## SCORING BASEBALL

- Welcome to the world of scoring and thank you for your willingness to play such an important role in our great game.
- To cater for all ages, there are a number of variations of the game of baseball. These are often known as teeball, zooka or modball.
- The basic information in this training course can be used for scoring all forms of the game.
- There are further modules which cover specific topics to build up your knowledge of scoring.


## Basic Guidelines

- There are at least 2 scorers for every game - one for each team.
- Scorers are to sit together outside the field behind home plate or in the scorer's area provided. Sit on the same side as your teams dugout.
- Scorers are officials of the game and are governed by the official rules of baseball, which means no consuming alcohol, no smoking, no swearing, no coaching, no umpiring and are to remain neutral.
- As the scorer, you are there to 'transcribe' the story of the game with the help of the umpire.
- score what the umpire calls - do not question the call or be influenced by coaches, managers, players or spectators
- you can ask the umpire for clarification of a play or call
- the umpire can request information from the scorers
- a team can check the batting order for their team, pitch counts and the score
- you should not call out to anyone if something isn't right (such as the wrong player batting)
- keep cheering to a minimum and acknowledge good play by both teams


## Basic Guidelines - cont.

- Arrive at least 30 minutes before your game is due to start so you have time to get organised and write up the scorebook.
- Make sure you always have a copy of your league/competition rules (you will be amazed how often you will be asked). These may vary greatly from league to league and age group to age group.

Personal items a scorer needs are:

- a black or blue pen (for the result sheet)
- lead pencil or mechanical pencil
- soft white pencil rubber
- pencil sharpener (if not using mechanical pencils)
- a small ruler or straight edge
- some scorers also like to have a towel under their scorebook
- You may see some scorers with coloured pencils (red, blue, green, orange). These colours are used for certain scoring symbols so they stand out in the scorebook. As you gain more experience and confidence, you can start to incorporate the colours. The symbol list for each module shows a symbol and its colour.


## BASIC TERMS and GAME CONCEPTS

## The Field

- The four bases on the field are called home plate, $1^{\text {st }}$ base, $2^{\text {nd }}$ base and $3^{\text {rd }}$ base.
- The bases are named in an anti-clockwise direction from home plate and create a
 square called the infield.
- The area beyond the infield is called the outfield.

- Foul lines run from home plate to first base and from home plate to third base, then continue on to the outfield fence/boundary.
- The field between these lines is fair territory. Outside these lines is called foul territory.



## The Game

- The game is divided into segments called innings.
- In an inning, both teams have a turn at batting.
- The 'top' of the inning is when the away team has their turn to bat.
- The 'bottom' of the inning is when the home team has their turn to bat.
- A standard game of baseball is played for 9 innings.
- A timed game has as many innings as can be completed in the time allocated.
- The game is won by the team that scores the most runs.



## Common Terms

| Diamond | can refer to the whole field or the infield <br> the bags on the corners of the infield <br> Bases <br> the area where the players of the team sit <br> Dugout |
| :--- | :--- |
| Line Up | a list of players in batting order. It may also show their uniform <br> numbers and fielding positions <br> the official record of the game. Completed in pen, usually by the home <br> team <br> the person that officiates the game and makes judgement calls on <br> plays <br> Result sheet <br> Umpire |
| Play balled by the umpire to stop the game |  |
| Time | called by the umpire when the game is finished |
| Game / Time and <br> game |  |
| Safe | when a player makes it safely to a base <br> when a player did not make a base safely and they must return to the <br> dugout |
| Out |  |

## Common Terms - cont.

\(\left.$$
\begin{array}{l|l}\hline \text { Batter } & \begin{array}{l}\text { the player from the batting team standing at home plate } \\
\text { a player from the batting team that has made a base safely }\end{array} \\
\hline \text { Runner } & \begin{array}{l}\text { the area over home plate the pitcher is aiming for - defined by the edges } \\
\text { of home plate and the batters stance }\end{array} \\
\hline \text { Swinging Strike } & \begin{array}{l}\text { when the batter swings and misses the ball } \\
\text { a pitch that is not swung at and goes through the strike zone. The umpire } \\
\text { will call 'strike' } \\
\text { a pitch that is not swung at and is outside the strike zone. The umpire } \\
\text { may call 'ball' or remain silent }\end{array}
$$ <br>
\hline Called Strike <br>
a pitch that is hit and stops in fair territory - runners can (or may have to) <br>
run to the next base <br>
a pitch that is hit and stops in foul territory or the batter hits the tee - <br>

Funners cannot run to the next base\end{array}\right]\)| Foulwhat is the name of the player batting next <br> bat? |
| :--- |
| Who sat off? | | what are the names of the players who did not field last inning |
| :--- |
| a player that is not batting or fielding |

## The LINE UP and the SCOREBOOK

## Fielding Positions

- There are nine fielding positons on a baseball field. In the scorebook, we use a fielder position number instead of the name.
- The diagram shows the names and corresponding fielder position numbers for each fielder and where they are located on the field.
- Fielding positions may also be referred to by their abbreviation ( $\mathrm{P}=\mathrm{pitcher}$, $\mathrm{C}=$ catcher, $1 \mathrm{~B}=$ first base, $2 \mathrm{~B}=$ second base, $3 B=$ third base, $S S=$ short stop, LF=left field, $\mathrm{CF}=$ centre field, $\mathrm{RF}=$ right field) but we only use the fielder position numbers in the scorebook.
- It can be useful to have a small diagram of the field with the fielder position numbers next to you as a quick reference.


## Line Up

- Here is an example of a line up, which each team needs to be submit to the scorers at least 15 minutes before the game is due to start.
- The line up should have at least the following information:
- the teams name
- date
- player names in batting order
- fielding positions
- players on the bench, if any
- Players names are to be written as:

Surname First name

- There should be no initials or nick names.


## Baseball Scorer's Association

Member of New South Wales Baseball League Inc.
WE SUPPLY ALL OFFICIAL SCORE BOOKS


PITCHER
SMYTHE Rohan ㄴ…......................................
$\qquad$

## The Scorebook

- There are a number of different types and sizes of scorebooks.
- The scorebook you use will depend on whether you are scoring teeball or baseball and how many players can bat.
- Use a pencil to fill in your scorebook so it can be easily changed if needed.

- The scorebook forms part of the official record of the game and may be used for participation, insurance etc.
- Your scorebook may look different to those shown, but will have similar sections - fill in as much information as you can.


## The Scorebook - cont.

- The main sections of a scorebook are:
- game information (YELLOW)
- player names (RED)
- scoring area (GREEN)
- scorer, umpire and coach names (BLUE)



## The Scorebook - cont.

- Other sections of the scorebook are:
- fielder position number (RED)
- batter number box (YELLOW)
- pitcher and catcher section (BLUE)
- inning column (GREEN)

- You will work downwards in order through the batters for each inning.
- Most of the other sections in the scorebook relate to statistics and do not need to be completed.


## The Scorebook - cont.

- The away team has their turn to bat at the top of the inning, so their details are written on the top page
- The home team has their turn to bat at the bottom of the inning, so their details are written on the bottom page.
- You can keep the book open to see both pages or fold it over to see one page at a time - whatever works for you with the space you have available.



## Game Details

- The same game information is to be written on both pages. This may include:
- home team name
- away team name
- venue or ground name
- date
- start and finish times (these are actual times not scheduled times)

- Write the scorer, umpire and coach names in the spaces provided.



## Team and Player Names

- Write the teams name at top - you can also write top/bottom or away/home as a reminder.
- Write the player names in the same batting order as the line up.
- Player names are to be written as SURNAME, First name. If the box is split into two, write the name in the bottom half.
- Fielder position numbers are written in the 'Pos' column.
- Uniform numbers (if provided) are written in the Uni column.
- Write the name of the pitcher and catcher in their section.
- Any players listed on the bench are written in the On Bench section.



## The Scorebook - start of game

- Your scorebook should look something like this at the start of the game.



## SCORING THE GAME

## Scoring Squares

- The scoring area is made up of scoring squares - one for each batter in each inning. This is where we record the pitches, outs, runs and how a player moved around the bases.
- The rectangle (called the tram line) - is for recording the pitches.

- The circle - is for runs scored and the number of outs in that inning.
- The four boxes - each box represents a base and is where you record if a player is safe or out at that base.



## Recording pitches

- Record the pitches as they are called by the umpire in the tram line:
- . for a ball
- C for a called strike
- S for a swinging strike
- F for a foul

- Record all fouls - even if it means writing them in the tram line of the scoring square for the next inning.
- Do not record the last pitch in the tram line - when the batter is out, hits the pitch or reaches $1^{\text {st }}$ base.

Teeball:
As there is no pitcher throwing the ball, there are no balls or called strikes. Hitting the tee or not hitting the ball far enough may be classed as a foul - check your competition rules.

## Count on the Batter

- Sometimes while the batter is still batting, the umpire will want to check the count on the batter. This is the number of balls and 'strikes' against the batter.
- The number of balls is the number of "'s recorded - should be $0,1,2$ or 3 .
- The number of 'strikes' is the number of ' $S$ 's and ' $C$ 's recorded - should be 0,1 or 2 .
- An ' $F$ ' is also counted as a 'strike' but only until the total number of 'strikes' is 2.
- A full count is when the count on the batter is 3 balls and 2 'strikes'.
- In each example below, the count on the batter is "one and two" (one ball and two strikes). Note: this is different to the pitch count.


## S.C

. S F

> CC.F F

FCF.F
F.F
S.S F

Teeball: Check your competition rules - all fouls may count as strikes.

## Count on the Batter - cont.

- The umpire may raise their fingers to indicate the count on the batter:
- the number of fingers raised on their left hand is the number of balls
- the number of fingers on their right hand is the number of strikes
- if either is zero, they will not raise that hand
- If you have a different count to the umpire:
- check with the other scorer to see what they have
- pitches/calls can be easy to miss or you may have written the wrong symbol
- decide if you go with what the umpire has or not - they make mistakes with their pitch counter sometimes too
- remember, you cannot call out to the umpire, coaches or players
- only the umpire can check what count you have - discuss and all agree what the count actually is


## The Batter

- If the batter reaches $1^{\text {st }}$ base safely, draw a diagonal line in the $1^{\text {st }}$ base box - they now become a runner.

- If the batter is called out (they had too many strikes or they did not reach $1^{\text {st }}$ base safely):
- write an X in the $1^{\text {st }}$ base box
- write a 1, 2 or 3 in the circle to indicate they are
 the $1^{\text {st }}, 2^{\text {nd }}$ or $3^{\text {rd }}$ out for that inning
- Remember, if you are writing a / or $X$ in the 1st base box, do not write the pitch in the tram line.


## Pitch Count

- Most competitions will have a limit on the number of pitches a pitcher is allowed to throw. This limit is usually based on the pitchers age and is designed to reduce injuries refer to your competition rules.
- The official pitch count is to be provided by the scorers only. Check with the other scorer to make sure you have the same pitch count. Some scorers like to check after each batter - the more often you check, the easier it is to find and correct any differences.
- The coaching staff may also be counting the pitches. They can check to see what pitch count the scorers have and are to change their count to match the scorers if they are different.
- Some coaches may want to know when a pitcher has reached a certain number of pitches. Inform them of the pitch count between batters.
- If a pitcher reaches their limit while a batter is still batting, they may be allowed to continue to pitch to this batter (finish the batter) but cannot pitch to the next batter.


## Pitch Count - cont.

- Count each pitch in the tram line and add 1 for the pitch covered by the / or X in the $1^{\text {st }}$ base box.
- Add this amount to the pitch count from the previous batter.
- write the pitch count in the far right side of the tram line

Teeball: Pitch counts are not required

- The first batter has 6 pitches in tram line , plus the $1^{\text {st }}$ base box = 7 pitches
- The next batter faces 3 pitches - pitch count $=10$
- The next batter faces 9 pitches - pitch count $=19$


## The Runners

- Runners can move to the next base when the batter has hit the pitch or any time while the ball is live. Umpires may also tell a runner to move to a certain base.
- As a runner moves safely around the bases, draw a diagonal line in the corresponding base box.

- If a runner gets out before reaching a certain base, write an X in that base box and a 1, 2 or 3 in the circle.

- When a runner makes it around all the bases safely (back to home plate), they have scored a run. Colour in the circle.

- After each batter, check which bases have a runner on them. Make sure your scorebook looks the same.


## The Scorebook - during an inning

- Your scorebook should look something like this during an inning.



## End of an Inning

- The inning ends for a team when they have completed their turn at bat.
- Draw a diagonal line through the next batters scoring square and across the top of the same batters scoring square in the next inning column.
- This player will be the first batter in the next inning.

- Each competition/league/age group may have different rules as to when an inning ends. It could be after 3 outs, after a certain number of runs have been scored, or after a certain number of batters have batted. You can notify the umpire if the teams leave the field before the inning has actually ended.
- For the last play of the inning, some runs may not actually count - this may be called by the umpire or covered in your competition rules. Check with the umpire if you are unsure.


## End of an Inning - cont.

- An inning will also complete if a runner is the $3^{\text {rd }}$ out or a certain number of runs have scored, even if the batter is still batting.
- If the batter is still batting, they will be the first batter in the next inning - draw the diagonal line through the current batters scoring square and across the top of the same batters scoring square in the next inning column.
- Count the pitches in the tram line but there is no $1^{\text {st }}$ base box pitch.

TIGERS


- Batters1 and 2 are called out
- Batter3 reaches $1^{\text {st }}$ base safely
- While batter4 is still batting, batter3 tries to make it to $2^{\text {nd }}$ base, but is called out
- Batter4 starts the next inning


## End of an Inning - cont.

- At the bottom of the inning column is where you record the number of runs that have scored (or come in).

- Each inning has a box divided into 2 sections:
- in the left side of the box write the number of runs scored (coloured in circles) in that inning
- in the right side write the cumulative total for the game


## RUNS



- The team has scored 4 runs in the first inning, no runs in the second inning and 3 runs in the third.
- Check with the other scorer to make sure you both have the same total number of runs scored.


## Pitch Count - next inning

- Carry the pitch count from one inning to the next so you always have the pitch count after each batter.
 now 18
- Pitcher finishes the inning with a pitch count of 13
- First batter of the next inning faces 5 pitches - pitch count
- If the inning ended with a batter still batting, the actual pitches do not carry over into the next inning.



## Scorebook Tips

- When the last batter listed has batted and the inning continues, use the same inning column for batter1 - it will save you running out of columns.



## Scorebook Tips - cont.

- A player may bat multiple times in one inning.
- When the player that started the inning bats again in the same inning, move into the next inning column and:
- show the inning continues with an arrow from the previous batter
- change the inning numbers at the top of the remaining columns

- Change inning numbers
- Arrow from batter9 to batter10
- Batter10 started the $2^{\text {nd }}$ inning and bats again - move to next column


## End of Several Innings

- Your scorebook should look something like this at the end of several innings.



## CHANGES and END OF THE GAME

## Changes

- Throughout a baseball game, changes to the line up will occur and are the responsibility of the scorer to record. Changes could involve batters, fielders or pitchers.
- The coach will advise the umpire and the scorers of any changes being made.
- Teeball and zooka: as there are usually a large number of fielding changes made every inning, it is not expected that you record them all. A good way to practice is to focus on 1 or 2 players and record the changes for these players only.


## TYPES OF CHANGES:

- Substitution - when a player listed on the bench replaces a player in the batting order
- Fielding Change - when a player currently fielding moves to different fielding position (only their fielder position number changes)
- Pitching change - when a substitution or fielding change includes the pitcher
- The other information required is when the change happened.


## Changes - tips

- Take your time to ensure you accurately record the changes in the scorebook.
- Substitutions should be given first, followed by fielding changes.
- Make sure all fielding positions are accounted for after each change.
- Help the other scorer as they will probably not know your players. Player names and uniform numbers should be listed on the bench of the line up. Take care with players that have the same surname.
- If you notice a change that you have not been informed of, check with the umpire and coach during a break in play.
- If their are no players listed on the bench (ie. all the players are batting), then that team will not have any substitutions.
- Once a player has been substituted, they do not play again (left the game) unless allowed in your competition rules or due to another player being injured or ejected.
- If a player is injured or ejected, they are substituted by any bench players first, then a player that has left the game. If there are no other players available - check with the umpire - it may be an automatic out when that player was due to bat.


## Changes - tips cont.

- Some coaches make more changes than others.
- In the examples shown, only two player names have been written in a batter number box, but in a real game it can be more.
- If your team makes a lot of substitutions (usually the pitcher), write the player name, uniform number and fielder position number small enough to fit 4 names in the batter number box.
- Tell the other scorer so they can also write small enough to make the changes easily.
- If you run out of space to write a change moving up the batter number box, use the rest of the batter number box as needed.
- Some coaches will have a plan for the substitutions and/or fielding changes they intend to make. If so, ask for a copy. The coach will still need to give the changes to the umpire and confirm the changes are as per the plan, but it should make the process easier.


## Changes - information required

- There are several pieces of information recorded for a change and the type of change made will determine which are needed:
- player name and uniform number
- fielding position
- when the change happened
- markers in the scoring area
- name in the pitcher or catcher section
- Changes are written above the current information, keeping within the batter number box.
- Do not cross out any information, so it can still be read clearly. The latest details should always be at the top.



## Changes - when the change happened

- When the change happened is written in two ways, depending on the game situation.
- If the change occurs when about to start:
- the top of the inning, write T and the inning number about to start eg. T3
- the bottom of the inning, write $B$ and the inning number eg. B5
- If the change occurs after the top or bottom of an inning has started:
- write T for top of the inning or B for bottom of the inning
- write the inning number
- write B for batter
- write the batter number of the player about to bat eg. T3B7, B5B9


## Changes - substitution

- The player from the bench will bat at the same batter number as the player they are replacing:
- write the new players name and uniform number above the replaced player
- write the fielder position number in the Pos column - if you are not given a fielding position, assume it will be the same as the player they are replacing
- write when the change happened in the Ch column
- draw a substitution line down the left side of the scoring square for that inning. Write the players surname (optional).

|  | BATTING ORDER |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\text { TIGERS }{ }^{\text {TEAM }}$ | Uni | A |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | PO |  |  |  |  |
| PosCh |  |  | E |  |  |  |  |
| 5 B3 | SMYTHE Rohan |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | JOHNSON Josh |  |  |  |  |  |  |

- Rohan Smythe replaces Josh Johnson at third base at the start of the bottom of the 3rd inning.


## Changes - substitution cont.

- If a substitution occurs for a player that is a runner, write the name and fielder position number as outlined except:
- write when the change happened as Tinning number or B inning number only
- draw the substitution line on the line between the base box for the base they are standing on and the next base box
- Check the new players fielding position when their team goes into the field as it may change.

- Harry Trewin reaches $1^{\text {st }}$ base safely
- Sam Rochford replaces Harry Trewin at $1^{\text {st }}$ base - substitution line drawn between the $1^{\text {st }}$ base box and the $2^{\text {nd }}$ base box


## Changes -fielding change

- When fielding position changes occur:
- write the players new fielder position number in the Pos column
- write when the change happened in the Ch column
- check all fielding position numbers have been allocated
- If the team has more than 9 players batting, a players new fielder position number will be blank if they are no longer fielding (indicate with a dash).

- At the start of the bottom of the $2^{\text {nd }}$ inning, the Tigers make some fielding changes:
- Jasmine Peters moves to left field
- Lucy Marshall is no longer fielding
- Brax Grugic is now fielding at centre field
- Harry Trewin moves to second base


## Changes - pitching change

- If a substitution or fielding change involves the pitcher, write the changes as outlined plus:
- write the old pitchers pitch count in the pitchers section in the PIT column
- write the new pitchers name in the pitchers section
- draw a pitch change line and write the new pitchers surname across the top of the scoring square for the first batter they will pitch to
- make sure to restart the pitch count for a new pitcher

- At the start of the bottom of the $4^{\text {th }}$ inning, the Tigers make a fielding change that includes the pitcher:
- Brendan Brown moves to right field
- Amy Webb moves to pitcher
- Pitch change line for Bears batter5


## Changes - pitching change - cont.

- If the pitcher is changed while a batter is still batting (usually due to an injury), write the changes as outlined plus in the tram line:
- write the old pitchers pitch count
- draw a vertical line
- write the new pitchers pitches for this batter and their pitch count

- Brendan Brown is injured while pitching to Bears batter3
- Amy Webb moves to pitcher
- Pitch change lines for Bears batter3
- Brendan Browns pitch count will be 9
- Amy Webb finishes the inning with a pitch count of 4


## Changes - catcher

- If a substitution or fielding change involves the catcher, write the changes as outlined plus:
- write the new catchers name in the catchers section

- During the bottom of the $3^{\text {rd }}$ inning, the Tigers make a fielding change that includes the catcher:
- Daniel Bell is no longer fielding
- Noah Roberts is now the catcher


## End of the Game

- When the game has finished, record the following information in your scorebook (if space is provided):
- all pitchers names and their pitch count in the pitchers section
- time the game finished
- any injuries or delays due to the weather, rain or light
- which team won the game
- umpires signature
- Complete or check the result sheet. (check with your club on how to fill in the result sheet correctly for your team)
- Ensure you agree on the final score and which team has won the game - refer to your competition rules.
- Teams should be encouraged to thank the umpires, scorers and spectators for their part in the game. When they do, thank them back, even if it's with a wave because you are busy or have your head down.
- Remember, it is just a game. If it all falls apart don't stress. The main things to concentrate on are who gets out, who scored a run and which team won.


## Congratulations

- Congratulations on completing the Fundamentals course and starting your scoring journey by achieving a NSW Baseball Scorers Accreditation Level A.
- Learning to score and gaining confidence takes time, patience and practice. There is always more to learn, but we all have to start somewhere.
- Move through the next modules at your own pace and be considerate of where other scorers are at in their scoring journey.
- Nobody knows everything - we all get it wrong sometimes no matter how long we have been scoring for and some days you just can't add up.
- Communication with each other is key and constant. You are always checking pitches, pitch counts and plays. Especially once you start using detailed scoring symbols, make sure you talk to each other - confirm or discuss what happened. Work it out together, agree and score the play the same way, using what you know.
- Even though most games move at a fast pace there can be time for some social conversation with your fellow scorer - just be mindful of their need to concentrate and focus.
- Baseball is a complex game with many rules and different scenarios. Scoring also has its own rules and while you don't need to know them, know they exist and are the basis of everything we do.

