

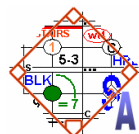
Baseball

A Simple Guide for Baseball Scorers


Council of Australian Baseball Scorers

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AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL



**Council of
Australian Baseball Scorers** 

<http://www.scorers.baseball.com.au/>

PLAY BALL.....

Basically as a baseball scorer you are writing down what happens on the field during a baseball game. You don't have to make things up; neither do you have to decide what's right or wrong (that's the umpire's job); it all happens in front of you and you just write it down. You even have a guideline - Official Baseball Rule Book (available for purchase from your State or Territory Scoring Organization) - which helps you score it right.

Baseball is a game of numbers. All fielding positions have a number (see Page 2.); all batters have a batter number (see **Diagram B** page 4). You write down what the batter does remembering that the batter turns into a runner once he is safe on first base. From your scoring, batting & fielding & pitching statistics can be determined.

Each team has a minimum of nine players in it (one for each fielding position). In some games (usually senior ones) a tenth player called a designated hitter may bat instead of the pitcher. The designated hitter does not field. He may be substituted as all players may be substituted, however if he takes a fielding position the pitcher then has to bat in the spot of the substituted fielder. You may also have players who may run for the catcher (called a courtesy runner). This runner may not receive any runner statistics; they are awarded to the catcher (check local league rules). Other players (not currently fielding or batting) may come into a game; they are:-

- A pinch hitter – a player that substitutes for the batter next up to bat; this player may take the field too;
- A pinch runner – a player that substitutes for a runner already safe on base; he may also take the field.

Either pinch batter or runner may also be substituted; there is no re-entry rule in baseball.

HANDY ITEMS.....

What you will need to score a game of baseball:-

- Official Australian Baseball Rules Book
- Simple Guide to Baseball Scoring
- Colored Pencils
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Ruler
- Black Biro
- Wipe-out or Liquid Paper
- Highlighter



EXTRAS (for comfort) :-

- Water
- Shade
- Umbrella
- Table
- Chair

CENTER FIELD
8

LEFT FIELD
7

RIGHT FIELD
9

SHORT STOP
6

2ND BASE
4

3RD BASE
5

PITCHER
1

1ST BASE
3

2



Following is a legend for the current ABF / CABS scoreboard. This legend is in the front of every scoreboard

Score Book Abbreviations

FIELDING:

DO	Defensive Outs
PO	Put Outs
A	Assists
E	Errors
Pos	Position in Field
Ch	Innings change is made
Uni	Batter's uniform number

PITCHING:

PI	Number of innings a pitcher pitched in
INN	Actual innings pitched
H	Safe hits
K	Strike outs
BB	Base on balls
HPB	Hit by pitched ball
RS	Total runs scored
ER	Earned runs scored
WP	Wild pitches
BLK	Balks
PCS	Pitcher's caught stealing
BFP	Batters faced by pitcher
B	Balls
S	Strikes
PIT	Total pitches (balls + strikes)
W/L/S	Win/Loss/Save

BATTING:

PA	Plate Appearance (every time a batter faces a pitcher)
AB	At Bats (represents PA - any BBs + HPBs + SACs + INT2)
R	Total runs scored by batter
H	Total hits
1	Total 1 (one) base hits (singles)
2	Total 2 (two) base hits (doubles)
3	Total 3 (three) base hits (triples)
HR	Total Home Runs
RBI	Total runs batted in by batter
SAB	Total sacrifice bunts
SAF	Total sacrifice flies
BB	Total base on balls
HPB	Total hit by pitched balls
CI	Total catcher's interference
K	Total strike outs
GDP	Total ground into double plays
SB	Total stolen bases
CS	Total caught stealing
LOB	Total left on base (when an innings is completed)

CATCHING:

INN	Total innings caught
PB	Passed balls
SB	Stolen bases
CCS	Catcher's caught stealing

BATTING ORDER			
	TEAM	A	PO
Pos	Ch	Uni	E
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			

Each batter's name is written on the bottom line (above the heavy line).

Diagram B.

A substitute's name is written on this line.

The player's uniform number is written in the column on the same line as his name.

A player's batting number stays the same for the whole game.

The player's fielding number is written in this column.

Any changes to a player's fielding number during the game are written in this column.

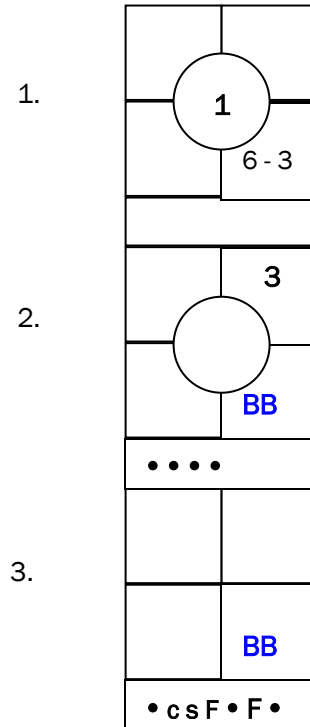
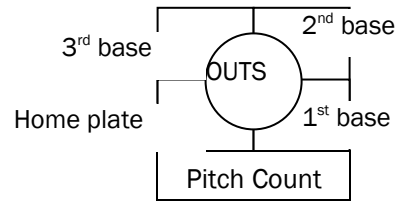
All plays that happen to the batter are recorded in the squares relating to the base where the play was made using scoring symbols. The scoring area is made up of squares which represent what is called a plate appearance. The square is split into five sections; the round section is where a run is marked (by coloring in the circle either green or red) and outs made (numbers either 1 or 2 or 3). Each of the other sections represents a base, starting in the bottom right hand corner. This square represents 1st base, going anti-clockwise to 2nd base, 3rd base and home plate in the bottom left hand corner.

Scoring symbols are what happens in short hand. For example:-

1. The first batter in a game hits the first pitch to him to the short stop who picks it up and throws it to the first baseman for an out. You don't write all that down you shorten it to 6 (the short stop number) - 3 (the first baseman number) and write the out number in the circle.
2. The batter is pitched four balls and walks to first base. He receives a base on balls; scoring symbol is BB (in blue) and use dots for the four balls pitched.
3. The next batter (batter 3) also gets a base on balls; his pitch count was a ball, a called strike, a swinging strike, a foul, a ball, a foul, a ball and a ball; the previous batter moves from first base to second base on the batter's number i.e. batter 3.



Diagram C.



Batters are moved around the bases by their own hitting and by plays their team member's have during their plate appearance. A batter can either score a run, get out or be left on base (LOB).

Now to help with scoring what happens on the field have a look through the following section on scoring symbols. As you can see there is limited space to write something in the little scoring squares (see Diagram C above.); hence the need for baseball short-hand i.e. Scoring Symbols. Those listed on the next page are ALL the symbols used in baseball; there are no others.

You may notice there are a number of colors used to score baseball in Australia.

When you first start scoring we suggest that you do not confuse yourself with trying to learn the symbols off by heart nor do we suggest you use the colors. Just use a pencil and eraser to begin with. Once you have scored a few games start to add colors.



Pick a color and start with one only gradually adding the others as you gain in confidence.

COLORS ARE:-

BLUE **RED** **GREEN** **ORANGE** **BIRO** **LEAD PENCIL**

SCORING SYMBOLS

NOTE– replace # with the number of the fielder(s) that actually made the play with the last fielder at the end.

RECOMMEND – all line-ups and game details including DH, DR and Runs Scored be written in black pen.

LEAD PENCIL:

BOB #	Batting out of Box
BOO #	Batting out of Order
CS # - #	Caught Stealing a Base
F #	Caught Fly Ball
FF #	Caught Foul Fly Ball
FC #	Fielders Choice
HBB #	Hit By Batted Ball
IF #	Infield Fly
L #	Caught Line Drive
FL #	Caught Foul Line Drive
MB #	Missed Base
PAR #	Passing A Preceding Runner
PO #	Unassisted Put Out
PO # - #	Pick Off
# - #	Assisted Put Out
ROL #	Running Off Line
INT #	Offensive Interference
Sb #	Stolen Base with batter number

STRIKES and BALL COUNTS:

•	Balls
C	Called strikes
S	Swung on strikes
F	Foul

RED PENCIL:

E #	Error – decisive upper case
e #	Error - extra base lower case
PB	Passed Ball
INT #	Defensive Interference
MF #	Muffed Fly
MFF #	Muffed Foul Fly
OBS #	Obstruction
Unearned Runs	Color circle
WT #	Wild Throw

BLUE PENCIL:

BB	Base on Balls
BLK	Balk
Blue Line	Change of pitcher
HPB	Hit by Pitched Ball
K	Foul tip 3 rd strike caught by catcher
K2	Batter swings on 3 rd strike
KC	Batter watches 3 rd strike
WP	Wild pitch
KWP	Batter swings on 3 rd strike, safe on first on wild pitch
S	Sacrifices

GREEN PENCIL:

Earned runs	Color circle
–	One base hit
=	Two base hit
≡	Three base hit
≡	Home run

ORANGE PENCIL:

End of Inning	Line drawn at end of inning
Double Plays	◇ drawn through batters involved
Triple Plays	◇ drawn though batters involved
Outs	Record 1 or 2 or 3 in circle










MIXED COLORS:

KPB	3 rd strike dropped by catcher; safe on 1 st
K2-E3	3 rd strike dropped by catcher; misfielded at 1 st base by first baseman
K2-3	3 rd strike dropped by catcher, recovered by catcher and thrown out at 1 st base
KWT #	3 rd strike dropped by catcher; fielder throws wild
K2BTS	3 rd strike bunted foul

Scoring baseball can be daunting (so is driving a car!), but give it a go; you may just enjoy it!

- ❖ Familiarize yourself with the Official Baseball Rules (start with section 10.00 as it deals specifically with scoring the game); it will then make more sense with what you need to write down;
- ❖ Don't panic; keep a notebook beside you to record the pitch counts or write down anything you don't understand or need to look up before putting it on the score sheet;
- ❖ Talk to your Club's Scorers Coordinator / Chief Scorer about your questions (take your notebook);
- ❖ Attend scoring clinics in your area;
- ❖ And most importantly enjoy the game. Non-scorers will say they can't watch the game if they are scoring. When you think about it that is silly because what are you doing when you score? Watching the game! And you'll just enjoy it more than they will as you will understand what's going on out there.

INFORMATION

ABF	 Australian Baseball Federation (body in charge of baseball in Australia)		
Blues	Umpires		
Technical Officials	Umpires and Scorers		
Manager	The coach of a baseball team		
E0	Executive Officer		
State Bodies		ACT Baseball Association Inc www.act.baseball.com.au	
		Baseball NSW www.nsw.baseball.com.au	
		Baseball NT www.nt.baseball.com.au	
		Baseball Queensland Inc www.qld.baseball.com.au	
		Baseball Victoria www.baseballvictoria.com.au	
		Baseball WA www.wa.baseball.com.au	
		Baseball SA www.sa.baseball.com.au	
CABS	 Council of Australian Baseball Scorers – Body charged by ABF with looking after scorers in Australia; following are some CABS specific terms		
	Accreditation	Refers to being nationally accredited to a particular level of baseball scoring. Levels of accreditation are:-	
		Level 0	Orientation to T-ball, rookie ball & baseball scoring
		Level S	Available through School/Tertiary/TAFE education curriculum only for a participating educational institution.
		Level 1	Club/school level up to but not including top division/grade.
		Level 2	Club level including top division/grade including schoolboys /university competition
		Level IT	Proficient in ABF approved IT program
		Level 3	Eligible to join National competition scoring panel
		Level 4	National Coordination & International competition
	Level 4IT	National Coordination, International competition plus proven proficiency with ABF approved IT program	
STSO	State and Territory Scoring Organization - to contact your STSO visit the CABS website http://www.scorers.baseball.com.au/		

At Club Level you may find the following teams available; just check with your local Club:-



AGE	NAME OF COMPETITION
Under 8 year olds	T-Ball
Under 10 year olds	Rookie Ball
12 year olds and under	Little League
Junior / Youth - 13 to 20 year olds	Refer to local competition
20 years and older	SENIORS
For girls / ladies	WOMENS
For over 35 year olds	MASTERS

At National Level



AGE	NAME OF COMPETITION
National Youth Championships	A Under 14
	AA Under 16
	AAA Under 18
	Under 23
Womens	Under 15
	Senior
SENIOR Championships	Australian Provincial
	Australian Masters
	Claxton Shield

BASEBALL SLANGS - following are some terms you might hear at a baseball game:-

CABS - Beginner Scorers

TERM	DEFINITION
Alley	The section of the outfield between the outfielders. Also "gap."
Around the horn	A double play going from third base to second to first
Backdoor slider	A pitch that appears to be out of the strike zone, but then breaks back over the plate.
Bag	A base
Bang-bang play	Play in which the base runner hits the bag a split-second before the ball arrives or vice versa.
Basket catch	When a fielder catches a ball with his glove near belt level.
Brush back	A pitch that nearly hits a batter.
Caught looking	When a batter is called out on strikes.
Closer	A team's relief pitcher who finishes the game.
Cutter	A cut fastball (one with a late break to it).
Dinger	A Home run.
Dish	Home plate
Fireman	A team's closer or late-inning relief pitcher.
Fungo	A ball hit to a fielder during practice. It's usually hit by a coach using a "fungo bat," which is longer and thinner than a normal bat.
Gopher ball	A pitch hit for a home run, as in "go for."
High and tight	Referring to a pitch that's up in the strike zone and inside on a hitter. Also known as "up and in."
Hill	Pitcher's mound
Homer	A home run. Other terms include: blast, dinger, dong, four-bagger, four-base knock, moon shot, tape-measure blast and tater.
In the hole	The batter after the on-deck hitter.
Moon shot	A very long, high home run.
Painting the black	When a pitcher throws the ball over the edge of the plate.
Pea	A ball traveling at high speed, either batted or thrown.
Pepper	Pepper is a common pre-game exercise where one player bunts brisk grounders and line drives to a group of fielders who are standing about 20 feet away. The fielders try to throw it back as quickly as possible. The batter hits the return throw. (Some ballparks ban pepper games because wild pitches could land in the stands and injure spectators).
Pickle	A rundown
Punchout	A strikeout
Ribbie	Another way of saying RBI. Also "ribeye." / A run batted in
Run down	When a base runner gets caught between bases by the fielders.
Shoestring catch	A running catch made just above the fielder's shoe tops.
Southpaw	A left-handed pitcher.
Texas Leaguer	A bloop hit that drops between an infielder and outfielder.
Utility player	A player who fills in at many positions.
Wheels	A ballplayer's legs.