

AAA/Majors Score Keeper Training

Review of AAA/Majors rules (as they apply to scorekeeping)

- Please refer to individual rules handouts provided at training
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Definitions and Abbreviations

- **Hit (H)** - A hit occurs when a batter strikes the baseball into fair territory and reaches base without doing so via an error or a fielder's choice.
 - There are 4 types of hits in baseball; Singles, Doubles, Triples, and Home Runs
 - All 4 are counted equally when deciphering batting average.
 - If a player is thrown out attempting to take an extra base, that still counts as a hit.
 - Hits are a pivotal part of many statistics, including batting average (which will come into play in AAA and Majors).
- **At Bat (AB)** - An official at-bat comes when a batter reaches base via a hit, or is put out (either in the field with a hit, or at the plate with a strike out).
 - A Plate Appearance (PA) refers to each completed turn batting, regardless of the result.
 - Walks *DO NOT* count as an AB for either the pitcher or batter.
 - At-bats are used as the denominator when determining batting average and slugging percentage (for AAA/Majors only).
- **Runs Batted In (RBI)** - A batter is credited with an RBI where the result of his plate appearance is a run being scored.
 - One exception is if the run scores as a result of an error or ground into double play.
 - Most common example are run-scoring hits.
 - A player can also earn an RBI if he is put out at first base, if the hit allowed the run to score.
 - A player earns an RBI as a result of a walk when bases are loaded.
- **Hit by Pitch (HP)** - a batter becomes a baserunner and is awarded first base when he, or his equipment (except his bat):

- Is touched by a pitched ball outside the strike zone
- *And* the batter attempts to avoid it (or had no opportunity to do so)
- *And* the batter did not swing at a pitch
- If all these conditions are met, the ball is dead, and other baserunners advance if they are forced to vacate their base by the batter taking first.
- A batter hit by a pitch is not credited with a hit or at bat, but is credited with a time on base and a plate appearance
 - Therefore, being hit by a pitch does not affect a player's batting average but does increase his on-base percentage.
 - A batter hit by a pitch with the bases loaded is also credited with an RBI.
- **Fielders Choice (FC)** - a variety of plays involving an offensive player reaching a base due to the defense's attempt to put out another base runner, OR defensive indifference to his advance (meaning you think they could have gotten him out but chose not to try)
 - FC are not called by the umpires. It is a judgement call of the scorekeeper
 - FC do not provide credit to the hitter as a hit or SB
 - The most common definition involves a fielder fields a fair ball and chooses to try to put out another baserunner, thereby allowing the batter-runner to safely reach 1B
 - A batter reaching 1B safely as a result of a FC is *NOT* credited with a hit, or time on base. His turn at the plate IS recorded as an AB - meaning it will decrease their batting average and OBP
- **Error (E)** - A fielder is given an error if, in the judgement of the official scorer, he fails to convert an out on a play that had an average fielder should have made.
 - Errors can also be assigned to a fielder if they make a poor play that allows one or more runners to advance on the bases.
 - A batter does not need to reach base for a fielder to be given an error
 - i.e. dropping a foul ball that extends an AB can also be called an error
 - Batters do not receive RBIs for any runs that would not have scored without the help of an error
 - Errors also have a play on ERA (not addressed in LL)

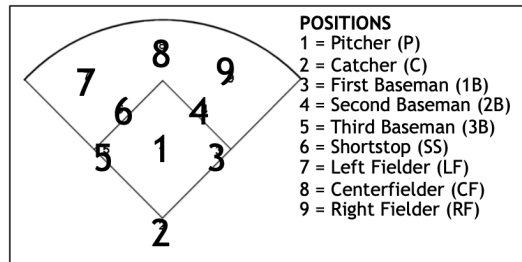
- Leaders in errors are typically shortstops and 3rd basemen who have to deal with a wide array of tricky ground balls and tough throws across the diamond.
 - Errors are recorded as E5, meaning the 3rd baseman made the error.
- **Reached on Error (ROE)**
- A batter receives a ROE when he reaches base because of a defensive error, meaning he wouldn't have otherwise reached.
 - ROE does *NOT* count as a hit or time on base
- **Sacrifice Fly (SF)**
- A Sac Fly occurs when a batter hits a fly-ball out to the outfield or foul territory that allows a runner to tag up and score.
 - The batter is given credit for an RBI (if the ball is dropped for an error, but it is determined that the runner would have scored with a catch, the batter is still credited with a sac fly)
 - A SF does NOT count as an AB and therefore does not count against a player's batting average, but it will count as a player's OBP
- **Sacrifice Hit (SH)**
- A Sac Bunt occurs when a player is successful in his attempt to advance a runner(s) at least one base with a bunt.
 - The runner is "sacrificing" himself in order to move another runner to scoring
 - When the batter bunts with a runner on 3B, it's called a squeeze play and, if successful, is still recorded as a sacrifice.
 - A SB does NOT account against a player's batting average OR on-base percentage, as the decision to sacrifice often isn't made by the player, but by the coach.
 - If an error is committed and the batter reaches base, he is still credited with a sacrifice
- **Infield Fly Rule** - An infield fly is any fair fly ball (not a line drive or a bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second, or first, second, and third bases are occupied, before 2 players are out.

- The rule is in place to protect against a team allowing a shallow fly ball to drop with the intention of causing a force play at 2nd and 3rd, or 2nd, 3rd, and home.
 - Runners would have been forced to run after tagging up with the ball in play in the infield, leading to easy double and possibly triple plays.
 - In these situations, the umpire will call Infield Fly for the baserunners. The batter is out, even if the ball is not caught, and the base runners can advance at their own risk.
- **Dropped 3rd Strike (uncaught 3rd strike) MAJORS ONLY** - occurs when the catcher fails to cleanly catch a pitch for the 3rd strike of a plate appearance.
 - On an uncaught 3rd strike with 1) no runner on 1B, or 2) with a runner on 1B and 2 outs, the batter immediately becomes a runner. The strike is called but the umpire does not call the batter out.
 - The batter may then attempt to reach 1B and must be tagged or forced out
 - The purpose of the “no runner on 1B or 2 outs” qualification is to prevent the catcher from deliberately dropping a 3rd strike pitch and then initiating an unfair DP or TP with possible forces at 2B, 3B, or home plate, in addition to the batter being put out at 1B. Logic is similar to the infield fly rule.
 - Regardless of the outcome, the pitcher is statistically credited with a SO and the batter is statistically charged with one.
 - Because of this rule, it is possible for a pitcher to register more than 2 SO in an inning.
- **Putout (PO)** - A fielder is credited with a putout when he/she is the fielder who physically records the act of completing an out - whether its by stepping on the base for a forecourt, tagging a runner, catching a batted ball, or catching a 3rd strike.
 - If a fielder receives a ground ball and steps on a base for a forecourt or tags a runner, he is credited with an unassisted putout only (not an assist AND a putout)
 - If a fielder makes an unassisted putout, and then throws the ball to another teammate for an out (i.e. double play), he is credited with both a putout and an assist.

- **Assist (A)** - An assist is awarded to a fielder who touches the ball before a putout is recorded by another fielder.
 - Typically, assists are awarded to fielders when they throw the ball to another player for the putout.
 - Assists are awarded on most ground-ball outs
 - Assists can also be on fly balls, when a runner tries to advance, but the outfielder throws him out.
 - Pitchers are not awarded assists for strikeouts.

Player Positions

- 1 - Pitcher (P)
- 2 - Catcher (C)
- 3 - First Base (1B)
- 4 - 2nd Base (2B)
- 5 - 3rd Base (3B)
- 6 - Short Stop (SS)
- 7 - Left Field (LF)
- 8 - Center Field (CF)
- 9 - Right Field (RF)



Scorecard basic definitions

- 1B - base hit
- 2B - double
- 3B - triple
- HR - Home Run
- BB - Base on Balls, or a Walk
- HP - hit by pitch
- RBI - runs batted in
- S and B - strikes and balls
- K - Strike out swinging
- X - Strike out looking
- SB - stolen base
- WP - Wild Pitch
- PB - Passed Ball
- R - Runs
- PA - Plate appearance
- AB - At bats
- SF - Sac Fly
- SH - Sac Hit
- K-WP - dropped 3rd strike with the batter reaching first due to a wild pitch (that they likely swung at)
- K-PB - Dropped 3rd strike with the batter reaching first due to a passed ball
- FC - Fielders Choice
- E5 - error on the 3rd baseman
- IP - Innings Pitched
- LOB - left on base

- 3U - unassisted out by 1B
- 6-3 - hit ball fielded by shortstop and thrown to 1B for a putout
- 5-3 - hit ball, fielded by the 3rd baseman, thrown to 1B for a putout
- 4-3 - hit ball, fielded by the 2nd baseman, thrown to 1B for a putout
- 1-3 - hit ball, fielded by the pitcher and thrown to 1B for a putout
- L4 - line drive hit caught for an out by 2B
- F8 - fly ball caught for an out by the center field player
- Fo3 - foul pop up caught by the first base player for an out.
- K-WP - dropped 3rd strike with the batter reaching first due to a wild pitch (that they likely swung at)
- K-PB - Dropped 3rd strike with the batter reaching first due to a passed ball
- FC - Fielders Choice