

The objective of each team is to win by scoring more runs than the opponent.

A RUN (or SCORE) is the score made by an offensive player who advances from batter to runner and touches first, second, third and home bases in that order. The order of the bases is in a counter-clockwise direction around the square from home to first, etc.

A BATTER is an offensive player who takes his position in the batter's box and attempts to hit a ball thrown to him by the pitcher.

A PITCHER is the fielder designated to deliver the pitch to the batter. The pitcher pitches the ball to the batter and the batter attempts to hit the pitch and become a runner. The defense attempts to catch the ball after it is hit and put the batter and/or runners out.

A PITCH is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher.

The CATCHER is the fielder who takes his position back of the home base and catches the pitcher's pitch when the batter does not hit the pitch.

A RUNNER is an offensive player who is advancing toward, or touching, or returning to any base. Note: 2 runners may not occupy the same base. Runners cannot pass each other.

AN INNING is that portion of a game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three OUTS for each team. Each team's time at bat is a half-inning.

AN OUT is one of the three required retirements of an offensive team during its time at bat. The fielding team can get a runner out

1. Catch a **fly ball**

- 1a. **A FLY BALL** is a batted ball that goes high in the air in-flight straight from the bat without first touching the ground.

- 1b. **A CATCH** is the act of a fielder in getting secure possession in his hand or glove of a ball in flight and firmly holding it; providing he does not use his cap, protector, pocket or any other part of his uniform in getting possession. NOTE: runners are not allowed to advance to the next base on a fly ball that is caught for an out. Exception: Tagging up

- 1c. **TAGGING UP** is the act of a runner on any base waiting on the base until a fly ball is caught for an out and then attempting to advance to the next base. NOTE: the runner must be on the base at the time of the catch

or move back to touch the base after the catch to advance. Tagging up is a **Non Force Play**; see below

2. Throw a runner out at a base after fielding a ground ball

2a. **A GROUND BALL** is a batted ball that hits the ground almost directly after hitting off the bat.

2b. **A FORCE OUT** occurs when a runner is forced off the base they occupy by another runner behind them or by the batter. If a runner is on first base and the batter hits a ground ball, the first base runner must run to second base to allow the batter to take first. That runner was forced off the base. That means there is a force play at second base. Someone in the field can throw the ball to their teammate playing second base (the second baseman), the second baseman then steps on second base while in possession of the ball and the runner is out. Anyone in the field can step on the base to get the runner out. NOTE: there is always a force play at first base since the batter is forced to run to first after the hit.

2c. **A NON FORCE PLAY** occurs when a runner decides to run on their own and is not forced off the base. An example would be when there is a runner on second base but no runner on first. When the batter hits the ball the second base runner can choose to stay or run. There is no force since there is no runner on first forcing them to run

*** in a non-force play if the runner decides to go the fielders must tag the runner to get the runner out. Any runner can be tagged for an out even on a force play

When three offensive players are legally put out, that team takes the field and the opposing team becomes the offensive team.

HOW A TEAM SCORES.

One run shall be scored each time a runner legally advances to and touches first, second, third and home base before three batter/runners are put out to end the inning.

Batting order. Make it simple for the kids and keep your youth baseball team's batting order posted in the dugout, so they can follow it. If the umpire is aware that a hitter bats out of order, he can declare him out.

Fair ball! A batted baseball is fair if it lands in the field of play or if it touches or passes first or third base within fair territory (even if it then goes over the foul line). The point to make to batters is to run hard to first base whenever they hit the baseball.

Tie goes to the runner. It's as simple as it sounds. An umpire judges whether a baserunner is safe or out. If the runner can be forced out at a

base and he arrives there at the same instance the fielder catches the ball, the runner is considered safe.

Base running . Running the bases is one of the most fun parts of baseball, but, yes, there are plenty of rules for it. A runner must touch each base when going around the infield and won't score a run until he touches first, second and third base and then home plate in succession (if he misses one he has to go back to that base while touching them in succession and not passing any other runners). A baserunner can't pass a fellow runner in front of him when rounding the bases. He also can't run more than three feet away from his baseline to avoid being tagged out unless he is trying to avoid interference with a fielder. Make sure the runners know how to slide properly, safely and within the rules.

Tagging out. To tag out a runner, a fielder must touch him with the ball or with his glove when the ball is in. A runner is not out if the fielder tags him with his glove but has the ball in his other hand.

Sportsmanship. Respect your teammates and fellow players on the other team