

IBAF

Scoring Manual



INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL FEDERATION
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE BEISBOL

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One of the unique aspects of Baseball is the ability to make a written record of every single play and every single action, using a previously established system of symbols. This means that the performance of each player and each team can be evaluated during and after the game.

Thus, for players and teams alike, a game is not just about competing against other players, it's a chance for both the individual and the team to better their own performance and improve upon it, in a sort of parallel competition. The aspect of Baseball known as "Scoring" covers the collection, analysis and recording of all this information for the purposes of compiling individual and team statistics, although the results of the game might already be known.

Baseball scoring has unique characteristics that deserve special attention and a coherent, practical and uniform working methodology. This **Scoring Manual** fully satisfies these requirements, covering the entire range of situations that might arise on the field of play in detail, with the aid of copious examples.

Thanks to this official IBAF system, which has been checked and refined during countless competitions, and which we are now placing at the disposal of the International and Olympic Baseball community, we can lay to rest the numerous incomplete and inadequate methods that have been used in many countries around the world since our sport began, almost one hundred and fifty years ago.

As President of the International Baseball Federation I am delighted that this **Scoring Manual** can now be added to the IBAF's technical collection, which is particularly geared towards development at every level. I should like to thank all those who, through their continued efforts and dedication, have made it possible. I am sure it will prove to be a valuable working tool for everyone interested in the "science" of Scoring.

Aldo Notari
IBAF President

The Scorekeeper

Rule 10.01 c) of the Official Baseball Rules (**OBR**) states: The scorer is an official representative of the International BAseball Federation (**IBAF**), and is entitled to the respect and dignity of his office, and shall be accorded full protection by the IBAF President. The scorer shall report to the president any indignity expressed by any manager, player, team employee or team officer in the course of, or as the result of, the discharge of his duties.

Rule 10.01 a) of the OBR states: The IBAF President shall appoint an official scorer for each championship game. The official scorer shall observe the game from an appropriate position (in order to ensure that he does his job properly, he must be in the best position, possibly an elevated one, where the public does not have free access. He may take position in the press box, where such exists). The scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions involving judgement, such as whether a batter's advance to first base is the result of a hit or an error. He shall communicate such decisions to the press box and broadcasting booths by hand signals or over the press box loud-speaker system, and shall advise the public address announcer of such decisions if requested.

The Official Scorer must make all decisions concerning judgement calls within the game has been officially concluded. No judgement decision shall be changed thereafter except, upon immediate application to the IBAF, the scorer may request a change, citing the reasons for such. In all cases, the official scorer is not permitted to make a scoring decision which is in conflict with the scoring rules. After each game, including forfeited and called games, the scorer shall prepare a report (the score-sheet), on a form prescribed by the IBAF rules. He shall forward this report to Technical Commissioner of the game at the end. He shall forward the report of any suspended, interrupted or forfeited game.

According to rule 10.01 b) of the OBR: To achieve uniformity in keeping the records of championship games, the scorer shall conform strictly to the IBAF Official Scoring Rules. If the teams change sides before three men are put out, the scorer shall immediately inform the umpire of the mistake. If the game is protested or suspended, the scorer shall make a note of the exact situation at the time of the protest or suspension, including the score, the number of outs, the position of any runners and the ball and strike count on the batter. This is very important as, if a protested or suspended game is ordered to be replayed, it must be resumed with exactly the situation that existed just before the protested play. The scorer shall not make any decision conflicting with the Official Playing Rules, or with an umpire's decision. The scorer shall not call the attention of the umpire or of any member of either team to the fact that a player is batting out of turn.

The umpire-in-chief shall ensure, particularly in the case of runs scored concurrently with the third putout (rundown plays, appeal plays, etc), that he indicates clearly to the official scorer the legality or otherwise of the run.

In addition to the provisions of this manual, the official scorer should be familiar with the Official Playing Rules, in particular rule 10.00 of the Official Baseball Rules (OBR).

Preface

This scoring manual has been prepared to provide the necessary information for recording plays and thereby determining the score of a baseball game.

It begins with the symbols and abbreviations used to record the actions of the game.

For clarity, paragraphs taken in their entirety from the Playing Rules appear in italic script throughout the manual.