

# BASEBALL 101

## HOW TO WIN

In a game of baseball, two opposing teams try to score more runs than the other.

A winner is declared if one team has more runs after 9 innings of play.

If the game is tied after 9 full innings, teams will continue to play until:

- 1) The away team scores in the top of an inning and the home team fails to tie the game or go-ahead in the bottom of that inning
- 2) The home team scores the go ahead run during the bottom of an inning, which immediately ends the game.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
DET	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	10	1
STL	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	X	5	9	0

Final

W: A. Wainwright (1-0) L: J. Zumaya (0-1)

**Teams:** On the far left, you will see both teams listed, with the home team on the bottom.

**Runs by inning:** The numbers 1-9 indicate the inning, while the numbers even with the team name represent the runs scored in each inning.

**R:** Runs. The total number of runs scored by each team. This is the most important number as it represents the score.

**H:** Hits. Total hits awarded to the team. The number of times batters successfully reached first base.

**E:** Errors. Total errors, or mistakes that should have resulted in an out, committed by each team. Should be low, usually 0.

**W/L:** Win or Loss for a pitcher along with their record. 3-2 would be 3 wins and 2 losses. Only one pitcher per game is awarded a win or loss.

An example baseball line score (courtesy sportspectator.com)

## SCORING

To score a run, a batter must hit the ball with the bat into the designated playing area and

make it around all four bases – though a player can stop at

any base if they feel they might not make it to the next base before being put out,

and can then advance on subsequent hits. A player will score automatically

if they hit a home run in which the ball leaves the playing area, often landing in the crowd.

A team can score multiple runs from one hit,

especially from a home run, if one or more players are already on the bases.

## PITCHING & HITTING

### What is a strike?

During each at-bat in baseball the batter gets up to three strikes to hit the ball. A strike happens when a hitter swings at a pitch and misses or when the pitch crosses some part of the strike zone (whether the hitter swings or not).

Three strikes and the batter is out!

### Foul ball

The batter is also given a strike when they hit a foul ball and they have less than two strikes. You can't get a third strike when hitting a foul ball. A foul ball that is hit with two strikes doesn't count as a strike or a ball.

### Walks or Bases on Balls

Any pitch that is outside the strike zone and the hitter doesn't swing at is called a ball. If the batter gets four balls, then they receive a free pass to first base.

### What is "The Count"?

The count in baseball is the current number of balls and strikes on the batter. For example, if the batter has had 1 ball and 2 strikes, the count is referred to as "1-and-2" or "one and two". A "full count" is when the batter has had three balls and two strikes, also referred to as "3-and-2".

### The Strike Zone

When determining whether a pitch is a ball or a strike, the umpire decides whether the ball has passed through any part of the strike zone, as shown in the diagram to the right.



### Outs

The most common (but not the only) ways in which outs are made are:

- The batter strikes out.
- The batter hits the ball in the air and a fielder (defensive player) catches it.
- The batter hits the ball on the ground and it is thrown to first base before the batter can get there.
- Batters running from one base to another are tagged by a fielder holding the ball while not in contact with a base.

## INNINGS

Each game of baseball is scheduled for 9 innings. Each inning consists of two halves: a top and a bottom. The away team bats (is on offense) during the top half of the inning, while the home team fields (is on defense).

The two teams switch for the bottom of the inning.

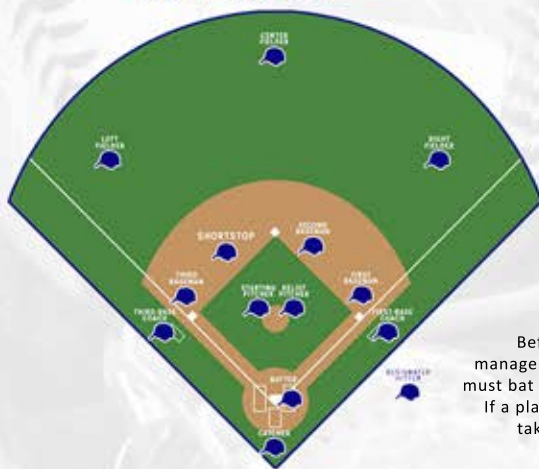
Each half inning is completed when the defensive team records three outs.

## POSITIONS

Each team has 9 defensive players and these players also bat when the team is on offense (although in the American League in MLB and other leagues around the world, the pitcher does not hit and is replaced in the batting order with a 'designated hitter').

The defensive positions are four infielders, three outfielders, a pitcher, and a catcher.

### DEFENSIVE POSITIONS



### BATTING ORDER

NO.	Player	Pos.
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
Additional Players		
NO.	Player	

Before the game, each team's manager creates a batting order. Players must bat in that order for the whole game. If a player is replaced, the new player takes their spot in the batting order.