

If, in the course of the same action, the catcher so much as hints at a feint (regardless of which base it is towards) and the scorers judges this as a stolen base, the advance to second base would be recorded as given in the example, i.e. as a stolen base.

| | |
|---|------------|
| 2 | |
| | E8F |
| | SB3 |
| | <i>t</i> 9 |

Another action where the symbol “O/” would be used is when, in the course of multiple attempts to steal (simultaneous or not), one of the runners is put out (or reaches base safely on an error), while the others reach the next base. To account for these latter advances, the symbol “O/” is used, followed by the number two, if the defensive play was initiated by the catcher, or one if it was initiated by the pitcher.

Example 48: The attempted steal fails because of the putout on third base. The other runner’s advance is therefore annotated with the symbol “O/2”.

The same notation would be made even if the putout had failed because of an error.

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| CS25 | 2 |
| | <i>t</i> 6 |
| | O/2 |
| | BB ₁ |

Example 49: The runner on first base is put out in a rundown play following a pickoff. The symbol “O/1” records the other runner’s advance to third base.

| | |
|------------|------------|
| O/1 | 7 |
| | HP |
| CS 1364 | |
| | <i>t</i> 3 |

Example 50: There is one man out and a runner on second base.

The ground ball to the infield by the third man in the line-up is run down and recovered by the pitcher, who quickly assists the first baseman to make a very close putout of the batter-runner.

In the headlong rush the first baseman hits his foot hard against the base and is seriously hurt.

The incident prevents him from stopping the runner from advancing, and the runner subsequently runs home.

It should be noted that the umpire, after having called out the batter-runner, did not feel it necessary to suspend the game, not having noticed any reason to blame any particular player.

The example clearly shows the runners’ advances according to the various phases of the game from which they originated: the advance to third on a hit and the continuation to home base due to the fielder’s indifference (in this case he was not in a position to check the advance, and it was certainly not through his own technical failings or errors). As this was a legal advance, the run is earned.

| | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 3 | 2 |
| O/3 | BB ₁ |
| 43 | |
| 13 | |

Example 51: With no men out and second base occupied, the pitcher deflects the ground ball hit by the batter, forcing the shortstop who was running up to intervene, off course.

The shortstop nevertheless recovers the ball and throws to first base, where the batter-runner arrives safely.

The first baseman, considering the decision unfair, strenuously contests the umpire’s decision, ignoring the fact that the lead runner takes the opportunity to run home. This advance, which is entirely legal, is recorded with “O/3” as it was determined by the first baseman’s **indifference**.

| | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 2 | SB2 |
| O/3 | BB ₁ |
| | |
| | <i>t</i> 6 |

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 4 | SB4 |
| A15 | t7 |
| | O/1 |
| | t8 |
| F9 | |

It may happen that, during an appeal play, as the ball is live and in play, one or more runners take advantage of the action to run to the next base. Such advances should also be recorded with the O/ symbol, followed by the number of the fielder who was the focus of the appeal play.

Example 52: With no men out and runners on first and third, the fifth batter hits a fly ball to the right field, allowing the runner on third to score.

Before making the first pitch to the next batter, the defense appeals on the grounds that he left the base early.

In the course of the appeal, which is upheld by the umpire concerned, the runner on first advances to second: "O/1".

Also note the double play.

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 4 | SB4 |
| 5 | t7 |
| | O/1 |
| | t8 |
| SF9 | |

Example 53: This differs from the previous example only in that the appeal is overturned. The run counts, the runner on first advances with "O/1" and the fifth man in the line-up is credited with a sacrifice fly and a run batted in.

NOTE: Unlike the frequent cases in which the notation "O/" is used to account for advances which it is not possible under the rules to consider "stolen", all other advances for which "O/" is used must have the circumstances noted in the appropriate place on the score card.

Fielder's choice

"FC" is also used in the first base square to indicate that the batter-runner's advance to first was as a result of fielder's choice. Unlike the occupied ball notation, however, which is always preceded by one or more fielding chances, "FC" is used when the alternative play, despite being correctly executed by the defense, does not result in a putout.

This means that fielder's choice is not considered a fielding opportunity, for the account of earned runs.

The notation "FC", which is always and in any case a fielding choice, is followed by two numbers, the first representing the fielder who initiated the play and the second who received the ball in the action on the base towards which the defense opted to play.

| | |
|--|----|
| | 5 |
| | t1 |
| | FC |
| | 54 |

Example 54: The infield ground ball is recovered by the third baseman who chooses to play for the forced runner, and fails to make the putout.

| | |
|----|----|
| | 5 |
| | t1 |
| 53 | |

The notation "FC" in the first base square indicates that a play for that base would have led to the batter-runner being put out, as demonstrated in the second example.

In the event that the scorer is not convinced that the batter would have been put out on first base, the result would be a safe hit.

| | |
|--|------------|
| | 5 |
| | <i>†</i> 1 |
| | |
| | <i>†</i> 5 |

Example 55: With first and second bases occupied, on a bunt by the ninth batter the pitcher tries unsuccessfully to put out the forced runner on third, thus giving the batter-runner the opportunity to reach first base.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 9 | 8 |
| | BB ₁ |
| | 9 |
| | <i>†</i> 4 |
| | |
| | SH FC15 |

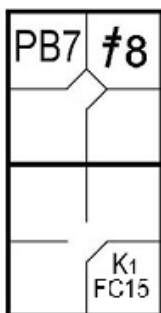
If, in the action described above, the lead runner had been put out (or had reached base safely on an error by one of the two fielders who took part in the action), the batter-runner's arrival on first base would have been recorded as an "occupied ball".

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 15 | 8 |
| | BB ₁ |
| | 9 |
| | <i>†</i> 4 |
| | |
| | O1 |

The example shows what happens when there is no opportunity to retire any of the runners.

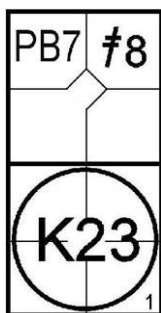
| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 9 | 8 |
| | BB ₁ |
| | 9 |
| | <i>†</i> 4 |
| | |
| | <i>†</i> 1 |

ATTENTION: When, in such a play, the scorer judges that the defense would not have been able to make any other putouts, including the batter-runner, the batter-runner must be credited with a safe hit.



Example 56: The seventh batter swings at the third strike, which is missed by the catcher. Despite recovering the ball in time to make the putout on first, the catcher tries to put out the runner who left his base on the passed ball. The runner reaches base safely.

The advance to third occurs on a passed ball, while the batter-runner's advance to first is recorded as "FC", preceded by the strike and the cumulative strikeout number, and followed by the number of the base to which the alternative play was made.

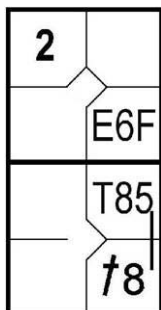


The example shows the effects of a successful play for first base.

Throw

This is generally used to account for an advance by a runner (including the batter-runner) who, reaching base on a hit, takes advantage of a play on a preceding runner to advance.

Over and above the definition given above, it may be stated that such additional advances are always caused by throws from the outfield into the diamond.

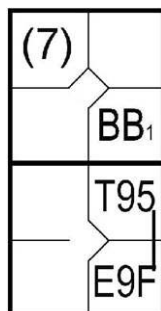


The notation to use is "T" followed by two numbers, the first representing the **outfielder** who made the throw and the second identifying the **base** towards which he threw.

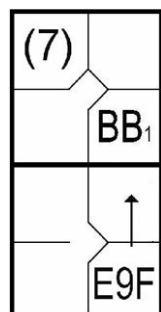
Example 57: After a single that enables the runner to advance two bases, the batter takes advantage of a throw by the center fielder to third base to continue to the next base.

His arrival on second base is recorded with a "T" followed by the number identifying the center fielder (8) who threw the ball, and that of the base to which the ball was thrown, i.e. third base (5), regardless of whether the base was being covered by the third baseman or the shortstop.

The scorer must observe the batter-runner's progress carefully to determine whether he reached the additional base on the hit (in which case he is awarded a double) or on fielder's choice.



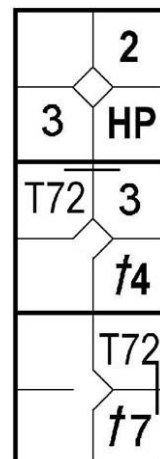
Example 58: In the example the batter-runner takes advantage of a throw by the outfielder to advance to second,



while in the example the same advance is a direct consequence of an error.

Example 59: On the hit the lead runner scores, while the other runner and the batter-runner both reach an extra base when the outfielder throws to home base in the dubious attempt to prevent a run from being scored.

ATTENTION: Please note that in Baseball there is no “Throw” between infielders.



Stolen bases

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 [OBR 10.07].

The abbreviation for stolen base is “SB” followed by the batting order number of the player at bat at the time of the stolen base. The stolen base occurred when the pitcher was still making his wind-up, and the runner reached the next base before the pitch was made.

When a hit is made to fair territory during an attempted steal, regardless of whether the hit is safe or other developments intervene, the runner's advance must be considered as being made on the hit, rather than being a stolen base. The same applies to forced runners, when the batter is awarded first base on a base on balls, hit batter, interference or obstruction.

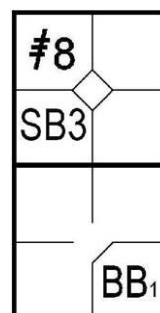
An attempt to steal must be made in the window of time that begins with the pitcher on the mound, and ends when the ball is dead, or is once again in possession of the pitcher on his plate.

For example, if, with runners on first and third, the catcher throws to first in an attempt to catch the runner off base, and the runner on third takes advantage of this to reach home base, the latter runner must be credited with a stolen base.

A stolen base must also be awarded in the following cases:

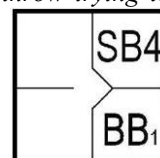
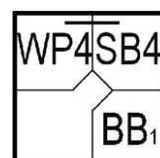
- a) *When a runner starts for the next base before the pitcher delivers the ball and the pitch results in ... a wild pitch or passed ball [OBR 10.07 a)].*

If the runner succeeds in advancing just one base, he should be credited with a stolen base. If he succeeds in advancing an additional base, he should be credited with a stolen base for the first base, and a wild pitch or passed ball for the additional base.

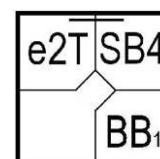


- b) *When a runner is attempting to steal, and the catcher, after receiving the pitch, makes a wild throw trying to prevent the stolen base [OBR 10.07 b)].*

In this case a stolen base is credited to the runner, and no error is charged to the catcher,



unless the runner succeeded in advancing an additional base, in which case the catcher should be charged with an extra base error.



- 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 [OBR 10.07 c)].*

| | |
|-----|-----|
| SB7 | 6 |
| | †7 |
| | SB7 |
| | HP |

d) *If another runner also advances on the play, the official scorer shall credit both runners with stolen bases [OBR 10.07 c)].*

All of these runners should be credited with stolen bases,

| | |
|------|-----|
| CS25 | 6 |
| | †7 |
| | O/2 |
| | HP |

unless one of them is put out (or would have been put out but for a fielding error), in which case the other runners are credited with a fielder's choice.

e) *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 [OBR 10.07 c)].*

In this case the runner is credited with a stolen base. If the other runner is put out, however, the runner who advanced is credited with a fielder's choice (O/2).

Every stolen base is credited to the runner who stole the base, and this is done by scoring a vertical stroke in the appropriate column on the offensive score sheet, next to the player's name. The same notation is used in the catcher's table (stolen bases conceded), provided that the fielder on home base had the opportunity to oppose the action, or that, at the time of the attempted steal, a legal pitch was delivered.

Stolen bases should not be credited in the following cases:

a) *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 [OBR 10.07 e)].*

The runner is "caught stealing" instead.

ATTENTION: If the runner overruns the base he was attempting to steal and is tagged out, he is charged with the stolen base and called out.

b) *When in the scorer's judgement a runner attempting to steal is safe because of a muffed throw [OBR 10.07 f)].*

| | |
|--|-----------|
| | CS 2E4 |
| | †6 |

In this case the runner is charged with "caught stealing", an error is charged to the fielder who muffed the throw and an assist is credited to the fielder who made the throw.

c) *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 [OBR 10.07 g)].*

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| †9 | |
| CS 242 | |
| | O/2 |
| | BB ₁ |

In this case it is a fielder's choice (O/2). We should note that this type of fielder's choice is dictated by specific circumstances (such as there being a runner on third base), which must be absolutely clear.

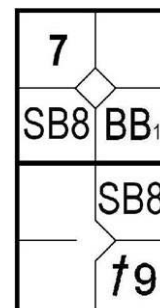
If the catcher does not try to put out the runner attempting to steal but instead attempts another play, such as throwing to the pitcher or the second baseman, who has come forward, or to the third baseman, with a view to picking off the runner on third base or making him advance, a stolen base is credited to the runner who advanced (unless the attempt to make the runner on third advance succeeds and he is put out, in which case a caught stealing is credited to the runner on third base, and a fielder's choice to the runner who reached second).

NOTE: If the runner did not try to advance but was put out returning to third base, he is not charged with "caught stealing".

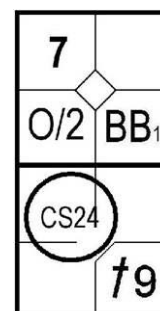
ATTENTION: When a rundown play fails without any errors being committed, and the runner returns to the base he previously occupied, nothing is recorded on the score report. If, on the other hand, the runner returns because of an error, the assist, the error and caught stealing must all be noted.

At this point, it is worth concluding the section on stolen bases with some specific examples.

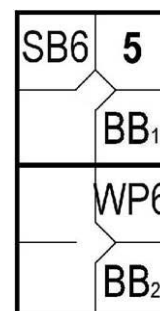
Example 60: With first and third bases occupied, the runner on first tries to steal second base. The catcher throws to second in an attempt to put him out. The runner on third, seeing this, sets off to steal home base. If the runner who tried to steal second base also reaches base safely, both runners are credited with stolen bases.



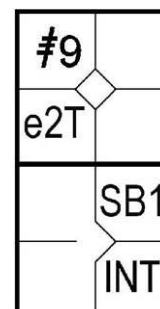
If, on the other hand, the runner who tries to steal second is put out, he is charged with “caught stealing”, and the other runner’s run is counted as a fielder’s choice.



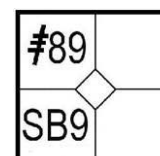
Example 61: With runners on first and second, the runner on second base tries to steal third. The pitch turns out to be wild and in consequence the runner on first reaches second. In this case a stolen base is credited to the runner who reached third base, and an advance by wild pitch is credited to the other runner, who would not have reached second base without it.

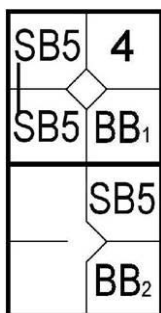


Example 62: With runners on first and third, the runner on first base tries to steal second. The catcher muffs his throw to second and the runner on third takes the opportunity to score a run. The runner on first base is credited with a stolen base, and the advance by the runner on third is put down to an extra base error by the catcher.



Example 63: The runner on third is trapped between third and home base, but succeeds in reaching home base safely without any errors being committed by the defense. He is credited with a stolen base.





Example 64: With runners on first and second, there is a double steal. The catcher, rather than playing for the runner on second, plays for the runner on first, and when he throws the preceding runner scores. The advance to home base is also a stolen base, and the connecting line indicates the continuity of action.

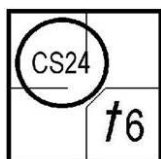
Caught stealing

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 [Rule 10.07(h)]:

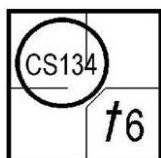
- 1) Tries to steal;*
- 2) Is picked off a base and tries to advance (any move toward the next base shall be considered an attempt to advance); or*
- 3) Overslides while stealing*

Comment: *The official scorer shall not charge any “caught stealing”, in those instances where a) a pitched ball eludes the catcher and the runner is put out trying to advance; b) a runner is awarded a base due to obstruction; c) a runner is called out due to interference by the batter; or d) a 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).*

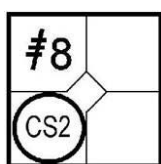
The notation for “caught stealing” is “CS” followed by the numbers of the players who made the assists and putout. The assist is very often, but not invariably, by the catcher, as can be seen in the following examples:



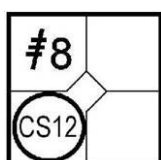
Example 65: The runner on first is caught stealing by an assist from the catcher to second base.



Example 66: The runner on first base is picked off by an accurate throw by the pitcher. He consequently tries to advance, but he is put out by the second baseman on an assist by the first baseman. Assists are credited to the pitcher and the first baseman, and a putout is credited to the second baseman. In this case, no caught stealing is credited to the catcher in the corresponding square of the score card because he did not take part in the action.



ATTENTION: If a runner tries to steal home base and is put out by the catcher, catching a regular pitch by the pitcher, the pitcher is not credited with an assist.



Example 67: The pitcher, realising the runner’s intention in time, gets down from the plate and throws to the catcher. He is credited with an assist.

The scorer must therefore pay close attention to the behaviour of the pitcher where there is an attempt to steal home base.

There are cases when it is difficult to ascertain at what moment a caught stealing happened.

Example 68: One such is the example shown here, where it is not possible to establish whether the caught stealing happened with the first or second pitcher.

It is important to know this because both the outgoing pitcher and his replacement have to be assigned the exact fraction of an inning they played. This is particularly necessary when, in the case of “CS” with a decisive error, the distinction could give the replacement an additional fielding chance, depending on the number of runs earned.

In these cases it is advisable to use the notes to indicate exactly when the caught stealing occurred.

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| 2 | |
| CS2 | t8 |
| | O/2 |
| | t9 |
| K | |
| K | |
| CS23 | BB ₃ |

Example 69: With a runner on first base, the batter tries for a sacrifice bunt and fails. The runner, who had already begun to run for second base, tries to return but is put out on an assist by the catcher. In this case also, the reasons for the caught stealing should be recorded in the notes.

Runs batted in

According to rule 10.04 of the OBR, a run should be considered as having been batted in (RBI) if the runner who scored was driven to home base by the batter (or scored because of the batter). It follows that a run counts as having been batted in if the runner reached home base because of:

- a safe hit;
- a hit that caused the batter or another runner to be put out, but which enabled the runner on third base to score;
- a sacrifice bunt or sacrifice fly;
- a base on balls, or the award of first base for being touched by a pitched ball, or for interference or obstruction (with bases full), which forces the runner on third base over the plate;
- an error being made on a play on which a runner from third base would ordinarily score, before two are out.

ATTENTION: If there are two out, a run scored on a hit that led to an error, or following an interference or obstruction with bases full (excluding catcher’s interference), can never count as a run batted in, since if the error had not been committed the inning would have been over and the run would not have been scored.

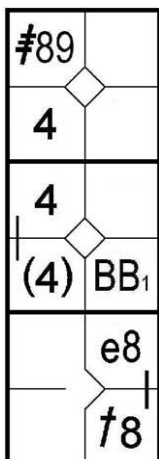
A run batted in is recorded in the home base square with the batting order number of the batter who enabled the runner to score.

This batter is credited with a run batted in, in the appropriate square.

Example 70: With runners on first and third bases, the batter hits a double to the right field, enabling both runners to score.

This means that the fourth batter in the batting order is credited with two runs batted in.

| | |
|-----|-----|
| #89 | |
| 4 | |
| | |
| 4 | INT |
| | #9 |



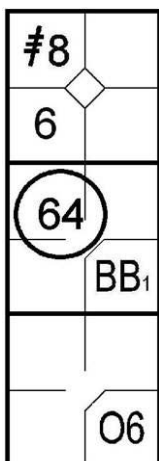
Example 71: With runners on first and third bases, the batter hits a single to the center fielder, who lets the ball run between his legs. Consequently, both runners score and the batter reaches second base.

The run scored by the runner from third base is batted in, as it was scored on the hit.

The run scored by the runner from first base, however, is not a run batted in as it occurred because of the error by the center fielder.

In our example we have judged that the runner from first base would have reached third on the hit alone.

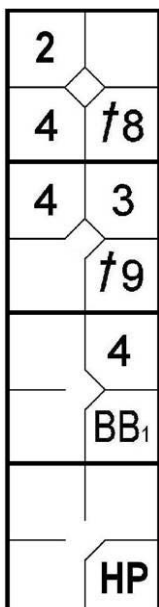
The parentheses around the number four recording the run scored by the second runner indicate that this is not a run batted in, as it was achieved because of an error committed during the fourth batter's time at bat, and not because of his hit.



Example 72: With runners on first and third bases, the batter hits to the shortstop, who puts out the runner from first base with an assist to the second baseman.

The runner from third scores.

This run counts as a run batted in, since it was scored on the hit.



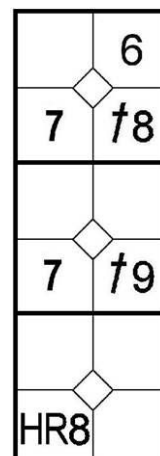
Example 73: With bases full the batter is touched by the ball and goes directly to first base, forcing the other runners to advance.

The runner on third consequently scores.

This run is counted as a run batted in, since it was forced by the batter.

Example 74: With first and second bases occupied, the batter hits a home run, and three runs are scored.

All three runs are batted in, and are credited to the batter (including his own home run).



Example 75: With third base occupied, the batter hits a fly ball to the center fielder and is caught out.

The runner on third base leaves after the catch and scores.

The run is batted in and is credited to the batter who hit the sacrifice fly.



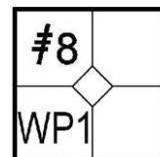
A run does not count as having been batted in if it is scored because of:

- A fielding error;
- A wild pitch, passed ball or balk;
- A hit, if as a result of the hit the defense makes a forced double play;
- A stolen base;
- Fielder's choice (O/).

Here are some examples.

Example 76: With a runner on third base, the pitcher delivers a wild pitch, allowing the runner to score.

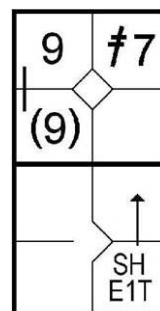
This run is not batted in.

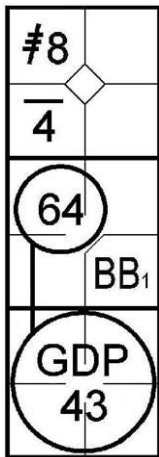


Example 77: With a runner on second base, the batter hits a sacrifice bunt that enables the runner to reach third base.

However, the pitcher, who catches the bunt, muffs his throw to first, enabling the runner to score and the batter to reach second base.

The run is not batted in as it was scored because of an error.



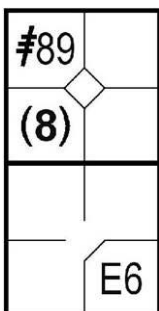


Example 78: With runners on first and third, the batter hits to the shortstop who passes the ball to the second baseman, who in turn puts out the runner from first, then throws to the first baseman, making a double play.

The runner on third scores.

This is not a run batted in, as it was scored on the back of a hit that led to a double play.

In this case it is important to remember to note the batting order number of the batter with a stroke above, to show that it is not a run batted in, despite the fact that the advance was legal.

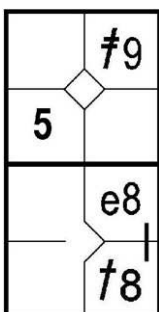


Example 79: With two out and a runner on third base, the batter hits to the shortstop who bungles the catch, allowing the runner on third to score, and the batter to reach first base safely.

The run is not batted in as there were already two out, and if the shortstop had not made the error the inning would have been over.

To conclude this section on runs batted in, we shall take this opportunity to draw your attention to a situation that arises often and which can place the scorer in some difficulties

Let us look at the following example.



Example 80: With a runner on second base, the batter hits a single to the center fielder, who lets the ball pass between his legs.

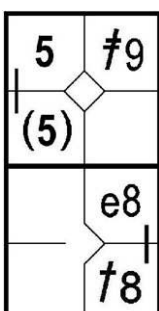
The runner on second base succeeds in scoring, while the batter reaches second base.

At this point, we ask ourselves whether the run was batted in or not, and whether the runner on second would have scored in any case, without the error by the center fielder.

To resolve this problem correctly, the scorer must follow developments on the field very closely, and must take particular note of the position of the runner at the point at which the fielder missed the ball, and whether he was close to the diamond or far away, which would make a throw to home plate very difficult.

He should make careful note of whether, once he reached third base, the runner slowed down and then picked up speed again once he had seen the fielder's error, or whether he passed third base running and continued to home base without paying any attention to what was happening in the outfield.

If the scorer determines that the runner was heading for home base in any case, and that the fielder had made the error in a position that would have made it difficult for him to make a putout at home base, the batter should be credited with a run batted in.



If not, the run would not count as having been batted in

Game winning runs batted in

A game-winning run batted in (GWRBI) is a run batted in that puts one team in the lead. If the winning run was not batted in then that game will have no game-winning run batted in.

The name of the person who scored the winning run batted in is written in the appropriate space on the score report of the team in question.

Before looking at some examples, it is worth noting that at the exact moment when one team draws level, it is as if a new game had started for the purposes of determining the game-winning run batted in.

The game-winning run batted in is also the run that identifies the losing pitcher of a game.

NOTE: In some games there may not be any game-winning run batted in.

Example 81: Game won by the home team by 5 to 4. It can be seen from the table that the home team retained the advantage from the first inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 4 |
| Home Team | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | X | | | | | | | 5 |

The game-winning run batted in, provided that the run was indeed batted in, is therefore credited to the batter whose actions in the batter's box led to the first run being scored.

Example 82: Game won 6-5 by the visiting team. An analysis of the scoring reveals that the fifth inning ended with both teams level (3 all). In the first half of the next inning, the visitors scored the first run and drew ahead (4 to 3), increasing their lead with two more runs (6 to 3), while their opponents only managed to close the gap by scoring the final two runs of the inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 6 |
| Home Team | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 5 |

The game-winning run batted in is therefore the first of the three runs scored by the visiting team in the sixth inning, provided that this run was batted in.

Example 83: Game won by the visiting team 9 to 8. The visitors ended their first turn at bat with nine runs. Despite scoring one run in each of the succeeding innings, the home team was unable to catch up and lost the match.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 9 |
| Home Team | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 8 |

The game-winning run batted in is the one that put the visiting team in the lead, which in this case was the first run of the game, provided that it was a run batted in.

Example 84: Game won 10-9 by the home team. At the end of the first half of the sixth inning the score stood at 8 to 6 for the visitors. The crucial turning point came in the second half of the same inning, when the home team scored four runs, putting them in the lead (10 to 8), a lead they kept until the end of the match.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 9 |
| Home Team | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | X | | | | | | | 10 |

The game-winning run batted in, provided that the run was indeed batted in, is one of the four scored in the sixth inning by the winning team. So, with the first run the home team began to close in (7 to 8); with the second they drew level (8 all); with the third they pulled ahead (9 to 8) and with the last one they put even more distance between them (10 to 8). The game-winning run batted in was therefore the third of these.

Example 85: Game won by the home team, 11 to 9. At the end of the seventh inning the score stood at 4 to 6 for the home team. The visitors, however, scored three runs in the next inning and pulled into the lead (7 to 6). If the game had ended with this result the game-winning run batted in would be the last of these three, i.e. the seventh run. However, the team second to bat ended the inning having scored another five runs (7 to 11), making it impossible for their opponents to catch up. Looking at the progress of the score in the eighth inning, it becomes clear that the home team equalised with the first of the five runs (7 all); the second put them in the lead (8 to 7); and the next three widened the gap. Their opponents succeeded in scoring only two runs, putting the final score at 9 to 11 against them.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | 9 |
| Home Team | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | X | | | | | | | 11 |

The winning run batted in is therefore the second run scored by the home team in the eighth inning, provided that it was indeed batted in.

Example 86: Game won by the visiting team by 12 to 11. If we look at the interim scores at the end of each inning, it becomes clear how a game-winning run batted in can vary depending on the runs scored by the teams and the ups and downs of the score line.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | 12 |
| Home Team | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | | | | | | | 11 |

- **First inning (0-1):** The first winning run batted in is the one that puts the home team in the lead.
- **Second inning (1-1):** The previous winning run batted in is cancelled when the visiting team draws level.
- **Third inning (3-2):** The visiting team scores the first run of the inning and pulls ahead (2-1). They then increase their lead with a second run (3-1). Their opponents score another run (3-2). The winning run batted in is therefore the run that put the visitors 2-1 ahead.
- **Fourth inning (3-4):** With the visiting team's time at bat yielding no runs, the home team then scores two runs. The first brings them level (3-3) and the second puts them in the lead (3-4). The latter run is therefore the new winning run batted in.
- **Fifth inning (6-4):** The visiting team scores three runs, the second putting them once again in the lead. The new winning run batted in is the second of this inning.
- **Sixth inning (7-4):** The visiting team scores one run and the home team none.
- **Seventh inning (7-5):** Just as they were about to lose, the home team scores. No change in the game-winning run batted in from the fifth and sixth innings.
- **Eighth inning (8-10):** The visiting team scores a run, pulling out their lead (8-5). The home team reacts by scoring five runs, overturning the interim score. Although the third run brought them level (8-8), the fourth took them into the lead and this is therefore the new winning run batted in.
- **Ninth inning (12-11):** The visitors draw level by scoring two runs (10-10), going into the lead with the third and cementing their lead with the fourth. During the home team's turn at bat they skilfully manage the advantage they gained with the third run and allow only one runner to score.

The game-winning run batted in is therefore the third run of the ninth inning scored by the visiting team.

Chapter IV

The pitcher

Earned runs — Pitching credits

Earned runs

According to rule 10.16 of the OBR, an Earned Run (ER) is charged when, with fewer than three fielding opportunities, all advances on base by the player who reached home base can be attributed to the pitcher. An Earned Run is charged when advances are made for the following reasons:

- **Batter-runner:** safe hits, fielder's choices (occupied balls), bases on balls (including intentional bases on balls), hit by pitch and, if it is not a fielding opportunity, advance to first base on KWP.
- **Runners:** all advances as a result of safe hits, stolen bases, sacrifice bunts, sacrifice flies, putouts, fielder's choices, balks, wild pitches, catcher's interference and forced advances due to the batter having been awarded first base.

Before going into the complex matter of earned runs it is a good idea to look at what is meant by "fielding opportunity".

A "fielding opportunity" is defined as any time when, in the scorer's opinion, the defense has an opportunity to make a putout, regardless of whether the opportunity was taken successfully, or lost through error.

Fielding opportunities include: putouts, all decisive errors (including those that allowed the batter of a sacrifice hit to reach first base safely), all arrivals on base by batter-runners recorded with "KPB", "OB" and, in specific cases, "KWP".

The reason the pitcher is not held accountable for runs scored after the third fielding opportunity is because, if the defense had capitalised on every such opportunity, they would have made three putouts and that phase of the inning would have ended.

In the example given here, the defense has already had three fielding opportunities, as there have been two putouts, and a third runner reached base on an error.

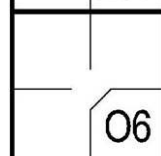
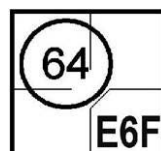
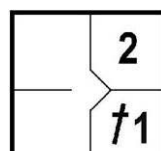
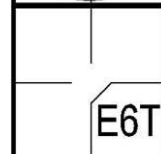
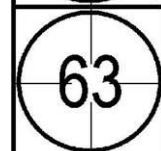
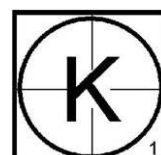
A muffed foul fly should also be considered a fielding opportunity, as the batter could have been put out. There are also other situations in which there may be a fielding opportunity without the outcome being either a putout or a fielding error.

Usually, when there are two fielding opportunities on the same play, just one is counted, as any player can be put out only once.

Both these examples show situations in which there are two fielding opportunities on the same play, only one of which is counted.

ATTENTION: There are some situations in which there appear to be two fielding opportunities on the same player.

Example 1: There are two fielding opportunities on the runner put out on second base. It should be noted, however, that if this runner had been put out on first, rather than reaching base safely on an error, the defense would also have put out the next batter, thus making two putouts in all. Consequently, in situations such as this, two fielding opportunities are counted. Any run scored by the runner who had reached base on an occupied ball would not be earned.

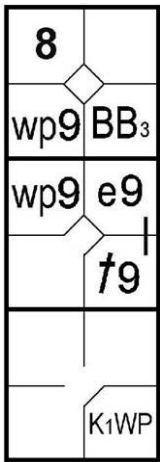


IMPORTANT: If, during the course of an inning, the defense has three fielding opportunities, no earned runs are charged to the pitcher. The reason for this rule is fairly easy to understand: if the three fielding opportunities had been translated into three putouts, the inning would have ended and the offensive team would not have been able to score any more runs. If, on the other hand, the inning continues, it is purely the defense’s responsibility that the fielding opportunities offered were not translated into putouts, which is why no further earned runs are charged to the pitcher.

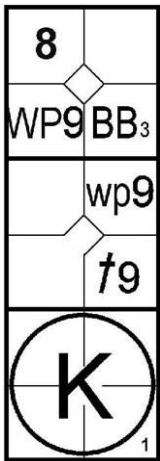
ATTENTION: “KO2” is not a fielding opportunity.

A batter is automatically called out when, with fewer than two out and first base occupied, the third strike is a wild pitch. If first base is free, or if there are two out, the batter-runner may try to reach the base. If he succeeds, the symbol to use for his advance to first base is “KWP” which is not usually a fielding opportunity but, as for all rules, there is an exception in this case.

Indeed, if first base is free because the runner took advantage of an error or passed ball to advance, the “KWP” then becomes a fielding opportunity. This can be seen clearly from the fact that, in the absence of an error or passed ball, first base would have remained occupied and, as such, the batter would automatically have been called out. Consequently, any runs scored by a batter who becomes a runner on “KWP” cannot be considered earned.

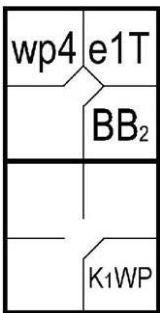


Example 2: With no men out and first base occupied, the eighth man in the line-up hits a single to the right fielder, who fails to catch the ball. The batter-runner takes the opportunity to advance one base. The next batter swings at the third strike, which is also a wild pitch, and succeeds in reaching first base safely, while the other runners advance one base on the wild pitch.



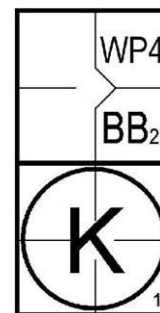
If the right fielder had not committed an error, the ninth batter would have found first base occupied and he would have been struck out, while the runners would have advanced one base on the wild pitch.

“KWP” is therefore a fielding opportunity.

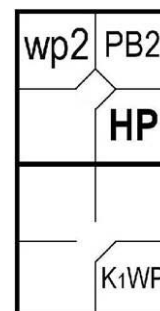


Example 3: A failed pickoff on first base allows the runner to advance to second and offers the batter the opportunity to reach first base on “KWP”.

If it had not been for the pitcher's error, first base would have been occupied and therefore automatically off limits to the batter. The "KWP" is therefore a fielding opportunity.

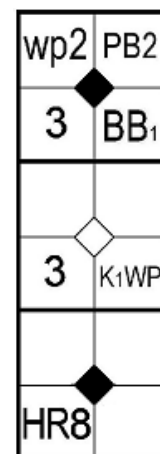


Example 4: After having swung at the third strike, the batter-runner is able to advance to first base because of a previous passed ball. The "KWP" is therefore a fielding opportunity.



Example 5: Of the three runs batted in on the strength of the home run, only the first and last are earned, as the second batter reached first base on "KWP" due to the previous passed ball. The "KWP" is therefore a fielding opportunity.

IMPORTANT: All advances as a result of a strikeout-wild pitch (KWP) are considered legal as they occurred on a wild pitch.



When a run can never be earned

Apart from the case we have already seen of runs scored after the three fielding opportunities, a run can never be earned if the presence on the bases of the runner who scored the run was prolonged by one of the fielding opportunities listed above.

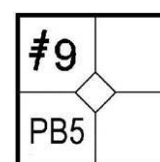
When a run may become earned

There are times when a run is not earned at the time it was scored, but may become so in the course of the ensuing action under certain conditions.

To give a clearer idea, we shall look at an example. Before three fielding opportunities have occurred, the batter hits a triple and reaches third base.

The next batter gets a passed ball, which enables the runner to score. This run should not be considered an earned run, at least not for the moment, because although the pitcher was responsible for the runner's reaching third base, he was not responsible for his illegal advance to home base.

Nevertheless, there is still a possibility that the run may become earned when, before three fielding opportunities have occurred, there is an action for which the pitcher is solely responsible, such that it would have enabled the runner, if he were still on third base, to score.

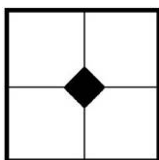


Returning to our example, if the next batter hits a safe hit, the run becomes earned, as the runner would have been able to score even without the passed ball (illegal advance).

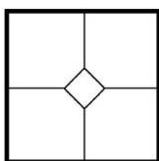
Situations such as this, which may slow down the allocation of an earned run, may depend on extra base errors and obstruction to runners as well as passed balls. These are illegal actions.

It can be stated therefore that the legal action of a following batter legalises the action of the previous batter, when the previous batter would in any case have reached that base, as in the case we have just seen.

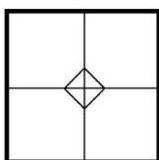
In the case of catcher's interference to the batter-runner (before he reaches first base), it is a decisive error that for the rules is not considered a fielding opportunity, and for this reason any runs scored by this batter-runner cannot become earned.



In this respect it is worth noting that for an earned run, the small diamond in the centre of each square, created with joined lines as the runner advances around the bases, should be filled in.

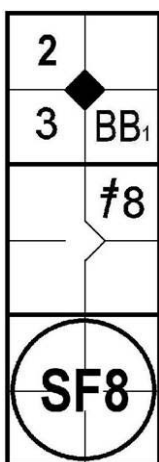


If the run is not earned, the diamond is left blank.

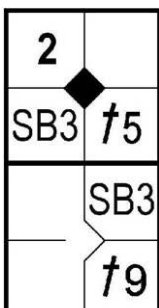


If the run is NOT earned against the team, a cross must be drawn inside the diamond.

We shall now clarify the above by looking at several examples.



Example 6: The first batter is awarded a base on balls. The second batter hits a double and forces the runner to third base. The third batter hits a fly ball to the center fielder that enables the runner on third to score. This is an earned run.



Example 7: The first batter hits a safe hit to third base, while the next batter sends him to third with a single to the right field. On an attempt to steal second, the catcher throws to the second baseman but fails to make the putout. The runner on third base takes this opportunity to advance to home base and score. Both runners are awarded stolen bases and the run is earned.

Example 8: With fewer than two out, the first batter walks.

The next batter hits a double to the center fielder, forcing the runner to third base.

The third batter advances to first base after being touched by the pitched ball.

The next batter hits to the shortstop who throws to home base in an attempt to put out the runner about to score.

The runner, however, reaches the base before the ball does, and scores.

Everyone else advances one base.

The run is an earned run.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 2 | |
| 4 | BB ₁ |
| 4 | 7 8 |
| | |
| | 4 |
| | HP |
| | |
| | FC 62 |

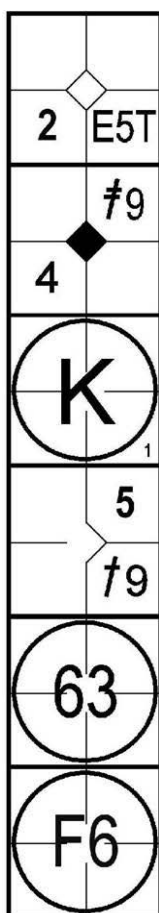
Example 9: The first batter walks.

The next two batters hit singles inside the diamond, filling the bases.

The fourth batter is awarded a base on balls, forcing all the other runners to advance one base, and enabling the runner on third to score.

This is an earned run.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 3 | 2 |
| 4 | BB ₁ |
| 4 | 3 |
| | 7 5 |
| | 4 |
| | 7 4 |
| | |
| | BB ₂ |



Example 10: The first batter reaches first base on a throwing error by the third baseman.

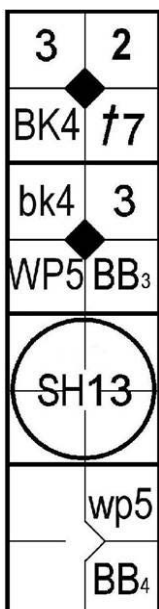
The second batter hits a double to the right field, and the runner from first base runs home.

The next batter is struck out, and the fourth batter hits a single to the right field, sending home the runner from second base.

The next two batters are put out.

The first run cannot be earned because the batter reached first base on an error.

The second run is earned, as it was obtained with just two fielding opportunities.



Example 11: The first batter reaches first base with a safe hit to the left field, and is driven to second by the next batter, who is awarded a base on balls.

The third batter hits a sacrifice bunt enabling both runners to advance one base.

With the fourth batsman at the plate, the pitcher delivers a balk, which means both runners advance one base and a run is scored.

The batter is then awarded a base on balls.

The next batter receives a wild pitch that enables both runners to advance one base, and another run is scored.

Both runs are earned runs.

Example 12: The first batter hits a high ball into foul territory, which the catcher should be able to catch but does not. The scorer decides it is an easy catch and assigns an error to the catcher.

The batter returns to bat and hits a home run to the center field.

The next batter is struck out, and the third hits a triple to the right field.

At this point, with the fourth batter at the plate, the pitcher delivers a wild pitch, allowing the runner on third to score the second run.

The batter is subsequently struck out.

The fifth batter hits a triple to the center field and goes on to score the third run thanks to a balk by the pitcher.

The first run scored on the home run hit cannot be earned as the batter's life had been prolonged by an error.

The second run was earned as it had been obtained with just two fielding opportunities.

The third run, however, was not earned, as it was scored after the third fielding opportunity.

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| | | |
| HR8 | | E2 |
| K | | 3 |
| #9 | | |
| WP4 | | |
| K | | 4 |
| #8 | | |
| BK6 | | |

Example 13: The first batter walks.

The next batter hits towards the shortstop, who throws to second in time to put out the runner, but muffs the throw.

With first and second bases occupied, the catcher lets through a pitch he should have caught, allowing both runners to advance.

The third batter hits a fly ball to the center field, enabling the runner from third to score.

The fourth batter hits a single to the center field, thus sending the runner from second home.

The fifth batter is struck out, and the sixth hits a home run to the right field, enabling a further two runs to be scored.

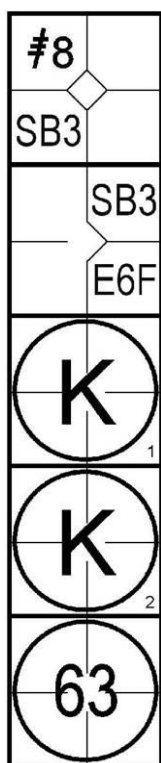
None of these four runs is earned.

The first run cannot be earned because the runner reached second on an error.

The second run was obtained with just two fielding opportunities, but it must be remembered that the runner reached second on a passed ball, without which the fourth batter's hit would have enabled him to reach third at most, and which would have been the third fielding opportunity.

The other two runs were scored after three fielding opportunities.

| | | |
|-----|--|-----------------|
| PB3 | | E6T |
| 3 | | BB ₁ |
| | | pb3 |
| 4 | | O6 |
| SF8 | | |
| | | |
| 6 | | t8 |
| K | | 1 |
| | | |
| HR9 | | |



Example 14: The first batter hits a triple to center field.

The second batter reaches first base safely when the shortstop muffs a fly ball.

While the third batter is at bat the runner on first steals second base, and the other runner takes advantage of the fact that the fielders are concentrating on his team-mate to score a run.

The third and fourth batters are struck out.

The fifth is put out at first base with an assist by the shortstop.

The only run scored was not earned, because if it had not been for the shortstop's error the second batter would have been put out and consequently he would not have been able to steal second base, thus allowing the runner on third to score.

Indeed, this latter runner would have remained on third base, given that the actions of the following batters would not have provided him with any subsequent opportunities to advance.

Changes of pitcher and runs allowed

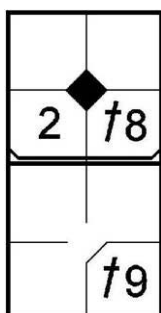
The situation becomes more complicated when there are one or more changes of pitcher. The rules state: *When pitchers are changed during an inning, the official scorer shall not charge the relief pitcher with any run (earned or unearned) scored by a runner who was on base at the time such relief pitcher 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* [OBR 10.16 g)].

Let us look more closely at this.

When there is a change of pitcher, any runners left on base are charged to the pitcher who put them on base, who is also charged with any runs they might score. Problems arise in the interpretation of the second part of the rule. The phrase is understood to refer to the actions of a runner (understood here to be the batter-runner) that lead to a preceding runner, who was put on base by the previous pitcher, being put out.

Comment: *It is the intent of Rule 10.16(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* [OBR 10.16 g)].

This can be seen more clearly in the following examples.



Example 15: The starting pitcher leaves one runner on base when he is relieved.

As a rule, to which there are no exceptions, the runners left on base by a pitcher belong to that pitcher.

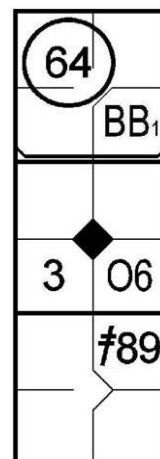
For this reason, the run is charged to the first pitcher.

Example 16: The first pitcher leaves one runner on base, and he is put out after the pitcher is relieved by a normal action as a result of a hit.

Given that the first pitcher left one runner on base, he must be charged with a run.

We have here the two fundamental conditions: an occupied ball and the putout of a runner put on base by the first pitcher.

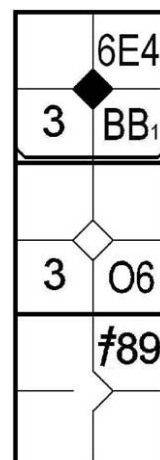
The run is therefore charged to the first pitcher.



In this example, the second baseman failed to put out the runner.

As the second run cannot be charged to the first pitcher, as he would in that case be charged with two runs, despite having left only one runner on base, the fielding opportunity (6E4) is transferred to the second pitcher (in place of the “O6”).

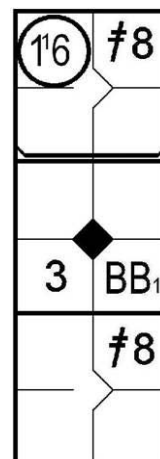
The first run is therefore earned and the second is unearned.



Example 17: The first pitcher leaves one runner on base, and must therefore be charged with one run.

The runner, however, is picked off base, i.e. the putout is not due to an action by the batter-runner.

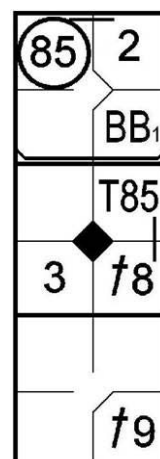
The first pitcher is therefore not charged with any runs, and the run is consequently charged to the relief pitcher.

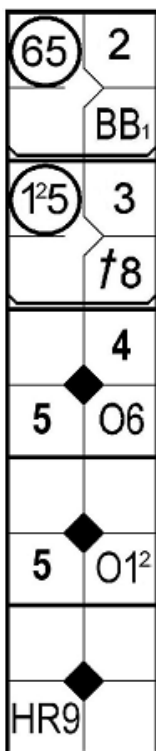


Example 18: The first pitcher leaves one runner on base, who is subsequently put out trying to advance on a hit.

The author of the hit reaches second and subsequently scores.

The run is charged to the second pitcher as the runner put on base by the first pitcher was put out by his own fault and not by the fault of the batter.



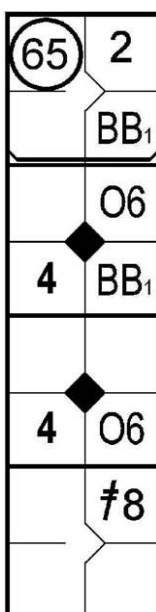


Example 19: The first and second pitchers both leave one runner on base when they are relieved, and must therefore be charged with one run each.

The first runner is put out on a hit, likewise the second, while the authors of the hits reach base safely on an occupied ball.

The fifth batter hits a home run to the right field.

A run is charged to each pitcher.



Example 20: The first pitcher leaves one runner on base.

He must be charged with one run.

During the play in which the runner put on base by the first pitcher is put out, the other runners reach base safely because the ball is occupied.

Two runs are then scored.

The first is charged to the first pitcher, while the second is charged to the second pitcher.

Indeed, the first pitcher may be charged with only one run as he left only one man on base.

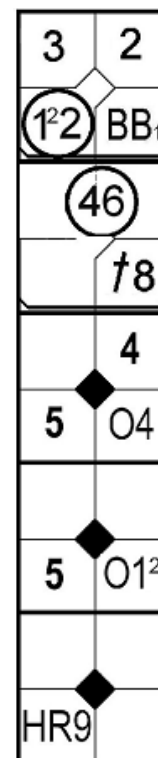
Example 21: Both the first and second pitchers leave one runner on base.

The runner on first base, who was put there by the second pitcher, is put out on a ground ball by the third batter.

The preceding runner is put out on a hit by the fourth batter.

The next home run hit brings in three runs, all earned.

Each pitcher is charged with one run.



The OBR states in rule 10.16 i) that *When pitchers are changed during an inning, the relief pitcher shall not have the benefit of previous chances for outs not accepted in determining earned runs.*

Rule 10.16(i) Comment: *It is the intent of Rule 10.16(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.*

To clarify the meaning of this note, let us look at the following example:

Example 22: The first batter hits a fly ball and is caught out by the left fielder.

The next batter reaches second base safely on a catching error by the center fielder.

The third batter hits a single to the right field, sending the runner to third base.

The fourth batter hits a sacrifice fly that enables the runner on third to score the first run (the runner on first base stays put).

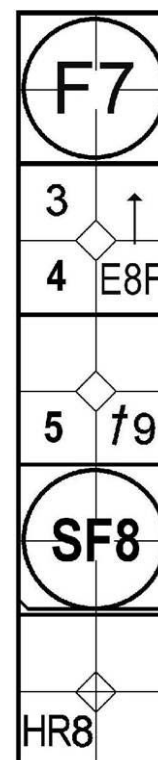
The fifth batter hits a home run that brings in two runs.

The first pitcher is charged with **two unearned runs** (there had been three fielding opportunities at the time the home run was hit: “F7”, “E8F” and “SF8”).

The second pitcher is charged with **one earned run** (only two fielding opportunities were transferred by the previous pitcher: “F7” and “SF8”).

The team is charged with three runs, **none of which is earned**, as the team had three fielding opportunities: “F7”, “E8F” and “SF8”.

The example also shows the notation to be used for runs that are unearned against the team (or which are earned against the pitcher but not against the team).



Example 23: Evidently, when a situation such as that described above occurs during the course of a game, the total number of runs earned against the team will be less than the total number of runs earned against the pitchers.

| PITCHERS | | | WO/LO/SA | | | BF | AB | R | ER | H |
|----------|---------------|----|----------|--|--|----|----|----|----|----|
| R | Franklin Ryan | 28 | LO | | | 27 | 24 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| L | Williams Todd | 31 | R | | | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| R | Young Thomas | 30 | FR | | | 12 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS | | | | | | 41 | 38 | 12 | 8 | 8 |

In order to make this clear, the number of runs earned against the team must be circled.

ATTENTION: In the cumulative totals compiled at the end of each half inning, the total runs earned against the pitcher, including those unearned against the team, are recorded.

| | |
|-----|-----------------|
| K | 1 |
| 63 | |
| (4) | |
| 5 | BB ₁ |
| 5 | 6E3 |
| HR8 | |

Example 24: With two out, i.e. with two fielding opportunities, there is a base on balls followed by an error.

This error constitutes the third fielding opportunity for the first pitcher, who therefore cannot be charged with any further earned runs.

The relief pitcher, on the other hand, does not benefit from the failed putout.

Consequently, the home run, which is charged to the relief pitcher, is earned against the pitcher but unearned against the team.

| | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 63 | |
| F8 | |
| (5) | 4 |
| 6 | BB ₁ |
| (5) | |
| 6 | BB ₂ |
| 6 | E6T |
| HR7 | |

Example 25: With two out, there follow two bases on balls, after which the pitcher is relieved. An error is committed against the next batter.

This error constitutes the third fielding opportunity for the relief pitcher, who can also count the two putouts.

But it is also the third fielding opportunity for the first pitcher, as the relief pitcher cannot count failed putouts, although the replaced pitcher can.

From this moment, therefore, no runs charged to either the first or the second pitcher can be earned.

Thus, with the subsequent home run, two runs are charged to the first pitcher and two to the second, although none are earned.

Example 26: In this inning, after a putout, with the batter-runner on first base because of an error, the third batter is awarded a base on balls.

The fourth batter reaches first base safely on a fielder's choice, as on the hit an infielder tried unsuccessfully to put out the runner heading for second.

Bearing in mind that fielder's choice is not a fielding opportunity, the runs by the third, fourth and fifth batters are earned runs, both for the team and the relief pitchers, because team and pitchers only have two and one fielding opportunities respectively at this moment.



Example 27: In this inning, after a base on balls, there is an error, which constitutes the first and only fielding opportunity for the first pitcher, who is then relieved.

The relief pitcher therefore begins with no fielding opportunities to his credit.

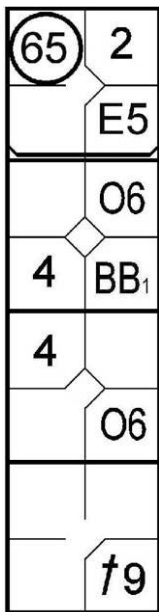
He gets a three-run home run: the first two runs are charged to the first pitcher, and only the first is earned, as the second was compromised by an error.

The home run itself is charged to the second pitcher, and is an earned run.

The inning continues with two strikeouts, after which there is another error.

This is the third fielding opportunity for the second pitcher, and thus no runs charged against him from this moment on are earned.





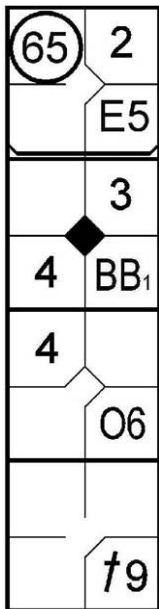
Example 28: The first batter reaches first base on an error.

The pitcher is replaced.

The second batter is awarded a base on balls and the third hits a ground ball to the shortstop who assists the third baseman in putting out the lead runner, while the others reach base safely.

Finally, the fourth batter hits a safe hit, sending the second runner home.

The run is charged to the first pitcher but is not earned as the second fielding opportunity is transferred to that runner.



In this example, the run is charged to the second pitcher and it is earned, as the scorer judged that that runner could not have been put out.

The second fielding opportunity, however, is transferred to the third batter who, if he were to score, would have his run charged to the first pitcher, although it would not be earned.

The occupied ball thus also indicates the possibility that runs have been transferred from a previous pitcher.

Example 29: The first batter reaches first base on an error.

The second is awarded a base on balls and the pitcher is replaced.

The third batter hits a safe hit, filling the bases.

The fourth batter hits a ground ball to the third baseman who throws an assist to home base, putting out the first runner.

The fifth batter repeats the previous action.

The sixth batter hits a four-run home run, and the inning finally ends with the seventh batter being struck out.

The first pitcher should be charged with two runs, as he was replaced with two men on base.

The runs in question are the first two, and they are indicated by the occupied ball notation.

Neither of these, however, is earned, as for the first a fielding opportunity was transferred from the first batter, and with the second run there had already been three fielding opportunities.

The other two runs are charged to the second pitcher, and they are earned against the pitcher but not against the team, since the pitcher had amassed only two fielding opportunities.

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| 3 | 2 |
| (52) | E6T |
| 4 | 3 |
| (52) | BB ₁ |
| 5 | 4 |
| 6 | †7 |
| | 5 |
| 6 | O5 |
| | |
| 6 | O5 |
| | |
| HR7 | |
| K | 1 |

In this example, the runs charged to the first pitcher are the second and third, because of the occupied balls. Here too, they are unearned, for the same reasons as in the first example.

The first run, however, is earned against the second pitcher, because due to the advances on hits the runner could not be put out, and therefore no fielding opportunities could be transferred to him.

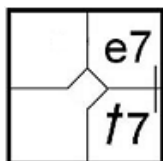
| | |
|------|-----------------|
| 3 | 2 |
| (52) | E6T |
| O5 | 3 |
| (52) | BB ₁ |
| O5 | O5 |
| 6 | †7 |
| | O5 |
| 6 | O5 |
| | |
| 6 | O5 |
| | |
| HR7 | |
| K | 1 |

As far as fielding opportunities are concerned, it should be noted that in the event of an attempted double play, there are two opportunities in the same action, with either two putouts, or a putout and an error.

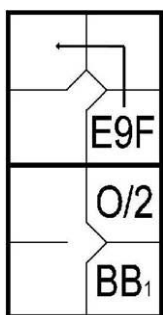
However, if just one putout is made, and the other attempted putout is unsuccessful, but not because of an error, only one fielding opportunity has occurred.

To conclude this chapter on earned runs, we shall look a little more closely at the issue of legal and illegal advances.

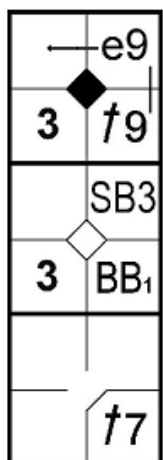
A base runner is not a static entity, he is a potential aggressor, i.e. he can make a play. When a runner should not have been on base, or should not have advanced to that point, no account must be taken of any plays made by him for the purposes of calculating earned runs.



Example 30: The runner on second base would not have been able to advance if the game had been played correctly, so for the purposes of calculating earned runs he should be considered as being on first base.



Example 31: With a man on third base due to an error, the runner on first reaches second on defensive indifference. If the game had gone correctly, he would not have advanced to second, so for our purposes a man is considered as being on first base.

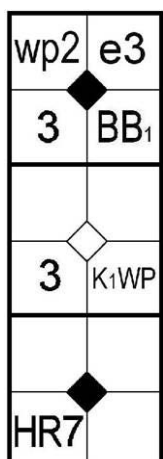


Example 32: The first batter hits to the right field and, thanks to an error by the outfielder, reaches third base.

The second batter walks and goes on to steal second base.

The third batter hits to the left field, enabling both runners to score.

Up to this moment, the first run is earned, but not the second, since if it had not been for the outfielder's error, the lead runner would have remained on second base, thus removing from the other runner any possibility of stealing, and the third batter's safe hit would have sent home only the first runner, while the second runner would have stopped at third base.



Example 33: The first batter is awarded a base on balls and reaches second base on an error when the first baseman attempts to pick him off. The second batter reaches first on a wild pitch after having swung at the third strike, and the runner reaches third base. The third batter hits a home run. The first and third runs are earned, but not the second, because if it had not been for the fielding error on the first runner, the second batter would have been called out under rule 6.05 c) of the OBR.

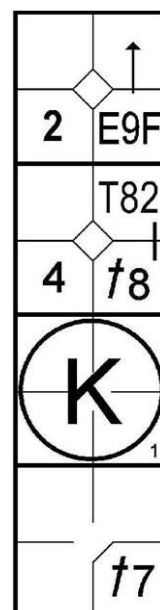
IMPORTANT: From the two previous examples it can be seen that an illegal advance by a previous runner can affect the legality of a subsequent action.

Example 34: With a man on second base due to an error, a safe hit to the center fielder enables him to score, while the batter-runner reaches second base on the throw to home base.

If the play had been legal, the first runner would not have been where he was, so the center fielder would not have thrown to home base and the batter would have remained on first base.

On the next hit another run is scored, which for the time being is unearned since the runner, after having advanced two bases, would have been on third base.

We therefore recommend reconstructing the action carefully to determine whether an advance is legal or not. In this respect it can be helpful to reconstruct an imaginary situation alongside the notation that reflects the actual situation on the field.

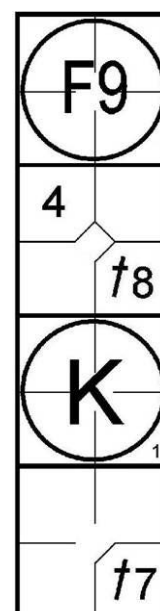


In this example we see the action as it occurred.

We have an indication of what would have happened with legal play: the second batter would not yet have scored, but would have stopped at third base.

With this method it is possible to see clearly that if a runner had scored through legal play, the corresponding run in the real action would be earned, even if the play had been illegal.

If not, a run actually scored would be unearned.

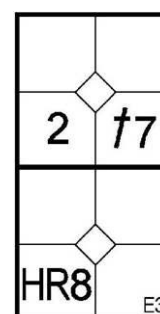


Example 35: With a runner on first base, the first baseman muffs a foul fly on an easy hit and an error is therefore noted in the first base square.

The second batter hits a home run.

The second run cannot be earned in any circumstances.

In order to determine whether the first run is earned, we have to wait for the subsequent turns at bat, as the first batsman should be considered as being still on first base.



Pitching credits

One of the following statistics must be credited to each pitcher who takes part in a game:

- **WINNER**
- **LOSER**
- **SAVE**
- **STARTER**
- **FINAL RELIEF**
- **RELIEF**

Winner [W]

The winning pitcher must obviously be a member of the winning team.

There are no problems where there is only one pitcher, but if more than one pitcher is used, certain rules have to be followed.

The rule 10.17 of OBR says

- (a) *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*
- (1) *such pitcher is a starting pitcher and Rule 10.17(b) applies; or*
 - (2) *rule 10.17(c) applies*

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 judgement was the most effective, if there is more than one relief pitcher.

Comment: *It is the intent of Rule 10.17(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 score 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 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 judgement of the official scorer.*

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 10.17(b) Comment provides guidance on choosing the winning pitcher from among several succeeding relief pitchers.*

Loser [L]

The losing pitcher must be a member of the losing team.

This statistic is given to [OBR 10.17 d)], *a pitcher who is responsible for the run that gives the winning team a lead that the winning team does not relinquish.*

If the starting pitcher is not the losing pitcher, the statistic is credited to the pitcher who put on base the runner who scored the run that put the opposing team definitively in the lead.

IMPORTANT: It should be borne in mind that a pitcher is charged with all runs scored by the runners he put on base, regardless of whether the runs were scored with another pitcher on the mound.

Save [SA]

This statistic is given according to the provisions of rule 10.19 of the OBR:

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 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; or*
 - (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.*

Starter [ST]

This statistic is credited to the pitcher who starts the game. It may not be either the winning or the losing pitcher.

Final Relief [FR]

This statistic is credited to the pitcher who finishes the game. It may not be the winning or losing pitcher, or the pitcher credited with a save.

Relief [R]

This statistic is credited to a pitcher who is not entitled to any of the previous titles.

ATTENTION: In order to determine the statistics to be awarded to the pitchers, when a team uses more than one pitcher, you are advised to proceed as follows:

- **Winning team:** determine, in the following order: WINNER, SAVE (if applicable), STARTER (if applicable) and FINAL RELIEF (if applicable). All other pitchers are RELIEF pitchers.
- **Losing team:** determine, in the following order: LOSER, STARTER (if applicable) and FINAL RELIEF (if applicable). All other pitchers are RELIEF pitchers.

IMPORTANT: Each pitcher must be credited with just one statistic, even if he came out to pitch several times in the same game.

In the following examples the parentheses in the tables are intended **solely** to emphasise the inning pitched by each pitcher and **must not** be used on the official scoresheet.

Example 1: In a baseball game won by the home team 4 to 1, with no pitcher substitutions by either team, the home team pitcher will be the **winning** pitcher and the visiting team pitcher will be the **losing** pitcher.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Home Team | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | X | | | | | | | 4 |

Example 2: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 8 to 7, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitcher of the visiting team is replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the second half of the sixth inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 8 |
| Home Team | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 7 |

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winner** (he pitched 5 innings, his team was in the lead when he was replaced, and remained in the lead until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Save** (he ended the game, kept his team in the lead, and effectively pitched four innings).

The only pitcher of the **home team** is the **Losing** pitcher.

Example 3: In a baseball game won by the home team 16 to 7, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's starting pitcher is replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the sixth inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 7 |
| Home Team | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | X | | | | | | | 16 |

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he pitched five innings, his team was in the lead when he was replaced and remained in the lead until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Save** (he ended the game, kept his team in the lead, and effectively pitched four innings).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Losing** pitcher.

Example 4: In a baseball game won by the home team 5 to 2, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's starting pitcher was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the sixth inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 2 |
| Home Team | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | X | | | | | | | 5 |

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he pitched five innings, his team was in the lead when he was replaced and remained in the lead until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Save** (he ended the game, kept his team in the lead, and effectively pitched four innings).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Losing** pitcher.

Example 5: In a baseball game won by the home team 6 to 5, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's pitcher was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the sixth inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 5 |
| Home Team | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | X | | | | | | | 6 |

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting pitcher** (he pitched five innings, and his team was level with their opponents when he was replaced).
- Relief pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he ended the game, and with him on the mound his team took the lead and went on to win the game).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Losing pitcher**.

Example 6: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 5 to 4, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's starting pitcher was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the fourth inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 5 |
| Home Team | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 4 |

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting pitcher** (his team was behind when he was replaced, but the team subsequently caught up and went on to take the lead).
- Relief pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (he was on the mound when the opposing team took the lead and held it).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Winning pitcher**.

Example 7: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 15 to 5, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's starting pitcher was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the fifth inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 2 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | | | | | | | | | 15 |
| Home Team | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | | | | | | | | | 5 |

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (his team was behind when he was replaced and remained behind for the rest of the match).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he ended the game that his team was already losing).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Winning pitcher**.

Example 8: In a baseball game where the run difference rule applies, won by the home team 14 to 1, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's starting pitcher was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the sixth inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Home Team | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | X | | | | | | | | | 14 |

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he pitched five innings, his team was in the lead when he was replaced and remained in the lead until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he ended the game and kept his team in the lead, but with only two innings when his team had a 12-run advantage he cannot be credited with a save).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Losing pitcher**.

Example 9: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 12 to 2, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitcher of the home team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the third inning. The starting pitcher of the visiting team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the second half of the fourth inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | | | | | | | 12 |
| Home Team | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 2 |

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting pitcher** (he pitched only three innings, even though when he was replaced his team was in the lead, and remained so until the end of the game).
- Relief pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (as it is not possible to credit the starting pitcher with the victory, it is credited to the relief pitcher).

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (when he was replaced his team was losing, and failed subsequently to draw level or to pull ahead).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he joined the game when his team was already losing).

Example 10: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 16 to 7, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitchers of both teams were replaced by relief pitchers at the beginning of the third inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | | | | | | | 16 |
| Home Team | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 7 |

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting pitcher** (he pitched only two innings, even though when he was replaced his team was in the lead, and remained so until the end of the game).
- Relief pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (as it is not possible to credit the starting pitcher with the victory, it is credited to the relief pitcher).

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (when he was replaced his team was losing, and was unable subsequently to draw level or to pull ahead).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he joined the game when his team was already losing).

Example 11: In a baseball game won by the home team 9 to 1, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitcher of the visiting team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the start of the second half of the third inning. The starting pitcher of the home team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the sixth inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Home Team | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 9 |

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he pitched five innings and when he was replaced his team was in the lead, and remained so until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Save** (he ended the game, kept his team in the lead, and effectively pitched four innings).

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (his team was losing when he was replaced and was not subsequently able to draw even or to pull ahead).

- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he ended the game and his team was already losing when he began pitching).

Example 12: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 5 to 4, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitchers of both teams were replaced by relief pitchers at the beginning of the seventh inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 5 |
| Home Team | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 4 |

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he pitched six innings, and when he was replaced his team was in the lead, and remained so until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Save** (he ended the game, kept his team in the lead, and pitched three innings).

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (his team was losing when he was replaced and was not subsequently able to draw even or pull ahead).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he ended the game and his team was already losing when he began pitching).

Example 13: In a game won by the visiting team 13 to 9, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitcher of the home team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the fourth inning, who was in turn replaced by another pitcher at the beginning of the fifth inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 13 |
| Home Team | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 9 |

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (his team was losing when he was replaced, and was not subsequently able to draw even or pull ahead).
- Relief pitcher: **Relief** (his team was losing when he began pitching, and remained behind until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing** (he ended the game and began pitching when his team was already losing).

The **visiting team's** only pitcher is the **Winning pitcher**.

Example 14: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 10 to 9, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitcher of the home team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the third inning. He in turn was replaced at the beginning of the sixth inning. The starting pitcher of the visiting team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the second half of the sixth inning.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | 10 |
| Home Team | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 9 |

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting** (he pitched five innings, and his team was in the lead when he was replaced, although the opposing team subsequently drew level).
- Relief pitcher: **Winning** (he was on the mound when his team scored the run that guaranteed them victory).

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting** (he began the game and his team was in the lead when he was replaced, although they subsequently lost).
- Relief pitcher: **Relief** (when he began pitching his team was losing, but succeeded in drawing level).
- Relief pitcher: **Losing** (he was on the mound when the run that signalled defeat was scored).

Chapter V

Game formalities

Times at bat — Designated hitter — Protests — Suspended games — Forfeited games — Games terminated on run difference — Statistics — Game formalities — Shutouts

Times at bat

It is appropriate at this point to introduce the concept of “Times at bat” (AB). This is a very important concept for establishing all averages and statistics in general.

We shall begin with “Plate appearances” (PA), which means the number of times the batter comes to the plate to bat. Rule 10.02 of the Official Baseball Rules (OBR), as well as defining the statistics required for each batter and runner, also gives a definition of a Times at Bat: *Number of times batted, except that no time at bat shall be charged when a player*

- (i) *hits a sacrifice bunt (SH) or sacrifice fly (SF);*
- (ii) *is awarded first base on four called balls (BB);*
- (iii) *is hit by a pitched ball (HP);*
- (iv) *is awarded first base because of interference or obstruction (IO).*

In practical terms, this means:

$$AB = PA - (BB + HP + IO + SH + SF)$$

The importance of the Times at Bat can be understood by the fact that it is used, for instance, to calculate the batting average (BAve). Indeed, the batting average of a player is computed from the relationship between hits (H) and times at bat (AB).

In practical terms:

$$BAve = (H/AB)$$

We will discuss the issue of averages in greater depth later.

Designated hitter

According to rule 6.10 of the OBR: *A hitter may be designated to bat for the starting pitcher and all subsequent pitchers in any game without otherwise affecting the status of the pitcher(s) in the game.*

A Designated Hitter for the pitcher must be selected prior to the game and must be included in the line-up cards presented to the Umpire in Chief.

The Designated Hitter named in the starting line-up must come to bat at least one time, unless the opposing club changes pitchers.

It is not mandatory that a club designate a hitter for the pitcher, but failure to do so prior to the game precludes the use of a Designated Hitter for that game. Pinch hitters for a Designated Hitter may be used. Any substitute hitter for a Designated Hitter becomes the Designated Hitter. A replaced Designated Hitter shall not re-enter the game in any capacity.

The Designated Hitter may be used defensively, continuing to bat in the same position in the batting order, but the pitcher must then bat in the place of the substituted defensive player, unless more than one substitution is made, and the manager then must designate their spots in the batting order.

A runner may be substituted for the Designated Hitter and the runner assumes the role of Designated Hitter. A Designated Hitter may not pinch run. A Designated Hitter is “locked” into the batting order.

In the following four cases the Designated Hitter role is terminated for the remainder of the game:

1. Once the game pitcher bats for the Designated Hitter (as pitcher he may only bat in the same position in the line-up as the DH previously occupied);
2. Once the game pitcher is switched from the mound to a defensive position;
3. Once a pinch hitter bats for any player in the batting order and then enters the game to pitch;
4. Once a Designated Hitter assumes a defensive position.

Protests

According to rule 4.19 of the OBR:

Each league shall adopt rules governing procedure for protesting a game, when a manager claims that an umpire's decision is in violation of these rules.

Whenever a manager protests a game ... the protest will not be recognised unless the umpires are notified at the time the play under protest occurs and before the next pitch, play or attempted play.

The procedure for protesting the game is in the IBAF Tournament Rules

Suspended games

The rule 4.12 a) of the OBR gives some of the possible reasons why a game may be suspended:

A game shall become a suspended game that must be completed at a future date if the game is terminated for any of the following reasons:

- 1) *A curfew imposed by law;*
- 2) *A time limit permissible under league rules;*
- 3) *Light failure or malfunction of a mechanical field device under control of the home club. (Mechanical field device shall include automatic tarpaulin or water removal equipment.)*
- 4) *Darkness, when a law prevents the lights from being turned on;*
- 5) *Weather, if a regulation game is called while an inning is in progress, and before the inning is completed, the visiting team has scored one or more runs to take the lead, and the home team has not retaken the lead, or*
- 6) *It is a regulation game that is called with the score tied*

The game is considered a regulation game in cases 1) and 2) and, if called due to weather where the following conditions given in rule 4.10 c) of the OBR obtain:

If a game is called, it is a regulation game:

- 1) *If five innings have been completed;*
- 2) *If the home team has scored more runs in four or four and a fraction half-innings than the visiting team has scored in five completed half-innings;*
- 3) *If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fifth inning to tie the score.*

If a game is suspended in the circumstances described in rule 4.12 points 3 and 4, rule 4.12 c) states that the match must be resumed from the exact point at which it was stopped.

The completion of a suspended match is the continuation of the original game. The players in the dugouts and the lineups of both teams must be exactly the same as those in effect at the time the game was suspended, and they are subject to the rules governing substitutions. Any player may be replaced by a player who had not taken part in the game before it was suspended.

No player who was replaced before the suspension of the game may return to take part in the game.

Moreover, the note to Rule 4.12 a) states: *Weather and similar conditions – Rules 4.12(a)(1) through 4.12(a)5 - shall take precedence in determining whether a called game shall be a suspended game. If a game is halted by weather, and subsequent light failure or an intervening curfew or time limit prevents its resumption, the game shall not be a suspended game. If a game is halted by light failure and weather and field conditions prevent its resumption, the game shall not be a suspended game. A game can only be considered a suspended game if stopped for any of the six reasons specified in Rule 4.12 (a)..*

Example 1: The game is called during the second half of the eighth inning, with the scoring as given below. According to the provisions of the IBAF tournament rules, the game is considered complete and the final score is that which obtained at the end of the seventh inning. The final result is thus 5 to 3 for the home team.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Home Team | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | 5 |

Example 2: The game is called during the second half of the sixth inning, with the score as given below. According to the provisions of the IBAF tournament rules, the game is considered a regulation game, with the score as it stood at the end of the fifth inning. The final result is thus 2 to 1 for the home team.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Home Team | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |

Example 3: The game is called during the second half of the sixth inning, with the score standing as shown below. According to the provisions of the IBAF tournament rules, the final result is 2 to 1 for the visiting team.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Home Team | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |

Example 4: The game is called at the end of the first half of the eighth inning, with the score standing as shown below. According to the provisions of the IBAF tournament rules, the game is won by the home team by 5 runs to 3.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Home Team | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | 5 |

Example 5: The game is called at the end of the first half of the seventh inning for darkness. According to the provisions of the IBAF tournament rules, the game will be completed on a date to be decided, and resumed at the exact point at which the original game was suspended.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | | | | | | | | | 5 |
| Home Team | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |

Example 6: The game is called during the second half of the sixth inning with the score standing as shown below. The final result is 3 all. The game is considered a regulation tied game and shall be replayed only if necessary for the final rankings.

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Res. |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Visitors | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Home Team | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | 3 |

It should be noted that, when the score is disregarded, no individual performances noted in the incomplete inning (whether in attack or defense) are taken into consideration for statistical purposes.

Forfeited games

Rule 4.15 of the OBR states: *A game may be forfeited to the opposing team when a team:*

- Fails to appear upon the field, or being upon the field, refuses to start play within five minutes after the umpire has called "Play" at the appointed hour for beginning the game, unless such delayed appearance is, in the umpire's judgement, unavoidable;*
- Employs tactics palpably designed to delay or shorten the game;*
- Refuses to continue play during a game unless the game has been suspended or terminated by the umpire;*
- Fails to resume play, after a suspension, within one minute after the umpire has called "Play";*

- e) *After warning by the umpire, wilfully and persistently violates any rules of the game;*
- f) *Fails to obey within a reasonable time the umpire's order for removal of a player from the game;*
- g) *Fails to appear for the second game of a doubleheader within twenty minutes after the close of the first game unless the umpire-in-chief of the first game shall have extended the time of the intermission.*

Additionally, rule 4.16 states:

A game shall be forfeited to the visiting team if, after it has been suspended, the orders of the umpire to groundskeepers respecting preparation of the field for resumption of play are not complied with.

And finally, according to rule 4.17:

A game shall be forfeited to the opposing team when a team is unable or refuses to place nine players on the field.

In these cases the game is deemed to have been completed and forfeited to the opposing team with a final score of 9 to 0 (Rule 2.00 "Forfeited game").

For a forfeited game to be declared a regulation game, the rules for suspended games apply. Consequently, if a game is declared forfeit before the 5th inning, individual performances do not count towards the results, and only the reason for the forfeited game is recorded.

If, on the other hand, the fifth inning has started, all individual performances must be recorded. In particular, it must be remembered that the "winning" and "losing" pitchers are recorded only if the team that wins the match by forfeit was in the lead at the time the umpire declared the game ended. There are no "winning" or "losing" pitchers if that team was tied or losing. Moreover, the final score will not tally with the interim results, unless the victorious team already stood at 9 to 0.

Games terminated on run difference

A game may be terminated because of a run difference in the results of the two teams.

In the event that a match terminated under the above conditions is in any case a regulation game, all considerations in terms of winning runs and the value of safe hits apply.

Statistics

Rule 10.21 of the OBR gives the formulas for calculating player statistics:

- Batting Average (BAve) : Safe Hits / Times at Bat
[H / AB]
- Slugging Average (SLAve): Total Bases on Safe Hits / Times at Bat
[$(H + (2B \times 2) + (3B \times 3) + (HR \times 4)) / AB$]
- Fielding Average (FAve): (Putouts + Assists) / (Putouts + Assists + Errors)
[$(PO + A) / (PO + A + E)$]
- Pitcher's Earned Runs Average (ERAve): (Earned Runs / Innings Pitched) x Number of innings scheduled for each game
[$(ER / IP) \times 9$]
- Games Won and Lost: (WO/LO): (Games Won / (Games Won + Games Lost))
[$WO / (WO + LO)$]
- On Base Percentage (OBP): (Hits + Bases on Balls + Hit by Pitch) / (Times at Bat + Bases on Balls + Hit By Pitch + Sacrifice Flies)
[$(H + BB + HP) / (AB + BB + HP + SF)$]

NOTE: For the purposes of calculating the on-base PERCENTAGE, ignore being awarded first base on interference or obstruction.

NOTE: The results are rounded up or down to the third decimal place, depending on whether they are greater than or less than 0.0005.

IMPORTANT: In order to be included in the statistics a player must be in good standing with the relevant league authorities.

The final statistic we will consider is **GAMES BEHIND (GB)**, which serves to establish the team's ranking. It is calculated as follows:

The team's Games Won and Lost statistic is used.

The team that is top of the ranking is given a 0; the following formula is applied to the remaining teams:

$$[((\mathbf{W\ first\ team} - \mathbf{W\ team\ x}) + (\mathbf{L\ team\ x} - \mathbf{L\ first\ team})) / 2]$$

Game formalities

The Official Scorer (OS) must arrive at the stadium at least 60 minutes before the start of the game.

At least 30 minutes before the start of the game, the Official Scorer (OS) receives the Provisional Starting Line-up.

The Official Scorer (OS) must complete the score-sheet within 15 minutes after the end of the game and he gives the score-sheet to the Scoring Director of the tournament.

It shall be understood in any case that the Official Scorer (OS) shall comply with all instructions issued each year by the IBAF.

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.

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