



Scorekeeping Summary Guide

NOTE: This is intended only as a reference summary. Please read the more in-depth "official scorer" rules that I have also provided to each team. These rules are also available on the internet at

www.Majorleaguebaseball.com/u/baseball/mlbcom/headquarters/rules10.htm

AB (At Bat) [10.02 (a)(1)]- The total number of times in the game that a player completes a plate appearance and either gets a base hit or is put out before getting to base. Plate appearances that count as "At Bats" are **Base Hits, Base on Error, Strike-Outs, Ground Outs** and **Fly Outs**. Plate appearances that do not count as "At Bats" include walks (including intentional walks), sacrifices (bunt or fly), batter hit by pitch and batter awarded first base by umpire because of obstruction or interference. NOTE: In the judgement of the scorekeeper, if a batter's is bunting primarily for a base hit (as opposed to advancing a baserunner), the bunt shall be counted as an "At Bat" as opposed to a sacrifice bunt.

Base Hit (10.05) - Generally, a base hit is when a batter reaches first base safely on a fair ball which touches the ground or fence before being fielded and the fielder is unable to put out the batter before reaching base. NOTE: A batter that reaches base on a hit that could have resulted in a put-out, if not for an error made by the fielder or by the choice of a fielder to attempt to put out a different base runner, is not awarded a base hit of any kind.

1B (Single) (10.07) - A single is scored if the batter stops safely at first base after a hit that is not scored as an error or a fielder's choice.

2B (Double) (10.07) - A double is scored if:

- the batter stops safely at second base after a hit that is not scored as an error or a fielder's choice;
- in the opinion of the scorekeeper, the batter would have reached second base on the hit even without any baserunners that may have drawn the throw to a different base; and
- the batter is able to safely hold second base (If he overslides and is tagged out before getting back to second he shall only be credited with a single. However, if he over-runs the base after reaching the base on his feet, he shall be credited with a double.);

3B (Triple) (10.07) - A triple is scored if:

- the batter stops safely at third base after a hit that is not scored as an error or a fielder's choice;
- in the opinion of the scorekeeper, the batter would have reached third base on the hit even without any baserunners that may have drawn the throw to a different base; and
- the batter is able to safely hold third base (If he overslides and is tagged out before getting back to third he shall only be credited with a double. However, if he over-runs the base after reaching the base on his feet, he shall be credited with a triple.);

HR (Home Run) (10.07) - A home run is scored if:

- the ball is hit in fair territory over the outfield fence without striking the ground;
- the batter safely touches all bases and scores after a hit that is not scored as an error or a fielder's choice; and
- in the opinion of the scorekeeper, the batter would have reached home on the hit even without any baserunners that may have drawn the throw to a different base;

BB (Base on Balls) (10.16) – A base on balls is scored whenever the batter is awarded first base because of four balls having been pitched out of the strike zone.

Plate Appearance - A plate appearance refers to a player completing an appearance at the plate and the player hits, walks, sacrifices (bunt or fly), is hit by a pitch, is awarded first base because of obstruction or interference or is otherwise put out. When a player goes up to bat, the only time that it doesn't count as a plate appearance is if the third out is made on the base-paths while he is batting or if he is substituted from the game before he completes his bat.

ER (Earned Run) (10.18) – An earned run shall be charged every time a runner reaches home base by the aid of a safe hit, sacrifice bunt, a sacrifice fly, stolen base, put-out, fielder's choice, base on balls, hit batter, balk or wild pitch before enough fielding chances have been offered to put out the offensive team. Any runner that reaches base on an error does not count as an "earned" run if he later scores. With the exception of relief pitchers who enter a game during an inning, any runs scored after the defensive team has had the opportunity to make three outs in an inning do not count as "earned" runs.

(NOTE: It is the intent of the rule to charge relief pitchers with earned runs for which they are solely responsible. A pitcher who enters the game in the middle of an inning may be charged with earned runs even if the defense has had the opportunity for three outs in the inning.) When pitchers are changed during an inning, the relief pitcher shall not be charged with any run (earned or unearned) scored by a runner who was on base at the time he entered the game, nor for any run scored by any runner who reached base on fielder's choice which puts out a runner left on base by the preceding pitcher. The preceding pitcher shall be credited with all runs (earned or unearned) up to the number of runners he left on base when he was replaced.

Fielder's Choice – A fielder's choice occurs on a ball hit to the fielder in which the fielder, barring an error, could have made a play and put out the batter, the fielder chooses instead to attempt to put out a base runner other than the batter, and by doing so, the batter reaches base safely.

K (Strike Outs) (10.17) – A strikeout shall be awarded whenever:

- A batter is put out by a third strike caught by the catcher;
- A batter is put out by a third strike not caught, when there is a runner on first before two are out;
- A batter becomes a runner because a third strike is not caught; or
- A batter bunts foul on third strike except if such bunt results in a fly caught by any fielder.

RBI (Run Batted In) (10.04) – Credit the batter with an RBI for every run which reaches home base because of the batter's safe hit, sac bunt, sac fly, infield out or fielder's choice. An RBI is also awarded to the batter when the bases are loaded and the batter gets a base on balls, hit by a pitch or awarded first base by the umpire because of interference or obstruction. NOTE: No RBI is awarded if the batter grounds into a double play, even if a runner scores.

Runs - Total number of runs scored by hitter or number of runs given up by pitcher.

Sac (Sacrifice) (10.09) - Score a sacrifice bunt when, before 2 are out, the batter successfully advances one or more runners with a bunt and is put out at first base or would have been put out at first base except for a fielding error or fielder's choice. Score a sacrifice fly when, before 2 are out, the batter hits a fly ball or a line drive handled by an outfielder or an infielder running in the outfield which

- is caught, and a runner scores after the catch; or
- is dropped, and a runner scores, if in the scorekeeper's judgment the runner could have scored after the catch had the fly been caught.

SB (Stolen Base) (10.08) – Credit a SB to a runner whenever he advances a base unaided by a hit, a putout, an error, a force out, a fielder's choice or balk. On a passed ball or a wild pitch, credit the runner with a stolen base only if he starts for the next base before the pitcher delivers the ball. DO NOT score a stolen base if:

- the runner starts for the next base after the pitcher delivers the ball;
- a double or triple steal is attempted and any one of the runners is thrown out;
- the runner is tagged out after oversliding a base;
- in the scorekeeper's opinion, the runner attempting to steal a base is safe only because of the ball being muffed or mishandled by the fielder; or
- the runner advances solely because of the defensive team's indifference to his advance.

Pitching Decisions:

Win (Winning Pitcher) (10.19) – Credit the win to the pitcher of record at the time the winning team takes the lead and maintains it to the finish. This applies to the starting pitcher only if he has pitched at least half of the game and his team not only is in the lead when he is replaced but remains in the lead for the remainder of the game (Examples: the starting pitcher must pitch at least 11 outs in a 7 inning game or 9 outs in a 6 inning game before being eligible for the win). When the starting pitcher does not qualify as the winner for the winning team and more than one relief pitcher is used, the win shall be awarded on the following basis:

- If the winning team assumes the lead while the starting pitcher is still in the game and the team maintains the lead throughout, credit the win to the relief pitcher judged by the scorer to have been the most effective;
- If the opposing team is in the lead at any time or if the game is tied at any time after the starting pitcher has been replaced, credit the win to the relief pitcher of record at the time the winning team assumes the lead and maintains it to the finish. **EXCEPTION:** Do not credit a win to a relief pitcher who, in the opinion of the scorer, is ineffective in a brief appearance and a succeeding relief pitcher pitches is effective in helping his team maintain the lead.

NOTE: When a pitcher is removed for a substitute batter or runner, all runs scored by his team during the inning in which he is removed shall be credited to his benefit in determining the pitcher of record if his team assumes the lead.

Loss (Losing Pitcher) (10.19) – Credit the loss to the pitcher of record at the time the losing team falls behind in the score and stays behind to the finish. Regardless of how many innings the starting pitcher has pitched, he shall be charged with the loss if he is replaced when his team is behind in the score or falls behind because of runs charged to him after he is replaced, and his team thereafter fails to either tie the score or gain the lead.

Save (10.20) – Credit a pitcher with a save only if he meets all three of the following criteria:

- He is the finishing pitcher in a game won by his club;
- He is not the winning pitcher; and
- He qualifies under one of the following conditions:
 - He enters the game with a lead of no more than three runs and pitches at least three outs;
 - He enters the game with the potential tying run either on base, at bat or on deck;
or
 - He pitches effectively for at least the last 6 outs of the game for the winning team;

NOTE: If the last pitcher in the game is the "Winning" pitcher, no save is awarded.