

Baseball Basics: How to Keep Score

Different fans have different methods of keeping a scorecard, and many use their own notations. But here's a simple method:

If the hitter grounds out to shortstop, for example, write in "6-3," which shows the shortstop threw him out at first base. If the hitter flies out to left field, write a "7."

If the batter gets a hit, write in the hit according to which base he reached. Each corner of the box represents a base, with the lower-right corner being first.

If he singles, put a "-" in the lower right. If he doubles, write a "=" in the upper right, and so on. For a walk, use "BB" in the lower right. As the runner advances, mark the appropriate symbol in the appropriate corner.


If a runner scores, put a circle at the bottom of the box, and inside the circle put the symbol of the play and/or the player that drove him in. For example, if the No. 5 hitter drives in two runs with a single, mark his single in the bottom right of his box and mark a circle with the number "5" in it in the boxes of the runners who score (Some people like to use uniform numbers here, so you can tell who did what, even after lineup changes).

At the end of each inning, total the hits and runs for that inning only. At the end of the game you'll be able to add the innings total to get the game score.

Symbols for Play

Single:	S or -	Passed ball:	PB
Double:	D or =	Stolen base:	SB
Triple:	T or ≡	Double play:	DP
Homerun:	HR or ≡	Error:	E
Sacrifice:	SH or SAC	Sacrifice fly:	SF
Walk:	BB	Intentional walk:	IBB
Strikeout:	K	Foul fly:	F
Called out on Strikes:	X	Force out:	FO
Balk:	BK	Line drive:	L
Fielder's choice:	FC	Bunt:	B
Hit by pitch:	HP	Unassisted:	U
Wild pitch:	WP		

Defensive Players by the Numbers



1 : Pitcher	6 : Shortstop
2 : Catcher	7 : Left fielder
3 : First baseman	8 : Center fielder
4 : Second baseman	9 : Right fielder
5 : Third baseman	

Example Scorecard

		①	②
① — 1st Inning			
1. SINGLED, ADVANCED ON NEXT BATTER'S WALK, TOOK 3RD ON FIELDER'S CHOICE, SCORED ON NO. 4 BATTER'S DOUBLE		3	2
2. WALKED, LATER FORCED OUT, SHORTSTOP TO SECOND BASE		4	8
3. REACHED ON FIELDER'S CHOICE, ADVANCED TO 3RD ON NEXT BATTER'S DOUBLE, SCORED ON NO. 5 BATTER'S SINGLE		5	6
4. DOUBLED, SCORED ON NO. 5 BATTER'S SINGLE		5	FC
5. SINGLED, ADVANCED TO 2ND ON NEXT BATTER'S SINGLE, STOLE 3RD BASE, THROWN OUT ON GROUND, SHORTSTOP TO CATCHER		5	=
6. SINGLED, STOLE SECOND BASE		5	2
7. REACHED 1ST ON FIELDER'S CHOICE		4	SB
8. POPPED OUT TO 2ND BASE		4	SB
② — 2nd Inning			
9. LEADOFF WITH DOUBLE			
1. FLEW OUT TO CENTERFIELD			
2. POPPED OUT TO SHORTSTOP			
3. STRUCKOUT SWINGING			
TOTALS	R H	3 4	0 1