

The Coach's Scorebook™

Instructions for Scorers

This system of scoring relies upon the convenience of having all manners of reaching base represented by symbols within the at-bat boxes. This reduces the clutter of having to handwrite the symbols, when a simple checkmark or circle will suffice. It is recommended that the scorer circle the appropriate symbol to aid in clarity. Totaling a particular stat is then easier since you can look at the same symbol in each at-bat box. A certain familiarity with the action taking place on the field of play and the rules governing play is assumed for successful scoring. References abound for the inexperienced scorer to learn from, but the best teaching tool is to score a game at any level with a knowledgeable person assisting in the explanation and interpretation of play.

The symbols, reading from top left across and then down are for single (1B), double (2B), triple (3B), home run (HR), base on balls (BB), strikeout (K), error (E), hit-by-pitch (HP), fielders choice (FC), double play (DP) and sacrifice (SAC). The green diamond in the center of the at-bat box represents the basepaths, on which lines are drawn from home to first, then to second and so on around the bases as the batter advances safely. It is typical to completely color in the diamond when a runner scores a run.

The green circle in the lower right of the at-bat box is reserved for outs registered in a particular inning. The first out of the inning is represented by the numeral "1" in the circle for the batter making the out, the second with the numeral "2" and the third with the numeral "3". In this way the conclusion of an inning can be easily seen by looking for the numeral "3" in the appropriate circle.

Small boxes in the upper left of the at-bat box are included for RBI as well as Stolen Bases (SB). These boxes can accommodate multiple dashes or numerals, although it is recommended to use numerals to avoid the number "1" from being confused with one or more dashes.

The result of the at-bat should always be summarized in the convention of using position numbers to represent the fielders involved in the play. The position numbers are represented on the small field diagram at the bottom right of the scorebook. The first fielder to touch the ball should appear first in the notation, followed by additional fielders, and ending with the fielder making the putout. As an example, an entry of "6-3" would represent the shortstop fielding a ground ball and successfully throwing to the first baseman for an out. Other nomenclature used for flyballs (F-8), strikeouts (K-2) and errors (E-5) are at the discretion of the scorer, but should be used consistently. There is ample room within the at-bat box to enter these notations, with care not to obscure any symbols or lines representing the batters advance.

Inning and running totals for runs (R), hits (H), errors (E), left on base (L) and earned runs (ER) are located at the bottom of each inning column. The shaded letters can be written over and easily read.

Should the scorer wish to keep track of the pitch count, there are boxes for balls (B) and strikes (S) at the lower left of each at-bat box. It is conventional to read these boxes as the count which existed at the time the last pitch was thrown.

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