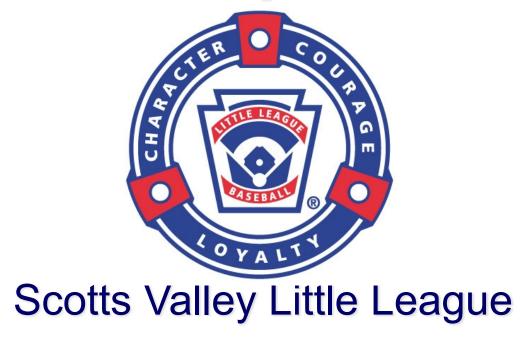
Scorekeeper Clinic



ScottsValleyLittleLeague.org

February, 2023

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Being a Scorekeeper

- Your main function is to keep a *record* of the game as *called by the umpires*
- You are the accountant not the IRS
- Like umpires, scorekeepers cannot satisfy everyone
- Be consistent in cases where you have to use your judgment
- Keep the ideals of Little League baseball firmly in mind

Agenda

Pre-game preparation



Scoring

Position numbers

The Score Sheet

Batter out

Batter on

Hits / Fielder's Choice / Errors

Runner out

Runner Advance

Pitching and Pitch Count



Etiquette

Sanity Check

Example innings



Pre-Game Preparation

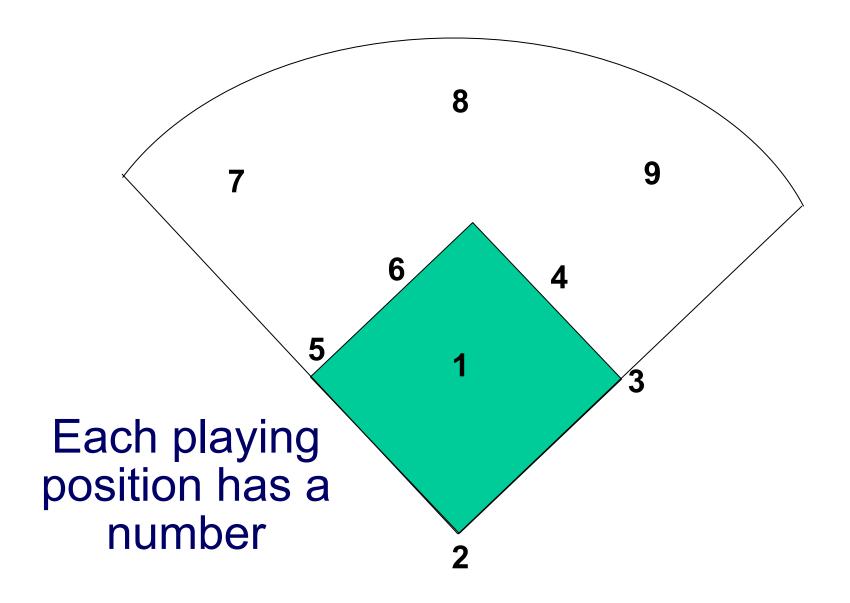
- Arrive at least 15 minutes ahead of game time. Have plenty of sharp pencils and an eraser.
- If home team, set up scorer's booth. (AA, get scorebook from shed.)
- Introduce yourself to the pitch counter (and vice versa). (AA, pitch counter only needed for player-pitch games in the season's second half.)
- Verify scoreboard works (AAA and Majors only)
- Introduce yourself to the umpires
- Get line-up from each manager (introduce yourself to the visiting manager)
- Enter visitor and home line-ups on opposite sides of *same page of paper* in scorebook

More Pre-Game Prep

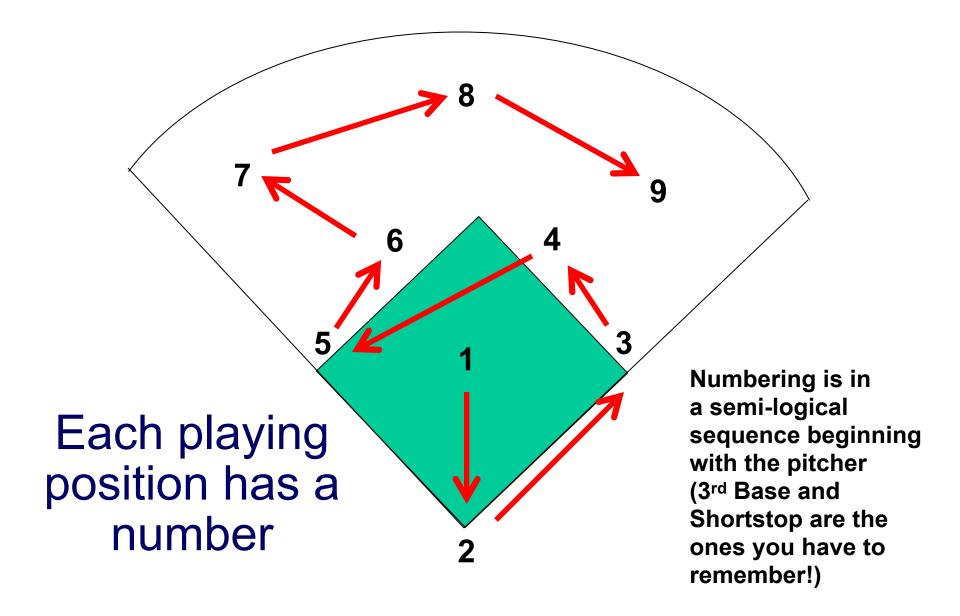
- Fill in starting pitchers
 - Home team pitchers are listed at the bottom of the visitor's side of the scoresheet and vice versa
- Designate who will operate the electronic scoreboard and announce the game (AAA and Majors).

Voice of Experience: It is OK for kids to announce the game using the microphone in the booth, but you need to set firm expectations up front so that you can concentrate on keeping score. Having more than one kid in the booth usually ends poorly...

Position Numbers



Position Numbers



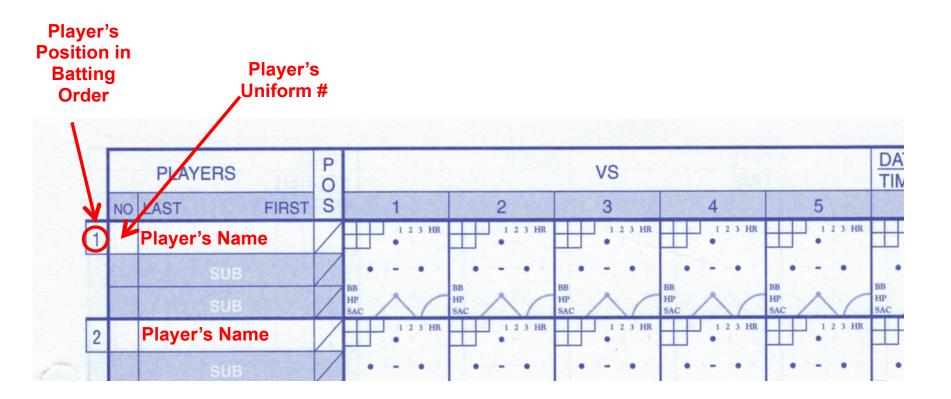
The Score Sheet





Write in the inning in the matching half-square each time you write a new position

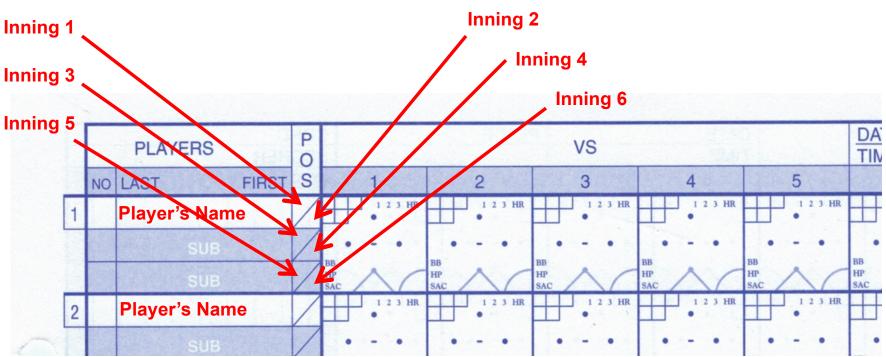
The AAA/AA Score Sheet



There is no spot for inning on the AA/AAA scoresheets...

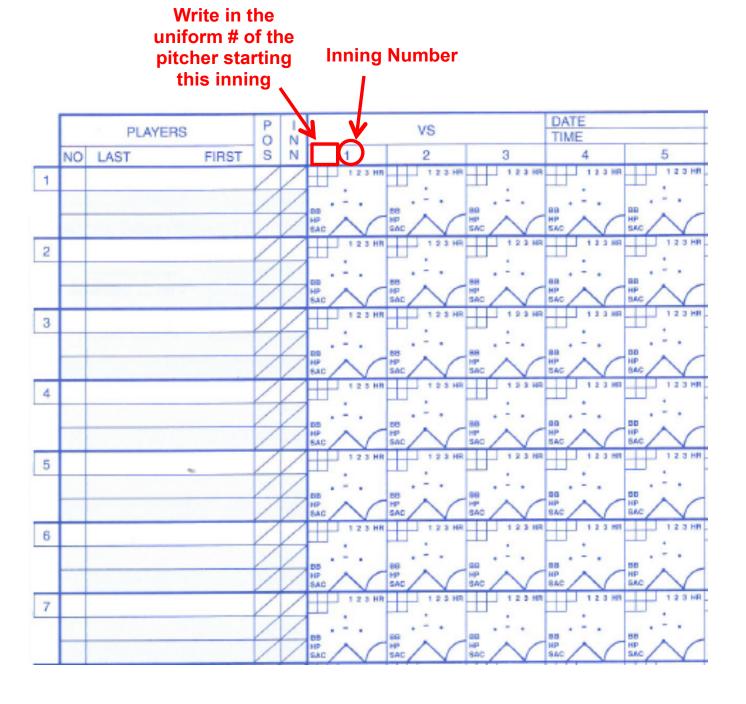
The AAA/AA Score Sheet





So write the position each inning in the "next" half-square:

- A blank means same position as the previous inning
- A dash or X means the player did not play defense that inning



Balls and Strikes PLAYERS FIRST NO LAST **Out Indicator** 2 3 4 5 6 123 HR

Scoring the Ball-Strike Count

- Mark all balls and strikes pitched per batter
- If the batter fouls off additional pitches after reaching two strikes, use dots or hashes to continue marking those strikes off the grid
- On't get behind in the counts
- The umpire's count is official. **Never correct an umpire's count unsolicited** you need to correct

 your count if the count the umpire calls out is different from yours

Voice of Experience: Occasionally, the plate umpire may ask you what count you have, either because he has lost track, the field umpire has a different count from his, or simply because the electronic scoreboard is out of synch with the game. This is the only time when it is OK for you to tell the umpire what you think the count is. Even in this situation, don't assume that the umpire accepts your count as official – make sure you are clear what the umpire's official count is before play resumes!

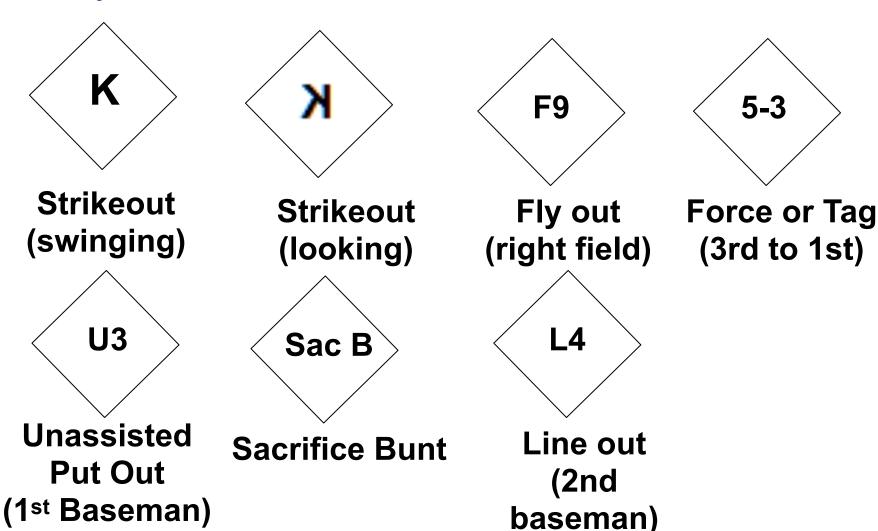
The Score Sheet

PO **PLAYERS** N NO LAST FIRST 2 3 4 5 6

This is where on-field outcome is recorded for each batter/ runner. Most of the action in scorekeeping happens on and around this little diamond.

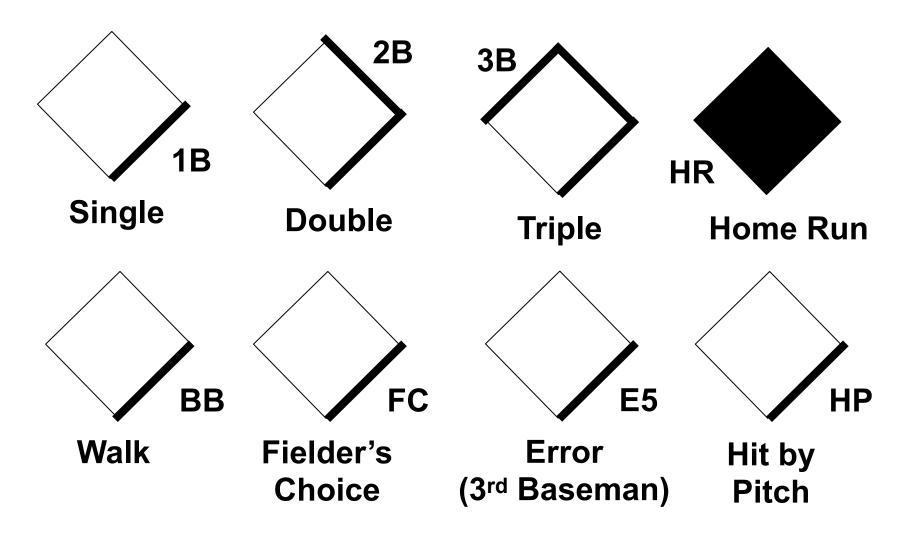
Scoring a Batter Out

Ways a batter makes an out:



Scoring a Batter on Base

Ways to get on base:



Hits, Fielder's Choice, and Errors

- Just because a batter reaches base after hitting the ball doesn't mean s/he has gotten a "Hit." This is not intuitive for those who are just learning baseball.
- The two most common ways a batter can reach base after putting the ball in play without getting credit for a "Hit" are:
 - 1. Fielder's Choice
 - 2. Error

Definition of "Hit"

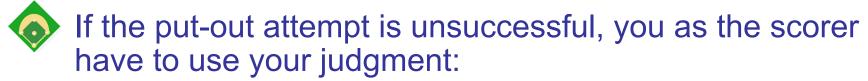
Credit a batter with a hit when s/he:

- Hits the ball cleanly through the infield or into the outfield where it lands untouched
- Hits the ball in the infield (whether bunt or otherwise) such that a play cannot be made given a normal effort by the fielder
- Hits a ball that takes a bad hop, causing a fielder to miss the play
- Hits a ball that touches a runner or umpire before reaching a fielder (note that in the case where a runner is hit by the ball, that runner is out even though the batter gets credit for a hit)

Definition of "Fielder's Choice"

A batter reaches on Fielder's Choice when s/he:





The play is still scored a Fielder's Choice if in your judgment, the batter-runner would have been put out successfully given a normal effort by the fielder if s/he had so elected

The play is scored a Hit if in your judgment *the batter-runner* would *not* have been put out given a normal effort by the fielder once s/he fielded the ball





Definition of "Error"

A batter reaches on an Error when:





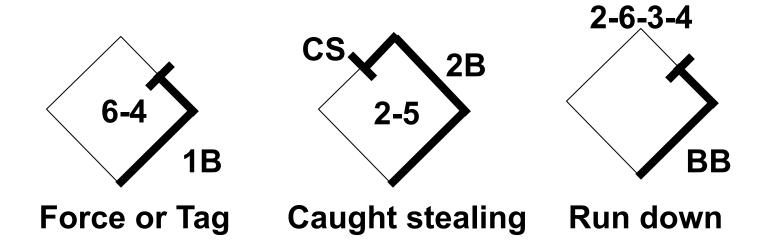


Errors of omission are not charged as errors in baseball – for example, a fielder failing to cover a base is not scored as an error, even if it prevented an otherwise easy put-out from being made

Voice of Experience: Recognizing the difference between hits and errors is often the hardest and most controversial part of your job as scorer. Keep in mind the level of play you are scoring (AA vs AAA vs Majors), don't be influenced by coaches or spectators, and be consistent with your judgment throughout the game. That is the most anyone can ask.

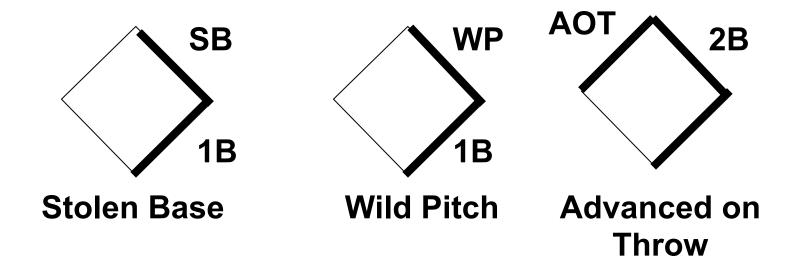
Scoring a Runner Out

Ways a runner makes an out



Scoring Runners' Advancing

Ways baserunners may advance



Pitching Records

NO	PITCHER'S SUMMARY	W	L	SA	IP	AB	R	Н	SO	ВВ	ER	1	2	3	HR	Е	LOB	HP	WP	ВК	INT	IBB
	PITCHING TOTALS																					





- Pitcher's Name and Uniform #
- Total number of pitches, counting all pitches thrown when a batter is at the plate (ask the umpire if you're not sure if a pitch was official)
- Tally at the end of every inning

Voice of Experience: It is a good practice to confirm your pitch count with the official pitch counter's numbers after every half-inning.

End of Half-Inning

	300		SAC	1 2 3 HR	SAC	1 2 3 HR	SAC	1 2 3 HR									
	SUB SUB		BB HP SAC		BB HP SAC	· ·	BB HP SAC		BB HP SAC	·	BB HP SAC	·	BB HP SAC				
					2		3		4		5		6				
	NING TOTALS =	RUNS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R			
U	nshaded Areas	HITS	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н			
RIII	NNING TOTALS =	ERRORS	Е	Ε	E	Ε	E	E	Е	Ε	E	Ε	E	E			
	Shaded Areas	L.O.B.	LOB	LOB	LOB	LOB	LOB	LOB	LOB	LOB	LOB	LOB	LOB	LOB			
		E.R.	ER	ER	ER	ER	ER	ER	ER	ER	ER	ER	ER	ER			
NO.	PITCHERS	TO	OȚALS	W	L IP	AB	R H	l SO	BB E	RP	PITCHES BY INNING						
37										Ш							

- Record the runs:
 - Inning total in unshaded R box
 - Running total in shaded R box
- Hits, Errors, LOB & ER only if you want to be fancy

Voice of Experience: A run does not count when the third out is a force out. Ask the umpire if you're at all unsure whether a run should count on the last play of the inning.

Post-Game Tasks

- Tally final score and pitch counts
- Get Umpire's signature (if official book)
- Pitch count sheets require managers' signatures
- Leave scoresheet book in shed



A Note on Etiquette

- When you are the scorer, you are not a fan, coach or umpire
 - No cheering from the booth ("Yay Kevin!")
 - No coaching your kid or other kids from the booth ("Ready position, Kevin!")
 - No helping your team's coach from the booth ("Hey Tom! This kid hit to shortstop last time up!")
 - Never (ever! ever!) correct an umpire or make any comment about his calls during the game ("That's strike three, blue!")

Sanity Check

- Get the runs right!
- Get the pitch count right!
- Credit players with innings played and plate appearances
- Everything else is gravy

Don't sweat the small stuff

you will improve with every inning you score



- Arrive at least 15 minutes ahead of game time. Have plenty of sharp pencils and an eraser
- If home team, set up scorer's booth (AA, get scorebook from shed). Introduce yourself to the pitch counter (and vice versa).
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©Tom Glover 1987 **GLOVER'S** "Line-Up Cards" The Greats Team: Parul Spitzer ORDUR Coach: **PLAYER** POS. NO. SUBSTITUTIONS POS. NO. 3 Erik Estrada Farrah Faucett areta Garbo Howard Hughes Janis Joplin Loretta Lypn Marilyn Monroe 13 14 15 FIELD POSITIONS 16 17 18 19

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GLOVER'S

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- AA & AAA use a scoresheet with 15 lineup slots
 - write all the players in order
- Remember to write the opposing pitcher's name and number (and the pitcher's number at the start of each inning)

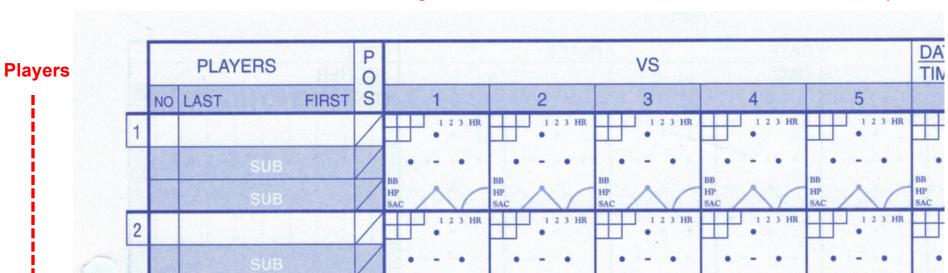
Let's review scoring batters & runners...



- K (swinging), K (backwards for looking), Fn, Ln, n-m, Un, SacB, SacF
- Scoring a Batter on Base:
 - 1B, 2B, 3B, HR, BB, FC, En, HP, DTS
- Scoring a Runner Out:
 - force or tag (n-m), CS, run-down (n-m-p-...)
- Scoring Runners' Advancing:
 - SB, WP, PB, AOT (aka OTT)

The AA/AAA Score Sheet

Innings -----



The Majors Score Sheet

