

## **Chapter 4**

### **The Pitcher**

- Earned runs
- Pitching credits

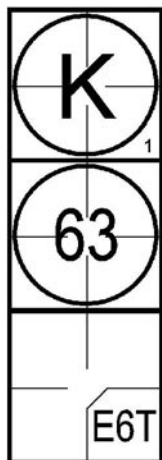


## Earned runs

According to rule 10.18 of the OBR, an Earned Run (ER) is charged when, with fewer than three fielding opportunities, all advances on base by the player who reached home base can be attributed to the pitcher. An Earned Run is charged when advances are made for the following reasons:

- **Batter-runner:** Safe hits, fielder's choices (occupied balls), bases on balls (including intentional bases on balls), hit by pitch and, if it is not a fielding opportunity, advance to first base on KWP.
- **Runners:** All advances as a result of safe hits, stolen bases, sacrifice bunts, sacrifice flies, putouts, fielder's choices, balks, wild pitches and forced advances due to the batter having been awarded first base.

Before going into the complex matter of earned runs it is a good idea to look at what is meant by "fielding opportunity".



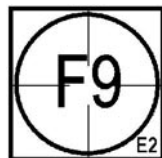
A "fielding opportunity" is defined as any time when, in the scorer's opinion, the defense has an opportunity to make a putout, regardless of whether the opportunity was taken successfully, or lost through error.

**Fielding opportunities include:** Putouts, all decisive errors (including those that allowed the batter of a sacrifice hit to reach first base safely), all arrivals on base by batter-runners recorded with "KPB", "INT", "OB" and, in specific cases, "KWP".

The reason the pitcher is not held accountable for runs scored after the third fielding opportunity is because, if the defense had capitalized on every such opportunity, they would have made three putouts and that phase of the inning would have ended.

In the example given here, the defense has already had three fielding opportunities, as there have been two putouts, and a third runner reached base on an error.

A muffed foul fly should also be considered a fielding opportunity, as the batter could have been put out. There are also other situations in which there may be a fielding opportunity without the outcome being either a putout or a fielding error.



Usually, when there are two fielding opportunities on the same play, just one is counted, as any player can be put out only once.

	2
	†1
13	
	6E3

Both these examples show situations in which there are two fielding opportunities on the same play, only one of which is counted.

**ATTENTION:** There are some situations in which there appear to be two fielding opportunities on the same player.

64	
	E6F
	O6

Example 1: There are two fielding opportunities on the runner put out on second base. It should be noted, however, that if this runner had been put out on first, rather than reaching base safely on an error, the defense would also have put out the next batter, thus making two putouts in all.

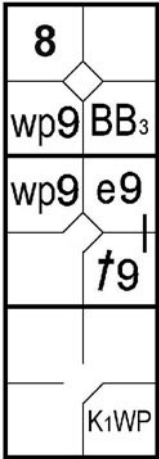
Consequently, in situations such as this, two fielding opportunities are counted. Any run scored by the runner who had reached base on an occupied ball would not be earned.

**IMPORTANT:** If, during the course of an inning, the defense has three fielding opportunities, no earned runs are charged to the pitcher. The reason for this rule is fairly easy to understand: if the three fielding opportunities had been translated into three putouts, the inning would have ended and the offensive team would not have been able to score any more runs. If, on the other hand, the inning continues, it is purely the defense's responsibility that the fielding opportunities offered were not translated into putouts, which is why no further earned runs are charged to the pitcher.

**ATTENTION:** "KO2" is not a fielding opportunity.

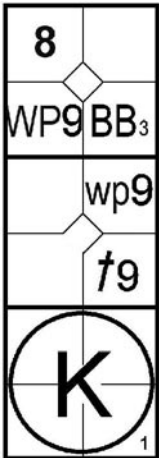
A batter is automatically called out when, with fewer than two out and first base occupied, the third strike is a wild pitch. If first base is free, or if there are two out, the batter-runner may try to reach the base. If he succeeds, the symbol to use for his advance to first base is "KWP" which is not usually a fielding opportunity but, as for all rules, there is an exception in this case.

Indeed, if first base is free because the runner took advantage of an error or passed ball to advance, the "KWP" then becomes a fielding opportunity. This can be seen clearly from the fact that, in the absence of an error or passed ball, first base would have remained occupied and, as such, the batter would automatically have been called out. Consequently, any runs scored by a batter who becomes a runner on "KWP" cannot be considered earned.



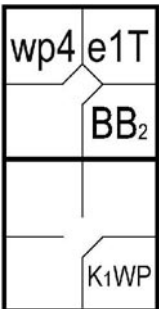
Example 2: With no men out and first base occupied, the eighth man in the lineup hits a single to the right fielder, who fails to catch the ball. The batter-runner takes the opportunity to advance one base.

The next batter swings at the third strike, which is also a wild pitch, and succeeds in reaching first base safely, while the other runners advance one base on the wild pitch.

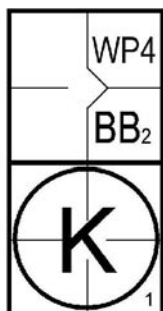


If the right fielder had not committed an error, the ninth batter would have found first base occupied and he would have been struck out, while the runners would have advanced one base on the wild pitch.

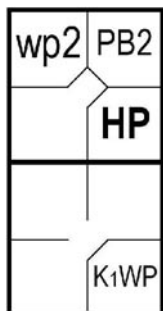
“KWP” is therefore a fielding opportunity.



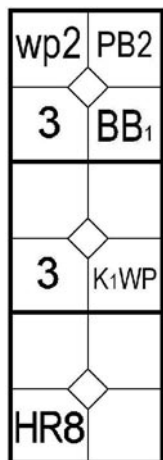
Example 3: A failed pickoff on first base allows the runner to advance to second and offers the batter the opportunity to reach first base on “KWP”.



If it had not been for the pitcher's error, first base would have been occupied and therefore automatically off limits to the batter. The "KWP" is therefore a fielding opportunity.



Example 4: After having swung at the third strike, the batter-runner is able to advance to first base because of a previous passed ball. The "KWP" is therefore a fielding opportunity.



Example 5: Of the three runs batted in on the strength of the home run, only the first and last are earned, as the second batter reached first base on "KWP" due to the previous passed ball. The "KWP" is therefore a fielding opportunity.

**IMPORTANT:** All advances as a result of a strikeout-wild pitch (KWP) are considered legal as they occurred on a wild pitch.

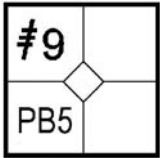
## When a run can never be earned

Apart from the case we have already seen of runs scored after the three fielding opportunities, a run can never be earned if the life of the runner who scored the run was prolonged by one of the fielding opportunities listed above.

## When a run may become earned

There are times when a run is not earned at the time it was scored, but may become so in the course of the ensuing action under certain conditions.

To give a clearer idea, we shall look at an example. Before three fielding opportunities have occurred, the batter hits a triple and reaches third base.



The next batter gets a passed ball, which enables the runner to score. This run should not be considered an earned run, at least not for the moment, because although the pitcher was responsible for the runner's reaching third base, he was not responsible for his illegal advance to home base.

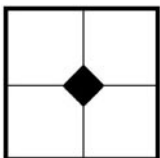
Nevertheless, there is still a possibility that the run may become earned when, before three fielding opportunities have occurred, there is an action for which the pitcher is solely responsible, such that it would have enabled the runner, if he were still on third base, to score.

Returning to our example, if the next batter hits a safe hit, the run becomes earned, as the runner would have been able to score even without the passed ball (illegal advance).

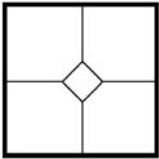
Situations such as this, which may slow down the allocation of an earned run, may depend on extra base errors and obstruction to runners as well as passed balls. These are illegal actions.

It can be stated therefore that the legal action of a following batter legalizes the action of the previous batter, when the previous batter would in any case have reached that base, as in the case we have just seen.

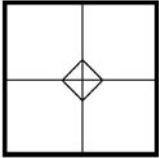
In the case of interference or obstruction to the batter-runner (before he reaches first base), it is a fielding opportunity (decisive error), and for this reason any runs scored cannot become earned.



In this respect it is worth noting that for an earned run, the small diamond in the center of each square, created with joined lines as the runner advances around the bases, should be filled in.

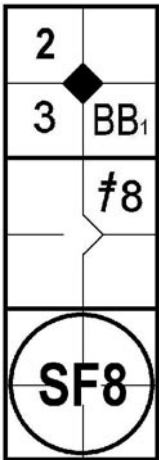


If the run is not earned, the diamond is left blank.



If the run is NOT earned against the team, a cross must be drawn inside the diamond.

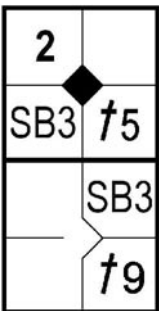
We shall now clarify the above by looking at several examples.



Example 6: The first batter is awarded a base on balls.

The second batter hits a double and forces the runner to third base.

The third batter hits a fly ball to the centre fielder that enables the runner on third to score. This is an earned run.

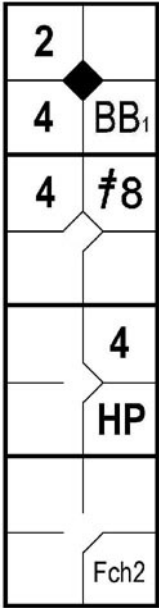


Example 7: The first batter hits a safe hit to third base, while the next batter sends him to third with a single to the right field.

On an attempt to steal second, the catcher throws to the second baseman but fails to make the putout.

The runner on third base takes this opportunity to advance to home base and score. Both runners are awarded stolen bases and the run is earned.





Example 8: With fewer than two out, the first batter walks.

The next batter hits a double to the centre fielder, forcing the runner to third base.

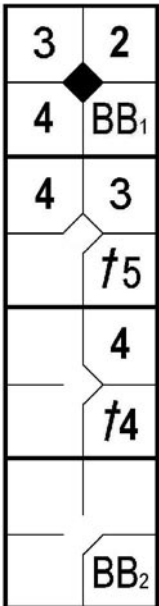
The third batter advances to first base after being touched by the pitched ball.

The next batter hits to the shortstop who throws to home base in an attempt to put out the runner about to score.

The runner, however, reaches the base before the ball does, and scores.

Everyone else advances one base.

The run is an earned run.

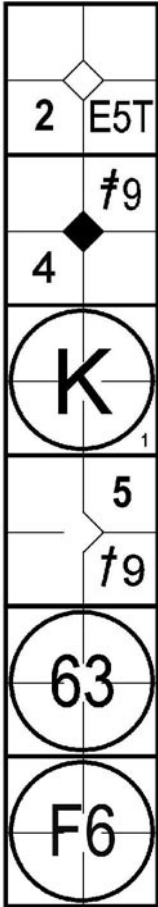


Example 9: The first batter walks.

The next two batters hit singles inside the diamond, filling the bases.

The fourth batter is awarded a base on balls, forcing all the other runners to advance one base, and enabling the runner on third to score.

This is an earned run.



Example 10: The first batter reaches first base on a throwing error by the third baseman.

The second batter hits a double to the right field, and the runner from first base runs home.

The next batter is struck out, and the fourth batter hits a single to the right field, sending home the runner from second base.

The next two batters are put out.

The first run cannot be earned because the batter reached first base on an error.

The second run is earned, as it was obtained with just two fielding opportunities.

Example 11: The first batter reaches first base with a safe hit to the left field, and is driven to second by the next batter, who is awarded a base on balls.

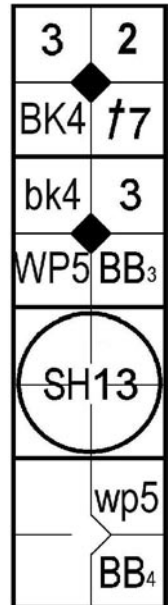
The third batter hits a sacrifice bunt enabling both runners to advance one base.

With the fourth batsman at the plate, the pitcher delivers a balk, which means both runners advance one base and a run is scored.

The batter is then awarded a base on balls.

The next batter receives a wild pitch that enables both runners to advance one base, and another run is scored.

Both runs are earned runs.





Example 12: The first batter hits a high ball into foul territory, which the pitcher should be able to catch but does not.

The batter returns to bat and hits a home run to the centre field.

The next batter is struck out, and the third hits a triple to the right field.

At this point, with the fourth batter at the plate, the pitcher delivers a wild pitch, allowing the runner on third to score the second run.

The batter is subsequently struck out.

The fifth batter hits a triple to the center field and goes on to score the third run thanks to a balk by the pitcher.

The first run scored on the home run hit cannot be earned as the batter's life had been prolonged by an error.

The second run was earned as it had been obtained with just two fielding opportunities.

The third run, however, was not earned, as it was scored after the third fielding opportunity.



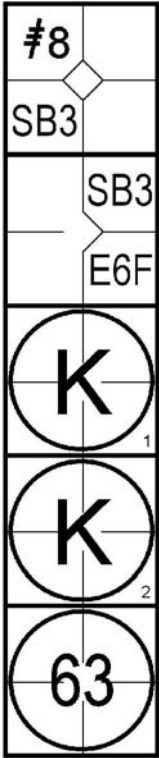
Example 13: The first batter walks.

The next batter hits towards the shortstop, who throws to second in time to put out the runner, but muffs the throw. With first and second bases occupied, the catcher lets through a pitch he should have caught, allowing both runners to advance.

The third batter hits a fly ball to the center field, enabling the runner from third to score. The fourth batter hits a single to the centre field, thus sending the runner from second home. The fifth batter is struck out, and the sixth hits a home run to the right field, enabling a further two runs to be scored.

None of these four runs is earned. The first run cannot be earned because the runner reached second on an error.

The second run was obtained with just two fielding opportunities, but it must be remembered that the runner reached second on a passed ball, without which the fourth batter's hit would have enabled him to reach third at most, and which would have been the third fielding opportunity. The other two runs were scored after three fielding opportunities.



Example 14: The first batter hits a triple to center field.

The second batter reaches first base safely when the shortstop muffs a fly ball.

While the third batter is at bat the runner on first steals second base, and the other runner takes advantage of the fact that the fielders are concentrating on his team-mate to score a run.

The third and fourth batters are struck out.

The fifth is put out at first base with an assist by the shortstop.

The only run scored was not earned, because if it had not been for the shortstop's error the second batter would have been put out and consequently he would not have been able to steal second base, thus allowing the runner on third to score.

Indeed, this latter runner would have remained on third base, given that the actions of the following batters would not have provided him with any subsequent opportunities to advance.

## Changes of pitcher and runs allowed

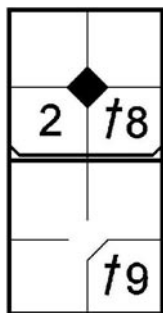
The situation becomes more complicated when there are one or more changes of pitcher. The rules state: *When pitchers are changed during an inning, the relief pitcher shall not be charged with any run (earned or unearned) scored by a runner who was on base at the time he entered the game, nor for runs scored by any runner who reaches base on a fielder's choice which puts out a runner left on base by the preceding pitcher [OBR 10.18 g)].*

Let us look more closely at this.

When there is a change of pitcher, any runners left on base are charged to the pitcher who put them on base, who is also charged with any runs they might score. Problems arise in the interpretation of the second part of the rule. The phrase is understood to refer to the actions of a runner (understood here to be the batter-runner) that lead to a preceding runner, who was put on base by the previous pitcher, being put out.

**NOTE:** *It is the intent of this rule to charge each pitcher with the number of runners he put on base, rather than with the individual runners. When a pitcher puts runners on base, and is relieved, he shall be charged with all runs subsequently scored up to and including the number of runners he left on base when he left the game, unless such runners are put out without action by the batter, i.e. caught stealing, picked off base, or called out for interference when a batter-runner does not reach first base on the play [OBR 10.18 g)].*

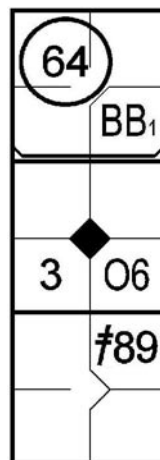
This can be seen more clearly in the following examples:



Example 15: The starting pitcher leaves one runner on base when he is relieved.

As a rule, to which there are no exceptions, the runners left on base by a pitcher belong to that pitcher.

For this reason, the run is charged to the first pitcher.

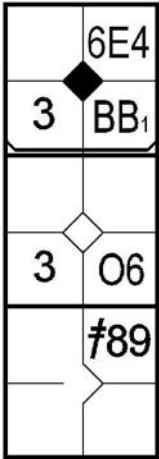


Example 16: The first pitcher leaves one runner on base, and he is put out after the pitcher is relieved by a normal action as a result of a hit.

Given that the first pitcher left one runner on base, he must be charged with a run.

We have here the two fundamental conditions: an occupied ball and the putout of a runner put on base by the first pitcher.

The run is therefore charged to the first pitcher.



In this example, the second baseman failed to put out the runner.

As the second run cannot be charged to the first pitcher, as he would in that case be charged with two runs, despite having left only one runner on base, the fielding opportunity (6E4) is transferred to the second pitcher (in place of the "O6").

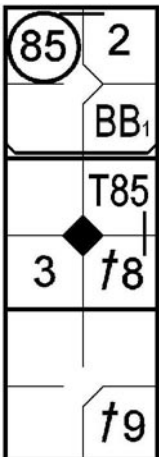
The first run is therefore earned and the second is unearned.



Example 17: The first pitcher leaves one runner on base, and must therefore be charged with one run.

The runner, however, is picked off base, i.e. the putout is not due to an action by the batter-runner.

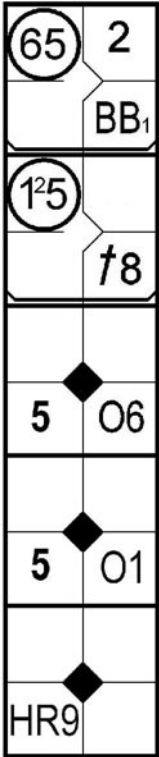
The first pitcher is therefore not charged with any runs, and the run is consequently charged to the relief pitcher.



Example 18: The first pitcher leaves one runner on base, who is subsequently put out trying to advance on a hit.

The author of the hit reaches second and subsequently scores.

The run is charged to the second pitcher as the runner put on base by the first pitcher was put out by his own fault and not by the fault of the batter.

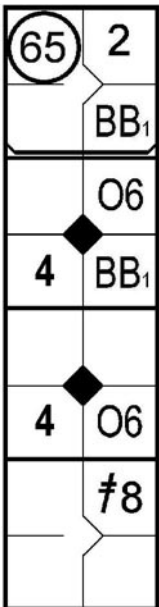


Example 19: The first and second pitchers both leave one runner on base when they are relieved, and must therefore be charged with one run each.

The first runner is put out on a hit, likewise the second, while the authors of the hits reach base safely on an occupied ball.

The fifth batter hits a home run to the right field.

A run is charged to each pitcher.



Example 20: The first pitcher leaves one runner on base.

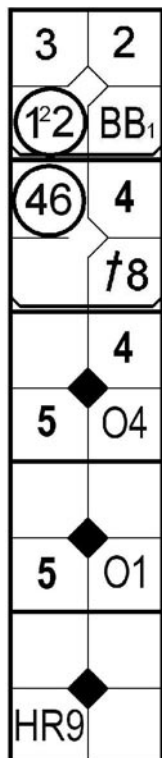
He must be charged with one run.

During the play in which the runner put on base by the first pitcher is put out, the other runners reach base safely because the ball is occupied.

Two runs are then scored.

The first is charged to the first pitcher, while the second is charged to the second pitcher.

Indeed, the first pitcher may be charged with only one run as he left only one man on base.



Example 21: Both the first and second pitchers leave one runner on base.

The runner on first base, who was put there by the second pitcher, is put out on a ground ball by the third batter.

The preceding runner is put out on a hit by the fourth batter.

The next home run hit brings in three runs, all earned.

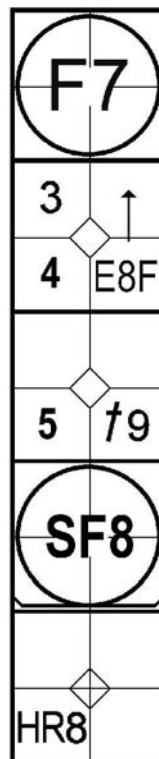
Each pitcher is charged with one run, the first to the second pitcher and the second to the first pitcher.

The third pitcher is charged with only the third run.

The OBR states in rule 10.18 i) that *When pitchers are changed during an inning, the relief pitcher shall not have the benefit of previous opportunities for outs not accepted in determining earned runs.*

**NOTE:** *It is the intent of this rule to charge relief pitchers with earned runs for which they are solely responsible. In some instances, runs charged as earned against the relief pitcher can be charged as unearned against the team.*

To clarify the meaning of this note, let us look at the following example:



Example 22: The first batter hits a fly ball and is caught out by the left fielder.

The next batter reaches second base safely on a catching error by the centre fielder.

The third batter hits a single to the right field, sending the runner to third base.

The fourth batter hits a sacrifice fly that enables the runner on third to score the first run (the runner on first base stays put).

The fifth batter hits a home run that brings in two runs.

The first pitcher is charged with **two unearned runs** (there had been three fielding opportunities at the time the home run was hit: "F7", "E8F" and "SF8").

The second pitcher is charged with **one earned run** (only two fielding opportunities were transferred by the previous pitcher: "F7" and "SF8").

The team is charged with three runs, **none of which is earned**, as the team had three fielding opportunities: "F7", "E8F" and "SF8".

The example also shows the notation to be used for runs that are unearned against the team (or which are earned against the pitcher but not against the team).



Example 23: Evidently, when a situation such as that described above occurs during the course of a game, the total number of runs earned against the team will be less than the total number of runs earned against the pitchers.

PITCHERS		WOLOSIA		BF	AB	R	ER	H
R	<i>Franklin Ryan</i>	28	LO	27	24	11	11	11
L	<i>Williams Todd</i>	31	R	4	4	1	1	1
R	<i>Young Thomas</i>	30	FR	12	10			1
TOTALS				41	38	12	8	8

In order to make this clear, the number of runs unearned against the team must be circled.

**ATTENTION:** In the cumulative totals compiled at the end of each half inning, the total runs earned against the pitcher, including those unearned against the team, are recorded.

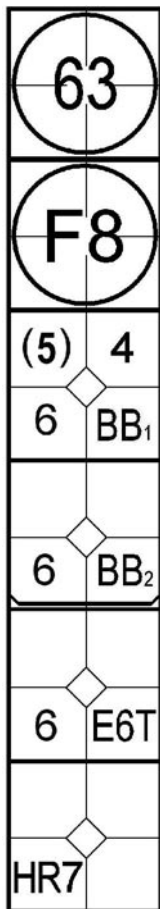
K		1
63		
	(4)	
5	BB	1
5		
HR	8	

Example 24: With two out, i.e. with two fielding opportunities, there is a base on balls followed by an error.

This error constitutes the third fielding opportunity for the first pitcher, who therefore cannot be charged with any further earned runs.

The relief pitcher, on the other hand, does not benefit from the failed putout.

Consequently, the home run, which is charged to the relief pitcher, is earned against the pitcher but unearned against the team.



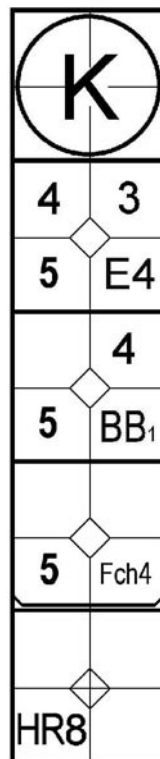
Example 25: With two out, there follow two bases on balls, after which the pitcher is relieved. An error is committed against the next batter.

This error constitutes the third fielding opportunity for the relief pitcher, who can also count the two putouts.

But it is also the third fielding opportunity for the first pitcher, as the relief pitcher cannot count failed putouts, although the replaced pitcher can.

From this moment, therefore, no runs charged to either the first or the second pitcher can be earned.

Thus, with the subsequent home run, two runs are charged to the first pitcher and two to the second, although none are earned.



Example 26: In this inning, after a putout, with the batter-runner on first base because of an error, the third batter is awarded a base on balls.

The fourth batter reaches first base safely on a fielder's choice, as on the hit an infielder tried unsuccessfully to put out the runner heading for second.

The fielder's choice is the third fielding opportunity for the first pitcher, who may not now be charged with any further earned runs.

The next run scored is therefore earned against the relief pitcher but not against the team, since the relief pitcher cannot count either the error or the fielder's choice as fielding opportunities.



Example 27: In this inning, after a base on balls, there is an error, which constitutes the first and only fielding opportunity for the first pitcher, who is then relieved.

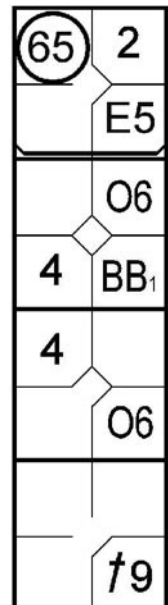
The relief pitcher therefore begins with no fielding opportunities to his credit.

He gets a three-run home run: the first two runs are charged to the first pitcher, and only the first is earned, as the second was compromised by an error.

The home run itself is charged to the second pitcher, and is an earned run.

The inning continues with two strikeouts, after which there is another error.

This is the third fielding opportunity for the second pitcher, and thus no runs charged against him from this moment on are earned.



Example 28: The first batter reaches first base on an error.

The pitcher is replaced.

The second batter is awarded a base on balls and the third hits a ground ball to the shortstop who assists the third baseman in putting out the lead runner, while the others reach base safely.

Finally, the fourth batter hits a safe hit, sending the second runner home.

The run is charged to the first pitcher but is not earned as the second fielding opportunity is transferred to that runner.

65	2
	E5
	3
4	BB <sub>1</sub>
4	
	O6
	t9

In this example, the run is charged to the second pitcher and it is earned, as the scorer judged that that runner could not have been put out.

The second fielding opportunity, however, is transferred to the third batter who, if he were to score, would have his run charged to the first pitcher, although it would not be earned.

The occupied ball thus also indicates the possibility that runs have been transferred from a previous pitcher.

Example 29: The first batter reaches first base on an error.

The second is awarded a base on balls and the pitcher is replaced.

The third batter hits a safe hit, filling the bases.

The fourth batter hits a ground ball to the third baseman who throws an assist to home base, putting out the first runner.

The fifth batter repeats the previous action.

The sixth batter hits a four-run home run, and the inning finally ends with the seventh batter being struck out.

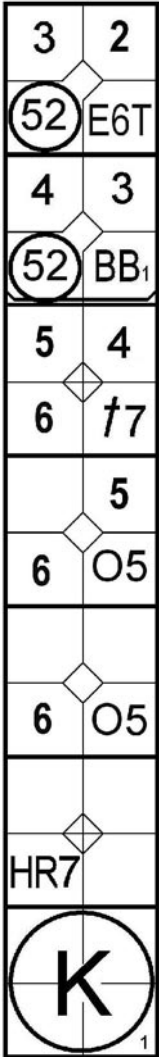
The first pitcher should be charged with two runs, as he was replaced with two men on base.

The runs in question are the first two, and they are indicated by the occupied ball notation.

Neither of these, however, is earned, as for the first a fielding opportunity was transferred from the first batter, and with the second run there had already been three fielding opportunities.

The other two runs are charged to the second pitcher, and they are earned against the pitcher but not against the team, since the pitcher had amassed only two fielding opportunities.

3	2
52	E6T
O5	3
52	BB <sub>1</sub>
O5	O5
6	t7
	O5
6	O5
6	O5
HR7	
K	1



In this example, the runs charged to the first pitcher are the second and third, because of the occupied balls. Here too, they are unearned, for the same reasons as in the first example.

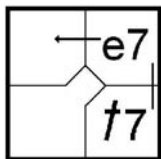
The first run, however, is earned against the second pitcher, because due to the advances on hits the runner could not be put out, and therefore no fielding opportunities could be transferred to him.

As far as fielding opportunities are concerned, it should be noted that in the event of an attempted double play, there are two opportunities in the same action, with either two putouts, or a putout and an error.

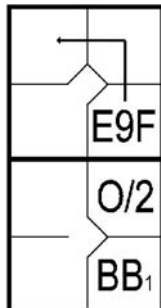
However, if just one putout is made, and the other attempted putout is unsuccessful, but not because of an error, only one fielding opportunity has occurred.

To conclude this chapter on earned runs, we shall look a little more closely at the issue of legal and illegal advances.

A base runner is not a static entity, he is a potential aggressor, i.e. he can make a play. When a runner should not have been on base, or should not have advanced to that point, no account must be taken of any plays made by him for the purposes of calculating earned runs.

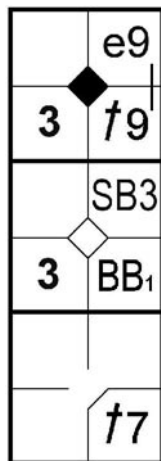


Example 30: The runner on second base would not have been able to advance if the game had been played correctly, so for the purposes of calculating earned runs he should be considered as being on first base.



Example 31: With a man on third base due to an error, the runner on first reaches second on defensive indifference.

If the game had gone correctly, he would not have advanced to second, so for our purposes a man is considered as being on first base.

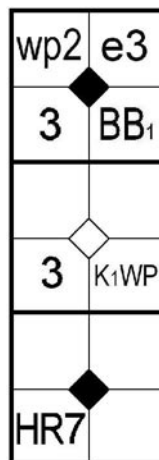


Example 32: The first batter hits to the right field and, thanks to an error by the outfielder, reaches third base.

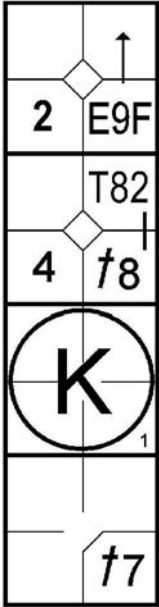
The second batter walks and goes on to steal second base.

The third batter hits to the left field, enabling both runners to score.

Up to this moment, the first run is earned, but not the second, since if it had not been for the outfielder's error, the lead runner would have remained on second base, thus removing from the other runner any possibility of stealing, and the third batter's safe hit would have sent home only the first runner, while the second runner would have stopped at third base.



Example 33: The first batter is awarded a base on balls and reaches second base on an error when the first baseman attempts to pick him off. The second batter reaches first on a wild pitch after having swung at the third strike, and the runner reaches third base. The third batter hits a home run. The first and third runs are earned, but not the second, because if it had not been for the fielding error on the first runner, the second batter would have been called out under rule 6.05 c) of the OBR. **IMPORTANT:** From the two previous examples it can be seen that an illegal advance by a previous runner can affect the legality of a subsequent action.

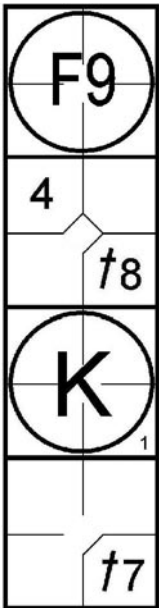


Example 34: With a man on second base due to an error, a safe hit to the center fielder enables him to score, while the batter-runner reaches second base on the throw to home base.

If the play had been legal, the first runner would not have been where he was, so the center fielder would not have thrown to home base and the batter would have remained on first base.

On the next hit another run is scored, which for the time being is unearned since the runner, after having advanced two bases, would have been on third base.

We therefore recommend reconstructing the action carefully to determine whether an advance is legal or not. In this respect it can be helpful to reconstruct an imaginary situation alongside the notation that reflects the actual situation on the field.

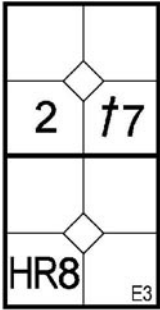


In this example we see the action as it occurred.

We have an indication of what would have happened with legal play: the second batter would not yet have scored, but would have stopped at third base.

With this method it is possible to see clearly that if a runner had scored through legal play, the corresponding run in the real action would be earned, even if the play had been illegal.

If not, a run actually scored would be unearned.



Example 35: With a runner on first base, the first baseman muffs a foul fly on an easy hit and an error is therefore noted in the first base square.

The second batter hits a home run.

The second run cannot be earned in any circumstances.

In order to determine whether the first run is earned, we have to wait for the subsequent turns at bat, as the first batsman should be considered as being still on first base.



## Pitching credits

One of the following statistics must be credited to each pitcher who takes part in a game:

- **WINNER**
- **LOSER**
- **SAVE**
- **STARTER**
- **FINAL RELIEF**
- **RELIEF**

### Winner

The winning pitcher must obviously be a member of the winning team.

There are no problems where there is only one pitcher, but if more than one pitcher is used, certain rules have to be followed.

For all games with **six or more innings**, the statistic may be credited to the starting pitcher [OBR 10.19 a) and b)] *only if he has pitched at least **five complete innings** and his team not only is in the lead when he is replaced but remains in the lead the remainder of the game.*

If the game ends after **five innings**, **four complete innings** will be sufficient.

If it is not possible to credit the starting pitcher with being the winning pitcher because the situation does not correspond to that described in the rules, and several relief pitchers have been used, the decision is made according to the provisions of rule 10.19 c):

- (1) *When, during the tenure of the starting pitcher, the winning team assumes the lead and maintains it to the finish of the game, credit the victory to the relief pitcher judged by the scorer to have been the most effective.*

**NOTE:** in order to determine the effectiveness of a pitcher, the scorer must consider the following aspects, in order:

- Runs and earned runs
- Hits allowed
- Bases on balls allowed
- Touched batsmen
- Strikeouts
- Wild pitches
- Balks

- (2) *Whenever the score is tied the game becomes a new contest insofar as the winning and losing pitcher is concerned.*
- (3) *Once the opposing team assumes the lead all pitchers who have pitched up to that point are excluded from being credited with the victory except that if the pitcher against whose pitching the opposing team gained the lead continues to pitch until his team regains the lead, which it holds to the finish of the games, that pitcher shall be the winning pitcher.*
- (4) *The winning relief pitcher shall be the one who is the pitcher of record when his team assumes the lead and maintains it to the finish of the game.*

*EXCEPTION: Do not credit a victory to a relief pitcher who is ineffective in a brief appearance, when a succeeding relief pitcher pitches effectively in helping his team maintain the lead. In such cases, credit the succeeding relief pitcher with the victory.*

Moreover, rule 10.19 d) of the OBR mentions a specific case that governs the allocation of victory to the pitcher:

*When a pitcher is removed for a substitute batter or substitute runner, all runs scored by his team during the inning in which he is removed shall be credited to his benefit in determining the pitcher of record when his team assumes the lead.*

## Losing

The losing pitcher must be a member of the losing team.

This statistic is given to the starting pitcher [OBR 10.19 e)], regardless of how many innings he pitched, if he is replaced when his team is behind, and the team thereafter fails either to tie the score or gain the lead.

If the starting pitcher is not the losing pitcher, the statistic is credited to the pitcher who put on base the runner who scored the run that put the opposing team definitively in the lead.

**IMPORTANT:** It should be borne in mind that a pitcher is charged with all runs scored by the runners he put on base, regardless of whether the runs were scored with another pitcher on the mound.

## Save

This statistic is given according to the provisions of rule 10.20 of the OBR:

*Credit a pitcher with a save when he meets all three of the following conditions:*

- (1) *He is the finishing pitcher in a game won by his club; and*
- (2) *He is not the winning pitcher; and*
- (3) *He qualifies under one of the following conditions:*

- a) *He enters the game with a lead of no more than three runs and pitches for at least one inning; or*
- b) *He enters the game, regardless of the count, with the potential tying run either on base, or at bat, or on deck (that is, the potential tying run is either already on base or is one of the first two batsmen he faces); or*
- c) *He pitches effectively for at least three innings.*

*No more than one save may be credited in each game.*

## Starting

This statistic is credited to the pitcher who starts the game. It may not be either the winning or the losing pitcher.

## Finishing

This statistic is credited to the pitcher who finishes the game. It may not be the winning or losing pitcher, or the pitcher credited with a save.

## Relief

This statistic is credited to a pitcher who is not entitled to any of the previous titles.

**ATTENTION:** In order to determine the statistics to be awarded to the pitchers, when a team uses more than one pitcher, you are advised to proceed as follows:

- **Winning team:** determine, in the following order: WINNING, SAVE (if applicable), STARTING (if applicable) and FINISHING (if applicable). All other pitchers are RELIEF pitchers.
- **Losing team:** determine, in the following order: LOSING, STARTING (if applicable) and FINISHING (if applicable). All other pitchers are RELIEF pitchers.

**IMPORTANT:** Each pitcher must be credited with just one statistic, even if he came out to pitch several times in the same game.

In the following examples the parentheses in the tables are intended **solely** to emphasize the inning pitched by each pitcher and **must not** be used on the official scoresheet.

Example 1: In a baseball game won by the home team 4 to 1, with no pitcher substitutions by either team, the home team pitcher will be the **winning** pitcher and the visiting team pitcher will be the **losing** pitcher.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
Visitors	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0							1
Home Team	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	X							4

Example 2: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 8 to 7, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitcher of the visiting team is replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the second half of the sixth inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
Visitors	0	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	0							8
Home Team	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0							7

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winning** (he pitched 5 innings, his team was in the lead when he was replaced, and remained in the lead until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Save** (he ended the game, kept his team in the lead, and effectively pitched four innings).

The only pitcher of the **home team** is the **Losing** pitcher.

Example 3: In a baseball game won by the home team 16 to 7, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's starting pitcher is replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the sixth inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
Visitors	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0							7
Home Team	2	0	6	1	4	0	3	0	X							16

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he pitched five innings, his team was in the lead when he was replaced and remained in the lead until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Save** (he ended the game, kept his team in the lead, and effectively pitched four innings).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Losing pitcher**.

Example 4: In a baseball game won by the home team 5 to 2, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's starting pitcher was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the sixth inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
<i>Visitors</i>	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0							2
<i>Home Team</i>	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	X							5

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he pitched five innings, his team was in the lead when he was replaced and remained in the lead until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Save** (he ended the game, kept his team in the lead, and effectively pitched four innings).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Losing pitcher**.

Example 5: In a baseball game won by the home team 6 to 5, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's pitcher was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the sixth inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
<i>Visitors</i>	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0							5
<i>Home Team</i>	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	X							6

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting pitcher** (he pitched five innings, and his team was level with their opponents when he was replaced).
- Relief pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he ended the game, and with him on the mound his team took the lead and went on to win the game).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Losing pitcher**.

Example 6: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 5 to 4, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's starting pitcher was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the fourth inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
<i>Visitors</i>	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0							5
<i>Home Team</i>	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0							4

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting pitcher** (his team was behind when he was replaced, but the team subsequently caught up and went on to take the lead).
- Relief pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (he was on the mound when the opposing team took the lead and held it).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Winning pitcher**.

Example 7: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 15 to 5, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's starting pitcher was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the fifth inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
<i>Visitors</i>	2	6	2	0	0	0	5									15
<i>Home Team</i>	0	0	0	2	0	3	0									5

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (his team was behind when he was replaced and remained behind for the rest of the match).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he ended the game that his team was already losing).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Winning pitcher**.

Example 8: In a baseball game where the run difference rule applies, won by the home team 14 to 1, with the scores as shown in the table, the home team's starting pitcher was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the sixth inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
<i>Visitors</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1									1
<i>Home Team</i>	2	4	0	0	6	2	X									14

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he pitched five innings, his team was in the lead when he was replaced and remained in the lead until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he ended the game and kept his team in the lead, but with only two innings when his team had a 12-run advantage he cannot be credited with a save).

The only pitcher of the **visiting team** is the **Losing pitcher**.

Example 9: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 12 to 2, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitcher of the home team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the third inning. The starting pitcher of the visiting team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the second half of the fourth inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
<i>Visitors</i>	0	5	0	1	0	1	3	2	0							12
<i>Home Team</i>	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0							2

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting pitcher** (he pitched only three innings, even though when he was replaced his team was in the lead, and remained so until the end of the game).
- Relief pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (as it is not possible to credit the starting pitcher with the victory, it is credited to the relief pitcher).

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (when he was replaced his team was losing, and failed subsequently to draw level or to pull ahead).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he joined the game when his team was already losing).

Example 10: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 16 to 7, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitchers of both teams were replaced by relief pitchers at the beginning of the third inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
Visitors	4	5	0	0	0	1	3	3	0							16
Home Team	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0							7

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting pitcher** (he pitched only two innings, even though when he was replaced his team was in the lead, and remained so until the end of the game).
- Relief pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (as it is not possible to credit the starting pitcher with the victory, it is credited to the relief pitcher).

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (when he was replaced his team was losing, and was unable subsequently to draw level or to pull ahead).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he joined the game when his team was already losing).

Example 11: In a baseball game won by the home team 9 to 1, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitcher of the visiting team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the start of the second half of the third inning. The starting pitcher of the home team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the sixth inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
Visitors	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							1
Home Team	2	1	3	0	0	3	0	0	0							9

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he pitched five innings and when he was replaced his team was in the lead, and remained so until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Save** (he ended the game, kept his team in the lead, and effectively pitched four innings).

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (his team was losing when he was replaced and was not subsequently able to draw even or to pull ahead).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he ended the game and his team was already losing when he began pitching).



Example 12: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 5 to 4, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitchers of both teams were replaced by relief pitchers at the beginning of the seventh inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
<i>Visitors</i>	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0							5
<i>Home Team</i>	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0							4

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Winning pitcher** (he pitched six innings, and when he was replaced his team was in the lead, and remained so until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Save** (he ended the game, kept his team in the lead, and pitched three innings).

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (his team was losing when he was replaced and was not subsequently able to draw even or pull ahead).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing pitcher** (he ended the game and his team was already losing when he began pitching).

Example 13: In a game won by the visiting team 13 to 9, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitcher of the home team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the fourth inning, who was in turn replaced by another pitcher at the beginning of the fifth inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
<i>Visitors</i>	1	0	5	4	2	1	0	0	0							13
<i>Home Team</i>	0	0	3	0	4	0	2	0	0							9

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Losing pitcher** (his team was losing when he was replaced, and was not subsequently able to draw even or pull ahead).
- Relief pitcher: **Relief** (his team was losing when he began pitching, and remained behind until the end).
- Relief pitcher: **Finishing** (he ended the game and began pitching when his team was already losing).

The **visiting team's** only pitcher is the **Winning pitcher**.

Example 14: In a baseball game won by the visiting team 10 to 9, with the scores as shown in the table, the starting pitcher of the home team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the third inning. He in turn was replaced at the beginning of the sixth inning. The starting pitcher of the visiting team was replaced by a relief pitcher at the beginning of the second half of the sixth inning.

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Res.
Visitors	1	0	4	0	4	0	0	1	0							10
Home Team	0	2	1	3	0	3	0	0	0							9

The pitchers of the **visiting team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting** (he pitched five innings, and his team was in the lead when he was replaced, although the opposing team subsequently drew level).
- Relief pitcher: **Winning** (he was on the mound when his team scored the run that guaranteed them victory).

The pitchers of the **home team** are given the following statistics:

- Starting pitcher: **Starting** (he began the game and his team was in the lead when he was replaced, although they subsequently lost).
- Relief pitcher: **Relief** (when he began pitching his team was losing, but succeeded in drawing level).
- Relief pitcher: **Losing** (he was on the mound when the run that signalled defeat was scored).