

The first three rules of baseball

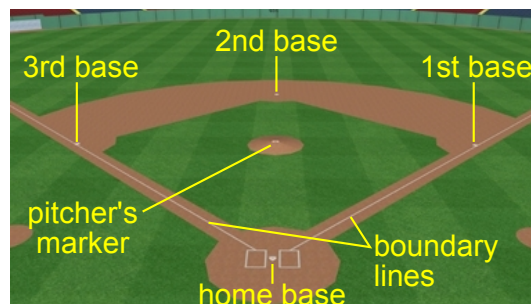
- + Baseball is a game between two teams, each team with nine players and a manager (coach).
The judges of the game are called UMPIRES.
- + The objective of each team is to win the game by scoring more RUNs (points) than the opponent.
- + The winner is the team that scores the greater number of runs after nine INNINGS.

A basic baseball field

has seven fixed elements: four BASEs, a pitcher's marker, and two boundary lines.

The four bases are arranged in a square. The pitcher's marker is near the center of the square. The two boundary lines extend from home base through first base and third base.

The grass and dirt areas shown in the picture are traditional, but they are not required. Each team can decide the size and shape of the grass and bare areas on their field.



The basic parts of a baseball field

The structure of a game

At any given time, one team is on OFFENSE, the other is on DEFENSE. The home team begins on defense.

The team on offense are not on the field. They send players one by one onto the field as BATTERs. The offense's objective is that each batter hits a FAIR BALL and becomes a RUNNER, who tries to advance around the bases to score a RUN. A runner scores a run when he legally touches every base in order (first, second, third, and home), without being PUT OUT, and before the THIRD OUT ends their time on offense.

The team on defense holds the field and handles the ball. The defense's objective is to prevent the offense from scoring runs. They do this by putting out the batter and runners, or by making runners stop on the bases because of the threat of being put out.

When THREE players on the offense are legally out, the teams exchange roles: The offensive team goes on defense, and the defensive team goes on offense.

An INNING is completed when each team has had a time on both offense and defense. A team's time on offense in an inning is called a HALF-INNING.

The game cannot end in a TIE. If the score is tied after nine innings, then the game continues until one team has more total runs after a complete inning.



The runner (red helmet) touches home base and scores a run.



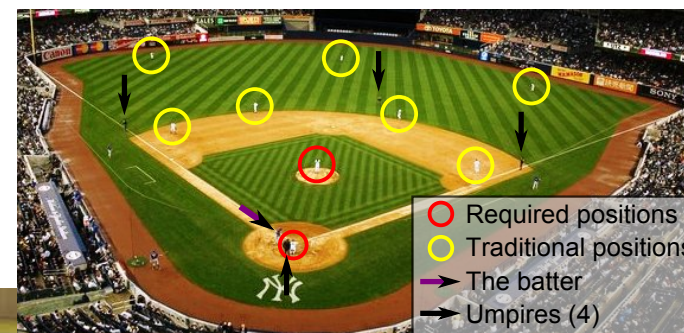
This defender (red hat) puts out a runner by touching him with the ball.

AT BAT	12	BALL	3	STRIKE	2	OUT	2		H/E	H
Játékrészek	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Vendég	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hazai	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Pontok per játékrész	Összpontszám									

A typical scoreboard

The procedure

The home team takes their defensive positions. The visiting team's first batter steps into his position next to home base. The game begins when the UMPIRE says, "Play ball!"



The PITCHER, from his marker, PITCHES (legally throws) the ball toward home base to the batter, and the batter decides whether to STRIKE at the ball or not.

The batter tries to hit a FAIR BALL, which is a ball that lands in FAIR TERRITORY (between the two boundary lines).



If the batter hits a fair ball, then he becomes a RUNNER who must run at least to first base. After that he can try to touch as many bases as possible (second, third, home)...



Meanwhile, the defenders get the ball and use it to PUT runners OUT, or they try to stop the runners with the threat of being put out.



If a runner is in danger of being put out, then he can stop on a base. While he is touching it, the defense cannot put him out. There he can wait safely for the next batter to take a turn.

Then the ball is given back to the pitcher. The cycle continues with the next batter. At the third out, the teams exchange roles.

