

<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/scorekeeping-101/>

A Guide to Baseball Scorekeeping

Paul Dickson opens his book, *The Joy of Keeping Score*:

“The baseball world is divided into two kinds of baseball fans: those who keep score at the ballgame...and those who have never made the leap.”

Keeping score is really great fun and gives you a deeper sense of the game. It simply keeps you in the game in a way nothing else could; you become a part of the game’s flow.

There are many reasons to keep score, but the main purpose is to provide a simple record of the game that can be easily followed even by those who were not present at the game.

The Scorebook

INTRODUCTION:

This is what a page of the scorebook looks like.

There are a lot of abbreviations and spaces to collect every action that occurs on the field during play. It looks like a complicated mess and you’re probably saying, “why did I sign up to do this?”

Don’t panic. We’ll break this down together and you will see that it is actually pretty easy to understand.

Let’s start by understanding how this page is structured.

The image shows a page from a baseball scorebook. At the top, it is titled "SCORE BY INNING" and "LAP/VE". Below the title is a grid for recording game statistics. The grid has columns for "INNING" (1-9) and "SCORE" (R, H, E). The rows are labeled "TEAM" and "PLAYER". The "TEAM" row is used to record the score, hits, and errors for each team. The "PLAYER" rows are used to record the performance of individual players, including their name, position, and various statistics such as at-bats, runs, hits, errors, and strikeouts. The grid is divided into sections for each team and player, with a "FINAL SCORE" box at the top right.

Batting Order (Lineup)

Now let's look at the parts we do need to pay attention to and how they're structured.

The left-hand column is where the batting order is listed. There is room for 16 players in the batting order, but most RRLL teams will have 13 players or less.

There are two spaces for each position in the batting order. One for the starting player and one for a substitute player.

We can ignore substitutes.

The manager from each team will provide the scorekeeper the batting order.

The scorekeeper writes the names of the players, in order, in the spaces provided.

The image shows a page from a baseball scorebook titled "SCORE BY INNING". The page is divided into several sections. At the top, there are boxes for "SCORE", "INNING", and "FINAL SCORE". Below these are sections for "TEAM", "MANAGER", "CATCHER", "PITCHER", "FIRST BASE", "SECOND BASE", "THIRD BASE", "SHORTSTOP", "LEFT FIELD", "CENTER FIELD", and "RIGHT FIELD". The main part of the page is a grid with columns for "INNING" (1 through 9) and rows for "PLAYER" (1 through 16). A red box highlights the "PLAYER" column, indicating where the batting order is recorded.

Inning Columns

There is an individual column for each inning. There are nine innings shown but in Little League we only play 6 innings (7 in the Jr/Sr division).

Columns tell the "story of the game." They tell us who did what and in what order things happened.

The image shows a page from a baseball scorebook titled "SCORE BY INNING". The page is divided into several sections. At the top, there are boxes for "SCORE", "INNING", and "FINAL SCORE". Below these are sections for "TEAM", "MANAGER", "CATCHER", "PITCHER", "FIRST BASE", "SECOND BASE", "THIRD BASE", "SHORTSTOP", "LEFT FIELD", "CENTER FIELD", and "RIGHT FIELD". The main part of the page is a grid with columns for "INNING" (1 through 9) and rows for "PLAYER" (1 through 16). The first six columns (Innings 1 through 6) are highlighted in yellow, indicating the duration of the game.

Player Rows

There is an individual row for each player.

Rows tell the "player's achievements" during the game. They tell us what a specific player did, how it affected the game, and when they did it.

The image shows a standard baseball scorebook page. At the top, it says "SCORE BY INNING" and "DATE". Below this is a grid with columns for innings (1-9) and rows for individual players. The grid is currently empty, with some rows highlighted in blue. To the right of the grid, there are sections for "FINAL SCORE" and "BATTING ORDER".

Game setup

Batting Order (Lineup)

Start by writing the team name and date at the top of the page. The visiting team will bat first, so their lineup (player number and name) will be written on the page with the spirals at the bottom. The home team bats second, so their lineup will be written on the page with the spirals at the top.

You'll notice there are 2 lines for each player. Remember, we can ignore the substitutes (2nd line). We can also ignore the position for each player (players move so much it's impossible to track during regular season).

After you have entered the batting order for both teams, you are ready for the game to begin.

The image shows the same baseball scorebook page as above, but with a batting order list written on the left side. The list is enclosed in a red box. The list contains the following entries:

NO.	PLAYER
24	Steve
42	Bobby
3	Joe
13	Jim
7	Alex
8	Connor
56	Dylan
1	Scott
77	Dave
12	Adam

At the top of the page, the team name "ASTROS" and the date "10/10" are written in the designated boxes, also highlighted with red boxes.

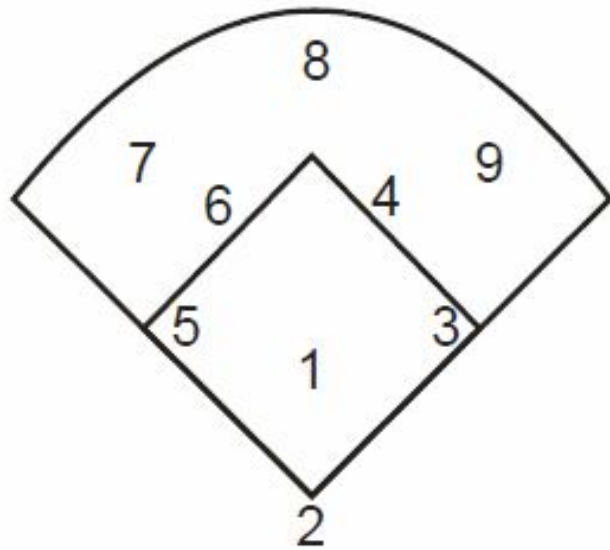
**Always write FIRST and LAST names of players (can be found in TeamSnap)

Table of Abbreviations

1B	Single	HBP	Hit by Pitch
2B	Double	HR	Home Run
3B	Triple	I	Interference
A	Assist	K	Strike Out Swinging
BB	Walk	KC or ⚔	Strike Out Called By Umpire
BK	Balk	LOB	Left on Base
CS	Caught Stealing	PB	Passed Ball
DP	Double Play	RBI	Runs Batted In
E	Error	SAC	Sacrifice
F	Fly Out	SB	Stolen Base
FO	Foul Out	WP	Wild Pitch
FC	Fielder's Choice		

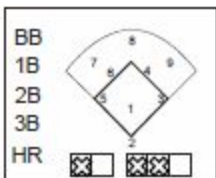
The positions on the field are designated by numbers. The diamond is numbered as follows:

1	Pitcher
2	Catcher
3	1 st Base
4	2 nd Base
5	3 rd Base
6	Shortstop
7	Left Fielder
8	Center Fielder
9	Right Fielder



Scoring Balls and Strikes

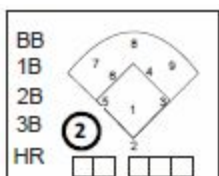
All scorebooks have a place to mark balls and strikes. They are usually in the form of five little squares or circles. To score a ball or strike, put a line, number, or color in the little squares or circles. Using the numbering of the pitches could be useful to a manager.



Keeping track of pitches on the scoresheet is helpful - you can keep track of each batters number of pitches they face in the top right hand corner as a verification of pitches for the inning. If there are multiple fouls past the 2 strikes already, use check marks next to the strikes to keep track of the total pitches for that batter.

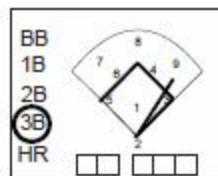
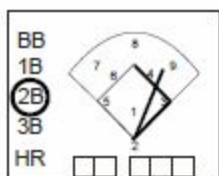
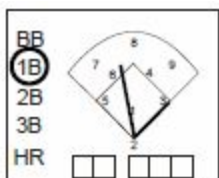
Scoring Outs

To score an out, one must know where the ball went, to whom the ball was thrown to, or who caught the ball. When an out has occurred, write the position number of the player who caught the ball and then who it was thrown to. Be sure to separate the numbers with a dash. Once this is done make sure to put the out number 1, 2, or 3 in the box where the out occurred and circle it. Then draw a half line toward the base where the out occurred at.

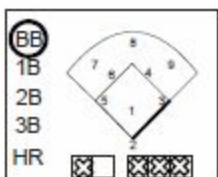


Scoring Hits

To score a hit you mark in the box what the hit was - single, double, triple or homerun. Most scorebooks have these items marked in each scoring box. Circle the hit to indicate which happened. Make sure to advance any players that were on base at the time of the hit to their correct position.



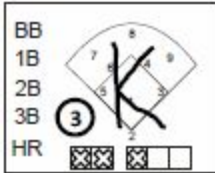
Scoring a walk is the same as scoring a hit just circle the "BB" in the particular box and draw a line showing the player at first base. A walk or (Base on Balls) is recorded the same as a hit. When a batter walks you circle the BB in the side column and draw a line to first base. Be sure to advance any previous runner that may have been on first. If a batter walks with the bases loaded, he is credited with a RBI.



Scoring Strikeouts

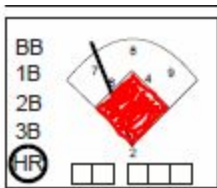
There are 4 ways to score a strikeout. The first is to mark a “K” in the scoring box if the player struck out by swinging the bat. A “KS” can also be used to score a strikeout swinging.

To score a strikeout when the 3rd strike was called by the umpire without the batter swinging, put a “KC” or the dreaded backward K, a “χ”.



Scoring Runs and RBI's

To score a run, simply fill in the entire box of the player who scored. When scoring a run be sure to give an RBI to the player who batted in the runner. Some scorebooks have a box for RBIs while others need to have the RBI written in.

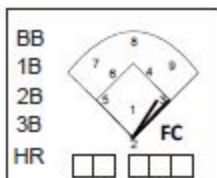


Marking the End of an Inning

When an inning has ended, a line is drawn at the bottom right corner of the last player to come up. After marking the line, draw a line down the entire inning to make sure no other scoring is done in that inning.

Fielder's Choice

A Fielder's Choice, FC, is when a runner reaches a base because a player in the field tried to make another play instead of getting the batter out.



A COMPLETE INNING

The chart below shows an entire half-inning, where seven girls came to bat, and how the score-boxes would look at the end of the inning.

First Batter:

- The batter walks on five pitches.

Second Batter:

- With a one-and-one count, the runner on first base steals second.
- With a three-and-two count, the batter hits a double to right-center field, scoring the runner from second base.

Third Batter:

- With a three-and-one count, the batter looks at strike two and the second batter is caught attempting to steal third base.
- The third batter then strikes out, swinging.

Fourth Batter:

- On the first pitch of the at-bat, the batter hits a triple down the left field line.

Fifth Batter:

- With a two-and-two count, the batter hits a ground ball to shortstop, and the shortstop makes an errant throw over the first base-man's head, allowing the batter to go to second base and the runner to score from third. When judging a misplay, take age-appropriate playing ability into account.

Sixth Batter:

- With a three-and-one count, the batter hits a "bloop" single to center field, moving the runner on second base to third base.

Seventh Batter:

- With a one-and-one count the batter grounds out to the first baseman. (Note: no run is recorded for the runner on third base [#5] even if she crosses home plate before the third out is made, because the third out was a force out).

TOTALS:

- 2 Runs
- 3 Hits
- 1 Error
- 2 Left-on-Base

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	