Answers To Your Questions

INDEX

Five Ball Walk
A batter had four balls and he stayed in the batter's box for another pitch, and then was awarded 1st Base on a BB.
(a) Do I record the fifth ball, or only four ?
(b) Should I have told the umpire ?
Answer :
(a) Record all five.
The batter should know the count. If the Umpire has a lapse in concentration the batter should be asking him to check his count.
If this is not the case and he remains in the box you need to record the extra pitch(es) in your count.
Make sure you check the count with the other Scorer and that he/she agrees.
(b) The Scorer's role is to record the game - not call it.

Someone on the other side of the net should have been aware - the Batter, the Umpire, the Coach..........
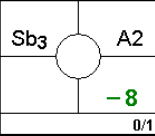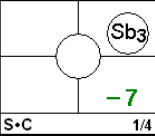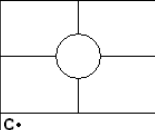
Stolen Bases

(a) What is a double steal ?
(b) How do you score it ?

Answer :
(a) When two runners both leave at the same time in an attempt to steal the next base, and are successful.
(b) Record both as $Sb_\#$ ('$\#$' being the number of the batter in the box)

Example

The second runner is circled to indicate both runners stole on the same pitch.
Both runners are credited with a stolen base in their respective batting stats.
<u>PLEASE IGNORE THE 'SB' COLUMN IN THE CATCHERS STATS</u>

When A 'Passed Ball' Isn't A Passed Ball

The Umpire called a 'Passed Ball' after a ball was thrown by the short stop, over the 1st Baseman's head, and ended up over the fence.
Do I score it as a PB ?

Answer :
No this is not a 'Passed Ball', as such.
You need to record WHY the ball ended up outside the field of play.
In this instance it was because of a wild throw by the Short Stop and so is recorded as **WT6**

Catcher's Interference

How do I record Catcher's Interference ?

Answer :
INT2
All <u>defensive</u> interference is recorded in **RED** (i.e.**INT#**).

Double Play ?

1 out.
Batter flies out to right field.
Runner at 2nd base did not tag up and was called out on appeal.
Is this a double play ?

Answer :
Yes.
A double play is recorded when two players are put out between the time a pitch is delivered and the time the ball next becomes dead or is in possession of the Pitcher in pitching position, <u>unless</u> an error or misplay intervenes.
Rule 10.12

Runner Hit By Pitched Ball
2 out.
Runner on 3rd Base.
2 strikes on the Batter.
Runner steals home and was hit by he pitched ball in the strike zone.
Umpire declared 3rd out and side away.
(a) How do I score this ?
(b) Who was out - the Batter or the Runner ?
Answer :
The Batter is out **KC**
The Runner does not score.
Rule 6.05 (n)

No Safe Hit For The Batter
Runner on 1st Base.
Batter hit a fly ball that dropped safely in front of the right fielder.
The Right Fielder gathered the ball and threw it to 2nd base and the Runner was out 9-4.
Shouldn't the Batter be given a safe hit ?
Answer :
No. Score the Batter as a FC9.
He didn't hit safely, he forced out the preceding runner.
Rule 10.06 (a)

Muffed Foul Fly And a Strike Out ?
After the Catcher dropped a foul fly the batter struck out.
(a) Do you charge the catcher with the error even though the batter was out.
(b) If both are scored, how do you record the two plays on the one Batter ?
Answer :
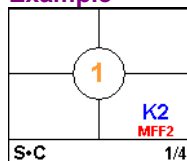(a) Yes. The muffed foul prolonged the Batter's time at bat.
Rule 10.13(a)
(b) Score the **MFF2** on the bottom line of the 1st Base box, then continue to record subsequent pitches in the tram track.
Record the **K2** as you would normally.
When you count the pitches at the completion of the time at bat count the **MFF2** as you would any other foul.

Example

Hit Or Error ?
2 out in a close game.
The defensive Coach positioned his outfielders short, just behind the infielders.
The Batter hit the ball and it went between the 1st and passed the 2nd basemen but towards the Right Fielder.
The Right Fielder went to scoop up the ball but it went under his glove and rolled further into the outfield.
I charged an error to the Right Fielder.
The Coach of the batting side insists the batter should be given a safe hit because had the Right Fielder been standing back, where he had been all game; he would have had to run in to field the ball.
Answer :
E9 - you were right.
What is relevant is where the fielder <u>was</u> positioned, not where he could have, would have, should have or had been positioned.
Nice try by the Coach though !!

Hit By Batted Ball
Runner on 1st Base
Batter hits a ground ball that hits the runner on his way to 2nd Base.
How do you score
(a) the Runner ?
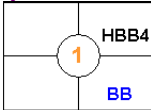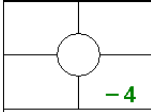(b) the Batter ?
Answer :
Always record the Batter <u>first</u>.
If you get into a bad habit of recording runners first you will one day find yourself in the messy situation where you have missed a batter.
(a) the Batter is given a safe hit, to the nearest fielder
(b) the Runner is out HBB#. ('#' = the same nearest fielder)

Example

Runner Out For Not Sliding
In a recent game a runner was given out at Home for not sliding. I am told this is scored as an automatic put out to the Catcher (PO2). To me this is rewarding the Catcher for a play he did not perform. Is there a better/correct way to record a technical out such as this ?
Answer :
As with other automatic outs, the putout is given to the nearest fielder.
Rule 10.10 (a) covers automatic putouts credited to the Catcher.
However, you won't find the out for not sliding in the inclusions as this is a local rule commonly included in Junior Rules (and becoming common place in more and more open competitions).
Whether or not the Catcher physically made a play is inconsequential. The fact remains that the runner was given out in the vicinity of Home Plate, with the Catcher either in position or moving closer to his position to make a play.

Appeal Plays

When scoring an Appeal Play the record often does not accurately reflect the situation.

For example :

Runner on 3rd Base, Batter hits a triple and scores the Runner.

The Centre Fielder fields the ball and throws it back to the 2nd Baseman.

The 1st Baseman noticed the Batter rounded 1st Base without touching the bag on his way to 3rd.

He calls for the ball, the 2nd Baseman throws to him, he tags 1st Base and appeals for the out.

Question -: How do I record the play ?

Answer :

(a) The Batter is out 8-4-3 on 1st Base.

(b) If you wanted to qualify the play you could asterisk the play and place a note at the bottom of the page.

Example

*Batter missed 1st Base on a triple

Wild Pitch Or Passed Ball ?

In a game on the weekend a pitch bounced in front of Home Plate and got by the Catcher.

A Runner advanced and I scored the advance as a Wild Pitch - as did the other Scorer.

After the game our Coach asked me if it should be a Passed Ball, because a Catcher should make an attempt to block the ball.

Answer :

The Wild Pitch was the correct decision.

The Catcher should certainly make an attempt, but it is not reasonable to expect that he would block a ball that bounces before the plate - it could bounce off in *any* direction. Let's not forget the Catcher is wearing a mask, with a grill, and can easily lose sight through those bars.

Rule 10.15 (a) (1) [New Rules - 10.13 Comment] states:

"A wild pitch shall be charged when a legally delivered ball touches the ground before reaching home plate and is not handled by the catcher, permitting a runner or runners to advance."

RBI For Home Run

Is a batter who hits a home run credited with a Run Batted In for his own run ?

Answer :

Yes. The batter was responsible for the safe hit which scored his run.

Rule 10.04 (a) (1)

Recording The Line-Up In The Score Book

I've almost finished my first season of Scoring T-Ball. I notice that some Scorers record only Surnames, others only record Given Names, some Surnames first, others Given Names followed by Surname, and then there are those who record Surname and Initial.

What is the proper way to record Player Names ?

Answer :

- Unfortunately there is no mandate regarding the *order* in which the names are recorded.

Having said that, let's make it clear: Given Names only is unacceptable - BOTH names are to be recorded.

- We teach, and encourage, Scorers to get into the habit of recording SURNAME, followed by Given Name. (SURNAME ALWAYS IN UPPER CASE).

- Even Scorers who are starting out with T-Ball are well advised to get into the habit.

As you move into the older age groups and different levels of Baseball you will notice most Coaches and Umpires will announce changes/substitutions by SURNAME only.

Recording SURNAMES first (in upper case), including those on the bench, makes it *much* quicker, and easier, to find the relevant Player(s).

- If you have two players (siblings or otherwise) with the same Surname *and* the same Initial you will need to record FULL names anyway, so if you're already in the habit you won't need to make yet another exception.

- Certainly any official result sheet will require SURNAMES first.

Example

		1
SMITH, John		
		2
JONES, Mitchell		
		3
SMITH, Jacob		

Safe Hit; And Fielders Choice - Or Stolen Base ?

Batter bunts and the ball is fielded by the 3rd Baseman who throws to 1st Base but the Batter/Runner reaches safely. Then through total indifference (??) the 1st Baseman doesn't return the ball to the Pitcher (or anyone else), and the Runner seeing there is no fielder covering 2nd Base runs safely to 2nd. Do you score a Stolen Base to 2nd (there was no Batter in the box as the Batter/Runner was still running) or a Fielder's Choice ?

Answer :

One Base Hit and a Fielder's Choice.

The 1st Baseman's indifference was the reason for the extra base advance.

Remember … when considering a Stolen Base there MUST be a battery

i.e. Runners can only steal when the Pitcher is in position to pitch, and the Catcher is in position ready to receive the pitch.

Rule 2.28 (c), 10.08 (g) [New Rules - 2.00 Fielder's Choice, Rule 10.07 (g)]

Also, it's a good idea to include a notation that the Safe Hit was the result of a Bunt.

Example

	FC3
	BU −5
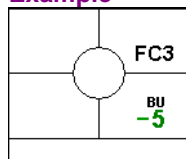
Foul Ball Becomes Fair – Hit Or No ?

Batter ducks to avoid a pitch but doesn't take his bat down far enough, and the ball hits the tip of the bat. The ball lands foul but then rolls fair half to $^2/_3$ the way to 3rd Base. The 3rd Baseman eventually realises the ball is fair and runs to field it.

The Batter/Runner is safe on 1st Base. Should he credited with a safe hit (not really deserved) ?

Answer :

Credit a safe hit. Dumb luck may have played its part but, the Batter was safe at 1st before the fielder could make a play.

Rule 10.05 (a) and (b) apply. [New Rules - 10.05 (a) (1) and (2)]

Which Batter Is Due Up ?

In a Live Ball game with 2 Out and a Runner on 3rd Base, Batter 4 is awarded a Base on Balls and starts for 1st Base when the Runner from 3rd attempted to steal. The Runner was tagged out by the Pitcher at Home Plate - 3 out, side away.

When the team came back to bat in the next inning, Batter 4 came up as the lead off Batter, not Batter 5 as both Scorers were expecting.

Both the Coach and the Umpire agreed that Batter 4 was due up because the Runner was out before Batter 4 physically touched 1st base.

Was his time at the plate completed when he was awarded the Walk, or did he have to reach 1st Base ?

Answer :

The Scorers were correct, Batter 5 was due up.

The situation where a preceding runner was put out to end the inning does not alter the fact that Batter 4's Plate Appearance was completed, and he became a Runner, when four 'balls' had been called by the Umpire. He is recorded as reaching 1st Base on the 'BB' and is left on base at the completion of the inning.

Rule 6.08

Fly Ball Falls Safely – Runner Forced Out

Runner on 1st. Batter hits a fly ball to Right Fielder who dives but the ball falls safely.

The Runner on 1st tagged on the play and was thrown out at 2nd Base.

So the Runner is out 9-6, but what is the correct way to score the Batter ?

He had a safe hit BUT an out was then made.

Answer :

The Batter reaches on a FC9.

The out on the Runner was a force out (9-6) and so the Batter cannot be credited with a safe hit.

Rule 10.06 (a) [New Rules - 10.05 (b) (1)]

Dropped 3rd Strike

On a dropped 3rd strike the Batter is safe at 1st Base. Is this a DK2 or a KPB as the Score Book says ?

Answer :

There is <u>NO</u> DK2.

If the 3rd strike is dropped you need to record what actually happened ….

KPB

KWP

KE2

KWT2

K2-E3

KFC2 etc

RBI For A Stolen Base, A Base On Balls Or A Wild Pitch ?

1. With a Batter in the box, if a Runner steals home from 3rd Base and is safe is the Batter credited with an RBI ?
2. With loaded bases, the Batter is walked. Is the Batter credited with an RBI ?
3. Is the Batter in the box credited with an RBI if a Runner scores from 3rd Base on a Wild Pitch ?

Answer :
1. No RBI on a Stolen Base
2. Yes - RBI on the Batter's action
3. No RBI on a Wild Pitch

Keep in mind that the Run _Batted_ In is credited for the Batter's 'action', so ………….
If he is still in the box, he hasn't yet 'acted' or become a runner himself (as on the Stolen Base).
Similarly, the Batter is not responsible for a Wild Pitch, Passed Ball or Balk on which a Runner may score.
Conversely, a Walk is a result of the Batter's 'action' and so he is responsible for any run forced home when the bases are loaded.
Rule 10.04

If you have recorded the Runner's advance correctly in the Score Book it should clearly show just how the Runner scored (WP$_{\#}$, Advanced by the Batter, Sb$_{\#}$, etc). Note that the Batter number ($_{\#}$) notation on Wild Pitches, Passed Balls, Balks and Stolen Bases is there to show _when_ the advance occurred.

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

What Is The Correct Way To Enter A Substitute ?

Can you tell me what is the correct way to enter a new player when he comes into the game when his team is fielding ?

Answer :

When a substitute fielder enters the game there are a few things you need to do …

1. Enter the name in the Batting Line-Up, on the 'soft line' above the Batter the substitute is replacing.
2. In the 'Pos' column enter the fielding position he will be playing – *regardless of whether or not this is a straight swap* (Example 1)
3. In the 'Ch' column note the stage of the game the substitution occurred.
    e.g., T5 for Top of the 5th Inning, or B6 for Bottom of the 6th Inning etc. (Example 2)
    NOTE – if the change is occurring at the start of the fielding dig you only need to note the inning.
    If, however, the change is made in the middle of a fielding dig then you need to also note the number of the next Batter up to bat. e.g., T5B4 for Top 5 Batter 4, or B6B3 for Bottom 6 Batter 3 etc. (Example 3)
4. Draw a vertical line, in orange, beside the Batter's Box in the appropriate innings - *the next Batting dig for the substitute's Team* - and write the substitute's name.
    e.g., if he is entering the game to field in the Bottom of the 5th, his Team will next bat in the Top of the 6th. (Example 4)
5. On the top of the other page (the opposition batting Score Sheet) draw a vertical line, in orange, down the left side of the Fielding Stats columns ('A', 'PO', 'E') to show where the fielding change occurred. (Example 5)

(It's not really as complicated as that all sounds !!)

Example 1

DO	PO	A	E	Pos	Ch	BATTING ORD TEAM
						SMITH, John
				4		WIGG, Dane

Example 2

DO	PO	A	E	Pos	Ch	BATTING ORD TEAM
				7		SMITH, John
				4		WIGG, Dane

Example 3

DO	PO	A	E	Pos	Ch	BATTING ORD TEAM
				7	T3	SMITH, John
				4		WIGG, Dane

Example 4

BB

Example 5

Balk – Batter Hits Pitch
How is a Balk recorded when the Batter hits the ball ?
What goes on the Pitcher's pitch count ?
e.g., Ball instead of a Strike, or No Pitch.
If a Ball is recorded - will it be 5 Balls for a Walk ?
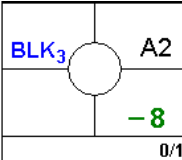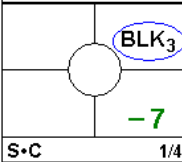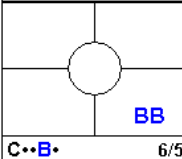Should it marked differently?

Answer :
Recorded exactly the same way as any other 'Pitched Balk':
Enter a BLUE 'B' in the tram track.
The Pitch counts as a Ball for the Pitcher but, is not included in the Batter's count.
If the result of the Plate Appearance is a Walk there will be 5 Balls in the pitch count.

Example

Tag Out – How Do I Record It ?
How do I record an Out when a fielder tags the Runner ?

Answer :
Tag Out is a Put Out – we don't use 'Tag' in the Score Book
Scoring Symbol: PO# or #-# (hash is the Fielder Number/s)
Colour: Black/Lead

Example 1
Batter Tagged Out by 1st Baseman:
PO3
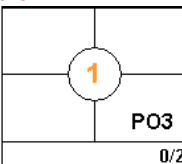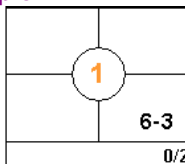
Example 2
Batter grounds to Short Stop who fields the ball and throws to 1st Baseman.
1st Baseman tags the Batter/Runner for the Out.

Example 1   **Example 2**

Fielder's Choice – How Do I Record It ?

How do I record a Fielder's Choice ?

Answer :

Scoring Symbol: FC# (hash is the Fielder Number)
Colour: Black/Lead

Example 1:
Runner on 1st
Short Stop fields ball and throws to 2nd Baseman for the Out at 2nd Base.
Batter is safe on 1st Base.
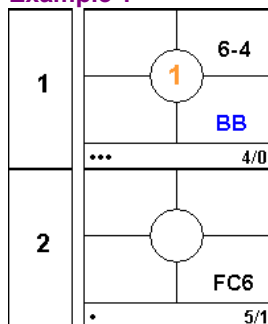Batter: FC6
Runner: 6-4

Example 2:
Runner on 1st
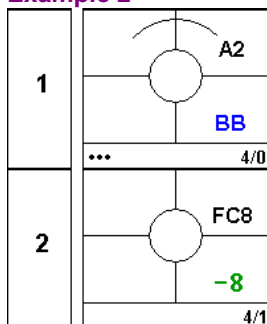Batter hits safely to Centre Field
Runner on 2nd advances to 3rd
Centre Fielder fields the ball and sees the Runner from 1st rounding 2nd and headed for 3rd. Instead of throwing in to 2nd Base or the cut off, he throws to 3rd Base in an attempt to get the Runner out.
Batter/Runner advances to 2nd on the throw.

Example 1

Example 2

Thrown Bat – How Do I Record It ?

A Batter throws the bat and is given out. How do I record it?

Answer :

This is an automatic out
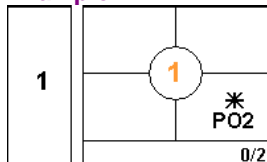Put Out to the Catcher
Scoring Symbol: PO2
Colour: Black/Lead
You could add 'TB' above the Out to indicate thrown bat (Example 1) or, you might like to place an asterisk on the play and a note at the bottom of the page to indicate he was out for throwing the bat (Example 2).

Example 1
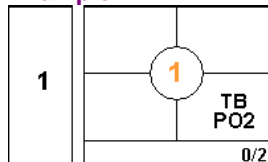
Example 2

*Thrown Bat

Line Drive – How Do I Record It ?

How do I record a Line Drive ?

Answer :

Scoring Symbol: L# (hash is the Fielder Number)
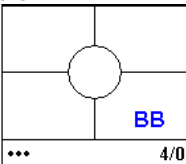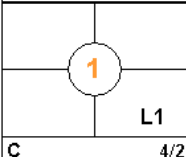Colour: Black/Lead

Example 1
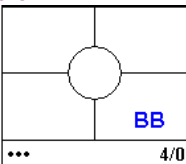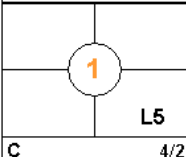Line Drive caught by Pitcher:
L1

Example 2
Line Drive caught by 3rd Baseman:
L5

Example 1

Example 2

Run Limited Inning – How Do I Score the Batter ?

The last Batter is batting with loaded bases - he hits to outfield and makes it to 3rd Base because the Outfielder had fumbled the ball - the Umpire calls time and only allows one Runner home - even though all other Runners made it across the plate, how do I show this? Do I mark the Runners as LOB or do I show them being assisted by the last Batter but not scoring the run?

Answer :

The Batter is credited with only as many bases as the last Runner across the plate ran to score the run.
In this scenario (loaded bases) the Batter is credited with a one base hit only. Since the inning finished when the first runner crossed the plate, the error in the outfield is of no consequence.
Batter/Runner and the two other Runners are LOB

Don't bother about 'marking' Runners as LOB, just leave the circles empty when you rule off the inning.
It's much clearer and easy to find them that way.
At the end of each inning:
Runs - circles are coloured in,
Outs - have a number (1, 2, or 3) in the circle,
LOB - circles are empty/blank.

Muffed Fly – Sacrifice ?

Runners on 1st and 3rd, less than 2 out
Batter hits to Right Field – if caught it would be a Sac Fly.
BUT Right Field drops it – MF9 except that he throws to 2nd and gets the out 9-4.

The end result is the same – Runner on 1st and the Run scored, but I don't know what to give the Batter. He obviously needs to still get the SAC or it hurts his average (unfair) but can you give a SAC without it being a SAC Fly or a SAC Bunt? Or do we still have to error Right Field even though an out was made on the play ?
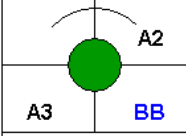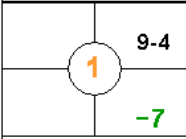
Answer :

No Error is charged because this became a forced play when Right Fielder dropped the ball, and he did recover in time to throw out the Runner (from 1st) at 2nd.
The Batter reaches 1st on a Fielder's Choice.
Score a Sacrifice Fly because the Runner from 3rd would have scored had the catch been taken.

Example