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The Official  
National Collegiate Athletic Association  
Baseball and Softball Scorebook

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Contemporary Format With Scoring Space for 75 Games/Official Scoring Rules and Instructions for Scoring

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NCAA Publishing

# How to use the Official NCAA Baseball/Softball Scorebook

The Official NCAA Baseball/Softball Scorebook is published and distributed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association to provide coaches and officials with a uniform, official scorebook. Its use as an official scoring form, especially for all collegiate games, will standardize baseball and softball scoring and assure a proper and complete record of all games played, whether home or away.

Most experienced scorers have developed their own particular method for scoring a game. This book is designed to allow the continued use of those individual scorekeeping methods within the overall framework of a standardized form. The scoring boxes have been designed with the least possible intrusion upon individual scoring methods.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** The blanks across the top of both scoring pages give general information about the game being scored, including the teams involved, date and site.

**DEFENSIVE NUMBERS:** In baseball and softball scorekeeping, each player is commonly assigned a number corresponding to the following listing:

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. pitcher        | 6. shortstop      |
| 2. catcher        | 7. left fielder   |
| 3. first baseman  | 8. center fielder |
| 4. second baseman | 9. right fielder  |
| 5. third baseman  |                   |

**PLAYERS REACHING BASE:** The following symbols commonly are used to record that a player has reached base:

1B	single (one base hit)	BB or W	base on balls (walk)
2B	double	E	error (with number: E6 is error by the shortstop)
3B	triple	FC	fielder's choice
HR	home run	INT	interference
HBP	hit by pitcher		

**RECORDING OTHER PLAYS:** The following symbols commonly are used to record plays other than those in which a batter reaches base:

SAC	sacrifice bunt	DB	double play
SF	sacrifice fly	RBI	run batted in
K	strikeout*	F	fly out (with number: F8 is to center field)
PB	passed ball	PO	putout
WP	wild pitch	A	assist
BK	balk		

\*Some scorers distinguish between a swinging and called third strike by using the K backwards or a Kc for called third strikes.

**SCORING A RUN:** The lightly printed cross in the center of each scoring square may be used to "move the runner around the bases." Normally when this method of scoring is used, the four points are connected or the diamond is colored in when a run is scored.

**OFFICIAL SUMMARY COLUMNS:** The batting and fielding summaries at the right of the scoring area and the pitching summary below the scoring area should be completed at the end of the game. After the columns are totaled, the appropriate numbers can be filled in on the box score proof. If the two sides of the proof agree, your box score is correct.

## MISCELLANEOUS SCOREKEEPING ITEMS:

- O. Outs—outs in each inning can be noted by numbering and circling them. Thus ③ indicates the third out of an inning.
- B. Advancing runners—you can record the manner in which a player moves up on the bases by using a number corresponding to the batter's position. Thus an eight next to the diamond area between first and second base indicates that the runner advanced from first to second as a result of what happened while the center fielder was at bat. An X may be used to denote a pinch hitter; an O may be used for the designated hitter.

Please refer to the Official Scoring Rules, reprinted in this publication, and the sample scoring sheet for other situations.

# NCAA Baseball Scoring Rules

## SCORER'S DUTIES

SECTION 1. a. The home team, conference commissioner or tournament director shall appoint an official scorer before each game. The scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions involving judgment. He shall communicate such decisions to both teams and all members of the news media present.

b. The official scorer should sit in the press box or stands (if no press box) and not near or in a dugout.

c. The official scorer shall exercise his function based on the following:

(1) To achieve uniformity in keeping the records of collegiate games, the scorer shall conform strictly to the NCAA Baseball Rules. The scorer shall have authority to rule on any point not covered specifically in these rules;

(2) If the teams change sides before three outs are made, the scorer immediately shall inform the umpire of the mistake;

(3) If the game is protested or halted, the scorer shall make note of the exact situation at that time, including the score, number of outs, position of any runners and the count on the batter;

*Note—It is important that a halted game resume with exactly the same situation as existed at the time of suspension. If a protested game is ordered replayed from the point of protest, it must be resumed with exactly the situation that existed before the protested play.*

(4) The scorer shall not make any decision that conflicts with the NCAA Baseball Rules or an umpire's decision, and

(5) The scorer shall not call the attention of the umpire or any member of either team to the fact that a player is batting out of turn.

## Batting

### BATTING RECORD

SECTION 2. Each player's batting record shall include:

a. In columns 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the box score, the number of times he batted, the runs he scored, the base hits he made and the runs batted in he was credited with. The batter is charged with an official time at bat whenever he completes his turn, unless he has been awarded first base as in 8-2-b, d and he has been credited with a sacrifice (10-8). In columns 5 and 6, the number of bases on balls and strikeouts credited to the batter shall be recorded, and

*Note—An official time at bat shall not be charged against a player when he hits a sacrifice bunt or sacrifice fly, is awarded a base on balls, is hit by a pitched ball or is awarded first base because of interference or obstruction.*

b. In the summary, the number of extra base hits (10-6), sacrifice hits, sacrifice flies and stolen bases.

### BATTING OUT OF TURN

SECTION 3. If a player bats out of turn and is put out, and the proper batter is called out before the ball is pitched to the next batter, charge the proper batter with a time at bat and score the putout and any assists the same as if the correct batting order had been followed. If an improper batter becomes a runner and the proper batter is called out for having missed his turn at bat, charge the proper batter with a time at bat, credit the putout to the catcher and ignore everything entering into the improper batter's safe arrival on base. If more than one batter bats out of turn in succession, score all plays just as they occur, skipping the turn at bat of the player or players who first missed batting in the proper order.

## BASE HIT

SECTION 4. A base hit is credited when a batter advances to first base safely:

a. Because of his fair hit (rather than because of a fielder's error as in 10-16);

*Exception—*It is not a base hit if any runner is out on a force play caused by the batter advancing toward first base or would have been forced out except for a fielding error.

b. Because a runner is declared out for being hit by a batted ball as in 8-5-k or the umpire is hit by a batted ball as in 8-3-c;

c. When a fielder attempts to put out a preceding runner but is unsuccessful although there is no fielding error, and the official scorer believes the batter-runner would have reached first base with perfect fielding;

d. When a batter reaches first base safely on a fair ball hit with such force, or so slowly, that any fielder attempting to make a play has no opportunity to do so. A hit shall be scored even if the fielder deflects the ball from or cuts off another fielder who could have put out a runner;

e. When a fair ball that has not been touched by a fielder touches a runner or an umpire, or

*Exception—*It is not a base hit when a runner is called out for having been touched by an infield fly.

f. When a batter reaches first base safely on a fair ball that takes an unnatural bounce so that a fielder cannot handle it with ordinary effort, or that touches the pitcher's rubber or any base (including home plate) before being touched by a fielder and bounces so that a fielder cannot handle it with ordinary effort.

*Note—In applying the above rules, always give the batter the benefit of the doubt. A safe course to follow is to score a hit when exceptionally good fielding fails to result in a putout.*

## FIELDER'S CHOICE

SECTION 5. This term is used by official scorer's to account for the following situations (the batter shall be charged with an official time at bat but no hit in all such situations):

a. When a batter-runner advances one or more bases while a fielder who handles a fair hit attempts to put out a preceding runner;

b. When a runner advances (other than by a stolen base or error) while a fielder is attempting to put out another runner;

c. When a runner advances solely because of the defensive team's indifference (undefended steal), or

d. When a batter apparently hits safely and a runner who is forced to advance by reason of the batter becoming a runner fails to touch the first base to which he is advancing and is called out on appeal.

## EXTRA-BASE HIT

SECTION 6. a. A base hit for extra bases is credited to the batter when it is the sole reason for his safe arrival at a base beyond first. Any fairly batted ball that clears in flight an outfield fence in fair territory, even though it may be deflected by a fielder, is a home run, subject to local ground rules.

b. When, with one or more runners on base, the batter advances more than one base on a safe hit and the defensive team makes an attempt to put out a preceding runner, the scorer shall determine whether the batter made a legitimate two-base hit or three-base hit, or whether he advanced beyond first base on the fielder's choice.

*Note—Do not credit the batter with a three-base hit when a preceding runner is put out at the plate, or would have been out but for an error. Do not credit the batter with a two-base hit when a preceding runner trying to advance from first base is put out at third base, or would have been out but for an error.*

- c. If a batter overruns second or third base and is tagged out trying to return, he shall be credited with the last base he touched.

**Exception**—If put out while oversliding second or third base, he is not credited with reaching such base.

#### GAME-ENDING HIT

SECTION 7. When a batter ends a game with a hit that drives in as many runs as are necessary to win the game, credit him with only as many bases on his hit as the runner who scores the winning run advances, and then only if the batter runs out his hit for as many bases as are advanced by the runner who scores the winning run.

**Exception**—If the batted ball clears an outfield fence in fair territory, the batter shall be credited with a home run.

#### SACRIFICE

SECTION 8. A sacrifice bunt is credited to the batter when, with fewer than two outs, his bunt enables a runner to advance, provided no other runner is put out attempting to advance. A sacrifice fly is credited when, with fewer than two outs, his fly, fair or foul, enables a runner to score. In either case, the sacrifice ruling applies when the batter is put out before he reaches first base or would have been put out if the ball had been fielded without error.

**Exception**—If, in the judgment of the official scorer, the batter is bunting primarily for a base hit, do not score a sacrifice. Instead, charge the batter with a time at bat.

#### RUN BATTED IN

SECTION 9. A run batted in is credited to the batter when a runner scores because of: A base hit (including batter scoring on a home run); a sacrifice bunt or sacrifice fly; any putout; a forced advance, such as a base on balls or batter being hit by a pitch, or an error, provided there are fewer than two outs and the action is such that the runner on third base would have scored even if there had been no error.

Scorer's judgment must determine whether a run batted in shall be credited for a run that scores when a fielder holds the ball or throws to the wrong base. Ordinarily, if the runner keeps going, credit a run batted in; if the runner stops and takes off again when he notices the misplay, credit the run as scored on a fielder's choice.

**Exception**—It is not a run batted in if there is a double play from a force or one in which the batter is or should have been put out at first base.

#### SUBSTITUTE BATTER

SECTION 10. When a batter leaves the game with two strikes on him, and a substitute batter strikes out, charge the strikeout to the first batter. If a substitute batter completes the turn at bat in any other manner, including a base on balls, charge the action to the substitute batter.

#### STOLEN BASE

SECTION 11. a. A stolen base shall be credited to the base runner whenever he advances a base unaided (such as by a base hit, fielder's choice, putout, error, balk, base on balls, wild pitch or passed ball). A stolen base shall be credited when a runner starts for the next base before the pitcher delivers the ball and the pitch results in what would otherwise be scored a passed ball or a wild pitch.

**Exceptions**—

- (1) Where any runner is thrown out on an attempted double or triple steal, no runner shall be credited with a stolen base.

*Note—On a double-steal attempt with runners on first and third bases, if there is a legitimate attempt by the fielder to retire the runner at second base and the runner is safe, that runner shall be credited with a stolen base even if the runner from third is thrown out at home on a continuous play.*

- (2) If a base runner is tagged out while oversliding a base, he shall not be credited with a stolen base.

- (3) No stolen base shall be credited to a runner whose advance is the result of the opposing team's indifference.

- b. Caught stealing shall be charged to the base runner whenever he is put out in the following situations:

- (1) When he attempts to steal;

- (2) When he is picked off a base and tries to advance, or

- (3) When he overslides while stealing.

*Note—Do not charge caught stealing unless the runner has an opportunity to be credited with a stolen base when the play starts.*

## Fielding

#### FIELDING RECORD

SECTION 12. Each player's fielding record shall include:

- a. In columns 7 and 8 of the box score, the number of times he put out a runner and the number of times he assisted a teammate in putting out a runner, and
- b. In the summary, the number of errors and passed balls he committed.

#### PUTOUT

SECTION 13. A putout is credited to a fielder who catches a batted ball in flight, tags out a runner or puts out a runner by holding the ball while touching a base to which a runner is forced to advance or return. When a batter strikes out, a putout is credited to the catcher, unless the catcher fails to field the pitch cleanly and must put the batter-runner out at first base.

**Exceptions**—

- (1) When a batter is called out for an illegally batted ball, for a foul third-strike bunt, for being hit by his own batted ball, for interference with the catcher or for failing to bat in his proper turn, the putout shall be credited to the catcher.

- (2) When a batter is declared out on an infield fly that is not caught, the putout is credited to the fielder who is nearest the ball at the time.

- (3) When a base runner is out because of being hit by a fairly batted ball, the putout shall be credited to the fielder nearest the ball at the time.

- (4) When a runner is called out for running out of the base line to avoid being tagged, the putout shall be credited to the fielder whom the runner avoided.

- (5) When a runner is called out for passing another runner, the putout shall be credited to the fielder nearest the point of passing.

- (6) When a runner is called out for running the bases in reverse order, the putout shall be credited to the fielder covering the base he left in starting his reverse run.

- (7) When a runner is called out for interfering with a fielder, the putout shall be credited to the fielder with whom the runner interfered, unless the fielder was in the act of throwing the ball when the interference occurred. In that case, the putout shall be credited to the fielder for whom the throw was intended; the fielder whose throw was interfered with shall be credited with an assist.

- (8) When a batter-runner is called out because of interference by a preceding runner, the putout shall be credited to the first baseman. If the fielder interfered with was in the

act of throwing the ball, he shall be credited with an assist. In no case can he be credited with more than one assist on any one play.

### **ASSIST**

SECTION 14. a. An assist is credited to a fielder when he handles or effectively deflects the ball during action that is connected with a putout or he handles the ball before an error that prevents what would have been a putout. If several fielders handle the ball or one fielder handles it more than once during a play, only one assist is credited to each of such fielders.

b. Do not credit the pitcher with an assist on a strikeout or when after a pitch the catcher tags out or throws out a runner.

*Note—A play that follows a misplay (whether or not it is an error) is a new play, and the fielder making any misplay shall not be credited with an assist unless he takes part in the new play.*

### **DOUBLE PLAY-TRIPLE PLAY**

SECTION 15. A double play or triple play is credited to one or more fielders when two or three players are put out between the time a pitch is delivered and the time the ball next becomes dead or is next in possession of the pitcher in his pitching position.

**Exception—**When an error or a misplay occurs between the time one player is put out and the time a second player is put out, a double play or triple play is not credited.

*Note—Also credit a double play or triple play if an appeal play after the ball is in possession of the pitcher results in an additional putout.*

### **ERROR**

SECTION 16. a. An error is charged against any fielder (pitchers included) for each misplay that prolongs the time at bat of the batter or the time as a runner of a base runner or permits a runner to advance one or more bases.

*Note 1: Slow handling of the ball that does not involve mechanical misplay shall not be construed as an error.*

*Note 2: It is not necessary that the fielder touch the ball to be charged with an error. If a ground ball goes through a fielder's legs or a pop fly falls untouched and, in the scorer's judgment, the fielder could have handled the ball with ordinary effort, an error should be charged.*

*Note 3: Mental mistakes or misjudgments are not to be scored as errors unless specifically covered in the rules.*

b. An error shall be charged against any fielder when he catches a thrown ball or a ground ball in time to put out any runner on a force play and fails to tag the base or the runner, including a batter-runner on a play at first base.

c. An error shall be charged against any fielder whose throw takes an unnatural bounce, touches a base or the pitcher's rubber, or touches a runner, a fielder or an umpire, thereby permitting any runner to advance. Apply this rule even when it appears to be an injustice to a fielder whose throw was accurate. Every base advanced by a runner must be accounted for.

d. Charge only one error on any wild throw, regardless of the number of bases advanced by runners.

e. An error shall be charged against any fielder whose failure to stop, or try to stop, an accurately thrown ball permits a runner to advance, providing there was occasion for the throw. If, in the scorer's judgment, there was no occasion for the throw, an error shall be charged to the fielder who threw the ball.

**Exceptions—**

(1) A base on balls, a base awarded to a batter for being hit by a pitched ball, a balk, a passed ball or a wild pitch shall not be scored as an error.

(2) No error is charged to the catcher for a wild throw in an attempt to prevent a stolen base unless the base runner advances an extra base because of a wild throw.

(3) No player is charged with an error for a poor throw in an attempt to complete a double play unless the throw is so wild that it permits a runner to advance an additional base. However, if a player drops a thrown ball when by holding it he would have completed a double play, it is an error.

(4) A fielder is not charged with an error for accurately throwing to a base whose baseman fails to stop or try to stop the ball, provided there was good reason for such a throw. If the runner advances because of the throw, the error is charged to the baseman or fielder who should have covered that base.

(5) If a fielder drops a fly ball or fumbles a ground ball, but recovers the ball in time to force a runner, he is not charged with an error.

(6) No error shall be charged against any fielder who permits a foul fly to fall safely with a runner on third base and fewer than two outs if, in the judgment of the official scorer, the fielder deliberately allows the ball to fall in order to prevent the runner on third from scoring after a catch.

f. When an umpire awards the batter or any runner or runners one or more bases because of interference or obstruction, charge the fielder who committed the interference or obstruction with one error, no matter how many bases the batter, runner or runners, may be advanced.

*Note—Do not charge an error if obstruction does not change the play in the opinion of the scorer.*

### **PASSED BALL**

SECTION 17. A passed ball is a pitch the catcher fails to stop or control when he should have been able to do so with ordinary effort and on which a runner (other than the batter) is able to advance. When a passed ball occurs on a third strike, permitting a batter to reach first base, score a strikeout and a passed ball.

### **FIELDER'S CHOICE**

SECTION 18. A fielder's choice is the action of a fielder who handles a fairly batted ball and, instead of throwing to first base to put out the batter-runner, throws to another base in an attempt to put out a preceding runner.

## Pitching

### **PITCHING RECORD**

SECTION 19. Each pitcher's record shall include in the summary: number of innings pitched, base hits, runs, earned runs, bases on balls, strikeouts, hit batters, wild pitches and balks.

*Note—In computing innings pitched, count each putout as one-third of an inning. If a starting pitcher is replaced with one out in the sixth inning, credit that pitcher with 5/3 innings. If a starting pitcher is replaced with no outs in the sixth inning, credit that pitcher with five innings, and make the notation that he faced a specific number of batters in the sixth. If a relief pitcher retires two batters and is replaced, credit that pitcher with two-thirds of an inning pitched.*

### **COMPLETE GAME**

SECTION 20. To receive credit for a complete game, the pitcher must pitch the entire game.

### **WILD PITCH**

SECTION 21. A pitcher shall be charged with a wild pitch when a legal pitch is such that a catcher cannot catch or control it with ordinary effort, so that the batter reaches first base or any runner advances one or more bases.

*Note—Generally, a pitch that hits the ground before touching the catcher's glove is scored as a wild pitch.*

## EARNED RUN

SECTION 22. a. An earned run shall be charged against a pitcher when a runner scores because of a safe hit, sacrifice hit, sacrifice fly, stolen base, putout, fielder's choice, base on balls, hit batter, balk or wild pitch (even when the wild pitch is a third strike), provided that in each case it is before the defensive team has had an opportunity to make a third putout.

*Note—In determining earned runs, the scorer shall reconstruct the inning as if there were no errors or passed balls. Give the pitcher the benefit of the doubt in determining the advancement of runners, had the defensive team been errorless.*

- b. No earned run shall be charged to a relief pitcher if the runner was on base when the relief pitcher entered the game. Likewise, if a batter has more balls than strikes, unless the count is one ball, no strikes, when a relief pitcher enters the game and the batter receives a base on balls, charge that action to the preceding pitcher. Any other action of the batter shall be charged to the relief pitcher.
- c. No run shall be earned when scored by a runner whose time as a runner is prolonged by an error, if such runner would have been put out by errorless play.
- d. An error by a pitcher is treated exactly the same as an error by any other fielder in computing earned runs.
- e. 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 reaches base on a fielder's choice that puts out a runner left on base by a preceding pitcher.

*Note—The intent of this rule is to charge each pitcher with the number of runners he put on base, rather than with the individual runners.*

- f. When pitchers are changed during an inning, a relief pitcher shall not have the benefit of errors made earlier in the inning. Thus, he will be charged with earned runs for which he is totally responsible.

## STRIKEOUT

SECTION 23. A strikeout is credited to the pitcher when a third strike is delivered to a batter, even if the third strike is a wild pitch or is not caught or the batter reaches first base. It also is a strikeout if an attempted bunt on a third strike is a foul that is not caught.

## Statistics

### GAME SUMMARY

SECTION 24. The game summary should include all the items contained in the Official NCAA Box Score, as shown on page 111.

### WINNING AND LOSING PITCHERS

SECTION 25. a. For all games of eight or more innings, a starting pitcher must pitch at least five complete innings to receive credit as the winning pitcher. For all games of fewer than eight innings, the starting pitcher must pitch at least four innings to get credit for the win. Additionally, the winning pitcher's team must be in the lead when he is replaced and must remain in the lead for the rest of the game.

- b. If the starting pitcher does not pitch enough innings, the win is credited to a relief pitcher in the following manner:
  - (1) The winning relief pitcher shall be the one who is the pitcher of record when his team goes ahead and remains ahead throughout the remainder of the game. No pitcher may receive credit for a victory if the opposing team ties the score or goes ahead after he has left the game.

*Note—Whenever the score is tied, the game becomes a new contest insofar as the winning and losing pitchers are concerned.*

**Exception**—If a relief pitcher conforms to the above regulations but pitches briefly and ineffectively, the scorer should not credit him with a win. If a succeeding relief pitcher pitches effectively and helps maintain the lead, the scorer should award the win to that succeeding pitcher.

- (2) By prearrangement, if three or more pitchers are to be used, the pitcher of record shall be considered the winning pitcher.
- c. When a batter or runner is substituted for a pitcher, all runs scored by his team during that inning are to his credit in determining the pitcher of record.
- d. The starting pitcher shall be charged with the loss if he is replaced at any time while his team is behind and remains behind for the remainder of the game. Similarly, any relief pitcher who is the pitcher of record when the opposing team assumes the lead and never relinquishes it is charged with the loss.

*Note—The pitcher of record shall be the one who is in the game at the time the winning team gains the lead, provided that the lead never is relinquished, or the one who is charged with the runs by which the opposing team takes the lead, provided that the lead never is relinquished.*

- e. To receive credit for a shutout, the pitcher must pitch the entire game or enter the game with no outs in the first inning and pitch the rest of the game without any runs scoring.

## SAVE

SECTION 26. If a relief pitcher meets ALL of the following conditions, the official scorer should credit that pitcher with a save:

- a. He is the finishing pitcher in a game won by his team;
- b. He is not credited with the win, and
- c. He meets one of the following conditions:
  - (1) He enters the game with a lead of not more than three runs and pitches at least one inning;
  - (2) He enters the game with the potential tying run on base, at bat or on deck, or
  - (3) He pitches effectively for at least three innings.

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

## PROVING BOX SCORE

SECTION 27. To prove a box score, the total of the team's plate appearances (times at bat, bases on balls, hit batters, sacrifice bunts, sacrifice flies and batters awarded first base because of the interference or obstruction) must equal the total of the team's runs, players left on base and the opposing team's putouts.

## CALLED/FORFEITED GAME AND NO CONTEST

SECTION 28. a. If a regulation game is called, include the record of all individual and team actions up to the moment the game ends as specified in Rule 5-7-b.

**A.R. 1**—If the scoring during an incomplete inning has no bearing on the outcome of the contest, include all individual and team records.

**A.R. 2**—If it is a tie game, do not enter a winning or losing pitcher.

- b. If a regulation game is forfeited, include the record of all individual and team actions up to the time of the forfeit. If the winning team by forfeit is ahead at the time of forfeit, enter as winning and losing pitchers the players who would have qualified if the game had been called at the time of forfeit. If the winning team by forfeit is behind or the score is tied at the time of the forfeit, do not enter a winning or losing pitcher. If a game is forfeited before it becomes a regulation game, include no records. Report only the fact of the forfeit.

*Note—If the team awarded the forfeit was tied or behind at the time of the forfeit, the score shall be recorded as 9-0 for a scheduled nine-inning game and 7-0 for a scheduled seven-inning game. The word "forfeit" should accompany this score.*

- c. When a team does not appear (e.g., due to weather conditions, accidents, breakdown of vehicles, illness or catastrophic causes), a forfeit is not recorded. An institution shall not, for statistical purposes, declare a forfeit for nonfulfillment of a contract. Such instances shall be considered as “no contest.”

#### DETERMINING PERCENTAGES

SECTION 29. The following procedures should be used to determine various percentages:

- a. To determine won-lost percentage, divide the total number of games played into the number of games won (each tie game is computed as half won and half lost);
- b. To determine batting averages, divide the number of official times at bat into the number of base hits;
- c. To determine fielding averages, divide the total chances (putouts, assists and errors) into the total putouts and assists;
- d. To determine a pitcher’s earned-run average, multiply the earned runs allowed by nine and then divide by the number of innings pitched;

*Note—The statistician may choose to compute earned-run average by multiplying the earned runs allowed by 27 and then dividing by the number of outs recorded (innings pitched times three). Earned-run averages must be based on nine innings.*

- e. To determine slugging percentage, divide the number of official times at bat into the number of total bases; and

*Note—In all cases where the remaining decimal is one-half or more, round to the next whole number.*

- f. To determine on-base percentage, divide the total number of at bats, bases on balls, hit by pitches and sacrifice flies into the total number of hits, bases on balls and hit by pitches.

*Note—For the purpose of computing on-base percentage, ignore being awarded first base by interference or obstruction.*

#### CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE RECORDS

SECTION 30. a. A consecutive hitting streak shall not be terminated if the plate appearance results in a base on balls, hit batsman, defensive interference or a sacrifice bunt. A sacrifice fly shall terminate the streak.

- b. A consecutive-game hitting streak shall not be terminated if all the player’s plate appearances (one or more) result in a base on balls, hit batsman, defensive interference or sacrifice bunt. The streak shall terminate if the player has a sacrifice fly and no hit.
- c. A consecutive-game playing streak shall be extended if the player plays one-half inning on defense, or if he completes a time at bat by reaching base or being put out. A pinch-running appearance only shall not extend the streak. If a player is ejected from a game by an umpire before he can comply with the requirements of this rule, his streak shall continue.
- d. For the purpose of this rule, all performances in the completion of a suspended or halted game shall be considered as occurring on the original date of the game.

## NCAA Softball Scoring Rules

#### OFFICIAL SCORER

SECTION 1. The home team, conference commissioner or tournament director shall appoint an official scorer for each game. The official scorer shall be responsible for the following:

- a. The official scorer shall record in writing the inning, score, number of outs, runners’ position and count on the batter throughout the game.
- b. The official scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions involving scoring judgment. The scorer shall be objective and shall score for both teams in a similar manner.
- c. The official scorer shall have a current copy of the NCAA Softball Rules and shall know the rules pertinent to his or her responsibilities (e.g., illegal reentry, unreported substitution, designated player).
- d. The official scorer shall sit in the press box or a neutral area (not in or near the dugout) whenever possible.
- e. The official scorer’s decision shall be communicated to both teams and members of the media present.
- f. The official scorer shall inform the public-address announcer of all substitutions recorded and relayed by the umpire.
- g. The official scorer’s decision shall be in agreement with the NCAA Softball Rules and the umpire’s decision. The scorer shall have the authority to rule on any scoring matter not specifically covered in the rules.
- h. The official scorer shall notify the umpire immediately if the teams attempt to change sides before three outs are recorded in one half of an inning.
- i. The official scorer shall notify an umpire immediately in the bottom of an inning if the home team has enough runs to win by the eight-run rule.

- j. The official scorer shall not notify an umpire, if the offensive team is batting out of order or if either team has an unreported substitution. This is the responsibility of the opposing team.
- k. If the game is protested or halted, the official scorer shall make note in writing of the exact situation at the time of the interruption. The inning, score, number of outs, runners’ position and count on the batter shall be recorded.

#### SCORING TERMS

SECTION 2. a. **Assist:** Credit given to a defensive player when she handles or effectively deflects the ball during action that is connected with a putout.

- b. **At-Bat:** A plate appearance that does not include sacrifices, hit by pitch, base on balls, gaining first base by interference, obstruction, or an incomplete turn at bat.
- c. **Base Hit:** A batted ball that permits the batter to reach first base safely because of a fair hit; because a runner is declared out for being hit by a batted ball or because the umpire is hit by a batted ball; when a fielder attempts to put out a preceding runner but is unsuccessful although there is no fielding error and the official scorer believes the batter-runner would have reached first base with perfect fielding; when a batter reaches first base safely on a fair ball hit with such force or so slowly that any fielder attempting to make a play has no opportunity to do so. A hit shall be scored even if the fielder deflects the ball from or cuts off another fielder who could have put out a runner.
- d. **Base on Balls (Walk):** An award of first base granted by the umpire to the batter who, during her time at bat, receives four pitches that are declared balls. A base on balls also is referred to as a walk.
- e. **Batters Faced:** A statistic kept for each pitcher that indicates the number of opposing batters who make plate appearances.

- f. **Caught Stealing:** Action of a runner who is thrown out by the catcher as she attempts to steal a base.
- g. **Double Play:** A play by the defense in which two offensive players are put out as a result of continuous action provided there is no error between the putouts.
- h. **Error:** A misplay charged to a defensive player when it is judged by the official scorer to have prolonged the time at bat (causes one or more pitches to be thrown) of an offensive player or contributed to an offensive player being declared safe.
- i. **Extra Base Hit:** A hit that allows the batter-runner to safely advance past first base without an error or indifference by a defensive player. It may be a double, triple or home run.
- j. **Fielder's Choice:** A fielder's attempt to put out a base runner rather than the batter when a throw to first base would have put out the batter.
- k. **Force Out:** A putout in which a runner, who is being forced to advance, is either tagged out or put out by a fielder (holding the ball) touching the base to which the runner is being forced to advance.
- l. **Game-Winning Run Batted In:** The run batted in that gives the team the lead that is never tied or lost.
- m. **Games Started:** Credit given to the players listed on the lineup card submitted to the umpire before the start of the game, whether or not they actually pitch, field or bat.
- n. **Games Played:** Credit given to starting players and their substitutes, as recorded on the umpire's official game lineup card.
- o. **Illegal Pitch:** Any pitch by the pitcher that is in violation of the pitching rules.
- p. **Intentional Base on Balls (Intentional Walk):** An award of first base granted by the umpire to a batter who, during her time at bat, received a fourth ball which the pitcher intentionally threw outside the strike zone. An intentional base on balls also is referred to as an intentional walk.
- q. **Left on Base:** A runner legally occupying a base at the end of a half-inning. This includes a batter-runner whose batted ball results in another runner being the third out.
- r. **Passed Ball:** A pitched ball that the catcher can reasonably be expected to catch but misses, resulting in a base runner advancing.
- s. **Pick-Off:** Credit given to the catcher for a throw behind a runner that catches that runner off base and results in an out.
- t. **Plate Appearance:** Anytime a batter completes a turn at bat. **Exception:** When a batter leaves the game with two strikes and the substitute batter strikes out, the substitute receives credit for the game played but neither a plate appearance nor a time at bat. The first batter is credited with a game played, plate appearance, at bat and strikeout.
- u. **Putout:** Credit given to a defensive player for retiring a batter or base runner.
- v. **Run:** The act of an offensive player legally advancing to and touching home plate without being put out.
- w. **Run Batted In:** Credit given to the batter for each run that scores as a result of: a batter's safe hit (including a batter scoring on a home run), a sacrifice or sacrifice fly, a ground out, a fielder's choice, a walk with the bases loaded, a hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, or defensive obstruction with the bases loaded.
- x. **Sacrifice:** Credit given to a batter who, with less than two outs, advances one or more runners by bunting or slapping and is called out at first base or would have been called out had no error occurred.
- y. **Sacrifice Fly:** A legally batted fly ball with less than two out that results in a runner scor-

ing a run. If the fielder drops the ball but, in the scorer's opinion, the runner would have scored had the fielder held the ball, the play shall be scored as a sacrifice fly, and an error shall be given to the defensive player.

- z. **Stolen Base:** Credit given to a runner who advances a base unaided by a safe hit, putout, error, force, fielder's choice, illegal pitch, wild pitch, base on balls, hit batter, passed ball, interference or obstruction.
- aa. **Strikeout:** A putout that is credited to the catcher as a result of the batter being charged with three strikes in a single at-bat.
- bb. **Throw Out:** Credit given to the catcher for initiating the play on an attempted stolen base when an out results. It also is given to a catcher for throwing in front of a runner who subsequently is put out in a rundown.
- cc. **Total Bases:** The sum of all bases a player earns in a game as a result of a hit(s).
- dd. **Triple Play:** A play by the defense in which three offensive players are put out as a result of continuous action provided there is no error between putouts.
- ee. **Wild Pitch:** A pitched ball that the catcher misses and could not be expected to catch resulting in a base runner advancing.

## Batting

### BASE HIT

SECTION 3. A base hit is credited to a batter when she advances to a base safely:

- a. On a fair ball that settles on the ground or clears or touches the home run fence before being touched by a fielder.
- b. On a fair ball hit with such force or so slowly that more than a routine play is required to put out the batter-runner.
  1. It should not be anticipated that an off-balance throw would retire a runner. A hit is credited to the batter even if the throw is wild.
  2. When a ground ball is fielded and no throw or a late throw is made, a hit is credited to the batter unless a throw was not made or was made late due to checking or holding a runner on base.
  3. If a slowly hit ball or a hard hit ball is deflected and eliminates a routine play for another fielder, a hit is credited to the batter.
  4. If a play is made on a lead runner unsuccessfully and the batter would have been safe had a play been made on the batter, a hit is credited to the batter. This includes bunts and running slaps.
  5. If a fly ball is misjudged and the fielder does not recover in time to gain good position, a hit is credited to the batter.
- c. On a fair ball that takes an unnatural bounce so that the ball cannot be handled with ordinary effort or that bounces off the pitching plate or any base (including home plate) before being touched by a fielder and at an angle such that it cannot be handled with ordinary effort.
- d. On a ball that reaches the outfield untouched by the infield unless the ball should have been handled by an infielder with ordinary effort (e.g., ball between the legs).
- e. On a fair ball that might have touched a fielder but was blown by the wind, lost in the sun or lights or that falls to the ground because the fielder slips on the field or an object on the field (e.g., catcher's mask, base, home plate, sprinkler).
- f. On a fair line drive hit to the outfield that drops to the ground if the outfielder is attempting to catch the ball on the run or if the outfielder had to cover considerable distance or make the catch running at a high rate of speed. A hit is credited even if the ball is touched.

- g. On a fair batted ball not touched by a fielder that touches a runner or umpire.
- h. On a fair batted ball not touched by a fielder that becomes dead because of touching the person or clothing of a runner or umpire.
- i. On a fair batted ball that strikes a hat or glove thrown at it.
- j. When no one covers the base or a fielder is late in covering the base.
- k. If the runner interferes with a batted ball, a hit is credited to the batter.
- l. If the ball is not touched because of confusion as to who should have fielded it, a hit is credited to the batter.
- m. When a fielder obstructs a preceding runner.

*Note—Always give the batter the benefit of the doubt. A safe course to follow is to score a hit when exceptionally good fielding fails to result in a putout.*

#### **BASE HIT NOT CREDITED**

SECTION 4. A hit is not credited to the batter in the following situations:

- a. When a batter advances one or more bases while a fielder who handles a fair hit attempts to put out a preceding runner.
- b. When a batter misses first base and is then called out on an appeal.
- c. When a batter hits safely and a preceding runner misses the first base to which she was advancing. This is an appealed force out, and the batter is safe on a fielder's choice.
- d. When a runner is called out for being touched by an infield fly ball.
- e. When a runner is forced out on a batted ball or would have been forced out except for a fielding error.
- f. When a fielder fails in an attempt to retire a preceding runner and, in the scorer's judgment, the batter-runner could have been retired at first base.

#### **EXTRA-BASE HIT**

SECTION 5. a. A batter is credited with an extra-base hit when she reaches a base beyond first base solely because of her hit. It may be a double, triple or home run. **Exception:** A batter never gets credit for a triple if a preceding runner is out at home plate or would have been out had no error occurred. The same applies with receiving credit for a double.

*Note—If the batter is tagged out after oversliding or overrunning, she is not credited with reaching such base unless she touched the base before oversliding or overrunning and is tagged out while attempting to return. If a batter misses a base, she gets credit only for the bases touched before missing a base.*

- b. A batter is credited only with the base she would have reached had no play on a preceding runner taken place. If she stops, sees another play and then advances, she does not receive credit for that base.
- c. If a fielder merely holds the ball too long, the batter gets credit for all the bases she takes.
- d. A batter is credited with a home run when any fair batted fly ball clears the home run fence in fair territory, even if the ball is deflected by a fielder.

#### **GAME-ENDING HIT**

SECTION 6. a. A hit that scores a winning run is credited with as many bases as the scoring runner traveled as long as the batter advances at least the same number of bases. **Exception:** On an out-of-the-park home run, a home run is credited to the batter as long as all runners touch all bases.

- b. If the winning run scores on a home run, but a preceding runner stops running before reaching home plate, the batter is credited with her last legally touched base.

#### **FIELDER'S CHOICE**

SECTION 7. A fielder's choice is credited in the following situations:

- a. To a batter:
  1. When a ball is put in play and any preceding runner is forced out on the hit or would have been out had no error occurred.
  2. When a ball is put in play and the lead runner is safe but the batter would have been out had the initial play gone to first base.
  3. When a ball is put in play and any preceding runner, who is forced to advance, is called out on an appeal for missing the first base to which she was advancing.
  4. When a runner is checked and no throw or a late throw is made, but the runner would have been out had the initial play gone to first base.
- b. To the runner:
  1. When, after reaching base safely, a batter earns extra bases because of a play on a preceding runner.
  2. When other runners advance while the catcher makes a play on the batter on a dropped third strike.

#### **SACRIFICE**

SECTION 8. A sacrifice is credited to the batter in the following situations:

- a. When, with less than two outs, the batter advances one or more runners by bunting (including a slap, slug, slash and running slap) and is called out at first base or would have been out had no error occurred.

*Note—The running slapper must clearly show the intent to advance a base runner(s). Always give the batter the benefit of the doubt.*

- b. When, with less than two outs, the defense (without error) fails to get the lead runner out on any type of bunt.

*Note—If the lead runner is tagged out in an attempt to advance more than one base, it is scored a fielder's choice. If the batter is obviously bunting for a hit in a situation where a sacrifice is not normally used, credit the hitter with an at-bat.*

- c. When, with less than two outs, the lead runner advances but a trailing runner is out.
- d. When, with less than two outs and runners at first and third base, the pitcher fields a bunt, holds the runner at third base, throws the runner out at first base and the runner at first advances safely to second base.

#### **SACRIFICE NOT CREDITED**

SECTION 9. No sacrifice is credited in the following situations:

- a. When a lead runner advances on a bunt due to a dropped good throw.
- b. When a batter inadvertently taps the ball into fair territory and it results in a runner advancing and the batter being retired. The intent to sacrifice bunt or slap must exist.
- c. When modifications are not made to the running slapper's swing or motion.

*Notes:*

1. *Modifications could include, but are not limited to, the following: sacrifice motion, a controlled compact swing, a pause in the running slapper's motion or a reduction of foot speed.*
2. *Scoring for the left-handed running slapper should be the same as for a traditional left- or right-handed batter. If the running slapper clearly shows the intent to advance a base runner, credit a sacrifice. If modifications are not made to the running slapper's swing or motion, charge an at-bat, even if a base runner advances.*

## SACRIFICE FLY

SECTION 10. A sacrifice fly is credited to the batter when, with less than two outs, the batter hits a fly ball or line drive that scores a runner regardless of where the ball is caught (in fair or foul territory) as long as it is in play. If a fair ball is dropped, credit the batter with a sacrifice fly if the runner would have scored with the catch.

Notes:

1. *If the catcher clearly has the ball in her possession before the runner arrives but drops the ball as the runner comes into home plate, the catcher is charged with an error, and a sacrifice fly and run batted in are not credited to the batter.*
2. *All sacrifice flies must result in a run batted in credited to the batter.*

## RUN BATTED IN

SECTION 11. A run batted in is credited to the batter for each run that scores as a result of: a batter's safe hit (including a batter scoring on a home run), a sacrifice or sacrifice fly, a ground out, a double play, a fielder's choice, a walk with the bases loaded, a hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, or defensive obstruction with the bases loaded. A game-winning run batted in is the RBI that gives the team the lead that is never tied or lost.

*Note: On a play involving an error, an RBI is credited to the batter only if the runner would have scored without the error. In addition, an RBI is credited if, with less than two outs, an infielder makes an error on a play made to a base other than home plate. On a third out, if the runner crosses the plate before the third out is made on another runner, credit an RBI.*

## APPEAL PLAYS

SECTION 12. a. **Batting Out of Order.** When an incorrect batter is reported after she is retired and before the next pitch is thrown, the player who should have batted is out and the catcher is credited with the putout. If a pitch has been thrown, all play is legal and the next batter is the player whose name follows that of the player who batted out of order. If more than one batter bats out of order, score all play as it stands and skip the turn at bat of those who missed their turn.

- b. If submitting an accurate lineup card results in a runner being removed from a base an declared out, the results of her at bat are nullified and the putout is credited to the catcher.
- c. In all other appeals, credit the fielder close to the misplay with the putout.

## STRIKEOUT

SECTION 13. The batter is charged with a strikeout in the following situations:

- a. When her third strike is caught by the catcher before striking the dirt.
- b. When she is put out while running to first base on a dropped third strike.
- c. When, with first base occupied and less than two outs in the inning, she is put out on a dropped third strike because she cannot legally advance to first base.
- d. When the catcher catches a foul tip directly from the bat to the glove/mitt on a third strike.
- e. When a foul bunt on the third strike is not caught in the air.
- f. When the batter receives two strikes, a substitute batter is inserted and the substitute batter strikes out. The strikeout is charged to the first batter and not the substitute batter.

## STOLEN BASE

SECTION 14. A stolen base is credited:

- a. To a runner who advances to a base unaided by a safe hit, putout, error, force, fielder's choice, illegal pitch, wild pitch, base on balls, hit batter, passed ball, interference or obstruction.

- b. To a runner if the runner starts for the next base on the release, and the pitch results in what would otherwise be scored a passed ball or wild pitch. If the runner advances another base due to the wild pitch or passed ball, only the initial base is stolen.
- c. To a runner regardless of the accuracy of the throw and whether an accurate throw would have resulted in a sure putout. No error is charged unless another base is gained due to the wild throw.
- d. To a runner who gets caught in a rundown attempting to steal and advances to the next base safely only if the next base was unoccupied, and no error is made. The base runner must show the intent to steal. If the trailing runner advances, she is credited with a stolen base.
- e. To a runner awarded a base due to obstruction during an attempted steal.
- f. To a runner who advances to a base because of a pick-off play on another runner.
- g. To each runner who successfully advances in a double or triple steal attempt as long as no other runner is put out.

## STOLEN BASE NOT CREDITED

SECTION 15. a. A stolen base is not credited to a runner who advances to a base with the aid of a safe hit, putout, error, force, fielder's choice, illegal pitch, wild pitch, base on balls, hit batter, passed ball, interference or obstruction.

- b. A stolen base is not credited to any runner when any other runner is thrown out on an attempted double or triple steal.

### Exceptions:

1. On a double-steal attempt, with runners at first and third, an unsuccessful but legitimate attempt was made to put out the runner stealing second base, and the runner at third is thrown out at home plate on a continuous play.
2. With runners at first and third, credit a stolen base to the runner advancing to second base even if the initial throw is not to second base. The base runner must show the intent to steal.
3. With runners at first and third, credit a stolen base to the runner advancing to home plate even if the initial throw is not to third base. The base runner must show intent to steal.
4. With runners on first and third, credit a stolen base to the runner advancing to second base if no throw is made even if the advance was immediately after a walk.

## CAUGHT STEALING

SECTION 16. Charge a runner with caught stealing if she is put out or would have been put out had no error occurred on her attempt to steal a base. When in doubt, give the benefit of the doubt to the runner. Do not charge caught stealing unless the runner has an opportunity to be credited with a stolen base when the play starts. If there is a throw and the runner immediately attempts to advance to the next base and is thrown out, the runner is caught stealing.

## THROW OUTS

SECTION 17. The catcher is credited with a throwout when she throws in front of the runner, resulting in a rundown, regardless of the base at which the putout occurs. If the catcher initiates the play on an attempted stolen base and an out results, she also is credited with a throwout.

## PICK-OFF

SECTION 18. The catcher is credited with a pick-off when a throw behind the runner results in a putout. If there is a pick-off throw during which the runner immediately attempts to return to the last base touched and the runner is thrown out, it is a putout.

## Fielding

### PUTOUT

SECTION 19. a. Credit a putout to a fielder who catches a fly ball or line drive, tags out a runner or tags the base to force out the runner:

- b. Credit a putout to the catcher in the following instances:
    1. A legally caught third strike.
    2. The batter is called out for an illegally batted ball.
    3. A batter is out on a third strike foul bunt.
    4. A batter is out for being touched by her own fair batted ball while one or both feet are completely out of the batter's box or for stepping on home plate.
    5. A batter is out for intentionally interfering with her own foul batted ball.
    6. A batter interferes with the catcher.
    7. A batter is out for batting out of order.
    8. A batter-runner fails to touch first base after a base on balls.
    9. A catcher steps on the plate with the ball in her possession with the bases loaded. This includes a dropped third strike.
  10. A runner is out for not advancing legally to home plate for the game-winning run.
  11. A runner fails to touch home plate and makes no attempt to return. The catcher properly appeals, and the runner is called out.
- c. Credit a putout to the nearest fielder in the following instances:
1. A batter is out on an infield fly that is not caught.
  2. A runner is out for failing to keep contact with the base to which she is entitled until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
  3. A runner is out for being hit by a fair batted ball.
  4. A runner is called out for being out of the baseline in order to avoid a tag.
  5. A runner runs backward in the first baseline to avoid a tag.
  6. A runner is out for passing another runner.
  7. A runner is out for running the bases in reverse order.
  8. A runner is out for interfering with a fielder. If the interference is a deliberate attempt to impede another play, a second runner also may be declared out.
  9. A runner is out when a proper appeal is made on a missed base or home plate.
  10. An unreported player or an illegal player is declared out.

### ASSIST

SECTION 20. An assist is credited to a fielder in the following situations:

- a. A fielder deflects a batted or thrown ball that results in a putout.
- b. A fielder throws a ball that results in a putout. If several fielders handle the ball or one fielder handles it more than once during a play, only one assist is credited to each of such fielders. The fielder may receive a putout in addition to an assist.
- c. A fielder throws or deflects a ball that results in a runner being called out for interference or running out of the baseline.
- d. A fielder makes a wild throw and, after the throw, the runner is tagged out before reaching the next base. If the runner reaches the next base safely and, in an attempt to advance to another base, is tagged out, credit the initial fielder with an error.

*Note—Do not credit the pitcher with an assist on a strikeout or when after a pitch, the catcher tags out or throws out a runner.*

### ERROR

SECTION 21. a. An error is charged against any fielder for each misplay (i.e., fielding, wild throws, missed catches on good throws) that prolongs the life of a batter (causes one or pitches to be thrown) or a runner or permits a runner to advance. This includes a dropped foul ball unless it was allowed to drop intentionally to prevent a runner from advancing.

- b. A single error is charged even if more than one base is gained by a runner as a result of the play.
- c. An error shall be charged against any fielder when she catches a thrown ball or fields a ground ball in time to put out any runner on a force play and fails to tag the base or the runner, including a batter-runner on a play at first base.
- d. An error shall be charged against any fielder whose throw takes an unnatural bounce, touches a base or the pitcher's plate, or touches a runner, a fielder or an umpire; thereby, permitting any runner to advance. Apply this rule even when it appears to be an injustice to a fielder whose throw was accurate. The scorer must account for every base advanced by a runner.
- e. If a throw is made to a base and more than one fielder could have received the throw but neither did, an error is charged to the fielder who should have received the throw.
- f. An error is charged to a fielder (including the catcher) committing obstruction when an additional base is gained as a result of the obstruction.
- g. An error is charged to a defensive player who collides with a fielder making the initial catch on a fly ball that is dropped.

### NO ERROR IS CHARGED

SECTION 22. No error is charged to a fielder in the following situations:

- a. When a ball is misplayed due to being lost in the sun or lights, blown by the wind, or if the fielder slips and falls—even if contact is made with the ball.
- b. When there is a mental mistake. Throwing to the wrong base is considered a mental mistake.
- c. When a catcher attempts a pick-off unless the runner advances an additional base.
- d. When a runner returns safely to her original base on a rundown.
- e. When a runner beats a wild throw or dropped catch (unless an additional base is gained). This also pertains to the second or third out of a double or triple play.

*Note—A dropped ball by the receiver is an error if the runner would have been out.*

- f. When a ball is hit with such force, so slowly or with erratic spin that it would require more than ordinary effort to play the ball.
- g. When a fly ball is misjudged and the fielder cannot recover in time to make the play.
- h. When a fielder drops a ball after running a considerable distance or if she fails in her attempt to catch the ball while running at a high rate of speed.
- i. When a fielder drops a line drive after moving more than a few steps to catch the ball.
- j. As a result of an illegal pitch, wild pitch, passed ball or hit batter, even if more than one base is gained from the initial misplay.
- k. When a runner advances on a dropped third strike. In such a case, a wild pitch or passed ball shall be charged; however, if an accurate throw or proper catch would have resulted in an out, an error shall be charged to the appropriate player.
- l. When a pitcher mishandles a sharply batted ball. Wild throws and the mishandling of routine ground balls and bunts are reason for charging the pitcher with an error.

## DOUBLE PLAY/TRIPLE PLAY

SECTION 23. a. A double or triple play is credited to one or more fielders when two or three players are put out between the time the pitch is delivered and the time the ball next becomes dead or is in the possession of the pitcher in her pitching position. Play must be continuous. If an error occurs between putouts, no double or triple play is credited. In addition, a double or triple play is credited if an appeal play results in a second or third out after the pitcher has the ball in her possession but before the next pitch is thrown.

- b. The second part of a double play never should be assumed. If an overthrow is made, no error is recorded unless the runner advances to another base. If the second throw is catchable and is dropped, an error is charged to the person receiving the throw.

## Pitching

### EARNED RUN

SECTION 24. a. Earned runs are runs for which the pitcher is statistically accountable. An earned run shall be charged against the pitcher when a runner scores as a result of: a base on balls, a fielder's choice, a hit, a batter hit by a pitch, an illegal pitch, a sacrifice bunt (including a slap and running slap), a sacrifice fly, a stolen base and a wild pitch (including a third strike wild pitch). Earned runs are charged only in the event that the defense did not have the opportunity to make the third putout. Earned runs are determined by reconstructing the inning as if there were no errors or passed balls. The pitcher should be given the benefit of the doubt in determining the advancement of runners had the defensive team been errorless. Any pitcher who is replaced is charged with earned runs for which she is totally responsible.

*Note—A batter who gets on base as a result of a fielder's choice can score an earned run only if the runner that was out as a result of the fielder's choice was a potential earned run.*

- b. A run is unearned if the runner, who scores, reached first base by error or prolonged life due to a dropped foul fly or obstruction.
- c. A relief pitcher is charged with every run that scores if the batter has reached base while she was pitching. Charge a pitcher with the number of runners she put on base.
- d. When a relief pitcher enters the game to pitch to a batter in mid-count and the batter gets on base and scores, charge the first pitcher with the run if the batter has a count of two or three balls and less than two strikes or if the count is full and in either case the batter walks. Charge the relief pitcher with any other action of the batter (including a strikeout).
- e. A relief pitcher does not receive the benefit of previous chances of outs when reconstructing the inning to determine earned and unearned runs charged to her. The original pitcher does. Thus, a relief pitcher could be charged with an earned run that does not appear in the team's totals.
- f. If a runner who began the inning on second base during the tiebreaker scores and the pitcher is held accountable for all bases gained, score the run as earned but charge it to the team total and not to the individual. (See Rule 14-29 for information on the tiebreaker rule.)

### STRIKEOUT

SECTION 25. a. The pitcher who throws the third strike to a batter is credited with the strikeout, even if the batter reaches first base on a dropped third strike.

- b. The scorer determines whether it is scored as a strikeout-passed ball or strikeout-wild pitch.

## WILD PITCH

SECTION 26. A wild pitch is charged to a pitcher when the pitch is so high, wide or low that the catcher cannot handle the ball with ordinary effort and at least one runner advances. Any pitch in the dirt is wild. Only one wild pitch is recorded regardless of the number of runners who advance or the number of bases advanced. A third strike not handled by the catcher because it was wild, when the batter reaches first base safely, is scored as both a wild pitch and a strikeout. No wild pitch is charged if a runner stealing on the pitch advances only one base. A wild pitch is not an error.

### PASSED BALL

SECTION 27. A passed ball is charged to the catcher when she fails to stop or control a pitch with ordinary effort and at least one base runner advances. Only one passed ball is recorded regardless of the number of runners who advance or the number of bases advanced. A third strike not handled by the catcher that could have been handled with ordinary effort, when the batter reaches first base safely, is scored as both a passed ball and a strikeout. No passed ball is charged if a runner stealing on the pitch advances only one base. A passed ball is not an error.

## Statistics

### PITCHING STATISTICS

SECTION 28. a. Credit a pitcher with a complete game, no hitter, shutout etc., if she pitches the first pitch and every subsequent pitch of a new game. For statistical purposes, she is considered the starting pitcher, however, she does not have the substitution rights of a starting player unless she is listed on the lineup card in one of the nine or 10 starting positions.

The tenth player is charged with a game played in terms of eligibility but not statistically (unless she participates in the game as a pitcher) if she is replaced in the lineup prior to the first pitch.

#### b. Starting Pitcher:

1. The starting pitcher is credited with a win in the following circumstances:
  - (a) She has pitched at least four total innings of a game of six or more innings, her team is ahead when she is replaced, and her team stays ahead for the remainder of the game.
  - (b) She has pitched a total of three innings when a regulation game is called after five innings, her team is ahead when she is replaced, and her team stays ahead for the remainder of the game.
2. A starting pitcher receives the loss if she is relieved while her team is behind, and her team remains behind for the remainder of the game, regardless of the number of innings pitched.

#### c. Relief Pitcher:

1. The relief pitcher is credited with a win in the following circumstances:
  - (a) The starting pitcher did not pitch the required number of innings, or her team fell behind.
  - (b) The relief pitcher who pitches most effectively after the starting pitcher did not pitch the required number of innings, more than one relief pitcher was used and the lead was never lost.
  - (c) The relief pitcher was the pitcher of record when her team gained the lead and stayed in the lead.
  - (d) A relief pitcher left the game while the score was tied or her team was behind, and she reentered the game and regained the lead.

2. A relief pitcher receives the loss if she is the pitcher of record when the opponent goes ahead and stays ahead for the remainder of the game.

Notes:

1. *If a pitcher is removed from the game offensively by a batter or a runner, all runs scored by her team during the remainder of that inning are credited to her benefit in determining when her team is in the lead.*
  2. *A shutout is recorded if scoreless ball is pitched for the entire game by the starting pitcher or if a relief pitcher pitched scoreless ball after relieving in the first inning before any outs or score. If two or more pitchers combine for a shutout, it shall be noted in the game summary as a combined shutout.*
- d. A pitcher must meet all three of the following conditions to be credited with a save:
1. She is the last pitcher in the win.
  2. She is not the winning pitcher.
  3. She meets one of the following conditions:
    - (a) She enters the game with a lead of no more than three runs and pitches for at least one inning.
    - (b) She pitches effectively for at least three innings.
    - (c) She enters the game with the potential tying run on base, at bat or on deck.
- b. No more than one save may be credited in a game.

#### **TIEBREAKER RULE**

SECTION 29. a. A run scored by the player starting as a runner at second base shall be charged to the defensive team and not the pitcher. Whether a run scored by any other player shall be charged to the pitcher is up to the judgment of the official scorer.

- b. If action by a subsequent batter, such as a fielder's choice, causes the lead-off runner to be put out, the first run scored that inning may be charged to the team. (Example: If a runner reaches first base safely on a fielder's choice as a result of a first-to-third putout, this new runner still is charged to the team.)
- c. If the lead-off runner at second is put out without action by the batter (caught stealing, picked off or leaving the base early), then, no run is charged to the team.

Notes:

1. *A run charged to the team is neither earned nor unearned because there is no actual person to whom the run is to be charged. It is technically impossible for the team to have an earned-run average, because the team will always have zero innings pitched.*
2. *In the statistical pitching summary for a game using the tiebreaker rule, "team," is listed as a pitcher. The only statistic recorded for team is total runs allowed. The total runs allowed by a team may exceed the sum total of earned and unearned runs. The box score will not prove as it normally does since there is usually an extra runner left on base for each inning in which the rule is in effect.*

3. *See Rule 6-15 for an explanation of the tiebreaker rule.*

#### **CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE RECORDS**

SECTION 30. a. A consecutive hitting streak continues with a hit if the plate appearance results in a base on balls, hit batter, defensive obstruction, interference or a sacrifice bunt. A sacrifice fly ends a streak even though it is not counted as an official at-bat.

- b. A consecutive-game hitting streak continues without a hit if all plate appearances result in either a base on balls, hit batter, defensive obstruction, interference or a sacrifice. A sacrifice fly and no other hit ends the streak.
- c. A consecutive-game playing streak continues by playing one half of an inning on defense (three outs) or by completing one turn at bat. Pinch running does not continue the streak.
- d. If a player is ejected from a game before an official at bat and before meeting any of the above requirements, a streak continues.
- e. All performances in the completion of a suspended game are considered as occurring on the date when the game officially began.

#### **CALLED, FORFEITED AND PROTESTED GAMES**

SECTION 31. a. **Called Game.** If a regulation game (five or more complete innings) is called, the record of all individual or team actions up to the moment the game ends shall be recorded. If a called game is a tie, the winning and losing pitchers shall not be designated.

b. **Forfeited Game.** If a regulation game (five or more complete innings) is forfeited, the record of all individual or team actions up to the moment the game is forfeited shall be recorded. If the winning team by forfeit is ahead at the time the forfeit is declared, the winning and losing pitchers shall be designated. If the winning team by forfeit is behind or the score is tied at the time the forfeit is declared, the winning and losing pitchers shall not be designated. If a game is forfeited before it becomes a regulation game, no statistics shall be recorded. Refer to Bylaw 31.10 of the NCAA Manual for more information concerning statistics from forfeited games.

c. **Protested Game.** If a protest is ruled valid but the game is not replayed to conclusion, it shall be declared "no contest." The record of all individual and team actions shall be recorded; however, the winning and losing pitchers shall not be designated.

#### **PROVING THE BOX SCORE**

SECTION 32. To prove a box score, the total of the team's plate appearances (times at bat, bases on balls, hit batters, sacrifice hits, sacrifice flies and batters awarded first base because of interference or obstruction) and the international tie-breaker runner must equal the total of the team's runs, players left on base and the opposing team's putouts.

# Sample Scoring Sheet

VISITORS Tech UMPIRES Edwards, Jernstedt, Dempsey, Bogam DATE 5/1/01

No.	NAME	Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	AB	R	H	RR	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	PO	A	E			
18	Allen	SS	+ AB	+ P-1	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② L-8	+	+	+	+	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	1				
30	Keller	RF	① P-1	+	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	+	+	+	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0				
17	W. Davis	3B	② P-3	+	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	+	+	+	5	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0				
20	Burke	1B	② K	+	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	+	+	+	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	15	0	0			
1	McLaughlin	PR	+	+	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
5	T. Davis	2B	+	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	+	+	+	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0			
24	Holman	DH	+	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	+	+	+	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
17	Stubbeman	PH	+	5-3	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	+	+	+	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
14	Bedies	LF	+	② P-5	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	+	+	+	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0				
9	Wright	PH	+	② P-5	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
6	Straz	C	+	② 1-3	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	+	+	+	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1				
25	Senappe	CF	+	② 1-3	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	② F-7	+	+	+	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0			
19	Worlock	P	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
11	Campbell	P	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
28	Johnson	P	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
															5	13	37	5	13	4	2	1	0	3	6	27	16	3	
															1	10	TOTALS										PROOF		

PITCHER	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Worlock	3 1/3	5	4	2	3	1
Campbell	4 1/3	6	2	0	1	2
Johnson	1 1/3	0	0	0	1	2

1B- \_\_\_\_\_ CF- T. Davis  
 2B- \_\_\_\_\_  
 3B- Straz RF- \_\_\_\_\_  
 LF- \_\_\_\_\_  
 CF- \_\_\_\_\_  
 PH- \_\_\_\_\_  
 P- \_\_\_\_\_  
 Win- \_\_\_\_\_ Loss- Worlock Save- \_\_\_\_\_

AB	2B	PO	27
BB	3	R	5
HBP	1	LOB	0
SAC	1		
INT	0		
TE	42	10	142

HOME State SITE Indianapolis SCORER M. Earle ATTEND. 11,246 TIME 2:50

No.	NAME	Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	PO	A	E			
12	Kaesebier	SS	♦	+	♦	♦	+	+	+	♦	+	+	+	+	4	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	0			
4	Halpin	DH	♦	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0			
11	Boles	PR	♦	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
7	Benson	1B	♦	+	♦	♦	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	4	1	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	9	0	0			
19	Deitch	LF	♦	+	♦	♦	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0			
25	Potts	CF	♦	+	♦	♦	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0			
21	Coleman	C	♦	+	♦	♦	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0			
2	Hawes	2B	♦	+	♦	♦	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	5	3	0			
16	Yost	RF	♦	+	♦	♦	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0			
3	Ali	3B	♦	+	♦	♦	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0			
18	Pickle	P	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1			
24	Brown	P	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
32	Burnett	P	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
															6	11	39	6	11	6	0	1	1	5	5	27	13	1	
															3	11	TOTALS												

PITCHERS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Pickle	6	9	4	4	2	3
Brown	2	4	1	1	1	3
Burnett	1	0	0	0	0	0

W- Deitch, Coleman, Yost, Hawes  
 L- Kaesebier - Hawes - Benson  
 W- Pickle  
 L- Pickle  
 Winner- Pickle  
 Loser-  
 Score- Burnett

PROOF			
AB	39	PO	27
BB	5	R	6
HBP	0	LOB	11
BAC	0		
INT	0		
ER	44	ER	44





