

RULE 9 ONLY
for
SABSA Training

OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES

2019 Edition



Summary of Rule Changes for 2019

The Official Playing Rules Committee made the following changes that will be in effect for the 2019 season:

- Amended Rule 4.03(e) to clarify Clubs' rights regarding weather conditions.
- Amended Rule 4.04(a) to be consistent with Rule 4.03(e) concerning Clubs' rights during weather situations.
- Added Rule 5.05(b)(2) Comment regarding a pitched ball touching jewelry worn by a batter.
- Amended Rule 5.06(c)(7) to clarify situations when a pitched ball lodges in or against the umpire's body, mask, or paraphernalia.
- Amended Rule 5.06(c)(7) Comment regarding a player who intentionally places the baseball inside his uniform for the purpose of deceiving the runner(s).
- Amended Rule 5.09(b)(7) regarding a runner who is struck by a batted ball before it has gone through or by an infielder.
- Amended Rule 5.09(b)(7) (second paragraph) to clarify situations when a runner is struck by an Infield Fly.
- Amended Rule 5.10(g) **only** for National Association Leagues that requires a starting pitcher, or any substitute pitcher, to face at least three batters (or retire the side) unless the pitcher is incapacitated.
- Amended Rule 5.10(l) Comment regarding trips to the mound (final paragraph is new).
- Amended Rule 5.10(m)(1) limiting the number of mound visits without a pitching change to five per nine innings.
- Made several amendments to Rule 5.10(m)(2) regarding trips to the mound: Additional language added to Rules 5.10(m)(2), 5.10(m)(2)(B), 5.10(m)(2)(D), and established new Rules 5.10(m)(2)(E), (F), and (G).

Summary of Rule Changes for 2019, continued

- Established new Rule 5.10(m)(4) regarding enforcement of mound visits.
- Amended Rule 6.01(i)(1) regarding collisions with the catcher at home plate.
- Added a sentence at the end of Rule 6.01(i) stating that reference to “the catcher” in Rule 6.01(i) also applies to other players covering home plate.
- Amended Rule 7.03(a)(7) regarding forfeits when the team “fails to appear...” following the first game of a doubleheader to thirty minutes in order to agree with Rule 4.08(c).
- Amended Scoring Rule 9.01(a) in several places regarding the Official Scorer.
- Amended Scoring Rule 9.01(c) regarding interaction between the Official Scorer and various personnel.
- Amended Definitions of Terms (“TAG”) with a new sentence at the end of the definition regarding jewelry worn by a player.
- Amended Definitions of Terms (“TOUCH”) regarding jewelry worn by a player or umpire.

Additional entries were also made to the Index.

Table of Contents

2019 Official Baseball Rules



1.00	OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME	1
2.00	THE PLAYING FIELD	
2.01	Layout of the Field	2
2.02	Home Base	3
2.03	The Bases	3
2.04	The Pitcher's Plate	4
2.05	Benches	4
3.00	EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS	
3.01	The Ball	5
3.02	The Bat	5
3.03	Player Uniforms	6
3.04	Catcher's Mitt	7
3.05	First Baseman's Glove	7
3.06	Fielding Gloves	8
3.07	Pitcher's Glove	9
3.08	Helmets	9
3.09	Undue Commercialization	10
3.10	Equipment on the Field	10
4.00	GAME PRELIMINARIES	
4.01	Umpire Duties	11
4.02	Field Manager	12
4.03	Exchange of Lineup Cards	12
4.04	Weather and Field Conditions	14
4.05	Special Ground Rules	15
4.06	No Fraternization	15
4.07	Security	15
4.08	Doubleheaders	15

5.00–PLAYING THE GAME

5.01	Starting the Game (“Play Ball!”)	17
5.02	Fielding Positions	17
5.03	Base Coaches	17
5.04	Batting	18
	(a) Batting Order	18
	(b) The Batter’s Box	18
	(c) Completing Time at Bat	21
5.05	When the Batter Becomes a Runner	21
5.06	Running the Bases	25
	(a) Occupying the Base	25
	(b) Advancing Bases	25
	(c) Dead Balls	31
5.07	Pitching	33
	(a) Legal Pitching Delivery	33
	(1) The Windup Position	33
	(2) The Set Position	34
	(b) Warm-Up Pitches	35
	(c) Pitcher Delays	35
	(d) Throwing to the Bases	36
	(e) Effect of Removing Pivot Foot From Plate	36
	(f) Ambidextrous Pitchers	36
5.08	How a Team Scores	37
5.09	Making an Out	39
	(a) Retiring the Batter	39
	(b) Retiring a Runner	43
	(c) Appeal Plays	48
	(d) Effect of Preceding Runner’s Failure to Touch a Base	50
	(e) Retiring the Side	50

5.10	Substitutions and Pitching Changes (Including Visits to the Mound)	50
5.11	Designated Hitter Rule	58
5.12	Calling “Time” and Dead Balls	61

**6.00–IMPROPER PLAY, ILLEGAL ACTION,
AND MISCONDUCT**

6.01	Interference, Obstruction, and Catcher Collisions	63
	(a) Batter or Runner Interference	63
	(b) Fielder Right of Way	66
	(c) Catcher Interference	67
	(d) Unintentional Interference	68
	(e) Spectator Interference	69
	(f) Coach and Umpire Interference	70
	(g) Interference With Squeeze Play or Steal of Home	70
	(h) Obstruction	70
	(i) Collisions at Home Plate	72
	(j) Sliding to Bases on Double Play Attempts	73
6.02	Pitcher Illegal Action	74
	(a) Balks	74
	(b) Illegal Pitches With Bases Unoccupied ..	77
	(c) Pitching Prohibitions	77
6.03	Batter Illegal Action	80
	(a) Batter Out for Illegal Action	80
	(b) Batting Out of Turn	81
6.04	Unsportsmanlike Conduct	84

7.00–ENDING THE GAME

7.01	Regulation Games	87
7.02	Suspended, Postponed, and Tie Games	88

7.03	Forfeited Games	92
7.04	Protesting Games	93

8.00–THE UMPIRE

8.01	Umpire Qualifications and Authority	95
8.02	Appeal of Umpire Decisions	95
8.03	Umpire Position	98
8.04	Reporting	99

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO UMPIRES

9.00–THE OFFICIAL SCORER

9.01	Official Scorer (General Rules)	102
9.02	Official Scorer Report	105
9.03	Official Scorer Report (Additional Rules)	109
9.04	Runs Batted In	111
9.05	Base Hits	112
9.06	Determining Value of Base Hits	113
9.07	Stolen Bases and Caught Stealing	116
9.08	Sacrifices	119
9.09	Putouts	120
9.10	Assists	122
9.11	Double and Triple Plays	123
9.12	Errors	123
9.13	Wild Pitches and Passed Balls	128
9.14	Base on Balls	129
9.15	Strikeouts	129
9.16	Earned Runs and Runs Allowed	130
9.17	Winning and Losing Pitcher	135
9.18	Shutouts	138
9.19	Saves for Relief Pitchers	138
9.20	Statistics	138

9.21	Determining Percentage Records	139
9.22	Minimum Standards for Individual Championships	140
9.23	Guidelines for Cumulative Performance Records	142
DEFINITIONS OF TERMS		144
APPENDICES		157
1	Diagram of the Playing Field	158
2	Layout at Home Plate, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bases	159
3	Layout of Pitching Mound	160
4	Dimensions of Fielder's Glove	161
5	The Strike Zone	162
INDEX		163

Rule 9.01(a)

THE RULES OF SCORING

Index

Appeal of scoring decision: 9.01(a)	Official scorer: 9.01
Assists: 9.10	Ordinary effort: Definitions of Terms
Base hits: 9.05, 9.06	Oversliding: Definitions of Terms
Bases on balls: 9.14	Passed balls: 9.13
Batting out of turn: 9.01(b)(4), 9.03(d)	Percentages, how determined: 9.21
Box scores: 9.02, 9.03(b)	Protested game: 9.01(b)(3)
Box scores: how to prove, 9.03(c)	Putouts: 9.09
Called game: 9.03(e)	Report: 9.02, 9.03
Caught stealing: 9.07(h)	Runs allowed: 9.16
Cumulative performance records guidelines: 9.23	Runs batted in: 9.04
Defensive indifference: 9.07(g)	Sacrifices: 9.08
Determining value of base hits: 9.06	Saves for relief pitchers: 9.19
Double plays: 9.11	Shutouts: 9.18
Earned runs: 9.16	Statistics: 9.20
Errors: 9.12	Stolen bases: 9.07
Fielder's choice: Definitions, 9.12(f)(2)	Streaks, how determined: 9.22
Forfeited game: 9.03(e)	Strikeouts: 9.15
Game-ending hits: 9.06(f), 9.06(g)	Substitutes: 9.03(b)
Individual championships, how determined: 9.22	Suspended game: 9.01(b)(3), 9.23(d)
League President: Definitions of Terms	Triple plays: 9.11
	Wild pitches: 9.13
	Winning and losing pitcher: 9.17

9.00 — THE OFFICIAL SCORER

9.01 Official Scorer (General Rules)

- (a) The Office of the Commissioner, with respect to Major League games, and the Minor League President, with respect to Minor League games, shall appoint an Official Scorer for each league championship, post-season or all-star game. The Official Scorer shall observe the game from a position in the press box, in permanent assigned seating as designated by the home Club, in a seat adjacent to league Official Data Collection staff. The Official Scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions concerning application of Rule 9 that involve judgment, such as whether a batter's advance to first base is the result of a hit or an error. The Official Scorer shall communicate such decisions first to league Official Data Collection staff, and second to staff and media personnel in the press box and broadcasting booths

Rule 9.01(a)

by hand signals or over the press box loudspeaker system and shall advise the public address announcer of such decisions, if requested. All persons, including Club officials and players, are prohibited from protesting to the Official Scorer or league Official Data Collection staff regarding any such decisions.

The Official Scorer shall make all decisions concerning judgment calls. Upon conclusion of an event in the field requiring a scorer's judgment, the Official Scorer will first make a "preliminary" judgment call, generally using best efforts to do so in a timely fashion in line with the general pace of play, and no later than the start of the next plate appearance. Within 24 hours after a game concludes or is suspended, the Official Scorer will, at his or her discretion, render such preliminary judgments as "final," or revise the initial judgment call to become a final judgment. A Major League player or Club may request that the Chief Baseball Officer review a final judgment call of an Official Scorer made in a game in which such player or Club participated, by notifying the Office of the Commissioner in writing or by approved electronic means within 72 hours of a judgment becoming final. The Chief Baseball Officer shall have access to all relevant and available video and, after considering any evidence he wishes to consider, may order a change in a final judgment call if he determines that the final judgment of the Official Scorer was clearly erroneous. No judgment decision shall be changed thereafter. If the Chief Baseball Officer determines that a player or Club has abused the appeals process by repeatedly filing frivolous appeals, or acting in bad faith, he may, after providing a warning, impose reasonable sanctions on the Club or player. A Minor League player or Club may request that the League President review a judgment call of an Official Scorer in accordance with league rules.

After each game, including forfeited and called games, the Official Scorer shall prepare a report, on a form prescribed by the Office of the Commissioner, with respect to Major League games, and the Minor League President, with respect to Minor League games, listing the date of the game, where it was played, the names of the competing Clubs and the umpires, the

Rule 9.01(a) to 9.01(b)(3)

full score of the game and all records of individual players compiled according to the system specified in this Rule 9. The Official Scorer shall forward this report to the Office of the Commissioner, with respect to Major League games, and the league office, with respect to Minor League games, as soon as practicable after the game ends. The Official Scorer shall forward the report of any suspended game as soon as practicable after the game has been completed, or after it becomes a called game because it cannot be completed, as provided by the Rule 7.02) Rule 4.12(b)(4)).

Rule 9.01(a) Comment: The Official Scorer shall forward the official score report to the league statistician instead of to the league office, if requested to do so by the league. In the event of any discrepancy in records maintained by a league statistician and the rulings by an Official Scorer, the report of such Official Scorer shall control. League statisticians and Official Scorers should consult cooperatively to resolve any discrepancies.

- (b) (1) In all cases, the Official Scorer shall not make a scoring decision that is in conflict with Rule 9 or any other Official Baseball Rule. The Official Scorer shall conform strictly to the rules of scoring set forth in this Rule 9. The Official Scorer shall not make any decision that conflicts with an umpire's decision. The Official Scorer shall have authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in these rules. The Office of the Commissioner, with respect to Major League scorers, and the League President, with respect to Minor League scorers shall order changed any decision of an Official Scorer that contradicts the rules of scoring set forth in this Rule 9 and shall take whatever remedial actions as may be necessary to correct any statistics that need correction as a result of such mistaken scoring decision.
- (2) If the teams change sides before three men are put out, the Official Scorer shall immediately inform the umpire-in-chief of the mistake.
- (3) If the game is protested or suspended, the Official Scorer shall make a note of the exact situation at the time of the

Rule 9.01(b)(3) to 9.02(a)

protest or suspension, including the score, the number of outs, the position of any runners, the ball-and-strike count on the batter, the lineups of both teams and the players who have been removed from the game for each team.

Rule 9.01(b)(3) Comment: It is important that a suspended game resume with exactly the same situation as existed at the time of suspension. If a protested game is ordered replayed from the point of protest, the game must be resumed with exactly the situation that existed just before the protested play.

- (4) The Official Scorer shall not call the attention of any umpire or of any member of either team to the fact that a player is batting out of turn.
- (c) The Official Scorer is an official representative who is entitled to the respect and dignity of his office and shall be accorded full protection by the Office of the Commissioner, with respect to Major League scorers, and the League President, with respect to Minor League scorers. The Official Scorer shall report to the appropriate league official any indignity expressed by any manager, player, Club employee, Club officer, or media personnel in the course of, or as the result of, the discharge of Official Scorer duties.

9.02 Official Scorer Report

The official score report prepared by the Official Scorer shall be in a form prescribed by the league and shall include:

- (a) The following records for each batter and runner:
 - (1) Number of times batted, except that no time at bat shall be charged when a player
 - (A) hits a sacrifice bunt or sacrifice fly;
 - (B) is awarded first base on four called balls;
 - (C) is hit by a pitched ball; or
 - (D) is awarded first base because of interference or obstruction;

Rule 9.02(a) to 9.02(b)

- (2) Number of runs scored;
- (3) Number of safe hits;
- (4) Number of runs batted in;
- (5) Two-base hits;
- (6) Three-base hits;
- (7) Home runs;
- (8) Total bases on safe hits;
- (9) Stolen bases;
- (10) Sacrifice bunts;
- (11) Sacrifice flies;
- (12) Total number of bases on balls;
- (13) Separate listing of any intentional bases on balls;
- (14) Number of times hit by a pitched ball;
- (15) Number of times awarded first base for interference or obstruction;
- (16) Strikeouts;
- (17) Number of force double plays and reverse-force double plays grounded into; and

Rule 9.02(a)(17) Comment: The Official Scorer should not charge a batter with grounding into a double play if the batter-runner is called out due to interference by a preceding runner.

- (18) Number of times caught stealing.
- (b) The following records for each fielder:
- (1) Number of putouts;
 - (2) Number of assists;
 - (3) Number of errors;
 - (4) Number of double plays participated in; and
 - (5) Number of triple plays participated in.

Rule 9.02(c)

(c) The following records for each pitcher:

(1) Number of innings pitched;

Rule 9.02(c)(1) Comment: In computing innings pitched, the Official Scorer shall count each putout as $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inning. For example, if a starting pitcher is replaced with one out in the sixth inning, the Official Scorer shall credit that pitcher with $5\frac{1}{3}$ innings. If a starting pitcher is replaced with none out in the sixth inning, the Official Scorer shall credit that pitcher with 5 innings and make the notation that that pitcher faced _____ batters in the sixth, noting the number of batters faced. If a relief pitcher retires two batters and is replaced, the Official Scorer shall credit that pitcher with $\frac{2}{3}$ of an inning pitched. If a relief pitcher enters a game and his team initiates a successful appeal play that results in one out, the officer scorer shall credit such relief pitcher with $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inning pitched.

(2) Total number of batters faced;

(3) Number of batters officially at bat against pitcher, computed according to Rule 9.02(a)(1);

(4) Number of hits allowed;

(5) Number of runs allowed;

(6) Number of earned runs allowed;

(7) Number of home runs allowed;

(8) Number of sacrifice hits allowed;

(9) Number of sacrifice flies allowed;

(10) Total number of bases on balls allowed;

(11) Separate listing of any intentional bases on balls allowed;

(12) Number of batters hit by pitched balls;

(13) Number of strikeouts;

(14) Number of wild pitches; and

(15) Number of balks.

Rule 9.02(d) to 9.02(m)

- (d) The following additional data:
- (1) Name of the winning pitcher;
 - (2) Name of the losing pitcher;
 - (3) Names of the starting pitcher and the finishing pitcher for each team; and
 - (4) Name of pitcher credited with a save, if any.
- (e) Number of passed balls allowed by each catcher.
- (f) Name of players participating in double plays and triple plays.

Rule 9.02(f) Comment: For example, an Official Scorer would note: “Double Plays—Jones, Roberts and Smith (2). Triple Play—Jones and Smith.”

- (g) Number of runners left on base by each team. This total shall include all runners who get on base by any means and who do not score and are not put out. The Official Scorer shall include in this total a batter-runner whose batted ball results in another runner being retired for the third out.
- (h) Names of batters who hit home runs with the bases full.
- (i) Number of outs when winning run scored, if the game was won in the last half-inning.
- (j) The score by innings for each team.
- (k) Names of umpires, listed in this order: plate umpire, first-base umpire, second-base umpire, third-base umpire, left-field umpire (if any) and right-field umpire (if any).
- (l) Time required to play the game, with delays deducted for weather, light failure or technological failure not related to game action.

Rule 9.02(l) Comment: A delay to attend to the injury of a player, manager, coach or umpire shall be counted in computing time of game.

- (m) Official attendance, as provided by the home Club.

Rule 9.03(a) to 9.03(c)

9.03 Official Score Report (Additional Rules)

- (a) In compiling the official score report, the Official Scorer shall list each player's name and fielding position, or positions, in the order in which the player batted, or would have batted if the game ended before the player came to bat.

Rule 9.03(a) Comment: When a player does not exchange positions with another fielder but is merely placed in a different spot for a particular batter (for example, if a second baseman goes to the outfield to form a four-man outfield, or if a third baseman moves to a position between the shortstop and second baseman), the Official Scorer should not list this as a new position.

- (b) The Official Scorer shall identify in the official score report any player who enters the game as a substitute batter or substitute runner, whether or not such player continues in the game thereafter, in the batting order by a special symbol that shall refer to a separate record of substitute batters and runners. The record of substitute batters shall describe what the substitute batter did. The record of substitute batters and runners shall include the name of any such substitute whose name is announced, but who is removed for another substitute before he actually gets into the game. Any such second substitute shall be recorded as batting or running for the first announced substitute.

Rule 9.03(b) Comment: Lower case letters are recommended as symbols for substitute batters and numerals are recommended as symbols for substitute runners. For example, an official score report may note as follows: "a-Singled for Abel in third inning; b-Flied out for Baker in sixth inning; c-Hit into force for Charles in seventh inning; d-Grounded out for Daniel in ninth inning; 1-Ran for Edward in ninth inning." If a substitute's name is announced but the substitute is removed for another substitute before he actually gets into the game, the Official Scorer report shall record the substitute, for example, as follows: "e-Announced as substitute for Frank in seventh inning."

- (c) How to Prove a Box Score

A box score shall balance (or is proven) when the total of the

Rule 9.03(c) to 9.03(e)

team's times at bat, bases on balls received, hit batters, sacrifice bunts, sacrifice flies and batters awarded first base because of interference or obstruction equals the total of that team's runs, players left on base and the opposing team's putouts.

(d) When Player Bats Out of Turn

When a player bats out of turn and is put out, and the proper batter is called out before the ball is pitched to the next batter, the Official Scorer shall charge the proper batter with a time at bat and score the putout and any assists the same as if the correct batting order had been followed. If an improper batter becomes a runner and the proper batter is called out for having missed his turn at bat, the Official Scorer shall charge the proper batter with a time at bat, credit the putout to the catcher and ignore everything entering into the improper batter's safe arrival on base. If more than one batter bats out of turn in succession, the Official Scorer shall score all plays just as they occur, skipping the turn at bat of the player or players who first missed batting in the proper order.

(e) Called and Forfeited Games

- (1) If a regulation game is called, the Official Scorer shall include the record of all individual and team actions up to the moment the game ends, as defined in Rule 7.01. If the game is a tie game, the Official Scorer shall not enter a winning or losing pitcher.
- (2) If a regulation game is forfeited, the Official Scorer shall include the record of all individual and team actions up to the time of forfeit. If the winning team by forfeit is ahead at the time of forfeit, the Official Scorer shall enter as winning and losing pitchers the players who would have qualified as the winning and losing pitchers if the game had been called at the time of forfeit. If the winning team by forfeit is behind or if the score is tied at the time of forfeit, the Official Scorer shall not enter a winning or losing pitcher. If a game is forfeited before it becomes a regulation game, the Official Scorer shall include no records and shall report only the fact of the forfeit.

Rule 9.03(e) to 9.04(c)

Rule 9.03(e) Comment: The Official Scorer shall not consider that, by rule, the score of a forfeited game is 9 to 0 (*see* Rule 2.00 (Forfeited Game)), notwithstanding the results on the field at the point the game is forfeited.

9.04 Runs Batted In

A run batted in is a statistic credited to a batter whose action at bat causes one or more runs to score, as set forth in this Rule 9.04.

- (a) The Official Scorer shall credit the batter with a run batted in for every run that scores
 - (1) unaided by an error and as part of a play begun by the batter's safe hit (including the batter's home run), sacrifice bunt, sacrifice fly, infield out or fielder's choice, unless Rule 9.04(b) applies;
 - (2) by reason of the batter becoming a runner with the bases full (because of a base on balls, an award of first base for being touched by a pitched ball or for interference or obstruction); or
 - (3) when, before two are out, an error is made on a play on which a runner from third base ordinarily would score.
- (b) The Official Scorer shall not credit a run batted in
 - (1) when the batter grounds into a force double play or a reverse-force double play; or
 - (2) when a fielder is charged with an error because the fielder muffs a throw at first base that would have completed a force double play.
- (c) The Official Scorer's judgment must determine whether a run batted in shall be credited for a run that scores when a fielder holds the ball or throws to a wrong base. Ordinarily, if the runner keeps going, the Official Scorer should credit a run batted in; if the runner stops and takes off again when the runner notices the misplay, the Official Scorer should credit the run as scored on a fielder's choice.

Rule 9.05(a)

9.05 Base Hits

A base hit is a statistic credited to a batter when such batter reaches base safely, as set forth in this Rule 9.05.

(a) The Official Scorer shall credit a batter with a base hit when:

- (1) the batter reaches first base (or any succeeding base) safely on a fair ball that settles on the ground, that touches a fence before being touched by a fielder or that clears a fence;
- (2) the batter reaches first base safely on a fair ball hit with such force, or so slowly, that any fielder attempting to make a play with the ball has no opportunity to do so;

Rule 9.05(a)(2) Comment: The Official Scorer shall credit a hit if the fielder attempting to handle the ball cannot make a play, even if such fielder deflects the ball from or cuts off another fielder who could have put out a runner.

- (3) the batter reaches first base safely on a fair ball that takes an unnatural bounce so that a fielder cannot handle it with ordinary effort, or that touches the pitcher's plate or any base (including home plate) before being touched by a fielder and bounces so that a fielder cannot handle the ball with ordinary effort;
- (4) the batter reaches first base safely on a fair ball that has not been touched by a fielder and that is in fair territory when the ball reaches the outfield, unless in the scorer's judgment the ball could have been handled with ordinary effort;
- (5) a fair ball that has not been touched by a fielder touches a runner or an umpire, unless a runner is called out for having been touched by an Infield Fly, in which case the Official Scorer shall not score a hit; or
- (6) a fielder unsuccessfully attempts to put out a preceding runner and, in the Official Scorer's judgment, the batter-runner would not have been put out at first base by ordinary effort.

Rule 9.05(a) to 9.06

Rule 9.05(a) Comment: In applying Rule 9.05(a), the Official Scorer shall always give the batter the benefit of the doubt. A safe course for the Official Scorer to follow is to score a hit when exceptionally good fielding of a ball fails to result in a putout.

- (b) The Official Scorer shall not credit a base hit when a:
- (1) runner is forced out by a batted ball, or would have been forced out except for a fielding error;
 - (2) batter apparently hits safely and a runner who is forced to advance by reason of the batter becoming a runner fails to touch the first base to which such runner is advancing and is called out on appeal. The Official Scorer shall charge the batter with a time at bat but no hit;
 - (3) pitcher, the catcher or any infielder handles a batted ball and puts out a preceding runner who is attempting to advance one base or to return to his original base, or would have put out such runner with ordinary effort except for a fielding error. The Official Scorer shall charge the batter with a time at bat but no hit;
 - (4) fielder fails in an attempt to put out a preceding runner and, in the scorer's judgment, the batter-runner could have been put out at first base; or

Rule 9.05(b) Comment: Rule 9.05(b) shall not apply if the fielder merely looks toward or feints toward another base before attempting to make the putout at first base.

- (5) is called out for interference with a fielder attempting to field a batted ball, unless in the scorer's judgment the batter-runner would have been safe had the interference not occurred.

9.06 Determining Value of Base Hits

The Official Scorer shall score a base hit as a one-base hit, two-base hit, three-base hit or home run when no error or putout results, as follows:

Rule 9.06(a) to 9.06(b)

- (a) Subject to the provisions of Rule 9.06(b) and 9.06(c), it is a one-base hit if the batter stops at first base; it is a two-base hit if the batter stops at second base; it is a three-base hit if the batter stops at third base; and it is a home run if the batter touches all bases and scores.
- (b) When, with one or more runners on base, the batter advances more than one base on a safe hit and the defensive team makes an attempt to put out a preceding runner, the scorer shall determine whether the batter made a legitimate two-base hit or three-base hit, or whether the batter-runner advanced beyond first base on the fielder's choice.

Rule 9.06 Comment: The Official Scorer shall not credit the batter with a three-base hit when a preceding runner is put out at home plate, or would have been out but for an error. The Official Scorer shall not credit the batter with a two-base hit when a preceding runner trying to advance from first base is put out at third base, or would have been out but for an error. The Official Scorer shall not, however, with the exception of the above, determine the value of base-hits by the number of bases advanced by a preceding runner. A batter may deserve a two-base hit even though a preceding runner advances one or no bases; a batter may deserve only a one-base hit even though he reaches second base and a preceding runner advances two bases. For example:

- (1) Runner on first. Batter hits to right fielder, who throws to third base in an unsuccessful attempt to put out runner. Batter takes second base. The Official Scorer shall credit batter with one-base hit.
- (2) Runner on second. Batter hits fair fly ball. Runner holds up to determine if ball is caught and then advances only to third base, while batter takes second base. The Official Scorer shall credit batter with two-base hit.
- (3) Runner on third. Batter hits high, fair fly. Runner takes a lead, then runs back to tag up, thinking the ball will be caught. The ball falls safe, but runner cannot score,

Rule 9.06(b) to 9.06(e)

although batter has reached second. The Official Scorer shall credit batter with a two-base hit.

- (c) When the batter attempts to make a two-base hit or a three-base hit by sliding, he must hold the last base to which he advances. If a batter-runner overslides and is tagged out before getting back to the base safely, he shall be credited with only as many bases as he attained safely. If a batter-runner overslides second base and is tagged out, the Official Scorer shall credit him with a one-base hit; if the batter-runner overslides third base and is tagged out, the Official Scorer shall credit him with a two-base hit.

Rule 9.06(c) Comment: If the batter-runner overruns second or third base and is tagged out trying to return, the Official Scorer shall credit the batter-runner with the last base he touched. If a batter-runner runs past second base after reaching that base on his feet, attempts to return and is tagged out, the Official Scorer shall credit the batter with a two-base hit. If a batter-runner runs past third base after reaching that base on his feet, attempts to return and is tagged out, the Official Scorer shall credit the batter with a three-base hit.

- (d) When the batter, after making a safe hit, is called out for having failed to touch a base, the last base the batter reached safely shall determine if the Official Scorer shall credit him with a one-base hit, a two-base hit or a three-base hit. If a batter-runner is called out after missing home plate, the Official Scorer shall credit him with a three-base hit. If a batter-runner is called out for missing third base, the Official Scorer shall credit him with a two-base hit. If a batter-runner is called out for missing second base, the Official Scorer shall credit him with a one-base hit. If a batter-runner is called out for missing first base, the Official Scorer shall charge him with a time at bat, but no hit.
- (e) When a batter-runner is awarded two bases, three bases or a home run under the provisions of Rules 5.06(b)(4) or 6.01(h), the Official Scorer shall credit the batter-runner with a two-base hit, a three-base hit or a home run, as the case may be.

Rule 9.06(f) to 9.07(a)

- (f) Subject to the provisions of Rule 9.06(g), when a batter ends a game with a safe hit that drives in as many runs as are necessary to put his team in the lead, the Official Scorer shall credit such batter with only as many bases on his hit as are advanced by the runner who scores the winning run, and then only if the batter runs out his hit for as many bases as are advanced by the runner who scores the winning run.

Rule 9.06(f) Comment: The Official Scorer shall apply this rule even when the batter is theoretically entitled to more bases because of being awarded an “automatic” extra-base hit under various provisions of Rules 5.05 and 5.06(b)(4).

The Official Scorer shall credit the batter with a base touched in the natural course of play, even if the winning run has scored moments before on the same play. For example, the score is tied in the bottom of the ninth inning with a runner on second base and the batter hits a ball to the outfield that falls for a base hit. The runner scores after the batter has touched first base and continued on to second base but shortly before the batter-runner reaches second base. If the batter-runner reaches second base, the Official Scorer shall credit the batter with a two-base hit.

- (g) When the batter ends a game with a home run hit out of the playing field, the batter and any runners on base are entitled to score.

9.07 Stolen Bases and Caught Stealing

The Official Scorer shall credit a stolen base to a runner whenever the runner advances one base unaided by a hit, a putout, an error, a force-out, a fielder’s choice, a passed ball, a wild pitch or a balk, subject to the following:

- (a) When a runner starts for the next base before the pitcher delivers the ball and the pitch results in what ordinarily is scored a wild pitch or passed ball, the Official Scorer shall credit the runner with a stolen base and shall not charge the misplay, unless, as a result of the misplay, the stealing runner advances an extra base, or another runner also advances, in which case the Official Scorer shall score the wild pitch or passed ball as well as the stolen base.

Rule 9.07(b) to 9.07(g)

- (b) When a runner is attempting to steal, and the catcher, after receiving the pitch, makes a wild throw trying to prevent the stolen base, the Official Scorer shall credit the runner with a stolen base. The Official Scorer shall not charge an error unless the wild throw permits the stealing runner to advance one or more extra bases, or permits another runner to advance, in which case the Official Scorer shall credit the runner with the stolen base and charge one error to the catcher.
- (c) When a runner, attempting to steal, or after being picked off base, evades being put out in a run-down play and advances to the next base without the aid of an error, the Official Scorer shall credit the runner with a stolen base. If another runner also advances on the play, the Official Scorer shall credit both runners with stolen bases. If a runner advances while another runner, attempting to steal, evades being put out in a run-down play and returns safely, without the aid of an error, to the base he originally occupied, the Official Scorer shall credit a stolen base to the runner who advances.
- (d) When a double- or triple-steal is attempted and one runner is thrown out before reaching and holding the base such runner is attempting to steal, no other runner shall be credited with a stolen base.
- (e) When a runner is tagged out after oversliding a base, while attempting either to return to that base or to advance to the next base, the Official Scorer shall not credit such runner with a stolen base.
- (f) When in the scorer's judgment a runner attempting to steal is safe because of a muffed throw, the Official Scorer shall not credit a stolen base. The Official Scorer shall credit an assist to the fielder who made the throw, charge an error to the fielder who muffed the throw and charge the runner with "caught stealing."
- (g) The Official Scorer shall not score a stolen base when a runner advances solely because of the defensive team's indifference to the runner's advance. The Official Scorer shall score such a play as a fielder's choice.

Rule 9.07(g) to 9.07(h)

Rule 9.07(g) Comment: The scorer shall consider, in judging whether the defensive team has been indifferent to a runner's advance, the totality of the circumstances, including the inning and score of the game, whether the defensive team had held the runner on base, whether the pitcher had made any pickoff attempts on that runner before the runner's advance, whether the fielder ordinarily expected to cover the base to which the runner advanced made a move to cover such base, whether the defensive team had a legitimate strategic motive to not contest the runner's advance or whether the defensive team might be trying impermissibly to deny the runner credit for a stolen base. For example, with runners on first and third bases, the Official Scorer should ordinarily credit a stolen base when the runner on first advances to second, if, in the scorer's judgment, the defensive team had a legitimate strategic motive—namely, preventing the runner on third base from scoring on the throw to second base—not to contest the runner's advance to second base. The Official Scorer may conclude that the defensive team is impermissibly trying to deny a runner credit for a stolen base if, for example, the defensive team fails to defend the advance of a runner approaching a league or career record or a league statistical title.

- (h) The Official Scorer shall charge a runner as “caught stealing” if such runner is put out, or would have been put out by errorless play, when such runner
- (1) tries to steal;
 - (2) is picked off a base and tries to advance (any move toward the next base shall be considered an attempt to advance); or
 - (3) overslides while stealing.

Rule 9.07(h) Comment: In those instances where a pitched ball eludes the catcher and the runner is put out trying to advance, the Official Scorer shall not charge any “caught stealing.” The Official Scorer shall not charge any caught stealing when a runner is awarded a base due to obstruction or when a runner is called out due to interference by the batter. The Official Scorer

Rule 9.07(h) to 9.08(d)

shall not charge a runner with a caught stealing if such runner would not have been credited with a stolen base had such runner been safe (for example, when a catcher throws the runner out after such runner tries to advance after a ball that had eluded the catcher on a pitch).

9.08 Sacrifices

The Official Scorer shall:

- (a) Score a sacrifice bunt when, before two are out, the batter advances one or more runners with a bunt and is put out at first base, or would have been put out except for a fielding error, unless, in the judgment of the Official Scorer, the batter was bunting exclusively for a base hit and not sacrificing his own chance of reaching first base for the purpose of advancing a runner or runners, in which case the Official Scorer shall charge the batter with a time at bat;

Rule 9.08(a) Comment: In determining whether the batter had been sacrificing his own chance of reaching first base for the purpose of advancing a runner, the Official Scorer shall give the batter the benefit of the doubt. The Official Scorer shall consider the totality of the circumstances of the at-bat, including the inning, the number of outs and the score.

- (b) Score a sacrifice bunt when, before two are out, the fielders handle a bunted ball without error in an unsuccessful attempt to put out a preceding runner advancing one base, unless, an attempt to turn a bunt into a putout of a preceding runner fails, and in the judgment of the Official Scorer ordinary effort would not have put out the batter at first base, in which case the batter shall be credited with a one-base hit and not a sacrifice;
- (c) Not score a sacrifice bunt when any runner is put out attempting to advance one base on a bunt, or would have been put out, except for a fielding error, in which case the Official Scorer shall charge the batter with a time at bat; and
- (d) Score a sacrifice fly when, before two are out, the batter hits a ball in flight handled by an outfielder or an infielder running in the outfield in fair or foul territory that

Rule 9.08(d) to 9.09(b)

- (1) is caught, and a runner scores after the catch, or
- (2) is dropped, and a runner scores, if in the scorer's judgment the runner could have scored after the catch had the fly been caught.

Rule 9.08(d) Comment: The Official Scorer shall score a sacrifice fly in accordance with Rule 9.08(d)(2) even though another runner is forced out by reason of the batter becoming a runner.

9.09 Putouts

A putout is a statistic credited to a fielder whose action causes the out of a batter-runner or runner, as set forth in this Rule 9.09.

- (a) The Official Scorer shall credit a putout to each fielder who
 - (1) catches a ball that is in flight, whether fair or foul;
 - (2) catches a batted or thrown ball and tags a base to put out a batter or runner; or

Rule 9.09(a)(2) Comment: The Official Scorer shall credit a fielder with a putout if such fielder catches a thrown ball and tags a base to record an out on an appeal play.

- (3) tags a runner when the runner is off the base to which the runner is entitled.
- (b) The Official Scorer shall credit an automatic putout to the catcher when a:
 - (1) batter is called out on strikes;
 - (2) batter is called out for an illegally batted ball;
 - (3) batter is called out for bunting foul for his third strike;

Rule 9.09(b)(3) Comment: Note the exception in Rule 9.15(a)(4).

- (4) batter is called out for being touched by his own batted ball;
 - (5) batter is called out for interfering with the catcher;

Rule 9.09(b) to 9.09(c)

(6) batter is called out for failing to bat in his proper turn;

Rule 9.09(b)(6) Comment: See Rule 9.03(d).

(7) batter is called out for refusing to touch first base after receiving a base on balls, after being hit by a pitch or after a catcher's interference; or

(8) runner is called out for refusing to advance from third base to home plate.

(c) The Official Scorer shall credit automatic putouts as follows (and shall credit no assists on these plays except as specified):

(1) When the batter is called out on an Infield Fly that is not caught, the Official Scorer shall credit the putout to the fielder who the scorer believes could have made the catch;

(2) When a runner is called out for being touched by a fair ball (including an Infield Fly), the Official Scorer shall credit the putout to the fielder nearest the ball;

(3) When a runner is called out for running out of line to avoid being tagged, the Official Scorer shall credit the putout to the fielder whom the runner avoided;

(4) When a runner is called out for passing another runner, the Official Scorer shall credit the putout to the fielder nearest the point of passing;

(5) When a runner is called out for running the bases in reverse order, the Official Scorer shall credit the putout to the fielder covering the base the runner left in starting his reverse run;

(6) When a runner is called out for having interfered with a fielder, the Official Scorer shall credit the putout to the fielder with whom the runner interfered, unless the fielder was in the act of throwing the ball when the interference occurred, in which case the Official Scorer shall credit the putout to the fielder for whom the throw was intended and shall credit an assist to the fielder whose

Rule 9.09(c) to 9.10(a)

throw was interfered with; or

- (7) When the batter-runner is called out because of interference by a preceding runner, as provided in Rule 6.01(a)(5), the Official Scorer shall credit the putout to the first baseman. If the fielder interfered with was in the act of throwing the ball, the Official Scorer shall credit such fielder with an assist but shall credit only one assist on any one play under the provisions of Rules 9.09(c)(6) and 9.09(c)(7).

9.10 Assists

An assist is a statistic credited to a fielder whose action contributes to a batter-runner or runner being put out, as set forth in this Rule 9.10.

(a) The Official Scorer shall credit an assist to each fielder who

- (1) throws or deflects a batted or thrown ball in such a way that a putout results, or would have resulted except for a subsequent error by any fielder. Only one assist and no more shall be credited to each fielder who throws or deflects the ball in a run-down play that results in a putout, or would have resulted in a putout, except for a subsequent error; or

Rule 9.10(a)(1) Comment: Mere ineffective contact with the ball shall not be considered an assist. “Deflect” shall mean to slow down or change the direction of the ball and thereby effectively assist in putting out a batter or runner. If a putout results from an appeal play within the natural course of play, the Official Scorer shall give assists to each fielder, except the fielder making the putout, whose action led to the putout. If a putout results from an appeal play initiated by the pitcher throwing to a fielder after the previous play has ended, the Official Scorer shall credit the pitcher, and only the pitcher, with an assist.

- (2) throws or deflects the ball during a play that results in a runner being called out for interference or for running out of line.

Rule 9.10(b) to 9.12(a)

(b) The Official Scorer shall not credit an assist to

- (1) the pitcher on a strikeout, unless the pitcher fields an uncaught third strike and makes a throw that results in a putout;
- (2) the pitcher when, as the result of a legal pitch received by the catcher, a runner is put out, as when the catcher picks a runner off base, throws out a runner trying to steal or tags a runner trying to score; or
- (3) a fielder whose wild throw permits a runner to advance, even though the runner subsequently is put out as a result of continuous play. A play that follows a misplay (whether or not the misplay is an error) is a new play, and the fielder making any misplay shall not be credited with an assist unless such fielder takes part in the new play.

9.11 Double and Triple Plays

The Official Scorer shall credit participation in a double play or triple play to each fielder who earns a putout or an assist when two or three players are put out between the time a pitch is delivered and the time the ball next becomes dead or is next in possession of the pitcher in a pitching position, unless an error or misplay intervenes between putouts.

Rule 9.11 Comment: The Official Scorer shall credit a double play or triple play also if an appeal play after the ball is in possession of the pitcher results in an additional putout.

9.12 Errors

An error is a statistic charged against a fielder whose action has assisted the team on offense, as set forth in this Rule 9.12.

(a) The Official Scorer shall charge an error against any fielder:

- (1) whose misplay (fumble, muff or wild throw) prolongs the time at bat of a batter, prolongs the presence on the bases of a runner or permits a runner to advance one or more bases, unless, in the judgment of the Official Scorer, such fielder deliberately permits a foul fly to fall safe with a runner on third base before two are out in order that the

Rule 9.12(a)

runner on third shall not score after the catch;

Rule 9.12(a)(1) Comment: Slow handling of the ball that does not involve mechanical misplay shall not be construed as an error. For example, the Official Scorer shall not charge a fielder with an error if such fielder fields a ground ball cleanly but does not throw to first base in time to retire the batter. It is not necessary that the fielder touch the ball to be charged with an error. If a ground ball goes through a fielder's legs or a fly ball falls untouched and, in the scorer's judgment, the fielder could have handled the ball with ordinary effort, the Official Scorer shall charge such fielder with an error. For example, the Official Scorer shall charge an infielder with an error when a ground ball passes to either side of such infielder if, in the Official Scorer's judgment, a fielder at that position making ordinary effort would have fielded such ground ball and retired a runner. The Official Scorer shall charge an outfielder with an error if such outfielder allows a fly ball to drop to the ground if, in the Official Scorer's judgment, an outfielder at that position making ordinary effort would have caught such fly ball. If a throw is low, wide or high, or strikes the ground, and a runner reaches base who otherwise would have been put out by such throw, the Official Scorer shall charge the player making the throw with an error.

The Official Scorer shall not score mental mistakes or misjudgments as errors unless a specific rule prescribes otherwise. A fielder's mental mistake that leads to a physical misplay—such as throwing the ball into the stands or rolling the ball to the pitcher's mound, mistakenly believing there to be three outs, and thereby allowing a runner or runners to advance—shall not be considered a mental mistake for purposes of this rule and the Official Scorer shall charge a fielder committing such a mistake with an error. The Official Scorer shall not charge an error if the pitcher fails to cover first base on a play, thereby allowing a batter-runner to reach first base safely. The Official Scorer shall not charge an error to a fielder who incorrectly throws to the wrong base on a play.

The Official Scorer shall charge an error to a fielder who

Rule 9.12(a)

causes another fielder to misplay a ball—for example, by knocking the ball out of the other fielder’s glove. On such a play, when the Official Scorer charges an error to the interfering fielder, the Official Scorer shall not charge an error to the fielder with whom the other fielder interfered.

- (2) when such fielder muffs a foul fly to prolong the time at bat of a batter, whether the batter subsequently reaches first base or is put out;
- (3) when such fielder catches a thrown ball or a ground ball in time to put out the batter-runner and fails to tag first base or the batter-runner;
- (4) when such fielder catches a thrown ball or a ground ball in time to put out any runner on a force play and fails to tag the base or the runner;
- (5) whose wild throw permits a runner to reach a base safely, when in the scorer’s judgment a good throw would have put out the runner, unless such wild throw is made attempting to prevent a stolen base;
- (6) whose wild throw in attempting to prevent a runner’s advance permits that runner or any other runner to advance one or more bases beyond the base such runner would have reached had the throw not been wild;
- (7) whose throw takes an unnatural bounce, touches a base or the pitcher’s plate, or touches a runner, a fielder or an umpire, thereby permitting any runner to advance; or

Rule 9.12(a)(7) Comment: The Official Scorer shall apply this rule even when it appears to be an injustice to a fielder whose throw was accurate. For example, the Official Scorer shall charge an error to an outfielder whose accurate throw to second base hits the base and caroms back into the outfield, thereby permitting a runner or runners to advance, because every base advanced by a runner must be accounted for.

- (8) whose failure to stop, or try to stop, an accurately thrown ball permits a runner to advance, so long as there was occasion for the throw. If such throw was made to second

Rule 9.12(a) to 9.12(d)

base, the Official Scorer shall determine whether it was the duty of the second baseman or the shortstop to stop the ball and shall charge an error to the negligent fielder.

Rule 9.12(a)(8) Comment: If, in the Official Scorer's judgment, there was no occasion for the throw, the Official Scorer shall charge an error to the fielder who threw the ball.

- (b) The Official Scorer shall charge only one error on any wild throw, regardless of the number of bases advanced by one or more runners.
- (c) When an umpire awards the batter or any runner or runners one or more bases because of interference or obstruction, the Official Scorer shall charge the fielder who committed the interference or obstruction with one error, no matter how many bases the batter, or runner or runners, may advance.

Rule 9.12(c) Comment: The Official Scorer shall not charge an error if obstruction does not change the play, in the opinion of the scorer.

- (d) The Official Scorer shall not charge an error against:
 - (1) the catcher when the catcher, after receiving the pitch, makes a wild throw attempting to prevent a stolen base, unless the wild throw permits the stealing runner to advance one or more extra bases or permits any other runner to advance one or more bases;
 - (2) any fielder who makes a wild throw if in the scorer's judgment the runner would not have been put out with ordinary effort by a good throw, unless such wild throw permits any runner to advance beyond the base he would have reached had the throw not been wild;
 - (3) any fielder who makes a wild throw in attempting to complete a double play or triple play, unless such wild throw enables any runner to advance beyond the base such runner would have reached had the throw not been wild;

Rule 9.12(d) Comment: When a fielder muffs a thrown ball that, if held, would have completed a double play or triple play,

Rule 9.12(d) to 9.12(f)

the Official Scorer shall charge an error to the fielder who drops the ball and credit an assist to the fielder who made the throw.

- (4) any fielder when, after a ground ball or dropping a batted ball that is in flight or a thrown ball, the fielder recovers the ball in time to force out a runner at any base; or
 - (5) any fielder when a wild pitch or passed ball is scored.
- (e) The Official Scorer shall not charge an error when the batter is awarded first base on four called balls, when the batter is awarded first base when touched by a pitched ball, or when the batter reaches first base as the result of a wild pitch or passed ball.

Rule 9.12(e) Comment: See Rule 9.13 for additional scoring rules relating to wild pitches and passed balls.

- (f) The Official Scorer shall not charge an error when a runner or runners advance as the result of a passed ball, a wild pitch or a balk.
- (1) When the fourth called ball is a wild pitch or a passed ball and as a result
 - (A) the batter-runner advances to a base beyond first base;
 - (B) any runner forced to advance by the base on balls advances more than one base; or
 - (C) any runner, not forced to advance, advances one or more bases, the Official Scorer shall score the base on balls and also the wild pitch or passed ball, as the case may be.
 - (2) When the catcher recovers the ball after a wild pitch or passed ball on the third strike, and throws out the batter-runner at first base, or tags out the batter-runner, but another runner or runners advance, the Official Scorer shall score the strikeout, the putout and assists, if any, and credit the advance of the other runner or runners on the play as a fielder's choice.

Rule 9.12(f) to 9.13(b)

Rule 9.12(f) Comment: See Rule 9.13 for additional scoring rules relating to wild pitches and passed balls.

9.13 Wild Pitches and Passed Balls

A wild pitch is defined in the Definition of Terms (Wild Pitch). A passed ball is a statistic charged against a catcher whose action has caused a runner or runners to advance, as set forth in this Rule 9.13.

- (a) The Official Scorer shall charge a pitcher with a wild pitch when a legally delivered ball is so high, so wide or so low that the catcher does not stop and control the ball by ordinary effort, thereby permitting a runner or runners to advance. The Official Scorer shall charge a pitcher with a wild pitch when a legally delivered ball touches the ground or home plate before reaching the catcher and is not handled by the catcher, thereby permitting a runner or runners to advance. When the third strike is a wild pitch, permitting the batter to reach first base, the Official Scorer shall score a strikeout and a wild pitch.
- (b) The Official Scorer shall charge a catcher with a passed ball when the catcher fails to hold or to control a legally pitched ball that should have been held or controlled with ordinary effort, thereby permitting a runner or runners to advance. When the third strike is a passed ball, permitting the batter to reach first base, the Official Scorer shall score a strikeout and a passed ball.

Rule 9.13 Comment: The Official Scorer shall not charge a wild pitch or passed ball if the defensive team makes an out before any runners advance. For example, if a pitch touches the ground and eludes the catcher with a runner on first base, but the catcher recovers the ball and throws to second base in time to retire the runner, the Official Scorer shall not charge the pitcher with a wild pitch. The Official Scorer shall credit the advancement of any other runner on the play as a fielder's choice. If a catcher drops a pitch, for example, with a runner on first base, but the catcher recovers the ball and throws to second base in time to retire the runner, the Official Scorer shall not charge the catcher with a passed ball. The Official Scorer

Rule 9.13(b) to 9.15(a)

shall credit the advancement of any other runner on the play as a fielder's choice.

See Rules 9.07(a), 9.12(e) and 9.12(f) for additional scoring rules relating to wild pitches and passed balls.

9.14 Base on Balls

A base on balls is defined in the Definition of Terms (Base on Balls).

- (a) The Official Scorer shall score a base on balls whenever a batter is awarded first base because of four balls having been pitched outside the strike zone, but when the fourth such ball touches the batter it shall be scored as a "hit batter."

Rule 9.14(a) Comment: See Rule 9.16(h) for the procedure when more than one pitcher is involved in giving a base on balls. See also Rule 9.15, which addresses situations in which a substitute batter receives a base on balls.

- (b) The Official Scorer shall score an intentional base on balls when the pitcher makes no attempt to throw the last pitch to the batter into the strike zone, but purposely throws the ball wide to the catcher outside the catcher's box.
- (c) If a batter awarded a base on balls is called out for refusing to advance to first base, the Official Scorer shall not credit the base on balls and shall charge a time at bat.
- (d) The Official Scorer shall score an intentional base on balls when a batter is awarded first base because the defensive team's manager informs the umpire of the team's intention to walk the batter.

9.15 Strikeouts

A strikeout is a statistic credited to a pitcher and charged to a batter when the umpire calls three strikes on a batter, as set forth in this Rule 9.15.

- (a) The Official Scorer shall score a strikeout whenever a batter:
 - (1) is put out by a third strike caught by the catcher;

Rule 9.15(a) to 9.16(a)

- (2) is put out by a third strike not caught when there is a runner on first before two are out;
 - (3) becomes a runner because a third strike is not caught; or
 - (4) bunts foul on third strike, unless such bunt on third strike results in a foul fly caught by any fielder, in which case the Official Scorer shall not score a strikeout and shall credit the fielder who catches such foul fly with a putout.
- (b) When a batter leaves the game with two strikes against him, and the substitute batter completes a strikeout, the Official Scorer shall charge the strikeout and the time at bat to the first batter. If the substitute batter completes the turn at bat in any other manner, including a base on balls, the Official Scorer shall score the action as having been that of the substitute batter.

9.16 Earned Runs and Runs Allowed

An earned run is a run for which a pitcher is held accountable. In determining earned runs, the Official Scorer shall reconstruct the inning without the errors (which exclude catcher's interference) and passed balls, giving the benefit of the doubt always to the pitcher in determining which bases would have been reached by runners had there been errorless play. For the purpose of determining earned runs, an intentional base on balls, regardless of the circumstances, shall be construed in exactly the same manner as any other base on balls.

- (a) The Official Scorer shall charge an earned run against a pitcher every time a runner reaches home base by the aid of safe hits, sacrifice bunts, a sacrifice fly, stolen bases, putouts, fielder's choices, bases on balls, hit batters, balks or wild pitches (including a wild pitch on third strike that permits a batter to reach first base) before fielding chances have been offered to put out the offensive team. For the purpose of this rule, a defensive interference penalty shall be construed as a fielding chance. A wild pitch is solely the pitcher's fault and shall contribute to an earned run just as a base on balls or a balk.

Rule 9.16(a) Comment: The following are examples of earned runs charged to a pitcher:

Rule 9.16(a) to 9.16(b)

- (1) Peter pitches and retires Abel and Baker, the first two batters of an inning. Charlie reaches first base on an error charged to a fielder. Daniel hits a home run. Edward hits a home run. Peter retires Frank to end the inning. Three runs have scored, but no earned runs are charged to Peter, because Charlie should have been the third out of the inning, as reconstructed without the error.
- (2) Peter pitches and retires Abel. Baker hits a triple. While pitching to Charlie, Peter throws a wild pitch, allowing Baker to score. Peter retires Daniel and Edward. One run has scored, charged as an earned run to Peter, because the wild pitch contributes to an earned run.

In an inning in which a batter-runner reaches first base on a catcher's interference, such batter-runner shall not count as an earned run should he subsequently score. The Official Scorer shall not assume, however, that such batter would have made an out absent the catcher's interference (unlike, for example, situations in which a batter-runner reaches first base safely because of a fielder's misplay of a ball for an error). Because such batter never had a chance to complete his time at bat, it is unknown how such batter would have fared absent the catcher's interference. Compare the following examples:

- (3) With two out, Abel reaches first on an error by the short-stop in misplaying a ground ball. Baker hits a home run. Charlie strikes out. Two runs have scored, but none is earned, because Abel's at-bat should have been the third out of the inning, as reconstructed without the error.
- (4) With two out, Abel reaches first on a catcher's interference. Baker hits a home run. Charlie strikes out. Two runs have scored, but one (Baker's) is earned, because the Official Scorer cannot assume that Abel would have made an out to end the inning, absent the catcher's interference.

- (b) No run shall be earned when scored by a runner who reaches first base

Rule 9.16(b) to 9.16(g)

- (1) on a hit or otherwise after his time at bat is prolonged by a muffed foul fly;
 - (2) because of interference or obstruction; or
 - (3) because of any fielding error.
- (c) No run shall be earned when scored by a runner whose presence on the bases is prolonged by an error, if such runner would have been put out by errorless play.
- (d) No run shall be earned when the scoring runner's advance has been aided by an error, a passed ball or defensive interference or obstruction, if in the Official Scorer's judgment the run would not have scored without the aid of such misplay.
- (e) An error by a pitcher is treated exactly the same as an error by any other fielder in computing earned runs.
- (f) Whenever a fielding error occurs, the pitcher shall be given the benefit of the doubt in determining to which bases any runners would have advanced had the fielding of the defensive team been errorless.
- (g) When pitchers are changed during an inning, the Official Scorer shall not charge the relief pitcher with any run (earned or unearned) scored by a runner who was on base at the time such relief pitcher entered the game, nor for runs scored by any runner who reaches base on a fielder's choice that puts out a runner left on base by any preceding pitcher.

Rule 9.16(g) Comment: It is the intent of Rule 9.16(g) to charge each pitcher with the number of runners he put on base, rather than with the individual runners. When a pitcher puts runners on base and is relieved, such pitcher shall be charged with all runs subsequently scored up to and including the number of runners such pitcher left on base when such pitcher left the game, unless such runners are put out without action by the batter (i.e., caught stealing, picked off base or called out for interference when a batter-runner does not reach first base on the play). For example:

- (1) Peter is pitching. Abel reaches first base on a base on balls. Roger relieves Peter. Baker grounds out, advanc-

Rule 9.16(g)

ing Abel to second base. Charlie flies out. Daniel singles, scoring Abel. Abel's run is charged to Peter.

- (2) Peter is pitching. Abel reaches first base on a base on balls. Roger relieves Peter. Baker forces Abel at second bases. Charlie grounds out, advancing Baker to second base. Daniel singles, scoring Baker. Baker's run is charged to Peter.
- (3) Peter is pitching. Abel reaches first base on a base on balls. Roger relieves Peter. Baker singles, advancing Abel to third base. Charlie grounds to short, with Abel out at home plate and Baker advancing to second base. Daniel flies out. Edward singles, scoring Baker. Baker's run is charged to Peter.
- (4) Peter is pitching. Abel reaches first base on a base on balls. Roger relieves Peter. Baker reaches on a base on balls. Charlie flies out. Abel is picked off second base. Daniel doubles, scoring Baker from first base. Baker's run is charged to Roger.
- (5) Peter is pitching. Abel reaches first base on a base on balls. Roger relieves Peter. Baker reaches first base on a base on balls. Sierra relieves Roger. Charlie forces Abel at third base. Daniel forces Baker at third base. Edward hits a home run, scoring three runs. The Official Scorer shall charge one run to Peter, one run to Roger and one run to Sierra.
- (6) Peter is pitching. Abel reaches first base on a base on balls. Roger relieves Peter. Baker reaches first base on a base on balls. Charlie singles, filling the bases. Daniel forces Abel at home plate. Edward singles, scoring Baker and Charlie. The Official Scorer shall charge one run to Peter and one run to Roger.
- (7) Peter is pitching. Abel reaches first base on a base on balls. Roger relieves Peter. Baker singles, but Abel is out trying to reach third base and Baker advances to second base on the throw. Charlie singles, scoring

Rule 9.16(g) to 9.16(i)

Baker. Baker's run is charged to Roger.

(h) A relief pitcher shall not be held accountable when the first batter to whom he pitches reaches first base on four called balls if such batter has a decided advantage in the ball and strike count when pitchers are changed.

(1) If, when pitchers are changed, the count is

2 balls, no strike,

2 balls, 1 strike,

3 balls, no strike,

3 balls, 1 strike,

3 balls, 2 strikes,

and the batter gets a base on balls, the Official Scorer shall charge that batter and the base on balls to the preceding pitcher, not to the relief pitcher.

(2) Any other action by such batter, such as reaching base on a hit, an error, a fielder's choice, a force-out, or being touched by a pitched ball, shall cause such a batter to be charged to the relief pitcher.

Rule 9.16(h) Comment: The provisions of Rule 9.16(h)(2) shall not be construed as affecting or conflicting with the provisions of Rule 9.16(g).

(3) If, when pitchers are changed, the count is

2 balls, 2 strikes,

1 ball, 2 strikes,

1 ball, 1 strike,

1 ball, no strike,

no ball, 2 strikes,

no ball, 1 strike,

the Official Scorer shall charge that batter and the actions of that batter to the relief pitcher.

(i) When pitchers are changed during an inning, the relief pitcher

Rule 9.16(i) to 9.17(a)

shall not have the benefit of previous chances for outs not accepted in determining earned runs.

Rule 9.16(i) Comment: It is the intent of Rule 9.16(i) to charge a relief pitcher with earned runs for which such relief pitcher is solely responsible. In some instances, runs charged as earned against the relief pitcher can be charged as unearned against the team. For example:

- (1) With two out and Peter pitching, Abel reaches first base on a base on balls. Baker reaches first base on an error. Roger relieves Peter. Charlie hits a home run, scoring three runs. The Official Scorer shall charge two unearned runs to Peter, one earned run to Roger and three unearned runs to the team (because the inning should have ended with the third out when Baker batted and an error was committed).
- (2) With two out, and Peter pitching, Abel and Baker each reach first base on a base on balls. Roger relieves Peter. Charlie reaches first base on an error. Daniel hits a home run, scoring four runs. The Official Scorer shall charge two unearned runs to Peter and two unearned runs to Roger (because the inning should have ended with the third out when Charlie batted and an error was committed).
- (3) With none out and Peter pitching, Abel reaches first base on a base on balls. Baker reaches first base on an error. Roger relieves Peter. Charlie hits a home run, scoring three runs. Daniel and Edward strike out. Frank reaches first base on an error. George hits a home run, scoring two runs. The Official Scorer shall charge two runs, one of them earned, to Peter, three runs, one of them earned, to Roger and five runs, two of them earned, to the team (because only Abel and Charlie would have scored in an inning reconstructed without the errors).

9.17 Winning and Losing Pitcher

- (a) The Official Scorer shall credit as the winning pitcher that

Rule 9.17(a) to 9.17(b)

pitcher whose team assumes a lead while such pitcher is in the game, or during the inning on offense in which such pitcher is removed from the game, and does not relinquish such lead, unless

- (1) such pitcher is a starting pitcher and Rule 9.17(b) applies; or (2) Rule 9.17(c) applies.

Rule 9.17(a) Comment: Whenever the score is tied, the game becomes a new contest insofar as the winning pitcher is concerned. Once the opposing team assumes the lead, all pitchers who have pitched up to that point and have been replaced are excluded from being credited with the victory. If the pitcher against whose pitching the opposing team gained the lead continues to pitch until his team regains the lead, which it holds to the finish of the game, that pitcher shall be the winning pitcher.

- (b) If the pitcher whose team assumes a lead while such pitcher is in the game, or during the inning on offense in which such pitcher is removed from the game, and does not relinquish such lead, is a starting pitcher who has not completed
 - (1) five innings of a game that lasts six or more innings on defense, or
 - (2) four innings of a game that lasts five innings on defense, then the Official Scorer shall credit as the winning pitcher the relief pitcher, if there is only one relief pitcher, or the relief pitcher who, in the Official Scorer's judgment was the most effective, if there is more than one relief pitcher.

Rule 9.17(b) Comment: It is the intent of Rule 9.17(b) that a relief pitcher pitch at least one complete inning or pitch when a crucial out is made, within the context of the game (including the score), in order to be credited as the winning pitcher. If the first relief pitcher pitches effectively, the Official Scorer should not presumptively credit that pitcher with the win, because the rule requires that the win be credited to the pitcher who was the most effective, and a subsequent relief pitcher may have been most effective. The Official Scorer, in determining which relief pitcher was the most effective, should consider the number of

Rule 9.17(b) to 9.17(e)

runs, earned runs and base runners given up by each relief pitcher and the context of the game at the time of each relief pitcher's appearance. If two or more relief pitchers were similarly effective, the Official Scorer should give the presumption to the earlier pitcher as the winning pitcher.

- (c) The Official Scorer shall not credit as the winning pitcher a relief pitcher who is ineffective in a brief appearance, when at least one succeeding relief pitcher pitches effectively in helping his team maintain its lead. In such a case, the Official Scorer shall credit as the winning pitcher the succeeding relief pitcher who was most effective, in the judgment of the Official Scorer.

Rule 9.17(c) Comment: The Official Scorer generally should, but is not required to, consider the appearance of a relief pitcher to be ineffective and brief if such relief pitcher pitches less than one inning and allows two or more earned runs to score (even if such runs are charged to a previous pitcher). Rule 9.17(b) Comment provides guidance on choosing the winning pitcher from among several succeeding relief pitchers.

- (d) A losing pitcher is a pitcher who is responsible for the run that gives the winning team a lead that the winning team does not relinquish.

Rule 9.17(d) Comment: Whenever the score is tied, the game becomes a new contest insofar as the losing pitcher is concerned.

- (e) A league may designate a non-championship game (for example, the Major League All-Star Game) for which Rules 9.17(a)(1) and 9.17(b) do not apply. In such games, the Official Scorer shall credit as the winning pitcher that pitcher whose team assumes a lead while such pitcher is in the game, or during the inning on offense in which such pitcher is removed from the game, and does not relinquish such lead, unless such pitcher is knocked out after the winning team has attained a commanding lead and the Official Scorer concludes that a subsequent pitcher is entitled to credit as the winning pitcher.

Rule 9.18 to 9.20

9.18 Shutouts

A shutout is a statistic credited to a pitcher who allows no runs in a game. No pitcher shall be credited with pitching a shutout unless he pitches the complete game, or unless he enters the game with none out before the opposing team has scored in the first inning, puts out the side without a run scoring and pitches the rest of the game without allowing a run. When two or more pitchers combine to pitch a shutout, the league statistician shall make a notation to that effect in the league's official pitching records.

9.19 Saves for Relief Pitchers

A save is a statistic credited to a relief pitcher, as set forth in this Rule 9.19.

The Official Scorer shall credit a pitcher with a save when such pitcher meets all four of the following conditions:

- (a) He is the finishing pitcher in a game won by his team;
- (b) He is not the winning pitcher;
- (c) He is credited with at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inning pitched; and
- (d) He satisfies one of the following conditions:
 - (1) He enters the game with a lead of no more than three runs and pitches for at least one inning;
 - (2) He enters the game, regardless of the count, with the potential tying run either on base, or at bat or on deck (that is, the potential tying run is either already on base or is one of the first two batters he faces); or
 - (3) He pitches for at least three innings.

9.20 Statistics

The League President shall appoint an official statistician. The statistician shall maintain an accumulative record of all the batting, fielding, running and pitching records specified in Rule 9.02 for every player who appears in a league championship game or post-season game.

The statistician shall prepare a tabulated report at the end of the

Rule 9.20 to 9.21(c)

season, including all individual and team records for every championship game, and shall submit this report to the League President. This report shall identify each player by his first name and surname and shall indicate as to each batter whether he bats righthanded, lefthanded or both ways, and as to each fielder and pitcher, whether he throws righthanded or lefthanded.

When a player listed in the starting lineup is substituted for before he plays on defense, he shall not receive credit in the defensive statistics (fielding) unless he actually plays that position during the game. All such players, however, shall be credited with one game played (in batting statistics) so long as they are announced into the game or listed on the official lineup card.

Rule 9.20 Comment: The Official Scorer shall credit a player with having played on defense if such player is on the field for at least one pitch or play. If a game is called (for example, because of rain) after a substitute player enters the field but before a pitch is thrown or a play is made, the Official Scorer shall credit such player with a game played in the batting statistics but shall not credit such player in any defensive statistics. If a game is called (for example, because of rain) after a relief pitcher enters the field but before a pitch is thrown or a play is made, the Official Scorer shall credit such pitcher with a game played in the batting statistics but shall not credit such pitcher in any defensive statistics or with a game pitched.

Any games played to break a divisional tie shall be included in the statistics for that championship season.

9.21 Determining Percentage Records

To compute:

- (a) Percentage of games won and lost, divide the number of games won by the sum of games won and games lost;
- (b) Batting average, divide the total number of safe hits (not the total bases on hits) by the total times at bat, as defined in Rule 9.02(a);
- (c) Slugging percentage, divide the total bases of all safe hits by the total times at bat, as defined in Rule 9.02(a);

Rule 9.21(d) to 9.22(a)

- (d) Fielding average, divide the sum of putouts and assists by the sum of putouts, assists and errors (which shall be called chances);
- (e) Pitcher's earned-run average, multiply the total earned runs charged against such pitcher by 9, and divide the result by the total number of innings he pitched, including fractions of an inning; and

Rule 9.21(e) Comment: For example, $9\frac{1}{3}$ innings pitched and 3 earned runs is an earned-run average of 2.89 (3 earned runs times 9 divided by $9\frac{1}{3}$ equals 2.89).

- (f) On-base percentage, divide the sum of hits, bases on balls and times hit by pitch by the sum of at-bats, bases on balls, times hit by pitch and sacrifice flies.

Rule 9.21(f) Comment: For the purpose of computing on-base percentage, ignore instances of a batter being awarded first base on interference or obstruction.

9.22 Minimum Standards for Individual Championships

To assure uniformity in establishing the batting, pitching and fielding championships of professional leagues, such champions shall meet the following minimum performance standards:

- (a) The individual batting, slugging or on-base percentage champion shall be the player with the highest batting average, slugging percentage or on-base percentage, as the case may be, provided the player is credited with as many or more total appearances at the plate in league championship games as the number of games scheduled for each Club in his Club's league that season, multiplied by 3.1 in the case of a Major League player and by 2.7 in the case of a National Association player. Total appearances at the plate shall include official times at bat, plus bases on balls, times hit by pitcher, sacrifice hits, sacrifice flies and times awarded first base because of interference or obstruction. Notwithstanding the foregoing requirement of minimum appearances at the plate, any player with fewer than the required number of plate appearances whose average would be the highest, if he were charged with the required number of plate appearances shall be awarded the batting, slugging or on-

Rule 9.22(a) to 9.22(b)

base percentage championship, as the case may be.

Rule 9.22(a) Comment: For example, if a Major League schedules 162 games for each Club, 502 plate appearances qualify (162 times 3.1 equals 502) a player for a batting, slugging or on-base percentage championship. If a National Association league schedules 140 games for each Club, 378 plate appearances qualify (140 times 2.7 equals 378) a player for a batting, slugging or on-base percentage championship. Fractions of a plate appearance are to be rounded up or down to the closest whole number. For example, 162 times 3.1 equals 502.2, which is rounded down to a requirement of 502.

If, for example, Abel has the highest batting average among those with 502 plate appearance in a Major League with a .362 batting average (181 hits in 500 at-bats), and Baker has 490 plate appearances, 440 at-bats and 165 hits for a .375 batting average, Baker shall be the batting champion, because adding 12 more at-bats to Baker's record would still give Baker a higher batting average than Abel: .365 (165 hits in 452 at-bats) to Abel's .362.

- (b) The individual pitching champion in a Major League shall be the pitcher with the lowest earned-run average, provided that the pitcher has pitched at least as many innings in league championship games as the number of games scheduled for each Club in his Club's league that season. The individual pitching champion in a National Association league shall be the pitcher with the lowest earned-run average provided that the pitcher has pitched at least as many innings in league championship season games as 80% of the number of games scheduled for each Club in the pitcher's league.

Rule 9.22(b) Comment: For example, if a Major League schedules 162 games for each Club, 162 innings qualify a pitcher for a pitching championship. A pitcher with 161 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings would not qualify. If a National Association league schedules 140 games for each Club, 112 innings qualify a pitcher for a pitching championship. Fractions of an inning for the required number of innings are to be rounded to the closest third of an inning. For example, 80% of 144 games is 115.2, so 115 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings would be the minimum required for a pitching

Rule 9.22(b) to 9.23(c)

championship in a National Association league with 144 games scheduled and 80% of 76 games is 60.8, so 60 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings would be the minimum required for a pitching championship in a National Association league with 76 games scheduled.

- (c) The individual fielding champions shall be the fielders with the highest fielding average at each position, provided:
- (1) A catcher must have participated as a catcher in at least one-half the number of games scheduled for each Club in his league that season;
 - (2) An infielder or outfielder must have participated at his position in at least two-thirds of the number of games scheduled for each Club in his league that season; and
 - (3) A pitcher must have pitched at least as many innings as the number of games scheduled for each Club in his league that season, unless another pitcher has a fielding average as high or higher and has handled more total chances in fewer innings, in which case such other pitcher shall be the fielding champion.

9.23 Guidelines for Cumulative Performance Records

(a) Consecutive Hitting Streaks

A consecutive hitting streak shall not be terminated if a batter's plate appearance results in a base on balls, hit batsman, defensive interference or obstruction or a sacrifice bunt. A sacrifice fly shall terminate the streak.

(b) Consecutive-Game Hitting Streaks

A consecutive-game hitting streak shall not be terminated if all of a batter's plate appearances (one or more) in a game result in a base on balls, hit batsman, defensive interference or obstruction or a sacrifice bunt. The streak shall terminate if the player has a sacrifice fly and no hit.

A player's individual consecutive-game hitting streak shall be determined by the consecutive games in which such player appears and is not determined by his Club's games.

(c) Consecutive-Game Playing Streak

A consecutive-game playing streak shall be extended if a

Rule 9.23(c) to 9.23(d)

player plays one half-inning on defense or if the player completes a time at bat by reaching base or being put out. A pinch-running appearance only shall not extend the streak. If a player is ejected from a game by an umpire before such player can comply with the requirements of this Rule 9.23(c), such player's streak shall continue.

(d) Suspended Games

For the purpose of this Rule 9.23 all performances in the completion of a suspended game shall be considered as occurring on the original date of the game.

Definitions of Terms

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

(All definitions are listed alphabetically)

ADJUDGED is a judgment decision by the umpire.

An **APPEAL** is the act of a fielder in claiming violation of the rules by the offensive team.

A **BALK** is an illegal act by the pitcher with a runner or runners on base, entitling all runners to advance one base.

A **BALL** is a pitch which does not enter the strike zone in flight and is not struck at by the batter. If the pitch touches the ground and bounces through the strike zone it is a "ball."

A **BASE** is one of four points which must be touched by a runner in order to score a run; more usually applied to the canvas bags and the rubber plate which mark the base points.

A **BASE COACH** is a team member in uniform who is stationed in the coach's box at first or third base to direct the batter and the runners.

A **BASE ON BALLS** is an award of first base granted to a batter who, during his time at bat, receives four pitches outside the strike zone or following a signal from the defensive team's manager to the umpire that he intends to intentionally walk the batter. If the manager informs the umpire of this intention, the umpire shall award the batter first base as if the batter had received four pitches outside the strike zone.

A **BATTER** is an offensive player who takes his position in the batter's box.

BATTER_RUNNER is a term that identifies the offensive player who has just finished his time at bat until he is put out or until the play on which he became a runner ends.

The **BATTER'S BOX** is the area within which the batter shall stand during his time at bat.

The **BATTERY** is the pitcher and catcher.

BENCH OR DUGOUT is the seating facilities reserved for players, substitutes and other team members in uniform when they are not actively engaged on the playing field.

Definitions of Terms

A **BUNT** is a batted ball not swung at, but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly within the infield.

A **CALLED GAME** is one in which, for any reason, the umpire-in-chief terminates play.

A **CATCH** is the act of a fielder in getting secure possession in his hand or glove of a ball in flight and firmly holding it; providing he does not use his cap, protector, pocket or any other part of his uniform in getting possession. It is not a catch, however, if simultaneously or immediately following his contact with the ball, he collides with a player, or with a wall, or if he falls down, and as a result of such collision or falling, drops the ball. It is not a catch if a fielder touches a fly ball which then hits a member of the offensive team or an umpire and then is caught by another defensive player. In establishing the validity of the catch, the fielder shall hold the ball long enough to prove that he has complete control of the ball and that his release of the ball is voluntary and intentional. If the fielder has made the catch and drops the ball while in the act of making a throw following the catch, the ball shall be adjudged to have been caught.

(Catch) Comment: A catch is legal if the ball is finally held by any fielder, even though juggled, or held by another fielder before it touches the ground. Runners may leave their bases the instant the first fielder touches the ball. A fielder may reach over a fence, railing, rope or other line of demarcation to make a catch. He may jump on top of a railing, or canvas that may be in foul ground. No interference should be allowed when a fielder reaches over a fence, railing, rope or into a stand to catch a ball. He does so at his own risk.

If a fielder, attempting a catch at the edge of the dugout, is “held up” and kept from an apparent fall by a player or players of either team and the catch is made, it shall be allowed.

The **CATCHER** is the fielder who takes his position back of the home base.

The **CATCHER’S BOX** is that area within which the catcher shall stand until the pitcher delivers the ball.

THE CLUB is a person or group of persons responsible for assembling the team personnel, providing the playing field and required facilities, and representing the team in relations with the league.

Definitions of Terms

A **COACH** is a team member in uniform appointed by the manager to perform such duties as the manager may designate, such as but not limited to acting as base coach.

A **DEAD BALL** is a ball out of play because of a legally created temporary suspension of play.

The **DEFENSE** (or **DEFENSIVE**) is the team, or any player of the team, in the field.

A **DOUBLE-HEADER** is two regularly scheduled or rescheduled games, played in immediate succession.

A **DOUBLE PLAY** is a play by the defense in which two offensive players are put out as a result of continuous action, providing there is no error between putouts.

- (a) A force double play is one in which both putouts are force plays.
- (b) A reverse force double play is one in which the first out is a force play and the second out is made on a runner for whom the force is removed by reason of the first out. Examples of reverse force plays: runner on first, one out; batter grounds to first baseman, who steps on first base (one out) and throws to second baseman or shortstop for the second out (a tag play). Another example: bases loaded, none out; batter grounds to third baseman, who steps on third base (one out); then throws to catcher for the second out (tag play).

DUGOUT (See definition of **BENCH**)

A **FAIR BALL** is a batted ball that settles on fair ground between home and first base, or between home and third base, or that is on or over fair territory when bounding to the outfield past first or third base, or that touches first, second or third base, or that first falls on fair territory on or beyond first base or third base, or that, while on or over fair territory touches the person of an umpire or player, or that, while over fair territory, passes out of the playing field in flight.

A fair fly shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not as to whether the fielder is on fair or foul territory at the time he touches the ball.

Definitions of Terms

(Fair Ball) Comment: If a fly ball lands in the infield between home and first base, or home and third base, and then bounces to foul territory without touching a player or umpire and before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball; or if the ball settles on foul territory or is touched by a player on foul territory, it is a foul ball. If a fly ball lands on or beyond first or third base and then bounces to foul territory, it is a fair hit.

A batted ball not touched by a fielder, which hits the pitcher's rubber and rebounds into foul territory, between home and first, or between home and third base is a foul ball.

Clubs, increasingly, are erecting tall foul poles at the fence line with a wire netting extending along the side of the pole on fair territory above the fence to enable the umpires more accurately to judge fair and foul balls.

FAIR TERRITORY is that part of the playing field within, and including the first base and third base lines, from home base to the bottom of the playing field fence and perpendicularly upwards. All foul lines are in fair territory.

A **FIELDER** is any defensive player.

FIELDER'S CHOICE is the act of a fielder who handles a fair grounder and, instead of throwing to first base to put out the batter-runner, throws to another base in an attempt to put out a preceding runner. The term is also used by scorers (a) to account for the advance of the batter-runner who takes one or more extra bases when the fielder who handles his safe hit attempts to put out a preceding runner; (b) to account for the advance of a runner (other than by stolen base or error) while a fielder is attempting to put out another runner; and (c) to account for the advance of a runner made solely because of the defensive team's indifference (undefended steal).

A **FLY BALL** is a batted ball that goes high in the air in flight.

A **FORCE PLAY** is a play in which a runner legally loses his right to occupy a base by reason of the batter becoming a runner.

(Force Play) Comment: Confusion regarding this play is removed by remembering that frequently the "force" situation

Definitions of Terms

is removed during the play. Example: Man on first, one out, ball hit sharply to first baseman who touches the bag and batter-runner is out. The force is removed at that moment and runner advancing to second must be tagged. If there had been a runner on third or second, and either of these runners scored before the tag-out at second, the run counts. Had the first baseman thrown to second and the ball then had been returned to first, the play at second was a force out, making two outs, and the return throw to first ahead of the runner would have made three outs. In that case, no run would score.

Example: Not a force out. One out. Runner on first and third. Batter flies out. Two out. Runner on third tags up and scores. Runner on first tries to retouch before throw from fielder reaches first baseman, but does not get back in time and is out. Three outs. If, in umpire's judgment, the runner from third touched home before the ball was held at first base, the run counts.

A **FORFEITED GAME** is a game declared ended by the umpire-in-chief in favor of the offended team by the score of 9 to 0, for violation of the rules.

A **FOUL BALL** is a batted ball that settles on foul territory between home and first base, or between home and third base, or that bounds past first or third base on or over foul territory, or that first falls on foul territory beyond first or third base, or that, while on or over foul territory, touches the person of an umpire or player, or any object foreign to the natural ground.

A foul fly shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not as to whether the infielder is on foul or fair territory at the time he touches the ball.

(Foul Ball) Comment: A batted ball not touched by a fielder, which hits the pitcher's rubber and rebounds into foul territory, between home and first, or between home and third base is a foul ball.

If a fly ball lands in the infield between home and first base, or home and third base, and then bounces to foul territory without touching a player or umpire and before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball; or if the ball settles on foul territory or is

Definitions of Terms

touched by a player on foul territory, it is a foul ball. If a fly ball lands on or beyond first or third base and then bounces to foul territory, it is a fair hit.

FOUL TERRITORY is that part of the playing field outside the first and third base lines extended to the fence and perpendicularly upwards.

A **FOUL TIP** is a batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to the catcher's hands and is legally caught. It is not a foul tip unless caught and any foul tip that is caught is a strike, and the ball is in play. It is not a catch if it is a rebound, unless the ball has first touched the catcher's glove or hand.

A **GROUND BALL** is a batted ball that rolls or bounces close to the ground.

The **HOME TEAM** is the team on whose grounds the game is played, or if the game is played on neutral grounds, the home team shall be designated by mutual agreement.

ILLEGAL (or **ILLEGALLY**) is contrary to these rules.

An **ILLEGAL PITCH** is (1) a pitch delivered to the batter when the pitcher does not have his pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate; (2) a quick return pitch. An illegal pitch when runners are on base is a balk.

An **INFIELDER** is a fielder who occupies a position in the infield.

An **INFIELD FLY** is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied, before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an Infield Fly, the umpire shall immediately declare "Infield Fly" for the benefit of the runners. If the ball is near the baselines, the umpire shall declare "Infield Fly, if Fair."

The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. If the hit becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul.

Definitions of Terms

If a declared Infield Fly is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. If a declared Infield Fly falls untouched to the ground outside the baseline, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an Infield Fly.

(Infield Fly) Comment: On the infield fly rule the umpire is to rule whether the ball could ordinarily have been handled by an infielder—not by some arbitrary limitation such as the grass, or the base lines. The umpire must rule also that a ball is an infield fly, even if handled by an outfielder, if, in the umpire’s judgment, the ball could have been as easily handled by an infielder. The infield fly is in no sense to be considered an appeal play. The umpire’s judgment must govern, and the decision should be made immediately.

When an infield fly rule is called, runners may advance at their own risk. If on an infield fly rule, the infielder intentionally drops a fair ball, the ball remains in play despite the provisions of Rule 5.09(a)(12). The infield fly rule takes precedence.

If interference is called during an Infield Fly, the ball remains alive until it is determined whether the ball is fair or foul. If fair, both the runner who interfered with the fielder and the batter are out. If foul, even if caught, the runner is out and the batter returns to bat.

IN FLIGHT describes a batted, thrown, or pitched ball which has not yet touched the ground or some object other than a fielder.

IN JEOPARDY is a term indicating that the ball is in play and an offensive player may be put out.

An INNING is that portion of a game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three putouts for each team. Each team’s time at bat is a half-inning.

INTERFERENCE

- (a) Offensive interference is an act by the team at bat which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play.
- (b) Defensive interference is an act by a fielder that hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch.

Definitions of Terms

- (c) Umpire's interference occurs (1) when a plate umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base or retire a runner on a pick-off play, or (2) when a fair ball touches an umpire on fair territory before passing a fielder.
- (d) Spectator interference occurs when a spectator (or an object thrown by the spectator) hinders a player's attempt to make a play on a live ball, by going onto the playing field, or reaching out of the stands and over the playing field.

THE LEAGUE is a group of Clubs whose teams play each other in a pre-arranged schedule under these rules for the league championship.

THE LEAGUE PRESIDENT is the league official charged with enforcing these Rules, fining or suspending any player, manager, coach or umpire for violation of these Rules, resolving any disputes involving these Rules or determining any protested games.

(League President) Comment: With respect to the Major Leagues, the functions of the League President pursuant to these Rules shall be carried out by the designees of the Commissioner of Baseball. The Commissioner may designate different officials to carry out different functions of a League President pursuant to these Rules.

LEGAL (or LEGALLY) is in accordance with these rules.

A LIVE BALL is a ball which is in play.

A LINE DRIVE is a batted ball that goes sharp and direct from the bat to a fielder without touching the ground.

THE MANAGER is a person appointed by the Club to be responsible for the team's actions on the field, and to represent the team in communications with the umpire and the opposing team. A player may be appointed manager.

OBSTRUCTION is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball and not in the act of fielding the ball, impedes the progress of any runner.

OFFENSE is the team, or any player of the team, at bat.

OFFICIAL SCORER. See Rule 9.00.

Definitions of Terms

ORDINARY EFFORT is the effort that a fielder of average skill at a position in that league or classification of leagues should exhibit on a play, with due consideration given to the condition of the field and weather conditions.

(Ordinary Effort) Comment: This standard, called for several times in the Official Scoring Rules (e.g., Rules 9.05(a)(3), 9.05(a)(4), 9.05(a)(6), 9.05(b)(3) (Base Hits); 9.08(b) (Sacrifices); 9.12(a)(1) Comment, 9.12(d)(2) (Errors); and 9.13(a), 9.13(b) (Wild Pitches and Passed Balls) and in the Official Baseball Rules (e.g., Definitions of Terms, Infield Fly), is an objective standard in regard to any particular fielder. In other words, even if a fielder makes his best effort, if that effort falls short of what an average fielder at that position in that league would have made in a situation, the Official Scorer should charge that fielder with an error.

An OUT is one of the three required retirements of an offensive team during its time at bat.

An OUTFIELDER is a fielder who occupies a position in the outfield, which is the area of the playing field most distant from home base.

OVERSLIDE (or OVERSLIDING) is the act of an offensive player when his slide to a base, other than when advancing from home to first base, is with such momentum that he loses contact with the base.

A PENALTY is the application of these rules following an illegal act.

The PERSON of a player or an umpire is any part of his body, his clothing or his equipment.

A PITCH is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher.

(Pitch) Comment: All other deliveries of the ball by one player to another are thrown balls.

A PITCHER is the fielder designated to deliver the pitch to the batter.

The pitcher's PIVOT FOOT is that foot which is in contact with the pitcher's plate as he delivers the pitch.

"PLAY" is the umpire's order to start the game or to resume action following any dead ball.

Definitions of Terms

A QUICK RETURN pitch is one made with obvious intent to catch a batter off balance. It is an illegal pitch.

REGULATION GAME *See* Rule 7.01.

A RETOUCH is the act of a runner in returning to a base as legally required.

A RUN (or SCORE) is the score made by an offensive player who advances from batter to runner and touches first, second, third and home bases in that order.

A RUN-DOWN is the act of the defense in an attempt to put out a runner between bases.

A RUNNER is an offensive player who is advancing toward, or touching, or returning to any base.

“SAFE” is a declaration by the umpire that a runner is entitled to the base for which he was trying.

SET POSITION is one of the two legal pitching positions.

SQUEEZE PLAY is a term to designate a play when a team, with a runner on third base, attempts to score that runner by means of a bunt.

A STRIKE is a legal pitch when so called by the umpire, which:

- (a) Is struck at by the batter and is missed;
- (b) Is not struck at, if any part of the ball passes through any part of the strike zone;
- (c) Is fouled by the batter when he has less than two strikes;
- (d) Is bunted foul;
- (e) Touches the batter as he strikes at it;
- (f) Touches the batter in flight in the strike zone; or
- (g) Becomes a foul tip.

The STRIKE ZONE is that area over home plate the upper limit of which is a horizontal line at the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants, and the lower level is a line at the hollow beneath the kneecap. The Strike Zone shall be determined from the batter’s stance as the batter is prepared to swing at a pitched ball. (For diagram of STRIKE ZONE see Appendix 5.)

Definitions of Terms

A **SUSPENDED GAME** is a called game which is to be completed at a later date.

A **TAG** is the action of a fielder in touching a base with his body while holding the ball securely and firmly in his hand or glove; or touching a runner with the ball, or with his hand or glove holding the ball (not including hanging laces alone), while holding the ball securely and firmly in his hand or glove. It is not a tag, however, if simultaneously or immediately following his touching a base or touching a runner, the fielder drops the ball. In establishing the validity of the tag, the fielder shall hold the ball long enough to prove that he has complete control of the ball. If the fielder has made a tag and drops the ball while in the act of making a throw following the tag, the tag shall be adjudged to have been made. For purposes of this definition any jewelry being worn by a player (e.g., necklaces, bracelets, etc.) shall not constitute a part of the player's body.

A **THROW** is the act of propelling the ball with the hand and arm to a given objective and is to be distinguished, always, from the pitch.

A **TIE GAME** is a regulation game which is called when each team has the same number of runs.

“**TIME**” is the announcement by an umpire of a legal interruption of play, during which the ball is dead.

TOUCH. To touch a player or umpire is to touch any part of his body, or any uniform or equipment worn by him (but not any jewelry (e.g., necklaces, bracelets, etc.) worn by a player).

(Touch) Comment: Equipment shall be considered worn by a player or umpire if it is in contact with its intended place on his person.

A **TRIPLE PLAY** is a play by the defense in which three offensive players are put out as a result of continuous action, providing there is no error between putouts.

A **WILD PITCH** is one so high, so low, or so wide of the plate that it cannot be handled with ordinary effort by the catcher.

WIND-UP POSITION is one of the two legal pitching positions.

Definitions of Terms

NOTE: Any reference in these Official Baseball Rules to “he,” “him” or “his” shall be deemed to be a reference to “she,” “her” or “hers,” as the case may be, when the person is a female.



APPENDICES



Appendix 1

Diagram No. 1 Diagram of the Playing Field

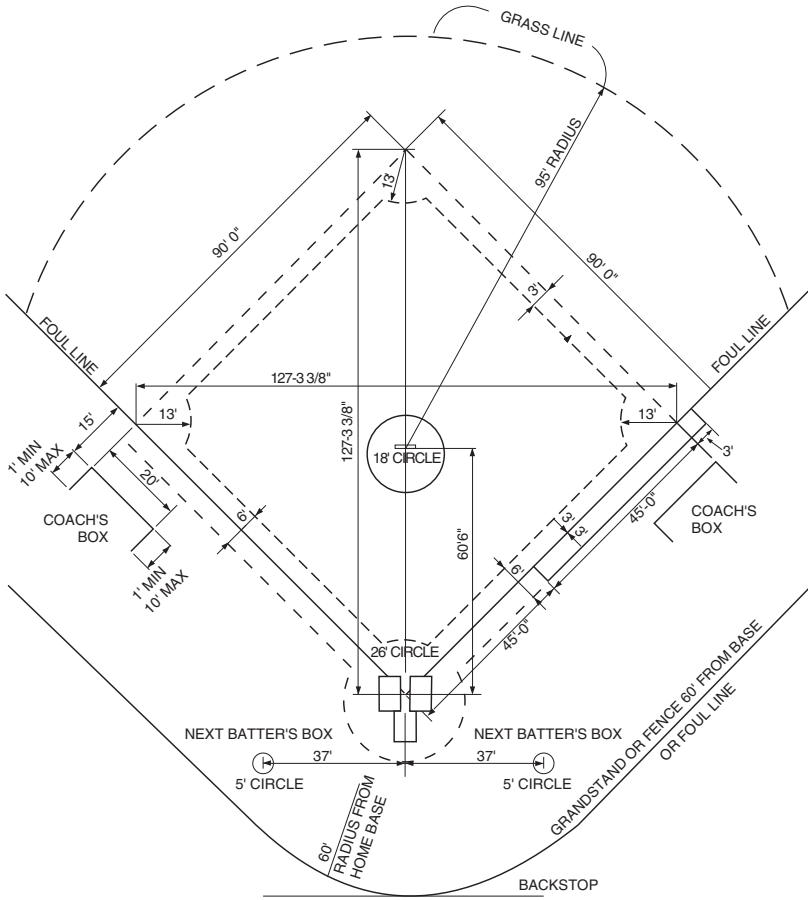


DIAGRAM NO. 1

LEGEND

- BATTER'S BOX,
CATCHER'S BOX, FOUL LINE,
PITCHER'S PLATE, COACH'S BOX
- NEXT BATTER'S BOX
- - - - BASE LINES
- - - - GRASS LINES

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Appendix 2

Diagram No. 2 Layout at Home Plate, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bases

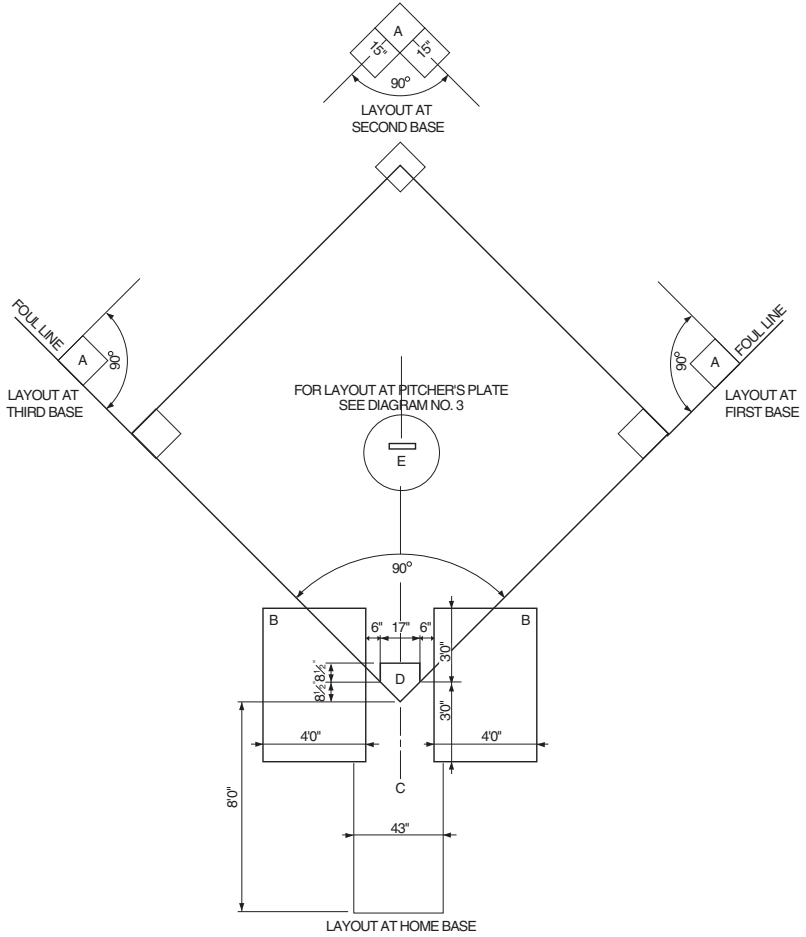


DIAGRAM NO. 2

LEGEND

- A 1st, 2nd, 3rd BASES
- B BATTER'S BOX
- C CATCHER'S BOX
- D HOME BASE
- E PITCHER'S PLATE

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Appendix 3

Diagram No. 3 Layout of Pitching Mound

Suggested Layout of Pitching Mound

This Diagram No. 3 supplements and, in cases of difference, supersedes Diagram No. 2.

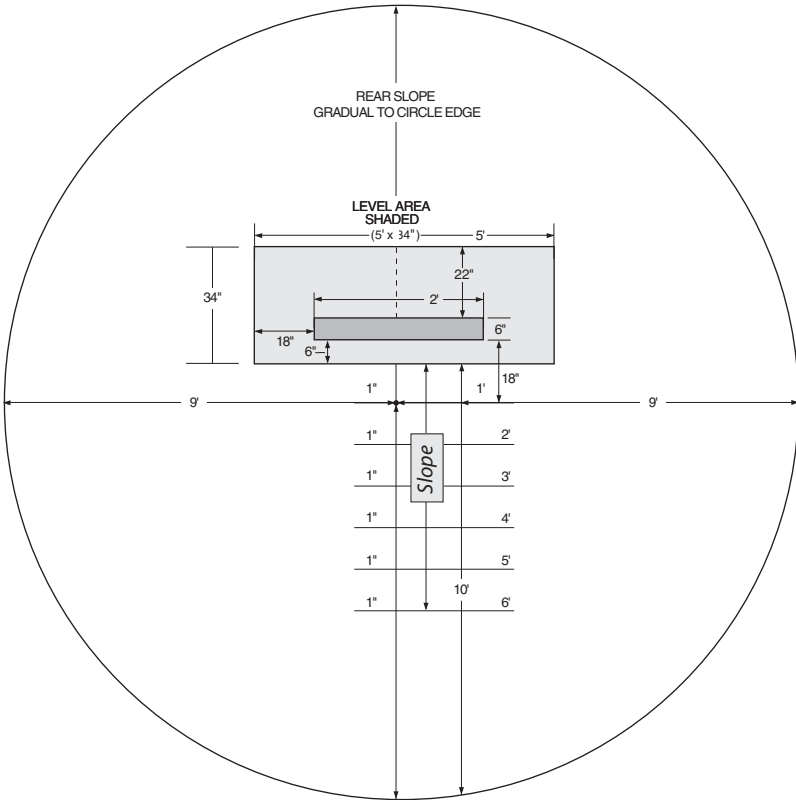


DIAGRAM NO. 3

Pitching Mound: An 18' diameter circle, center of which is 59' from back of home plate.

Locate front edge of rubber 18" behind center of mound.

Front edge of rubber to back point of home plate, 60'6".

Slope starts 6" from front edge of rubber.

The degree of slope from a starting point 6" in front of the pitcher's plate to a point 6" toward home plate shall be 1" to 1', and such degree of slope shall be uniform.

Level area surrounding rubber should be 6" in front of rubber, 18" to each side and 22" to rear of rubber. Total level area 5' x 34".

Appendix 4

Dimensions of Fielder's Glove

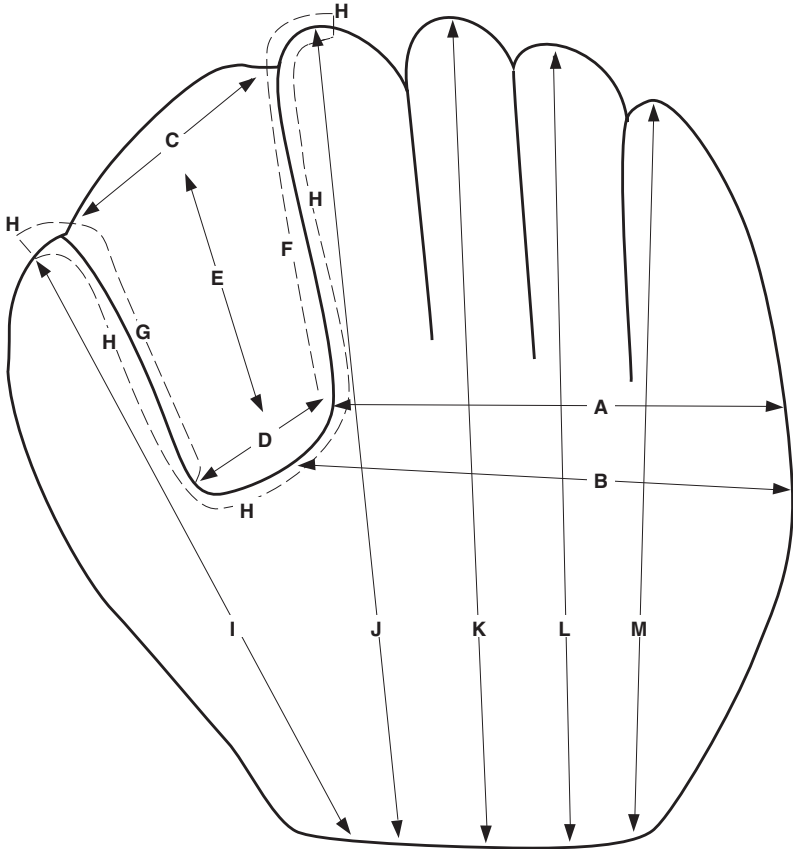
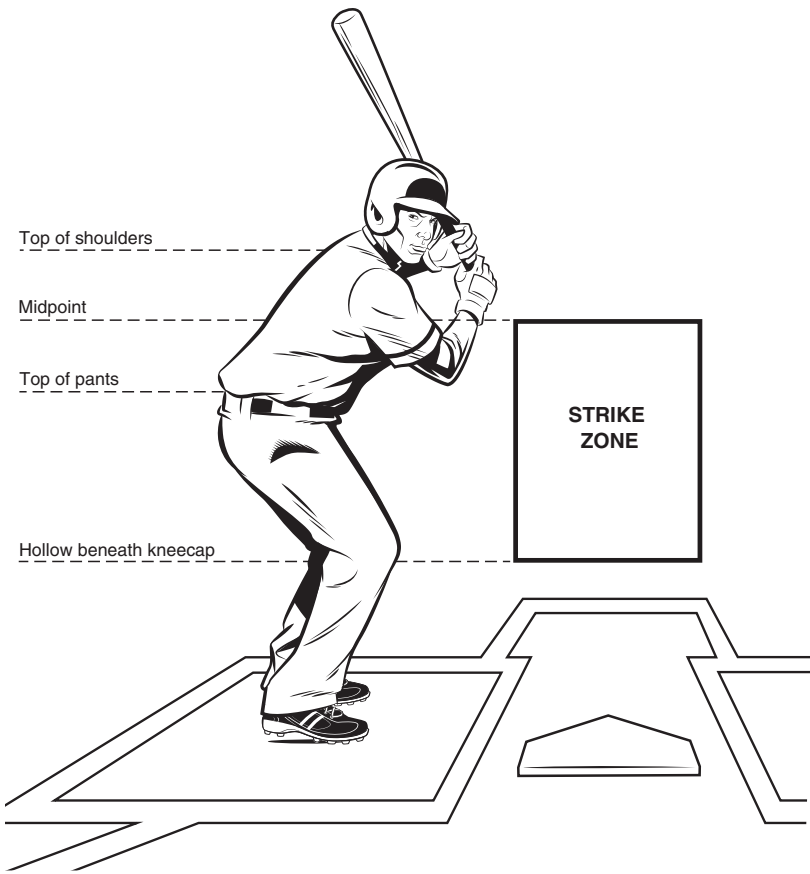


DIAGRAM NO. 4

- | | |
|---|--|
| (A) Palm width— $7\frac{3}{4}$ " | (H) Crotch seam— $13\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| (B) Palm width—8" | (I) Thumb top to bottom edge— $7\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| (C) Top opening of web— $4\frac{1}{2}$ "
(webbing not to be wider
than $4\frac{1}{2}$ " at any point) | (J) 1st finger top to bottom edge—13" |
| (D) Bottom opening of web— $3\frac{1}{2}$ " | (K) 2nd finger top to bottom edge— $11\frac{1}{4}$ " |
| (E) Web top to bottom— $5\frac{3}{4}$ " | (L) 3rd finger top to bottom edge— $10\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| (F) 1st finger crotch seam— $5\frac{1}{2}$ " | (M) 4th finger to bottom edge—9" |
| (G) Thumb crotch seam— $5\frac{1}{2}$ " | |

Appendix 5

The Strike Zone



Index

Rules 1.00 through 8.00

Note: For any items not listed and for additional information, see alphabetized entries in Definitions of Terms.

Abandoning Effort to Run Bases—5.05(a)(2) Comment, 5.05(b), 5.09(b)(2), 5.09(b)(11), 5.09(c)(3).

Accident to Player or Umpire—5.12(b)(3,8).

Ambidextrous Pitcher—5.07(f).

Apparent Fourth Out—5.09(c).

Appeals—5.06(b)(3)(D) Note, 5.06(b)(4)(I) Comment, 5.09(b)(5,11-12), 5.09(c), 6.03(b), 8.02(c);

Check-swing appeal to end inning 8.02(c) Comment;

Limitation on requesting check-swing appeals 8.02(c) Comment.

Apparent Fourth Out—5.09(c)(4).

Awarded Bases—

Appeal 5.09(c);

Balk 5.06(c)(3), 6.01(g);

Catcher interference 6.01(c);

Ground rules 4.05;

Obstruction 6.01(a)(10) Comment, 6.01(h)(1) Comment;

Overthrown ball, by infielder 5.06(b)(4)(G);

Overthrown ball, by pitcher from pitcher's plate 5.06(b)(4)(G-I), 5.07(e);

Spectator interference 6.01(e) Comment.

“Backswing” (Follow-Through) Interference—6.03(a)(3) Comment.

Balk—5.02(a), 6.01(g), and various violations in Rule 5.07;

When making an appeal 5.09(c) Comment;

Penalty 5.06(b)(3)(A), 5.06(c)(3), 6.02.

Ball/Strike Count, Limits on Being Corrected—8.02(c).

Base—2.01, 2.02, 2.03, Definitions of Terms (“Base”);

Dislodged 5.09(b)(4) Approved Rulings A, B.

Baseball—3.01;

Defaced 3.01, 6.02(c-d);

Official game balls 4.01(c-e).

Base on Balls (Automatic by Manager’s Signal)—

Definitions of Terms (“Base on Balls”), 5.05(b)(1) Comment.

Index

Base Coaches—5.03;

Helmets 3.08(e);

Interference 6.01(a)(8-9), 6.01(b), 6.01(d), 6.01(f);

Restrictions 5.03(a-c), 5.03 PENALTY, 5.10(k), 6.04(a).

Bat—3.02;

Altered 6.03(a)(4).

Bat Boy/Girl—3.08(f), 4.07(a), 5.10(k).

Batter/Batter-Runner—

Backswing strikes catcher 6.03(a)(3);

Batter becomes a runner 5.05

Fails to advance to first base 5.05(a)(2), 5.05(b);

Hit by pitch 5.05(b)(2), 5.06(c)(1), 5.09(a)(6), Definitions of Terms (“Ball,” “Strike”);

Illegal action 6.03;

Interference by 5.09(a)(7-9,11), 5.09(b)(8), 6.01(a), 6.03(a)(3-4);
6.03(a)(3 and 4) EXCEPTION and Comment.

Interference with 5.05(b)(3), 5.06(b)(3)(D);

Interferes with catcher after dropped third strike 6.01(a)(1),
6.01(a)(1) Comment;

Position in batter’s box Definitions of Terms, 5.04(b), 5.04(b)(4-5),
6.03(a)(1-3);

Struck by batted ball 5.05(b)(2) Comment, 5.06(c)(6)(1),
5.09(a)(7), 6.01(a)(11).

Batter’s Box—2.01, Definitions of Terms, 5.04(b), 6.03(a), Appendix 2.

Batter’s Box Rule—5.04(b).

NAPBL Regulations—5.04(b)(2) Comment, 5.04(b)(4).

Batting Order—4.03, 5.04(a), 5.10(a-f,j), 8.03(a)(8).

Batting Out of Order—6.03(b).

Bench/Dugout—2.05, Definitions of Terms.

Catch/Play attempts Definitions of Terms (“Catch” Comment),
5.06(b)(3)(C), 5.09(a)(1) Comment, 5.12(b)(6), 6.01(b);

Equipment 3.10;

Live ball deflected into 5.06(b)(4)(H);

Occupants 5.10(b) Comment, 5.10(k), 6.04(a,c-e), 8.04(c).

Bounced Pitch—Definitions of Terms (“Ball”).

Catch—Definitions of Terms, 5.09(1-2).

Index

Catcher—

Interference by: Definitions of Terms (Interference (b)), 5.05(b)(3), 5.06(b)(3)(D), 6.01(c,g);
Interference with: Definitions of Terms (Interference (c)), 5.06(c)(2), 5.09(b)(8), 6.03(a)(3);
Pitch lodges in equipment 5.06(b)(4)(I), 5.06(c)(7);
Position, 5.02(a,c), 6.01(a)(12).

Catcher's Box—2.01 (Appendix 2), Definitions of Terms, 5.02(a), 6.02(a)(12).

Checked Swing—8.02(c) Comment.

Coach—Definitions of Terms, 4.02(b), 5.03, 6.01(a)(8-9), 6.01(b), 6.01(d), 6.01(d) Comment, 6.01(f).

Collision Rule—6.01(i).

Curfew—7.02(a) Note, 7.02(a)(1).

Darkness/Field Lights—4.01(g), 5.12(b)(1-2), 7.02(a) Note, 7.02(a)(4).

Dead Ball (“Time”) and Resuming Play—Definitions of Terms, 5.01(b), 5.04(b)(2) Comment, 5.06(c), 5.12.

Defacing, Discoloring Baseball—3.01, 6.02(c).

Delay of Game—

By batter 5.04(b)(3-4);
By pitcher 5.04(b)(2) Comment, 5.07, 6.02(a)(8), 6.02(d)(3);
Forfeit for delay 7.03(a).

Designated Hitter—5.11;

Pinch-hitting or pinch-running for game pitcher 5.11(a)(10).

Detached Equipment—5.06(b)(3)(E), 5.06(b)(4)(A-E).

Disabled List Players—5.10(k) Comment.

Dislodged Base—5.09(b)(4) Approved Rulings A and B.

Doubleheaders—4.04(a-b), 4.08, 7.02(a)(1), 7.02(b);

Length of time between 4.08(c);
NAPBL rule: 4.08(a)(1), 7.02(a) Exception, 7.02(b) Comment.

Double-Switches—5.10(b);

Manager/coach limitations regarding double-switches 5.10(b) Comment.

Dropped Third Strike—Definitions of Terms (“Ball”), 5.05(a)(2), 5.06(c)(7) Comment, 5.09(a)(2) Comment, 5.09(a)(3-4, 6, 10, 14), 6.01(a)(1).

Index

Doubleheaders, Length Between—4.08(c)

Dugout—see Bench.

Ejection—6.04(a,c-e), 8.01, 8.02, 8.04.

Equipment—

Base 2.03;

Baseball 3.01;

Bat 3.02;

Bench 2.05;

Commercialization 3.09;

Glove/Mitt 3.04, 3.05, 3.06, 3.07;

Helmet 3.08

Home base 2.02;

Pitcher's plate 2.01, 2.04;

Uniforms 3.03.

Equipment Illegally Touches Live Ball—5.06(b)(3)(E), 5.06(b)(4)(A-E).

Electronic Equipment on Field—3.10(b)

Fair Ball—Definitions of Terms;

Bounces out of play 5.05(a)(6-8), 5.06(b)(4)(F);

Deflected out of play 5.05(a)(8-9), 5.06(b)(4)(A,F);

Intentionally dropped 5.09(a)(12);

Touches runner or umpire, 5.05(a)(4), 5.05(b)(4), 5.06(b)(3)(B),
5.06(c)(6) Comment, 5.09(b)(7), 6.01(a)(11).

Field Markers—3.10(b).

Fielder—

Glove specifications 3.04, 3.05, 3.06, 3.07, Appendix 4.

Stepping or falling into out-of-play area 5.06(b)(3)(C), 5.09(a)(1)
Comment, 5.12(b)(6);

Positioning on field of play 5.02;

Sleeves 3.03(e);

Throws glove at ball (detached equipment) 5.06(b)(3)(E),
5.06(b)(4)(A-E).

Fielder's Choice—Definitions of Terms, 9.12(f)(2).

“Flying Start” by Runner—5.09(c)(1) Comment.

Force Play/Force Out—Definitions of Terms, 5.09(b)(6);

Reinstated 5.09(b)(6).

Index

- Forfeit**—4.07(b), 4.08(g), 4.07(b), 7.03, 8.03(a)(6), 9.03(e).
- Foul Ball**—Definitions of Terms, 5.06(c)(5), 5.09(a)(7-8).
- Foul Tip**—Definitions of Terms, 5.06(c)(7) Comment, 5.09(a)(2) Comment, 5.09(b)(5) Comment.
- Fraternization**—4.06.
- Game-Ending Runs**—5.08(b), 5.09(b)(1,2) Comment, 5.09(c) Comment, 7.01(g)(3).
- Glove/Mitt**—3.04, 3.05, 3.06, 3.07;
Illegally touches live ball 5.06(b)(4)(A,C,E).
- Ground Rules**—4.05, 8.03(a)(9).
- Groundskeepers**—4.03(e), 4.08(g), 7.03(c).
- Helmet**—3.08, 5.09(a)(8) Comment.
- Hidden Ball Trick**—6.02(a)(9).
- Home Run**—5.05(a)(5,9), 5.06(b)(4)(A).
- Illegal Bat**—3.02, 6.03(a)(5), 6.03(a)(5) Comment.
- Illegal Pitch**—Definitions of Terms (Illegal Pitch and Quick Return), 5.07(a)(2) Comment, 6.02(a)(5), 6.02(b).
- Illegally Batted Ball**—5.06(c)(4), 6.03(a)(1).
- Infield Fly**—Definitions of Terms, 5.09(a)(5,12), 5.09(b)(7) Exception; Strikes runner (on or off base) 5.09(b)(7), 5.09(b)(7) Exception.
- Intentional Walk (Automatic by Manager’s Signal)**—Definitions of Terms (“Base on Balls”), 5.05(b)(1) Comment; How Official Scorer Notates 9.14(d).
- Intentionally Dropped Ball**—5.09(a)(12).
- Intentional Pitch at Batter**—6.02(c)(9).
- Interference**—
Authorized on-field personnel 4.07(a);
“Backswing” (Follow-Through) 6.03(a)(3) Comment;
Batter’s 5.09(a)(8), 5.09(b)(8), 6.01(a)(3);
By batter after dropped third strike 6.01(a)(1), 6.01(a)(1) Comment;
Catcher’s 5.05(b)(3), 5.06(b)(3)(D,E), 6.01(g);
Coach’s 6.01(a)(8), 6.01(d) Comment, 6.01(f);
Defensive Definitions of Terms, 5.05(b)(3), 5.06(b)(3), 6.01(d,g);
Intentional (Double Play) 5.09(a)(13), 5.09(a)(13) Comment,

Index

5.09(b)(3), 6.01(a)(6-7), 6.01(j);
Offensive Definitions of Terms, 5.05(b)(4), 5.06(c)(6-7),
5.09(a)(8-9,13-15), 5.09(b)(3,7-8,13), 6.01(a-b,d), 6.03(a)(3);
Runner struck by batted ball 5.05(a)(4), 5.05(b)(4), 5.06(c)(6),
5.09(b)(7), 6.01(a)(11);
Spectator Definitions of Terms (Interference(d)), 6.01(e);
Umpire Definitions of Terms, 5.05(b)(4), 5.06(c)(2-6);
While in contact with base 6.01(a)(1) Comment;
see also Base Coaches, Batter and Catcher.

Jewelry—5.05(b)(2) Comment, Definition of Terms (“Tag,” “Touch.”)

League President—Definitions of Terms, 3.03(k), Definitions of Terms
(Manager), 4.01(c), 4.02(a), 4.08(c) Exception, 7.02(b)(5), 7.04.

Pitching violations 6.02(c)(1-6,9);

Protest 7.03, 7.04;

Umpires 8.01(a), 8.03(c), 8.04.

Length Between Doubleheaders—4.08(c).

Limitations on Visits to the Mound Per Game—5.10(m).

Light Failure—5.12(b), 7.02(a).

Lineup Cards—4.03, 5.11(a)(1,11).

Lodged Ball—5.05(a)(7), 5.06(b)(4)(F-G,I), 5.06(c)(7), 5.09(a)(2)
Comment.

Missed Base or Home Plate—5.06(b)(4)(I) Comment, 5.09(b)(12),
5.09(c)(2-4);

see also Appeals and Runner (Touch requirements).

“No Game”—4.04(c), 7.01(e).

Obstruction—Definitions of Terms, 6.01(a)(10) Comment, 6.01(h);
By spectators 5.08(b) Comment.

Official Scorer—5.10(d), 8.03(a)(8);

Demeanor towards 9.01(a), 9.01(c);

Notating intentional walk by manager’s signal 9.14(d);

see also Definitions of Terms and Rule 9.00.

Overrunning/Oversliding—

First base, 5.09(b)(4,6,11), 5.09(c)(3);

Home plate 5.09(b)(12), 5.09(c)(4).

“Overzealous Runner”—5.06(b)(3)(B) Comment.

Pinch-Hitter/Runner—see Substitutions.

Index

Pitch—

Ball Definitions of Terms;
Pitcher delivery time limit 5.07(c);
Goes out of play 5.06(b)(4)(H);
Intentionally thrown at batter 6.02(c)(9);
Lodges in catcher's or umpire's equipment 5.06(b)(4)(I),
5.06(c)(7);
Strike Definitions of Terms;
Touches batter 5.05(b)(2), 5.06(c)(1), 5.09(a)(6), Definitions of
Terms (Ball, Strike);
Touches runner attempting to score 5.06(c)(8), 5.09(a)(14).

Pitcher—

Altered baseball 3.01, 6.02(c)(2-7);
Ambidextrous 5.07(f);
Becomes infielder 5.07(e);
Changes to defensive position 5.10(d) Comment;
Delivery restrictions 5.07(a);
Delivery time limit 5.07(c);
Injured 5.07(b,f), 5.10(d) Comment, 5.10(f-g);
Intentionally pitches at batter 6.02(c)(9);
Legal position 5.07(a)(1-2);
Length of time for warm-up pitches between innings 5.07(b);
Limitations on warm-up pitches 5.07(b);
Minimum number of batters to face (NAPBL rule only) 5.10(g);
Mouth, goes to on mound 6.02(c)(1);
Pitcher delays 5.07(c);
Pitcher visits by manager or coach 5.10(l);
Pivot foot Definitions of Terms, 5.07(a)(1-2); 5.07(a)(2)
Comment, 5.07(e);
Possesses foreign object or substance 6.02(c)(7);
Preparatory pitches 5.07(b), 5.10(l) Comment;
Sleeves 3.03(e);
Throws out of play from pitcher's plate 5.06(b)(4)(H);
Warm-up pitches 5.07(b), 5.10(l) Comment.

Pitcher's Plate—2.01, 2.04.

Index

Player or Umpire Incapacitated—5.10(f-g,i), 5.12(b)(3,8).

Player Restrictions—

- Barred from stands 4.06;
- Confined to bench 5.10(k);
- Fraternizing 4.06;
- General conduct 5.10(b) Comment, 6.04(a,d-e);
- Placing ball inside uniform 5.06(c)(7) Comment.

Playing Field—2.01.

Police Protection—4.07(b).

Postponement Responsibility—4.04.

Pregame Conference—4.03.

Protested Game—7.04, 8.02(b).

Quick Pitch—Definitions of Terms (Illegal Pitch, Quick Return),
5.07(a)(3), 6.02(a)(2) Comment, 6.02(b).

Rain Delays—4.03(e), 4.03 Comment.

Regulation Game—1.06, 7.01, 7.01(g), 7.02;

- 7-inning Game 7.01(a) Exception.

Rosin Bag—4.01(f), 6.02(d) Comment.

Runner—

- Abandons effort to run bases 5.05(a)(2) Comment, 5.05(b),
5.09(b)(2, 11), 5.09(c)(3);
- Advancing or returning after being put out—6.01(a)(5) Comment.
- Entitled to base 5.06(a)(1-2), 6.01(a) Comment;
- “Flying Start” when tagging up 5.09(c)(1) Comment;
- Injured 5.12(b)(3)(A);
- Intentionally crashing into catcher 6.01(i)(1);
- Intentionally interferes with fielder—5.09(a)(13) Comment,
5.09(b)(3), 6.01(a)(5-7), 6.01(j);
- Interferes after scoring 6.01(a)(5);
- Interferes while in contact with base 6.01(a) Comment;
- Interferes with potential double play 6.01(j);
- Leaves basepath to avoid tag 5.09(b)(1)
- “Overzealous Runner” 5.06(b)(3)(B) Comment;
- Passes lead runner 5.09(b)(9);

Index

Retouch (tag up) requirements Definitions of Terms, Definitions of Terms (Infield Fly), 5.06(b)(4)(I) Comment, 5.06(c)(5), 5.09(b)(5), 5.09(c)(1);

Return prohibited 5.06(a)/5.06(c) Comment, 5.08(a) Comment, 5.09(c)(2) Approved Ruling and Comment;

Reverse base-running prohibited 5.09(b)(10);

Struck by batted ball 5.05(b)(4), 5.06(c)(6), 5.09(b)(7), 5.09(b)(7) Comment, 6.01(a)(11);

Struck by batted ball (before or after passing fielder) 5.06(c)(6), 5.09(b)(7), 5.09(b)(7) Comment, 6.01(a)(11);

Struck by Infield Fly (on or off base) 5.09(b)(7);

Touch requirements 5.06(b)(1), 5.09(b)(4) Approved Ruling (B);

Touched by pitched ball 5.06(c)(8), 5.09(a)(14);

Two runners struck by same batted ball 5.09(b)(7) Comment.
see also Batter-Runner.

Score of Game—7.01(g).

Scoring Rules (Official Scorer)—Rule 9.00.

Scoring Runs—1.04, 5.06(b)(3)(B) Comment, 5.08, 5.09(a)(14), 5.09(b)(8), 5.09(c) Comment, 5.09(d), 6.01(g);

“Fourth Out” Appeal 5.09(c).

Set Position—5.07(a)(2);

Slide/Sliding Rule—5.05(b)(1) Comment, 5.09(a)(11) Comment, 6.01(i,j), 6.01(i)(1) Comment, 6.01(i)(2) Comment.

Spectators—4.05, 4.07, 5.06(b)(3)(C), 5.12(b)(6), 6.04(a)(1-2), 6.04(b), 8.01(e);

Interference Definitions of Terms (Interference (d)), 6.01(e).

Stepping or Falling Into Out-of-Play Area—5.06(b)(3)(C), 5.09(a)(1), 5.12(b)(6);

Strike/Strike Zone—Definitions of Terms, 5.05(b)(2), Appendix 5.

Substitutions—5.10(a-k), 5.04(a)(2);

Double-Switches 5.10(b), 5.10(b) Comment.

Suspended Game—7.01(d), 7.02;

NAPBL rule 4.08(a)(1), 7.02(a)(1), 7.02(b);

NAPBL rule (optional) 7.02(a)(7-9).

Tag—Definitions of Terms (TAG, TOUCH), 5.09(b)(4-5);

Index

After awarded base (live ball) 5.05(b)(1) Comment, 5.06(b)(3)(B) Comment;

After missed home plate 5.09(b)(12) Comment, 5.09(c) Comment;

After overrunning first base 5.09(b)(4, 11), 5.09(c)(3);

While two runners touch same base 5.06(a)(2).

Tagging Up (Retouch)—Definitions of Terms (Infield Fly, Retouch), 5.06(b)(4)(I), 5.06(c)(5), Comment, 5.09(b)(5), 5.09(c)(1).

Third Strike Situations—Definitions of Terms (Ball), 5.05(a)(2), 5.06(c)(7) Comment, 5.09(a)(2-4,6,10,14), 6.01(a)(1), 6.03(a)(4).

“Third-to-First” Move—6.02(a)(3) Comment.

Three-Foot Lane—2.01, 5.09(a)(11).

Throw—Definitions of Terms (Pitch—Comment and Throw);

Pitcher 5.07(a)(1-2), 6.02(a)(2-4), 6.02(a) Approved Ruling, 6.02(a) Comment (B), 6.02(c)(8);

Interference with 5.06(b)(4)(E), 5.06(c)(2), 5.09(a)(8, 11, 13), 5.09(b)(3), 6.01(a)(10), 6.01(b,f), 6.03(a)(3).

Thrown Ball Out of Play—4.01(e) Comment, 5.06(b)(4)(G-I), 5.07(e);

Appeal, during 5.09(c);

Ground rules 4.05;

Obstruction, during 6.01(h)(1) Comment;

Spectator interference Rule 6.01(e) Comment.

Tie Game—Definitions of Terms, 7.01(d), 7.02.

Time Limits—7.02(a)(2), 7.02(a) Note, 8.03(a)(7).

Trips to the Mound—5.10(l), 5.10(l) Comment; 5.10(m);

Exceptions to trips 5.10(m)(2);

Enforcement of mound visits 5.10(m)(4);

Limitation on number per game 5.10(m)(1).

Umpire—8.00;

Changing call after consultation 8.02(c), 8.02(c) Comment;

Controls ground crew 4.08(g);

Field lights 4.01(g), 5.12(b)(1-2);

Incapacitated 5.12(b)(3, 8);

Judge of playing conditions 4.03(d), 4.04(b-c), 5.12(b)(1);

Pitched ball lodges in or against body or paraphernalia 5.06(c)(7), 5.06(c)(7) Comment;

Index

- Pregame duties 4.01;
Struck by batted ball 5.05(a)(4), 5.05(b)(4), 5.06(b)(3)(B);
5.06(c)(6);
Touched by pitch or throw 5.06(b)(4)(I), 5.06(c)(7),
5.09(a)(2) Comment, 6.01(f);
Written reports to League President 7.03(d), 8.04.
- Uniforms**—3.03, 3.09.
- Visit of Manager to Pitcher**—5.10(l), 5.10(l) Comment, 5.10(m).
- Warm-Up Throws/Pitches**—5.07(b), 5.10(d) Comment, 5.10(l)
Comment.
Fielders other than pitchers 5.10(d) Comment;
Pitchers 5.07(b), 5.10(l) Comment.
- Weather and Playing Conditions**—4.03(e), 4.03 Comment, 4.04,
4.08(d,g), 5.12(b)(1), 5.04(b)(2) Comment, 6.02(c)(1) Exception,
7.02(a)(5), 7.02 Exception, 7.02(a) Note;
Club responsibilities 4.03(e), 4.04(a);
Weather takes precedence 7.02(a) Note.
- Wild Card/Division Series Eligibility (Completing Games For)**—
7.02(b)(5).
- Windup Position**—5.07(a)(1).