning RBIs can be scored using the letters "GWRBI".

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)

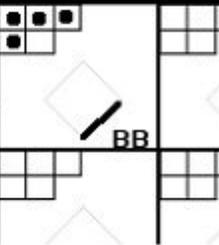
A “Ball” is called by the Home Plate umpire when the pitch crosses home plate outside the strike zone.

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 it’s 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”.

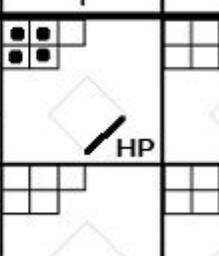
#	Line Up	Pos	1	
1	Jones	1B	●●● ●	

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

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

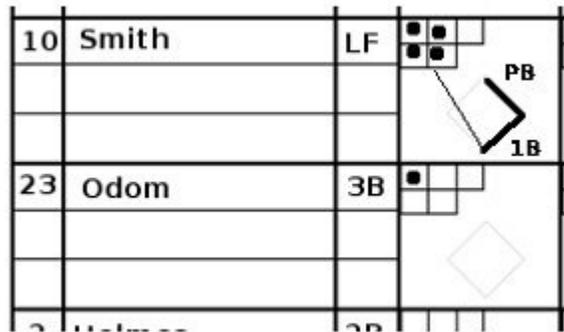
- The number ("1" with a circle around it) is entered in the upper right hand corner of the base runner's cell to represent the first out of the inning.
- The entry DP 6-4-3 is written across the cell of the batter to represent the double play.
- The number ("2" with a circle around it) is entered in 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.

Passed Ball (PB)

A Passed Ball occurs when a pitch that, in the discretion of the Official Scorer, gets past the catcher that should have been caught, and results in a runner(s) or batter advancing a base(s).

Here's an example:

There are no outs and a runner on first base. The catcher misses a pitch and the ball rolls all the ways to the backstop. Meanwhile the runner on first base advances to second base.

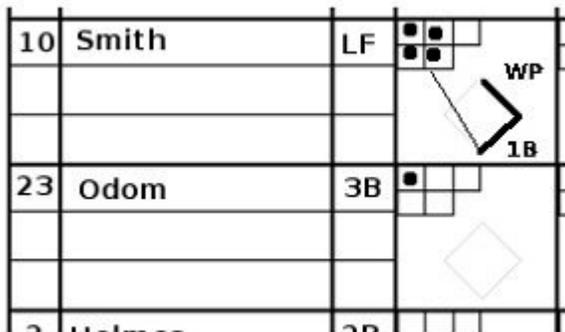


This Passed Ball situation is recorded as follows:

- A line is drawn from first base to second base in the runner(s) cell to reflect the advancing of one base.
- The letters “PB” 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 Passed Ball the batter is not credited with a RBI.
- If multiple men are on base, each base runner’s cell is updated accordingly.

Wild Pitch (WP)

A Wild Pitch occurs when a pitch get past the catcher, and that pitch is deemed uncatchable by the Official Scorer, and a runner(s) advances. Like the Passed Ball, this call is made at the discretion of the Official Scorer. As a team scorer use your own discretion when determining between a Wild Pitch and a Passed Ball.



The scoring of the Wild Pitch is similar to that of the Passed Ball except that the notation “WP” is used to denote this event. Again, the respective cells for all advancing runners must be updated to reflect that the base was obtained from a Wild Pitch.

If the runner scores a run on a Wild Pitch an RBI is NOT credited.

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.

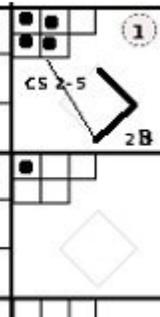
In youth baseball, the balk is not often called due to the fact that pitchers use the windup rather than the stretch delivery. The stretch becomes involved when kids graduate from the Little League and Cal Ripken Baseball league, where the distances are equal to or much closer to those of the major league.

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.

10	Smith	LF	
23	Odom	3B	

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.

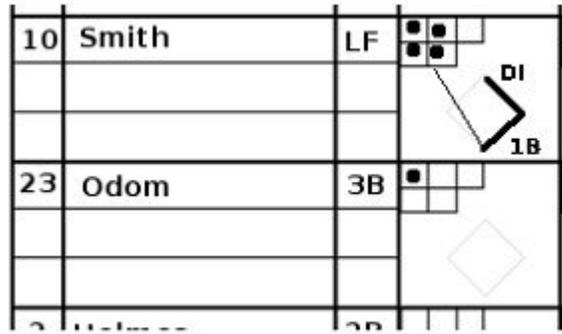
The two most common scenarios of this are:

- 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".

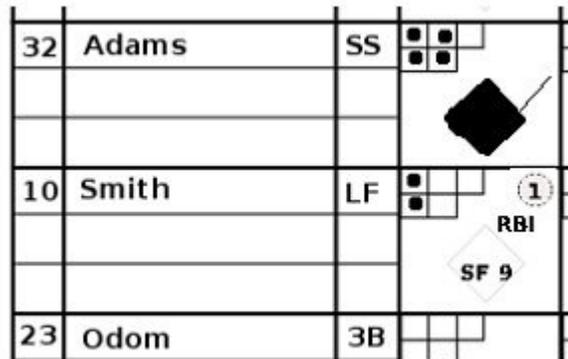
Defensive Indifference is noted following the same rules for advancing on a Pass Ball or Wild Pitch, except that the letters "DI" are entered.

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

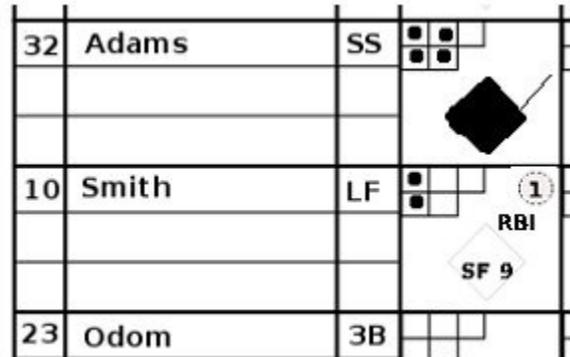
- The batter is credited with an RBI, entered as "RBI" in the upper right hand corner of the batter's cell. This the example, the batter is "Smith"
- The out number of the inning is entered, with a circle around it, in the upper right hand corner of the batter's cell to reflect the out in the inning. 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.

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 to the right, 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.

- 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 2nd and 3rd) 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

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 scoresheet

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.

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.

7. Baseball Statistics

Top Offensive Baseball Statistics

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

Fantasy Baseball is making baseball statistics more popular than ever. There are various offensive baseball statistics that baseball experts, [baseball handicappers](#), fantasy baseball fans and major league organizations use to evaluate major leaguers, minor leaguers and draft choices hitting ability.

If you ever wanted to learn [how to score baseball](#), it is essential to understand all of the offensive baseball statistics. But in order to evaluate the hitting ability of a player, these offensive baseball statistics are essential:

Batting Average (BA or AVG)

Batting Average is calculated by dividing hits by at bats (H/AB). When tallying At-Bats, do not include bases on balls (BB), hit by pitch (HP), sacrifice fly (SF), sacrifice bunt (SAC), interference (I), or obstruction (O). When scoring baseball, it is important that at-bats are calculating with these exceptions in mind

Home Runs (HR)

Hits on which the batter successfully touched all four bases, without the contribution of a fielding error. Almost all Home runs in major league baseball are hit over the outfield fence. Home runs not hit over the fence are scored as an "in the park home run" . When scoring baseball on a baseball scorecard, the in the park homer is denoted as "IHR".

Runs Batted In (RBI)

Runs batted In is the number of runners who scored due to a batters' action, except when batter grounded into double play or reached on an error. If a hitter gets multiple RBIs, the number of RBIs (greater than 2) this baseball statistic is entered into on the baseball scorecard (e.g. 2 RBI),

Slugging Percentage (SLG)

Slugging Percentage is a simple baseball statistic to calculate. It is total bases divided by at-bats. $((1B) + (2 \times 2B) + (3 \times 3B) + (4 \times HR))/AB$. Slugging percentage is derived from tallying the hits from the baseball scorecard

There will never be a consensus to what qualifies as "good" offensive baseball statistics. Below is a good benchmark of offensive statistics in major league baseball. These baseball statistics were gathered by analyzing the 2004 - 2008 major league baseball seasons.

Statistic	Top5	Best
BA	.321	.372
HR	37	58
RBI	124	156
SLG	.571	.812

In conclusion, the incredible popularity of Fantasy Baseball has made Major League Baseball and baseball statistics more popular than ever. Learning how to score baseball is the first step to fun competitive hobby.

[Calculating On-Base Percentage From A Baseball Scorecard](#)

It's important to understand the various baseball statistics when learning how to score baseball. One of these baseball statistics is on-base percentage. (OBP) is a measure of a player's offensive efficiency. On-base percentage is calculated by tallying a player's at-bat from a baseball scorecard or baseball scorebook.

OBP calculates the number of times a batter reached bat safely. The following at-bat results from the baseball scorecard do not qualify as an "on-base" event: [fielding error](#), [fielder's choice](#), dropped/uncaught third strike, [fielder's obstruction](#) or [catcher's interference](#).

The formula for On-base percentage is calculated by recording every at-bat in the baseball scorebook and applying the following: $(\text{Hits} + \text{Walks} + \text{Hit-By-Pitch}) / (\text{At Bats} + \text{Walks} + \text{Hit By Pitch} + \text{Sacrifice Flies})$.

Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox is the all time leader of On Base Percentage with a .4817 OBP (1939-1942, 1946-1960). Barry Bonds has the single-season leader of OBP with a .609 in 2004.

Recording detailed and accurate data from a baseball scorecard are essential to accurate on-base percentage reporting. Keep in mind the various baseball statistics when learning how to score baseball.

[Calculating Slugging Percentage From A Baseball Scorecard](#)

Baseball statistics are important when learning how to score baseball. One of the important baseball statistics is Slugging percentage. Slugging percentage is a way to measure a hitter's power when scoring baseball. The slugging percentage (SLG) is calculated by tallying all the hits from the baseball scorecard and dividing it by the number of at-bats that a batter has had for the entire baseball season.

Slugging percentage is calculated by determining total bases and dividing that by the number of at-bats. Singles (1B) count as one total, doubles (2B) count as 2 total bases, triples (3B) count as 3 total bases and homeruns (HR) count as 4 total bases. Walks are excluded from this calculation. First calculate the total number of bases then dividing that number by the total number of at-bats (AB).

$$((1B) + (2 \times 2B) + (3 \times 3B) + (4 \times HR))/AB$$

Calculating slugging percentage on a baseball scorecard is a great way to measure a player's overall offensive production. When scoring baseball, combining slugging percentage and on-base percentage show the whole picture of the offensive prowess of a hitter.

Recording detailed and accurate data from a baseball scorecard is essential to accurate slugging percentage reporting. Keep in mind the various baseball statistics when learning how to score baseball.

Walks Plus Hits To Innings Pitched (WHIP)

The increased popularity of fantasy baseball has made the pitching statistic, walks plus hits to inning pitched (WHIP), one of the most commonly used baseball statistic in baseball usage. WHIP is a sabermetric measurement of the number of baserunners a pitcher has allowed per inning pitched. It is a measure of a pitcher's ability to prevent batters from reaching base.

Over the last century, earned run average (ERA) has been the pitching statistic used to measure the runs a pitcher gives up. However, WHIP is becoming more important because it measures a pitcher's effectiveness against the batters faced more directly. It is calculated by adding the number of walks and hits allowed and dividing this sum by the number of innings pitched; therefore, the lower a pitcher's WHIP, the better their performance. One key distinction between WHIP and ERA is that the former will continue to rise as long as batters reach base. If an error is committed with two outs in an inning, any runs scored beyond that point in the same inning will be considered unearned and will not cause that pitcher's ERA to rise. A WHIP of 1.0 or smaller over the course of a season will often rank among the league leaders in Major League Baseball.