



## **South Australian Baseball Scorers Association**

### **Join SABSA for the Best Seats on Ground**

Newsletter 01 2017

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## WHAT IS SABSA?

SABSA is an affiliated body of Baseball South Australia (BSA) first formed in 1976, with the objectives of:

- *promoting the art of baseball scoring*
- *encouraging, educating and representing scorers associated with BSA*
- *co-operating with and assisting BSA to maintain uniform interpretation of the rules of baseball scoring*

The association meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every 2nd month (August, October, December, February, April and June). Check the SABSA website for venue and time.

There is an annual \$5 membership fee - but if you are registered with your club, they will pay it to support the development of the scoring community.

Scorers play an integral role in our sport and although you may be an enthusiastic member of your local club, when scoring you are an Official of the game (like the Umpire!) and must be impartial in all decisions. The Official Rules of Baseball confirms our important role:

*Rule 9.01(a) The official scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions concerning application of Rule 9 that involve judgment ...*

*Rule 9.01(b) (1) In all cases, the official scorer shall not make a scoring decision that is in conflict with Rule 9*

*Rule 9.01 (c) The official scorer is an official representative who is entitled to the respect and dignity of his office*

It is interesting to note that one third of The Official Rules of Baseball is Rule 9 "The Rules of Scoring."

## NEW TO BASEBALL SCORING?

### *LEARN AT YOUR OWN PACE*

You can get a good idea of what is required to score competently by working through some of the modules presented on our website. Select the "Basic Scoring" link at [www.sabsa.baseball.com.au](http://www.sabsa.baseball.com.au) and have a go! If you need help, please contact SABSA.

## LEARN TO SCORE with SABSA

If you think you may be involved in scoring for a while, it is a good idea to learn how to do it properly. By establishing a consistent approach to scoring, anyone who knows how to read an accurately recorded scorebook would be able to described ball-by-ball what happened in any game. All official statistics, which

contribute to team and individual standings, award recognition and appointments, are compiled from the Home Team's scorebook. While young new players are not playing for sheep stations, it is better to learn to score for them properly from the start, rather than eradicating errors and bad habits engrained over time.

SABSA periodically runs Scoring Clinics designed to take you from novice level to nationally recognised accreditation by the Council of Australian Baseball Scorers (CABS). Senior scorers at most clubs run Level 'O' or Orientation clinics at the start of each season to get newcomers started off on the right foot. When you are ready to improve your skills, you can enrol in a Level 1, 2 or 3 clinic series. These are nationally endorsed levels which are fully explained on the CABS website at [www.scorers.baseball.com.au](http://www.scorers.baseball.com.au) - just open the "About CABS - Accreditation" link

## BEEN SCORING FOR A WHILE?

Occasionally we all make a mistake. In the hustle and bustle of a game, who hasn't written out 6-3 instead of 6-5 when someone says that the runner is out at 3rd base? It is good to double-check we are scoring correctly. As well, some times accepted scoring practice changes. Attending SABSA meetings is a good way to stay up-to-date with current practices. For example:

(1) Rule 10 of the Official Rules of Baseball is now Rule 9. Previous *Rule 10.17(c)* is now *Rule 9.17(c)*.

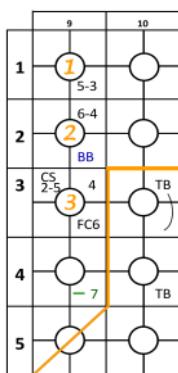
(2) South Australia has adopted the national approach to indicating top/bottom innings for events and changes. The line above/below the Innings number is now opposite to the previous practice. So, 7 now indicates the Top of the 7th innings. Think of the dash above or below the innings number as representing the spiral binder in the scorebook with the Top of the Innings (always the Away Team) above the binder/dash and the Bottom of the Innings (always the Home Team) below the binder.

(3) If you have 2 outs in the bottom of the last scheduled innings and the next batter is ejected, do not worry about replacing him in the scorebook or Results Sheet unless the line-up bats all the way around to his position again. It will look like there were only 8 on the team at the end -- but that is correct!

(4) When sorting out Earned/Unearned runs, do not count more than one Fielding Chance on any batter/runner. For example, if a batter survives a dropped foul ball, then reaches first base on an error and then later should have been out Caught Stealing second base -- that is one Fielding Chance only, not three!

(5) Please do not get into the habit of crossing out ANYTHING on the scoresheet! It is very easy to misread a crossed out 5 as an eight ( 8 ) - especially if the scoresheet has been photocopied to enter into the BSA online stats program. Likewise with highlighting, please don't. It may be pretty, but adds noting to clarity.

(6) Baseball Australia (BA) has adopted a variation of the International Baseball Federation (IBAF) Tie-Break procedure for national tournaments and some games where a curfew is in effect. Which runners will be placed on 2nd and 1st base is not a scorer's decision - whew!



In the Tie-Break inning, draw the orange inning ending line vertically up two boxes before going across so you can enclose the two Tie Break runners. Mark each Tie Break runner with "TB" in the corresponding base squares. Begin the inning with the normal leadoff batter up. Only credit 'TB' runners with Runs, Stolen Bases, Caught Stealing, Left on Base.

A full explanation is available on our website.

Here are some other things that we all need to revisit.

To ensure the game is recorded accurately, you must balance the scorebook with opposition scorer.

Unusual scoring situations can be explained in the notes area i.e. Ejections, **SAC** Bunt with a **WT1** in batter's box, 8-F9, etc.

Please include all information on both Top/Bottom scoresheets: team names, Won by and score, Pitcher W/L, Start/End times, Scorers, Umpires, duration in the form of H:MM i.e. for 134 min write 2:14. And it is helpful if you circle your name or "Home/Away Scorer" so the reader knows the sheet's author.

## THE OFFICIAL STATS PROGRAM

Currently the official stats program for BA is The Automated Scorebook for Baseball and Softball (TASBS) produced by Stat Crew. This is the program used to maintain BSA Division 1 stats online. (Have you seen what it can do? Visit the SABSA website, select "Division 1 BSA Live Game" and then "Click here for Division 1 Season Stats.")

SABSA is always looking for scorers who would like to get training in the use of this program.

Also, it appears that the popular "Game Changer" (GC) scoring app has just been released for Android devices. After some initial problems in not being able to record all plays accurately, the developers have introduced many updates and new features.

It is difficult to compare the two programs. TASBS is comprehensive and accurate in what it does. But it is not cheap and requires a 32bit Windows operating system. But SABSA purchases licenses and updates - unless you want your own copy! However, it produces great stats which can be seen by anyone on the web - for free! GC is pretty intuitive and easy to use. Free for scorers, but all stats are controlled by the USA based company and fees are required to view all but simple game results.

SABSA has been reluctant to adopt GC because of the pricing fixture and until recently its restriction to Apple OS. Also, the "anyone can now score" claim devalues our knowledge and application the Official Rules of Baseball. We know that not everyone can score accurately.

## PINCH SCORERS

No, that's not a directive! It is a new idea from SABSA. If you are available to score a game (at any level) on an ad hoc basis to help out someone who cannot get to their game, please send SABSA an email. We are compiling a list of people who may be able to assist sometimes.

## WHAT NEXT?

If you have questions about scoring or wish to further develop your skill, please contact SABSA. We are all volunteers who thoroughly enjoy being a part of the great game of baseball and our local competitions.

To score BSA Division 1 games you should be a Level 2 nationally accredited scorer. For BA sanctioned national tournaments you must be a Level 3 scorer. It takes a few years of scoring experience and training to get there. But it can be done at your own pace and with great support from SABSA.



## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Is it a double play if, with a runner on 1st, the batter hits to 2nd who tags the runner and throws wild to 1st base, the catcher retrieves the ball and throws the batter/runner going to 2nd base out?

How would you advance a runner home when there is a double play?

Answers on the SABSA website!