

► Official Baseball Statistics Rules

Extracted in entirety from Rule 10 in NCAA Baseball Rules and Interpretations Book

All references to “box score” refer to the Official NCAA Baseball Box Score. All information in the game summary refers to the Official NCAA Baseball Scorebook.

► SECTION 1—OFFICIAL SCORER’S DUTIES

a. The home team, conference commissioner or tournament director shall appoint an official scorer before each game. The scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions involving judgment. He shall communicate such decisions to both teams and all members of the news media present.

b. The official scorer should sit in the press box or stands (if no press box) and not near or in a dugout.

c. The official scorer shall exercise his function based on the following:

- (1) To achieve uniformity in keeping the records of collegiate games, the scorer shall conform strictly to the NCAA Baseball Rules. The scorer shall have authority to rule on any point not covered specifically in these rules;
- (2) If the teams change sides before three outs are made, the scorer immediately shall inform the umpire of the mistake;
- (3) If the game is protested or halted, the scorer shall make note of the exact situation at that time, including the score, number of outs, position of any runners and the count on the batter;

Note: *It is important that a halted game resume with exactly the same situation as existed at the time of suspension. If a protested game is ordered replayed from the point of protest, it must be resumed with exactly the situation that existed before the protested play.*

- (4) The scorer shall not make any decision that conflicts with the NCAA Baseball Rules or an umpire’s decision, and
- (5) The scorer shall not call the attention of the umpire or any member of either team to the fact that a player is batting out of turn.

► SECTION 2—BATTING RECORD

Each player’s batting record shall include:

a. In columns 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the box score, the number of times he batted, the runs he scored, the base hits he made and the runs batted in he was credited with. The batter is charged with an official time at bat whenever he completes his turn, unless he has been awarded first base as in 8-2-b, d or e, or he has been credited with a sacrifice (10-8). In columns 5 and 6, the number of bases on balls and strikeouts credited to the batter shall be recorded, and

Note: *An official time at bat shall not be charged against a player when he hits a sacrifice bunt or sacrifice fly, is awarded a base on balls, is hit by a pitched ball or is awarded first base because of interference or obstruction.*

b. In the summary, the number of extra-base hits (10-6), sacrifice hits, sacrifice flies and stolen bases.

► SECTION 3—BATTING OUT OF TURN

If a player bats out of turn and is put out, and the proper batter is called out before the ball is pitched to the next batter, charge the proper batter with a time at bat and score the putout and any assists the same as if the correct batting order had been followed. If an improper batter becomes a runner and the proper batter is called out for having missed his turn at bat, charge the proper batter with a time at bat, credit the putout to the catcher and ignore everything entering into the improper batter’s safe arrival on base. If more than one batter bats out of turn in succession, score all plays just as they occur, skipping

the turn at bat of the player or players who first missed batting in the proper order.

► SECTION 4—BASE HIT

A base hit is credited when a batter advances to first base safely:

a. Because of his fair hit (rather than because of a fielder’s error as in 10-16);

Exception—*It is not a base hit if any runner is out on a force play caused by the batter advancing toward first base or would have been forced out except for a fielding error.*

b. Because a runner is declared out for being hit by a batted ball as in 8-5-k or the umpire is hit by a batted ball as in 8-3-c;

c. When a fielder attempts to put out a preceding runner but is unsuccessful although there is no fielding error, and the official scorer believes the batter-runner would have reached first base with perfect fielding;

d. When a batter reaches first base safely on a fair ball hit with such force, or so slowly, that any fielder attempting to make a play has no opportunity to do so. A hit shall be scored even if the fielder deflects the ball from or cuts off another fielder who could have put out a runner;

e. When a fair ball that has not been touched by a fielder touches a runner or an umpire; or

Exception—*It is not a base hit when a runner is called out for having been touched by an infield fly.*

f. When a batter reaches first base safely on a fair ball that takes an unnatural bounce so that a fielder cannot handle it with ordinary effort, or that touches the pitcher’s rubber or any base (including home plate) before being touched by a fielder and bounces so that a fielder cannot handle it with ordinary effort.

Note: *In applying the above rules, always give the batter the benefit of the doubt. A safe course to follow is to score a hit when exceptionally good fielding fails to result in a putout.*

► SECTION 5—FIELDER’S CHOICE

This term is used by the official scorer to account for the following situations (the batter shall be charged with an official time at bat but no hit in all such situations):

a. When a batter-runner advances one or more bases while a fielder who handles a fair hit attempts to put out a preceding runner;

b. When a runner advances (other than by a stolen base or error) while a fielder is attempting to put out another runner;

c. When a runner advances solely because of the defensive team’s indifference (undefended steal); or

d. When a batter apparently hits safely and a runner who is forced to advance by reason of the batter becoming a runner fails to touch the first base to which he is advancing and is called out on appeal.

► SECTION 6—EXTRA-BASE HIT

a. A base hit for extra bases is credited to the batter when it is the sole reason for his safe arrival at a base beyond first. Any fairly batted ball that clears in flight an outfield fence in fair territory, even though it may be deflected by a fielder, is a home run, subject to local ground rules.

b. When, with one or more runners on base, the batter advances more than one base on a safe hit and the defensive team makes an attempt to put out a preceding runner, the scorer shall determine whether the batter made a legitimate

two-base hit or three-base hit, or whether he advanced beyond first base on the fielder's choice.

Note: Do not credit the batter with a three-base hit when a preceding runner is put out at the plate, or would have been out but for an error. Do not credit the batter with a two-base hit when a preceding runner trying to advance from first base is put out at third base, or would have been out but for an error.

c. If a batter overruns second or third base and is tagged out trying to return, he shall be credited with the last base he touched.

Exception—If put out while oversliding second or third base, he is not credited with reaching such base.

► SECTION 7—GAME-ENDING HIT

When a batter ends a game with a hit that drives in as many runs as are necessary to win the game, credit him with only as many bases on his hit as the runner who scores the winning run advances, and then only if the batter runs out his hit for as many bases as are advanced by the runner who scores the winning run.

Exception—If the batted ball clears an outfield fence in fair territory, the batter shall be credited with a home run.

► SECTION 8—SACRIFICE

A sacrifice bunt is credited to the batter when, with fewer than two outs, his bunt enables a runner to advance, provided no other runner is put out attempting to advance. A sacrifice fly is credited when, with fewer than two outs, his fly, fair or foul, enables a runner to score. In either case, the sacrifice ruling applies when the batter is put out before he reaches first base or would have been put out if the ball had been fielded without error.

Exception—If, in the judgment of the official scorer, the batter is bunting primarily for a base hit, do not score a sacrifice. Instead, charge the batter with a time at bat.

► SECTION 9—RUN BATTED IN

A run batted in is credited to the batter when a runner scores because of: A base hit (including batter scoring on a home run); a sacrifice bunt or sacrifice fly; any putout; a forced advance, such as a base on balls or batter being hit by a pitch; or an error, provided there are fewer than two outs and the action is such that the runner on third base would have scored even if there had been no error.

Scorer's judgment must determine whether a run batted in shall be credited for a run that scores when a fielder holds the ball or throws to the wrong base. Ordinarily, if the runner keeps going, credit a run batted in; if the runner stops and takes off again when he notices the misplay, credit the run as scored on a fielder's choice.

Exception—It is not a run batted in if there is a double play from a force or one in which the batter is or should have been put out at first base.

► SECTION 10—SUBSTITUTE BATTER

When a batter leaves the game with two strikes on him, and a substitute batter strikes out, charge the strikeout to the first batter. If a substitute batter completes the turn at bat in any other manner, including a base on balls, charge the action to the substitute batter.

► SECTION 11—STOLEN BASE

a. A stolen base shall be credited to the base runner whenever he advances a base unaided (such as by a base hit, fielder's choice, putout, error, balk, base on balls, wild pitch or passed ball). A stolen base shall be credited when a runner starts for the next base before the pitcher delivers the ball and the pitch

results in what would otherwise be scored a passed ball or a wild pitch.

Exceptions—

(1) Where any runner is thrown out on an attempted double or triple steal, no runner shall be credited with a stolen base.

Note: On a double-steal attempt with runners on first and third bases, if there is a legitimate attempt by the fielder to retire the runner at second base and the runner is safe, that runner shall be credited with a stolen base even if the runner from third is thrown out at home on a continuous play.

(2) If a base runner is tagged out while oversliding a base, he shall not be credited with a stolen base.

(3) No stolen base shall be credited to a runner whose advance is the result of the opposing team's indifference.

(4) When a fielder catches a throw in time to tag a runner who is attempting to steal, but fails to hold the ball or fails to tag the runner, the fielder is charged with an error and the runner is charged as caught stealing. An assist should be credited to the fielder who made the throw.

b. Caught stealing shall be charged to the base runner whenever he is put out in the following situations:

(1) When he attempts to steal;

(2) When he is picked off a base and tries to advance; or

(3) When he overslides while stealing.

Note: Do not charge caught stealing unless the runner has an opportunity to be credited with a stolen base when the play starts.

► SECTION 12—FIELDING RECORD

Each player's fielding record shall include:

a. In columns 7 and 8 of the box score, the number of times he put out a runner and the number of times he assisted a teammate in putting out a runner, and

b. In the summary, the number of errors and passed balls he committed.

► SECTION 13—PUTOUT

A putout is credited to a fielder who catches a batted ball in flight, tags out a runner or puts out a runner by holding the ball while touching a base to which a runner is forced to advance or return. When a batter strikes out, a putout is credited to the catcher, unless the catcher fails to field the pitch cleanly and must put the batter-runner out at first base.

Exceptions—

(1) When a batter is called out for an illegally batted ball, for a foul third-strike bunt, for being hit by his own batted ball, for interference with the catcher or for failing to bat in his proper turn, the putout shall be credited to the catcher.

(2) When a batter is declared out on an infield fly that is not caught, the putout is credited to the fielder who is nearest the ball at the time.

(3) When a base runner is out because of being hit by a fairly batted ball, the putout shall be credited to the fielder nearest the ball at the time.

(4) When a runner is called out for running out of the base line to avoid being tagged, the putout shall be credited to the fielder whom the runner avoided.

(5) When a runner is called out for passing another runner, the putout shall be credited to the fielder nearest the point of passing.

(6) When a runner is called out for running the bases in reverse order, the putout shall be credited to the fielder covering the base he left in starting his reverse run.

(7) When a runner is called out for interfering with a fielder, the putout shall be credited to the fielder with whom the runner interfered, unless the fielder was in the act of throwing the ball when the interference occurred. In that case, the putout shall be credited to the fielder for whom the throw was in-

tended; the fielder whose throw was interfered with shall be credited with an assist.

- (8) When a batter-runner is called out because of interference by a preceding runner, the putout shall be credited to the first baseman. If the fielder interfered with, was in the act of throwing the ball, he shall be credited with an assist. In no case can he be credited with more than one assist on any one play.

► SECTION 14—ASSIST

a. An assist is credited to a fielder when he handles or effectively deflects the ball during action that is connected with a putout or he handles the ball before an error that prevents what would have been a putout. If several fielders handle the ball or one fielder handles it more than once during a play, only one assist is credited to each of such fielders.

b. Do not credit the pitcher with an assist on a strikeout or when after a pitch the catcher tags out or throws out a runner.

Note: A play that follows a misplay (whether or not it is an error) is a new play, and the fielder making any misplay shall not be credited with an assist unless he takes part in the new play.

► SECTION 15—DOUBLE PLAY / TRIPLE PLAY

A double play or triple play is credited to one or more fielders when two or three players are put out between the time a pitch is delivered and the time the ball next becomes dead or is next in possession of the pitcher in his pitching position.

Exception—When an error or a misplay occurs between the time one player is put out and the time a second player is put out, a double play or triple play is not credited.

Note: Also credit a double play or triple play if an appeal play after the ball is in possession of the pitcher results in an additional putout.

► SECTION 16—ERROR

a. An error is charged against any fielder (pitchers included) for each misplay that prolongs the time at bat of the batter or the time as a runner of a base runner or permits a runner to advance one or more bases.

Note 1: Slow handling of the ball that does not involve mechanical misplay shall not be construed as an error.

Note 2: It is not necessary that the fielder touch the ball to be charged with an error. If a ground ball goes through a fielder's legs or a pop fly falls untouched and, in the scorer's judgment, the fielder could have handled the ball with ordinary effort, an error should be charged.

Note 3: Mental mistakes or misjudgments are not to be scored as errors unless specifically covered in the rules.

b. An error shall be charged against any fielder when he catches a thrown ball or a ground ball in time to put out any runner on a force play and fails to tag the base or the runner, including a batter-runner on a play at first base.

c. An error shall be charged against any fielder whose throw takes an unnatural bounce, touches a base or the pitcher's rubber, or touches a runner, a fielder or an umpire, thereby permitting any runner to advance. Apply this rule even when it appears to be an injustice to a fielder whose throw was accurate. Every base advanced by a runner must be accounted for.

d. Charge only one error on any wild throw, regardless of the number of bases advanced by runners.

e. An error shall be charged against any fielder whose failure to stop, or try to stop, an accurately thrown ball permits a runner to advance, providing there was occasion for the throw. If, in the scorer's judgment, there was no occasion for the throw, an error shall be charged to the fielder who threw the ball.

Exceptions—

- (1) A base on balls, a base awarded to a batter for being hit by a pitched ball, a balk, a passed ball or a wild pitch shall not be scored as an error.
- (2) No error is charged to the catcher for a wild throw in an attempt to prevent a stolen base unless the base runner advances an extra base because of a wild throw.
- (3) No player is charged with an error for a poor throw in an attempt to complete a double play unless the throw is so wild that it permits a runner to advance an additional base. However, if a player drops a thrown ball when by holding it he would have completed a double play, it is an error.
- (4) A fielder is not charged with an error for accurately throwing to a base whose baseman fails to stop or try to stop the ball, provided there was good reason for such a throw. If the runner advances because of the throw, the error is charged to the baseman or fielder who should have covered that base.
- (5) If a fielder drops a fly ball or fumbles a ground ball, but recovers the ball in time to force a runner, he is not charged with an error.
- (6) No error shall be charged against any fielder who permits a foul fly to fall safely with a runner on third base and fewer than two outs if, in the judgment of the official scorer, the fielder deliberately allows the ball to fall in order to prevent the runner on third from scoring after a catch.

f. When an umpire awards the batter or any runner or runners one or more bases because of interference or obstruction, charge the fielder who committed the interference or obstruction with one error, no matter how many bases the batter, runner or runners, may be advanced.

Note: Do not charge an error if obstruction does not change the play in the opinion of the scorer.

► SECTION 17—PASSED BALL

A passed ball is a pitch the catcher fails to stop or control when he should have been able to do so with ordinary effort and on which a runner (other than the batter) is able to advance. When a passed ball occurs on a third strike, permitting a batter to reach first base, score a strikeout and a passed ball.

► SECTION 18—FIELDER'S CHOICE

A fielder's choice is the action of a fielder who handles a fairly batted ball and, instead of throwing to first base to put out the batter-runner, throws to another base in an attempt to put out a preceding runner.

► SECTION 19—PITCHING RECORD

Each pitcher's record shall include in the summary: number of innings pitched, base hits, runs, earned runs, bases on balls, strikeouts, hit batters, wild pitches and balks.

Note: In computing innings pitched, count each putout as one-third of an inning. If a starting pitcher is replaced with one out in the sixth inning, credit that pitcher with 5-1/3 innings. If a starting pitcher is replaced with no outs in the sixth inning, credit that pitcher with five innings, and make the notation that he faced a specific number of batters in the sixth. If a relief pitcher retires two batters and is replaced, credit that pitcher with two-thirds of an inning pitched.

► SECTION 20—COMPLETE GAME

To receive credit for a complete game, the pitcher must pitch the entire game.

► SECTION 21—WILD PITCH

A pitcher shall be charged with a wild pitch when a legal pitch is such that a catcher cannot catch or control it with ordinary effort, so that the batter reaches first base or any runner advances one or more bases.

Note: Generally, a pitch that hits the ground before touching the catcher's glove is scored as a wild pitch.

► SECTION 22—EARNED RUN

a. An earned run shall be charged against a pitcher when a runner scores because of a safe hit, sacrifice hit, sacrifice fly, stolen base, putout, fielder's choice, base on balls, hit batter, balk or wild pitch (even when the wild pitch is a third strike), provided that in each case it is before the defensive team has had an opportunity to make a third putout.

Note: In determining earned runs, the scorer shall reconstruct the inning as if there were no errors or passed balls. Give the pitcher the benefit of the doubt in determining the advancement of runners, had the defensive team been errorless.

b. No earned run shall be charged to a relief pitcher if the runner was on base when the relief pitcher entered the game. Likewise, if a batter has more balls than strikes, unless the count is one ball, no strikes, when a relief pitcher enters the game and the batter receives a base on balls, charge that action to the preceding pitcher. Any other action of the batter shall be charged to the relief pitcher.

c. No run shall be earned when scored by a runner whose time as a runner is prolonged by an error, if such runner would have been put out by errorless play.

d. An error by a pitcher is treated exactly the same as an error by any other fielder in computing earned runs.

e. 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 reaches base on a fielder's choice that puts out a runner left on base by a preceding pitcher.

Note: The intent of this rule is to charge each pitcher with the number of runners he put on base, rather than with the individual runners.

f. When pitchers are changed during an inning, a relief pitcher shall not have the benefit of errors made earlier in the inning. Thus, he will be charged with earned runs for which he is totally responsible.

► SECTION 23—STRIKEOUT

A strikeout is credited to the pitcher when a third strike is delivered to a batter, even if the third strike is a wild pitch or is not caught or the batter reaches first base. It also is a strikeout if an attempted bunt on a third strike is a foul that is not caught.

► SECTION 24—GAME SUMMARY

The game summary should include all the items contained in the Official NCAA Box Score, as shown later in this section.

► SECTION 25—WINNING AND LOSING PITCHERS

a. For all games of eight or more innings, a starting pitcher must pitch at least five complete innings to receive credit as the winning pitcher. For all games of fewer than eight innings, the starting pitcher must pitch at least four innings to get credit for the win. Additionally, the winning pitcher's team must be in the lead when he is replaced and must remain in the lead for the rest of the game.

b. If the starting pitcher does not pitch enough innings, the win is credited to a relief pitcher in the following manner:

- (1) The winning relief pitcher shall be the one who is the pitcher of record when his team goes ahead and remains ahead throughout the remainder of the game. No pitch-

er may receive credit for a victory if the opposing team ties the score or goes ahead after he has left the game.

Note: Whenever the score is tied, the game becomes a new contest insofar as the winning and losing pitchers are concerned.

Exception—If a relief pitcher conforms to the above regulations but pitches briefly and ineffectively, the scorer should not credit him with a win. If a succeeding relief pitcher pitches effectively and helps maintain the lead, the scorer should award the win to that succeeding pitcher.

- (2) By prearrangement, if three or more pitchers are to be used, the pitcher of record shall be considered the winning pitcher.

c. When a batter or runner is substituted for a pitcher, all runs scored by his team during that inning are to his credit in determining the pitcher of record.

d. The starting pitcher shall be charged with the loss if he is replaced at any time while his team is behind and remains behind for the remainder of the game. Similarly, any relief pitcher who is the pitcher of record when the opposing team assumes the lead and never relinquishes it is charged with the loss.

Note: The pitcher of record shall be the one who is in the game at the time the winning team gains the lead, provided that the lead never is relinquished, or the one who is charged with the runs by which the opposing team takes the lead, provided that the lead never is relinquished.

e. To receive credit for a shutout, the pitcher must pitch the entire game or enter the game with no outs in the first inning and pitch the rest of the game without any runs scoring.

► SECTION 26—SAVE

If a relief pitcher meets ALL of the following conditions, the official scorer should credit that pitcher with a save:

- a. He is the finishing pitcher in a game won by his team;
- b. He is not credited with the win; and
- c. He meets one of the following conditions:
 - (1) He enters the game with a lead of not more than three runs and pitches at least one inning;
 - (2) He enters the game with the potential tying run on base, at bat or on deck; or
 - (3) He pitches effectively for at least three innings.

Note: Not more than one save may be credited in each game.

► SECTION 27—PROVING BOX SCORE

To prove a box score, the total of the team's plate appearances (times at bat, bases on balls, hit batters, sacrifice bunts, sacrifice flies and batters awarded first base because of interference or obstruction) must equal the total of the team's runs, players left on base and the opposing team's putouts.

► SECTION 28—CALLED/FORFEITED GAMES AND NO CONTEST

a. If a regulation game is called, include the record of all individual and team actions up to the moment the game ends as specified in Rule 5-8-b.

A.R. 1—If the scoring during an incomplete inning has no bearing on the outcome of the contest, include all individual and team records.

A.R. 2—If it is a tie game, do not enter a winning or losing pitcher.

b. If a regulation game is forfeited, include the record of all individual and team actions up to the time of the forfeit. If the winning team by forfeit is ahead at the time of forfeit, enter as winning and losing pitchers the players who would have qualified if the game had been called at the time of forfeit. If the winning team by forfeit is behind or the score is tied at the time of the forfeit, do not enter a winning or losing pitcher. If a game is forfeited before it becomes a regulation game, include no records. Report only the fact of the forfeit.

Note: *If the team awarded the forfeit was tied or behind at the time of the forfeit, the score shall be recorded as 9-0 for a scheduled nine-inning game and 7-0 for a scheduled seven-inning game. The word "forfeit" should accompany this score.*

c. When a team does not appear (e.g., due to weather conditions, accidents, breakdown of vehicles, illness or catastrophic causes), a forfeit is not recorded. An institution shall not, for statistical purposes, declare a forfeit for nonfulfillment of a contract. Such instances shall be considered as "no contest."

► SECTION 29—DETERMINING PERCENTAGES

The following procedures should be used to determine various percentages:

a. To determine won-lost percentage, divide the total number of games played into the number of games won (each tie game is computed as half won and half lost);

b. To determine batting averages, divide the number of official times at bat into the number of base hits;

c. To determine fielding averages, divide the total chances (putouts, assists and errors) into the total putouts and assists;

d. To determine a pitcher's earned-run average, multiply the earned runs allowed by nine and then divide by the number of innings pitched;

Note: *The statistician may choose to compute earned-run average by multiplying the earned runs allowed by 27 and then dividing by the number of outs recorded (innings pitched times three). Earned-run averages must be based on nine innings.*

e. To determine slugging percentage, divide the number of official times at bat into the number of total bases; and

Note: *In all cases where the remaining decimal is one-half or more, round to the next whole number.*

f. To determine on-base percentage, divide the total number of at-bats, bases on balls, hit by pitches and sacrifice flies into the total number of hits, bases on balls and hit by pitches.

Note: *For the purpose of computing on-base percentage, ignore being awarded first base by interference or obstruction.*

► SECTION 30—CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE RECORDS

a. A consecutive hitting streak shall not be terminated if the plate appearance results in a base on balls, hit batsman, defensive interference or a sacrifice bunt. A sacrifice fly shall terminate the streak.

b. A consecutive-games hitting streak shall not be terminated if all the player's plate appearances (one or more) result in a base on balls, hit batsman, defensive interference or sacrifice bunt. The streak shall terminate if the player has a sacrifice fly and no hit.

c. A consecutive-games playing streak shall be extended if the player plays one-half inning on defense, or if he completes a time at bat by reaching base or being put out. A pinch-running appearance only shall not extend the streak. If a player is ejected from a game by an umpire before he can comply with the requirements of this rule, his streak shall continue.

d. For the purpose of this rule, all performances in the completion of a suspended or halted game shall be considered as occurring on the original date of the game. All references to "box score" refer to the Official NCAA Baseball Box Score. All information in the game summary refers to the Official NCAA Baseball Scorebook.

