

Chapter II

Defense

Putouts — Putting out a batter — Putting out a runner — Double and triple plays — Automatic putouts — Appeal plays — Out by infield fly — Batting out of turn — Assists — Errors


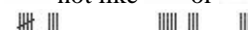
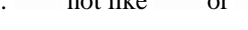

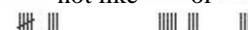
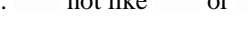
Putouts

According to Rule 2.00 of the Official Baseball Rules (OBR): “An *OUT* is one of the three required retirements of an offensive team during its time at bat.” An out is recorded with a circle in which is marked, depending on the dynamics of play, the number or numbers of the positions of fielders who assisted in making the putout and, lastly, that of the fielder who executed the putout. Both the assists and the putout are credited to the players in question by means of annotations in the defense boxes of the score report.

According to Rule 10.09(a) of the OBR: “The official scorer shall credit a putout to each fielder who (1) catches a ball that is in flight, whether fair or foul; (2) catches a batted or thrown ball and tags a base to put out a batter or runner, or (3) tags a runner when the runner is off the base to which the runner is entitled.”

Putouts are recorded with a vertical stroke in the “PO” column of the defense record, in the boxes of the fielders to whom they are credited.

NB:

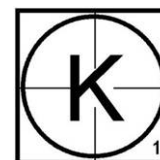
Five outs are recorded as follows:  not like  or 
 Eight outs are recorded as follows:  not like  or 

DEFENSE				
PO	A	E	DP	IP

Putting out a batter

A batter can be put out in the following ways:

- a) **Strikeout [OBR 6.05 b) and c)].** A strikeout occurs when “A *third strike* is legally caught by the catcher; ‘*Legally caught*’ means in the catcher’s glove before the ball touches the ground”. This is the most common form of strikeout, and should be recorded with the letter “K” inside the circle that indicates an out.



The batter is out in any case when “A *third strike* is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two are out.” In this case, the putout is recorded in the same way as in the previous example.

When a batter strikes out, the putout should be credited exclusively to the catcher.

Similarly, there should be no difference in the way the putout is recorded if the catcher, after having dropped the third strike, recovers the ball and tags the batter-runner before he reaches first base.

As the strikeout is always credited to the catcher, the annotation “K2” is incorrect.

NOTE: If the umpire calls “Strike 3”, which occurs when the third strike is not caught or held by the catcher with first base free, or occupied but with two men out, a strikeout is credited to the pitcher and at the same time charged against the batter, even if the batter should become a runner or is put out.

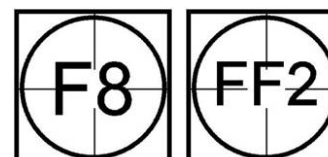
If first base is free, or there are already two out, the batter may try to advance. If the catcher recovers the ball and assists the first baseman by anticipating the arrival of the batter-runner, the putout will be recorded with the notation “K23”, crediting an assist to the catcher, a putout to the first baseman and a strikeout to the pitcher.

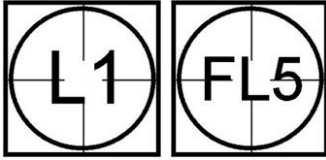


In order to be able to tell instantly how many strikeouts have been made by each pitcher, they are numbered consecutively, below and to the right of the putout circle. Each time a pitcher is replaced the numbering is restarted.

NB: A strikeout should not be confused with a putout proper. Each time a strikeout is made, independently of the putout, it should be credited to the pitcher who pitched it. Only if the strikeout is followed by the batter-runner being put out should an out be credited to the defense. In the most common form of strikeout, recorded as “K₁” in the first example, a strikeout is credited to the pitcher and a putout to the catcher.

- b) **Out by fly ball [OBR 6.05 a)].** A batter is declared out when “His fair or foul fly ball (other than a foul tip) is legally caught by a fielder.” This is recorded with “F#” (the hash mark represents the fielder who made the putout) if the ball is caught in fair territory, or “FF#” if the ball is caught in foul territory. The base runners may try to advance by leaving their bases only after the ball has been caught by a fielder. The examples given show a fly ball caught by the center fielder and a foul fly caught by the catcher.





If a line drive is caught by a fielder, the symbol “L#” (the hash mark represents the number of the fielder who made the putout) is used if the ball is caught in fair territory, or “FL#” if in foul territory. The examples given opposite show a line drive caught on the fly by the pitcher in fair territory and a line drive caught on the fly in foul territory by the third baseman.

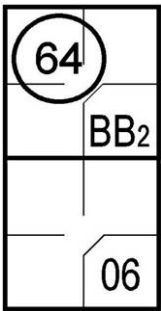
- c) **Out by ground ball [OBR 6.05 j]**. A batter is out when “*After a third strike or after he hits a fair ball, he or first base is tagged before he touches first base.*” In the example, after it is hit the ball is caught by the third baseman, who assists the first baseman in retiring the batter-runner.



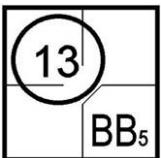
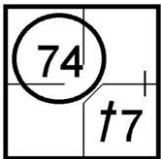
In the event that a ground ball is caught by the first baseman, who tags the base or batter-runner before he succeeds in reaching the base, an unassisted putout is recorded, as noted in the example.

Putting out a runner

- a) “*Any runner is out when ... he fails to reach the next base before a fielder tags him or the base, after he has been forced to advance by reason of the batter becoming a runner*” [OBR 7.08 e)]. With first base occupied, the batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop, who assists the second baseman who catches the ball and tags second base, anticipating the arrival of the forced runner.



- b) “*Any runner is out when ... he is tagged, when the ball is alive, while off his base*” [OBR 7.08 c)]. With all bases clear, the batter hits a single to left field; after reaching first base he attempts to reach second, but is put out after being tagged by the second baseman, who caught the ball thrown by the left fielder



With a runner on first base, the pitcher throws to the first baseman, who tags him as he attempts to return to the base (pick-off play).

Double and triple plays

According to rule 2.00 of the OBR, a double or triple play is “*a play by the defense in which two or three offensive players are put out as a result of continuous action, providing there is no error between putouts.*”

“*The official scorer shall credit participation in a double play or triple play to each fielder who earns a putout or an assist 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 a pitching position, unless an error or misplay intervenes between putouts*” [OBR 10.11].

Consequently, on the score sheet (“DP” column on the defense side) a participation in a double play should be credited to every fielder who took part in the play.

IMPORTANT: It should also be borne in mind that an error or misplay (even if not recorded as an error) breaks the double or triple play.

The symbol used is a single circle around the putouts and a line joining the two or three circles.

“The official scorer shall credit a double play or triple play also if an appeal play after the ball is in possession of the pitcher results in an additional putout” [OBR 10.11, Comment].

The total number of double and/or triple plays earned by each team should be recorded in the square above the pitchers’ defending statistics, to the right of the words “DOUBLE PLAYS”. The totals line under the “DP” column should contain the total number of times each individual fielder participated in a double or triple play.

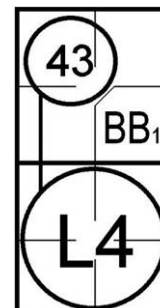
- a) **Reverse force double play** - This is where the first out is made on a force play and the second runner is put out when, as a result of the first putout, he is no longer forced. After the hindmost runner is put out, the leading runner or runners are no longer forced to advance and have to be tagged out. The same symbols are used to indicate this type of double or triple play as for the others.
- b) **Grounded into double play** - This is charged against a batter when the situation on the field meets the following criteria:
 1. Fewer than two out.
 2. One or more runners forced to advance.
 3. Ground ball to the infield that results in two or three putouts, or that would have done so if it had not been for errors.

The symbol for grounded into double play is “GDP” written inside the circle that indicates the putout of the same batter, or, in the event that he reached first base, the box for first base. Each time that the initials “GDP” appear on the score report we must charge a “grounded into double play” against the batter in question by recording it in the appropriate column on the offensive team’s sheet.

Example 1: With first base occupied, the batter hits a line ball which is caught by the second baseman.

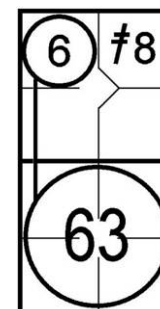
The runner, who had broken away from first base, tries to retouch but is anticipated by an assist from the second baseman.

This is a double play but does not count as a GDP against the batter, as it was not a ground ball.



Example 2: With a runner on second base, the batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop, who catches it and tags out the runner attempting to reach third base from second, then throws the ball to first base in time to put out the batter-runner.

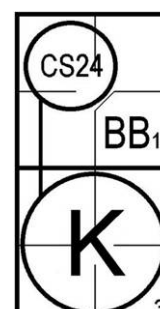
This is not a GDP, since the runner on second base was not forced to advance.

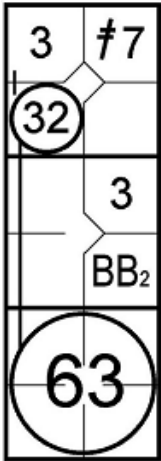


Example 3: First base is occupied and the batter has two strikes against him. On the next pitch, the runner tries to steal second base. The pitch is a third strike, which means the batter is struck out.

The catcher then succeeds in throwing to second base in time to put out the runner.

Clearly, this is not a hit into a double play, although it is a double play, since there was no break between the two outs; in other words, the two outs were made during the course of the same action, without any errors.



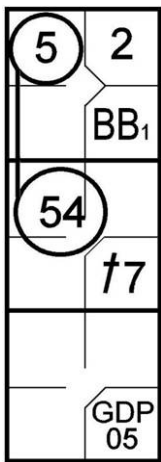


Example 4: With first and second bases occupied, the batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop, who throws the ball to first base in time to put out the batter-runner.

Both runners advance, and the lead runner continues to run for home base.

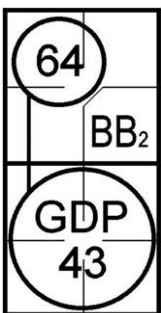
The first baseman throws to home in time to put out the runner.

The defense is awarded a double play but not a grounded into double play.



Example 5: With first and second bases occupied, the batter hits a ground ball to the third baseman who puts out the runner who is forced to third base, and completes the double play by assisting the second baseman.

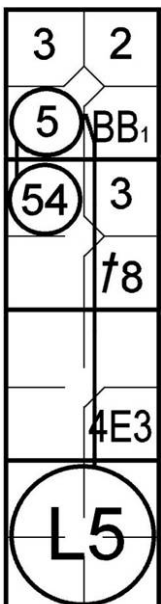
A GDP is charged against the batter-runner, even though he was not put out himself.



Example 6: With a runner on first base, the batter hits a ground ball which is caught by the shortstop, who throws to second in time to put out the runner.

In turn, the second baseman throws to first and puts out the batter-runner.

The official scorer awards a double play to the team, participation in a double play to the three fielders who took part in the action (shortstop, second baseman, first baseman) and a grounded into double play to the batter.



Since the column “DP” is used for recording both double and triple plays, when a triple play occurs the NOTES on the score card should state “The DP column for the ... team also includes one triple play”. Batter-runners may also be given a “GDP” for a triple play, and the symbol remains the same.

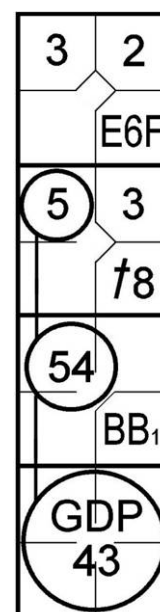
Example 7: Bases are full. The batter hits a fly ball which is caught by the third baseman.

The third baseman, after catching it, tags third base and retires the runner who had left third base, then throws to second in time to put out the runner who had left second.

This is not a grounded into double play because it was not a ground ball.

Example 8: Bases are loaded. The batter hits a ground ball which is caught by the third baseman. He tags the base, then throws the ball to the second baseman who catches it, touches the base and throws it to first base for the third out.

A “GDP” is charged against the batter-runner.



In the case of Example 6, the double play is noted in the defense score report as shown opposite:

- With a vertical stroke in the “PO” column next to the fielders who made the outs;
- With a vertical stroke in the “A” column next to any fielders who assisted;
- With a single vertical stroke in the “DP” column next to the fielders who participated in the double play, regardless of whether they made an out, an assist or both.

In practice, an assist should be credited to the shortstop, an assist and a putout to the second baseman and a putout to the first baseman. Moreover, one participation in a double play should be credited to all three fielders.

DEFENSE					
PO	A	E	DP	IP	Pos
					3
					4
					6

If a double or triple play is also credited to the team, the total number of such at the end of the game should be reported at that time in the square above the pitchers’ defense statistics, to the right of the words “DOUBLE PLAYS”.

Automatic putouts or Out by Rule (“OBR”)

There is a whole series of putouts, considered automatic putouts, listed in the OBR under rule 10.09. We shall go through them all, illustrating them with examples where necessary. The abbreviation “OBR” is used for all such automatic putouts. There are fourteen in total.

In order to clarify the actions that led to an automatic putout, the number of the following list should be noted outside the putout circle at the top of the right side.

Where doubts exist as to the rule that led the umpire to call an out, ask the umpire for clarification at the end of the game (or inning, if possible).

NOTE: Actions may occur on the field of play that are not covered exactly by these 14 rules. In such cases the out should be put down to the most similar rule, and the exact circumstances of the putout may be explained in the notes, if considered necessary (second page of the score sheet).

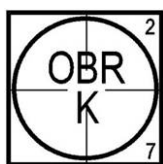
- 1) **Batter called out for an illegally batted ball [OBR 10.09 b) 2)].** As a reminder, a ball is considered to have been illegally batted when:



- *After hitting or bunting a fair ball, [the batter's] bat hits the ball a second time in fair territory [OBR 6.05 h)];*
- *[The batter] hits a ball with one or both feet on the ground entirely outside the batter's box [OBR 6.06 a)];*

- *[The batter] steps from one batter's box to the other while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch [OBR 6.06 b)];*
- *[The batter] uses or attempts to use a bat that, in the umpire's judgement, has been altered or tampered with [OBR 6.06 d)].*
 Comment: a batter shall be deemed to have used or attempted to use an illegal bat if he brings such a bat into the batter's box (6.06.d)

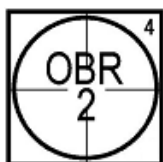
- 2) **Batter called out for bunting foul for his third strike [OBR 6.05 d), 10.09 b) 3)].** In this case, "OBR K" should be noted as, according to the OBR, a strikeout should be credited to the pitcher. Clearly, the putout should always be credited to the catcher. This rule also governs the case of a batter put out when "*He attempts to hit a third strike and the ball touches him*" [OBR 6.05 f)].



- 3) **Batter called out for being touched by his own batted ball.** Note that the batter is only called out if he is touched by the ball while out of the batter's box and in fair territory. Otherwise the umpire calls foul ball. [OBR 6.05 g), 10.09 b) 4)].



- 4) **Batter called out for interfering with the catcher [OBR 10.09 b) 5)].** The umpire will call interference if the batter-runner "*interferes with the catcher's fielding or throwing by stepping out of the batter's box or making any other movement that hinders the catcher's play at home base*" [OBR 6.06 c)].



- 5) **Batter called out for failing to bat in his proper turn.** In this case, the batter who has failed to bat in his proper turn is only called out if the opposing team appeals before any further play [OBR 6.07, 10.09 b) 6)].



EXCEPTION: If the batter who batted out of turn is put out in the course of the action that ensues as a result of his having batted, and the opposing team appeals, as a result of which the proper batter is declared out, the putout is recorded as if it had occurred on the field, and any assists are therefore also noted, in addition to the putout.

- 6) **Batter called out for refusing to touch first base after receiving a base on balls, after being hit by a pitch or after a catcher's interference. [OBR 10.09 b) 7)].**



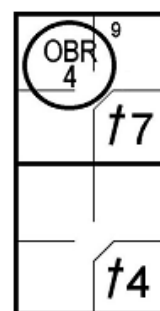
- 7) **Runner called out for refusing to advance from third base [in the event that he was forced] to home plate [OBR 10.09 b) 8)].** For rules 7 and 8, OBR rule 4.09 b), Penalty, states: “If the runner on third refuses to advance to and touch home base in a reasonable time, the umpire shall disallow the run, call out the offending player and order the game resumed. If, with two out, the batter-runner refuses to advance to and touch first base, the umpire shall disallow the run, call out the offending player, and order the game resumed. If, before two are out, the batter-runner refuses to advance to and touch first base, the run shall count, but the offending player shall be called out.”



- 8) **Batter called out on an Infield Fly that is not caught.** The putout is credited to the fielder who the scorer believes could have made the catch [OBR 6.05 e), 10.09 c) 1)].

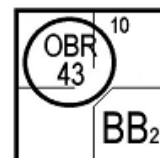


- 9) **Runner called out for being touched by a fair ball (including an Infield Fly [if the runner is not in contact with a base]).** The putout is credited to the fielder nearest the point at which the ball touched the runner. The batter must be credited with a hit even if there are already two out, so long as an Infield Fly is not declared. It should be noted that if the ball has already gone past an infielder (other than the pitcher), the runner is not called out and the ball remains in play [OBR 7.09 k)].



- 10) **Runner called out for running out of line to avoid being tagged.** The putout is credited to the fielder whom the runner avoided; any assists by other fielders should be recorded as usual [OBR 7.08 a)1), 10.09 c) 3)].

In the example, with a runner on first base, the pitcher drops a ball returned by the catcher after a pitch, and the runner tries to advance to the next base. He is trapped and called out by the umpire for running out of line.

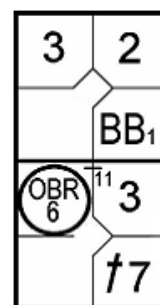


- 11) **Runner called out for passing another runner.** Credit the putout to the fielder nearest the point of passing [OBR 7.08 h), 10.09 c) 4)].

Example 9: With first and second bases occupied, the batter makes a hit to the edge of the outfield.

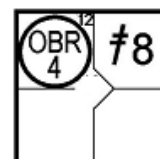
The leading runner remains near second base, fearing the ball will be caught on the fly.

The runner on first base sets off at great speed and overruns his team-mate just past second base.

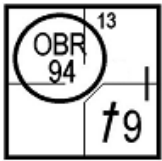


- 12) **Runner called out for running the bases in reverse order.** Credit the putout to the fielder covering the base the runner left in starting his reverse run [OBR 7.08 i), 10.09 c) 5)].

Example 10: The runner on second base, with the pitcher ready to pitch, runs towards first base in an attempt to confuse the defense.



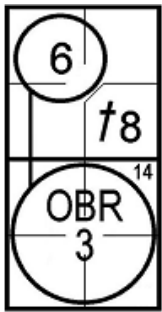
- 13) **Runner called out for having interfered with a fielder.** Credit the putout to the fielder with whom the runner interfered, unless the fielder was in the act of throwing the ball when the interference occurred, in which case the official scorer shall credit the putout to the fielder for whom the throw was intended, and shall credit an assist to the fielder whose throw was interfered with [OBR 7.09 f), 10.09 c) 6)].



Example 11: The batter-runner tries to advance to second base and knocks over the second baseman just as he is about to receive an assist from the outfielder.

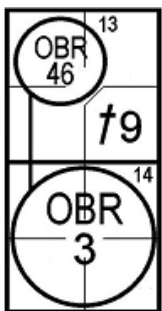
This rule also covers the case where the batter-runner, *in running the last half of the distance from home base to first base, while the ball is being fielded to first base*, runs off-course and in doing so interferes with a fielder [OBR 6.05 k)].

- 14) **Batter-runner called out because of interference by a preceding runner.** Credit the putout to the first baseman. If the fielder interfered with was in the act of throwing the ball, credit him with an assist [OBR 6.05 m), 10.09 c) 7)].



Example 12: A runner, after being put out, interferes with the shortstop's throw. The umpire calls out the batter-runner for interference by a team-mate.

It is possible for automatic putouts 13 and 14 to occur in the course of the same action, as can be seen in the following example:



Example 13: With fewer than two out and a runner on first base, the batter hits to the second baseman who catches the ball in time to score a double play.

As he waits to assist the shortstop, who has gone to cover second base, he is knocked over by the runner.

The umpire calls out both runners for interference.

This is a double play, although no hit into double play is charged to the batter, since the action was not completed, and consequently there can be no certainty that a double play would in fact have occurred.

The official scorer should not charge a batter with grounding into a double play if the batter-runner is called out due to interference by a preceding runner [OBR 10.02 a) 17) Comment]

Appeal plays

According to rule 2.00 of the OBR, *an appeal is the act of a fielder in claiming violation of the rules by the offensive team*. Such violations include:

- Batting out of turn (this will be discussed in its own chapter) [OBR 6.07 a)];
- Runner fails to retouch his original base after a fly ball is caught [OBR 7.10 a)];
- Runner fails to touch each base while running [OBR 7.10 b)].

An appeal play may be requested by the defense in two different ways:

- During the course of the action in question.** In this case it is enough for the fielder covering the base that is the object of the appeal to tag it, once he is in possession of the ball. The official scorer should transcribe the action exactly as it occurred.
- After the action has been completed and before any further play.** In this case the pitcher, once he has regained possession of the ball and is back on his mound, must leave his position and pass the ball to the fielder covering the base that is the object of the appeal. Once that fielder has the ball, he must tag the base and address the umpire requesting an appeal play. In the event that more than one runner has passed through that base, the fielder making the appeal must indicate clearly against which runner he is making the appeal and for what reason. Otherwise the appeal will not be accepted. At this point the umpire must give his judgement.

If a putout results from an appeal play within the natural course of play, give an assist to each fielder, except the fielder making the putout, whose action led to the putout. If a putout results from an appeal play initiated by the pitcher throwing to a fielder after the previous play has ended, credit the pitcher, and only the pitcher, with an assist [OBR 10.10 a) 1) Comment].

The batter hits a single and the runner scores after having failed to touch third base.

In the first example, the left fielder catches the ball and throws it to the third baseman, who tags the base. An assist should be credited to the left fielder and a putout to the third baseman.

In the second example, which starts with the same initial situation (runner on second), we can see how the two different types of appeal plays are recorded. The batter hits a single and the runner scores after having failed to touch third base.

After the action has been completed, the pitcher walks out onto his mound then leaves it, throws the ball to the fielder on third who tags the base and makes an appeal. There is a putout for the third baseman, an assist must be credited to the pitcher.

If there are several motives for appeal because several players have failed to touch base, or failed to tag up for a fly ball, several appeal plays may be made. The defense must, however, always make the appeal play on the correct base and the correct runner, since if the defense appeals in error it may not make any further appeals against the same base or the same runner. It should be noted that an appeal is not interpreted as a play or attempted play, which is why it is perfectly legal to make several appeals in succession.

NOTE: If the Official Scorer notices during the course of an action that a runner has committed a violation that could form the basis of an appeal, it is a good idea to wait for the first pitch to the next batter before recording the action, as he could find that he has to erase what he has just written. It should also be remembered that neither the Umpire nor the Official Scorer should call the attention of the defense to any suspected violation by a runner. It must be the defensive team's own initiative to make an appeal play. If no appeal is made before the first pitch is made to the following batter, the violation is ignored.

Appeal plays against batters who have hit doubles, triples or home runs

Rule 4.09 of the OBR, "HOW A TEAM SCORES", states: **EXCEPTION:** A run is not scored if the runner advances to home base during a play in which the third out is made

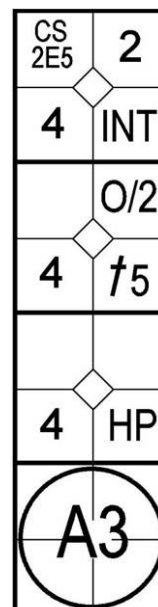
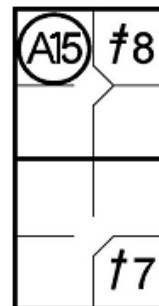
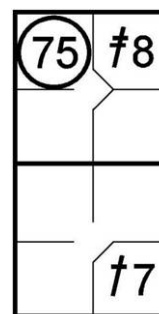
- (1) by the batter-runner before he touches first base;
- (2) by any runner being forced out; or
- (3) by a preceding runner who is declared out because he failed to touch one of the bases.

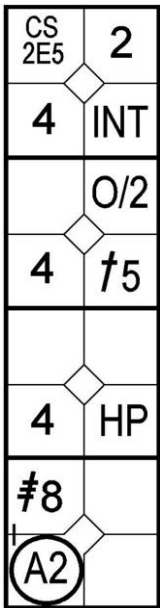
Example 14: With one out and bases loaded, the fourth batter hits a home run.

Before the pitcher receives the new ball, the first baseman asks the home plate umpire for the new ball and makes an appeal on first base on the grounds that the batter-runner missed first base.

The appeal is sustained by the umpire and the batter is called out.

In consequence of the appeal play the run scored by the batter who hit the home run is disallowed, but the others, which all count as runs batted in, remain valid, along with the advances, which are all considered legal for the purposes of counting runs earned against the opposing pitcher.





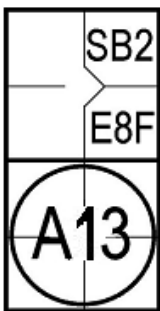
Example 15: In the same situation as the previous example, the appeal play is made on home base.

The appeal is sustained and the batter-runner is called out on home base.

As a consequence of the appeal, the run scored by the batter who hit a home run is disallowed and he is credited with a triple.

The other three, which all count as runs batted in, remain valid.

All of the advances are legal for the purposes of calculating the runs earned against the opposing pitcher.



Example 16: With two out and a runner on second base, the batter hits a home run. The home plate umpire gives the new ball to the pitcher and before the first pitch is made to the next batter, the defending team appeals against the batter-runner from first base.

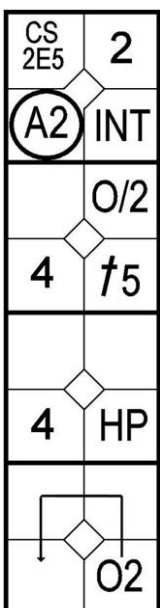
The appeal is sustained and the batter-runner is called out on first base. The run scored by the runner who was on second base is therefore disallowed.

IMPORTANT: In the event that there are two men out and the hitter of the home run with runners on base is called out on appeal for having failed to touch a base other than first, the umpire shall allow the runs scored by those runners who touched the home plate before the batter reached the base that was the subject of the appeal. The opinion of the Scorer in assigning runs should always be subordinate to that of the umpires.

NOTE: If the hitter of the home run is called out on appeal for having failed to touch second or third base, he is credited with either a single or a double. The considerations already made regarding runs batted in and earned runs still apply.

In the final analysis it must be stated that when a batter, after having made a safe hit, is called out for having failed to touch a base, the last base he legally touched will determine the value of the hit that is recognised.

Thus, if he is called out for having failed to touch home base, he will be credited with a triple; if he failed to touch third, a double; second, a single; if he failed to touch first he is called out and is not credited with a hit.



Example 17: With one or no outs and bases loaded the batter hits the ball out of the park.

In the manner provided by the OBR, the defense appeals against the runner who was on third base for having failed to touch the home plate.

The appeal is sustained and as a consequence the first run scored is disallowed and the runner who had advanced is called out.

As a consequence of this appeal play three runs are scored, all batted in by the batter who hit the home run.

The runners' advances are all legal and therefore valid for the purposes of calculating the number of runs earned against the pitcher.

The consequences are similar when, with fewer than two out, any runner, with bases loaded, is called out on appeal for having missed one of the bases after the one where he started.

As regards the case given in the example, in application of rule 10.05 b) 2 of the OBR, which states: "The official scorer shall not credit a base hit 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 such runner is advancing and is called out on appeal," score a putout for the runner and a fielder's choice (occupied ball) for the batter-runner.

Example 18: With one out and bases loaded, the fourth batter hits a triple.

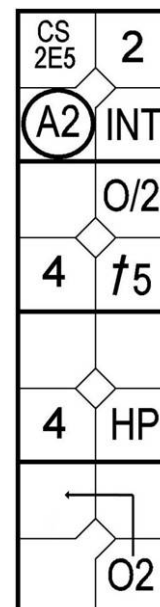
The defense appeals against the runner who was on third base for having failed to touch home plate.

The appeal is sustained, the first run scored is disallowed, and the lead runner is called out.

As a consequence of this appeal play the number of runs scored is reduced to two, both of which were batted in by the batter who hit the triple.

The advances made by the runners are all legal and therefore valid for the purposes of calculating runs earned against the pitcher.

The action of the batter-runner is scored as a fielder's choice (O2), according to the provisions of rule 10.05 b) 2 of the OBR. It is worth noting that if any of the other runners had been put out it would have had the same effect on the batter-runner.



NOTE to examples 17 and 18: If a runner fails to touch a base to which he has not been forced to advance, in the event that an appeal is sustained, the batter shall be credited with the value of the base hit scored, it being understood that the runner is out in any case.

Example 19: With one out and bases loaded, the fourth batter hits a triple.

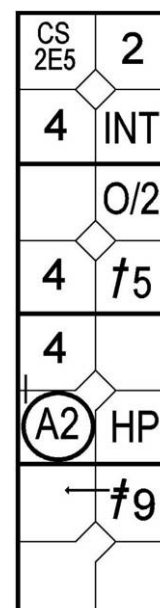
The defense appeals against the runner who started from first base, for having failed to touch home plate.

The appeal is sustained and in consequence the final run scored is disallowed and the runner against whom the appeal was made is called out.

The effect of this appeal play is that the number of runs scored is reduced to two, both of which were batted in by the batter who hit the triple.

The advances made by the runners are all legal and therefore valid for the purposes of calculating runs earned against the pitcher.

The action of the batter-runner is recorded as a two-base hit, and an arrow is used to indicate that he reached third base [OBR rule 10.06 b) Comment].



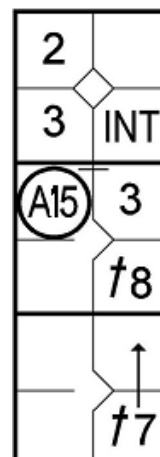
Example 20: With two out and runners on first and third, the batter hits a double, as a result of which both runners score.

The defense makes an appeal on third base for missing the base and the third baseman receives the ball from the pitcher.

The appeal is sustained and as a consequence the runner is called out.

Only the first run, which was batted in, is allowed, and the batter-runner is credited with a single.

An arrow is used to indicate that he reached second base.



CS 2E5	2
4	INT
	O/2
4	f5
	4
	HP
OBR 5	f8

Example 21: With two out and bases full, the batter hits a home run.

Before the runner who was on first base can touch third, he is overtaken by the batter-runner, who is called out by virtue of rule 7.08 h) of the OBR.

Two runs are nevertheless scored: the runner from first base is deemed to have reached second safely and the batter-runner is credited with a double and an automatic putout.

If, however, the batter-runner is called out before the second runner touches home plate, only a run is scored, as the second run would have been scored after the third putout.

CS 2E5	2
4	INT
4	O/2
	f5
	4
	HP
OBR 5	f8

CS 2E5	2
3	HP
3	O/2
	f7
A2	f8

Example 22: In the second half of the ninth inning, with the teams at level pegging, and with two out and runners on second and third bases, the batter hits a home run.

The defense appeals against the batter-runner for having failed to touch the home plate.

The appeal is sustained and the batter-runner, who is called out, is credited with a single, which enables the defense to score the winning run [OBR rule 10.06 f)].

Out by infield fly

An infield fly [OBR 2.00] “is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied, before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule. When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an Infield Fly, the umpire shall immediately declare ‘Infield Fly’ for the benefit of the runners. If the ball is near the baselines, the umpire shall declare ‘Infield Fly, if Fair.’”

When the umpire declares an infield fly the batter is put out in the instant the umpire makes his call, regardless of whether or not the ball is caught on the fly.

The aim of this rule is to avoid penalising the offensive team by preventing fielders from intentionally dropping the ball in order to make a double play on runners forced to advance. As the batter is out the moment the umpire calls an infield fly, but the ball remains alive and in play, the runners are no longer forced to advance, except at their own risk.

As we have seen in the section on automatic putouts, when the defense fails to catch the ball on the fly, we use the abbreviation “OBR” followed by the number of the fielder who, in the Official Scorer’s opinion, could have made the catch, with the number of the rule outside the circle.

When, on the other hand, the defense does catch the ball, we use the abbreviation “IF” followed by the number of the fielder who makes the catch, without the number of the rule, since the putout is made on a catch, not by rule. The

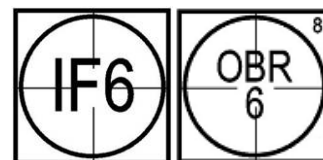
abbreviation “IF” is used rather than “F” to show that the umpire made the call “infield fly if fair” while the ball was still in the air.

With reference to the infield fly, it is worth noting the following interesting cases:

- *If a runner is touching his base when touched by an Infield Fly, he is not out, although the batter is out.*
- *If a runner is touched by an Infield Fly when he is not touching his base, both runner and batter are out and the ball is dead [OBR 7.08 f)].*

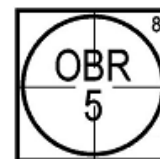
If a declared Infield Fly falls untouched to the ground in foul territory and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an Infield Fly.

The two examples show how events are recorded differently depending on whether the ball falls untouched or is caught; in the specific example the action revolves around the shortstop.



Example 23: With bases loaded and one out, the batter hits a high ball to third, which the umpire declares “Infield fly if fair”. As it falls, the ball hits the runner touching third base.

The batter is declared out under “OBR” rule 8, and the putout is credited to the third baseman. The runner who was hit is not out, and remains on the same base.

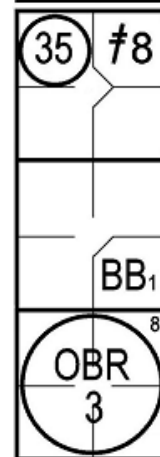


Example 24: With first and second bases occupied the batter hits a high ball along the line between first and home base, and the umpire therefore declares “Infield fly if fair”; the first baseman goes for the ball but fails to catch it.

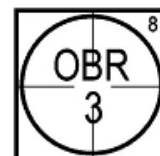
The runner on second base, seeing the bad play, tries to advance to third base, but the first baseman recovers the ball and assists the third baseman in a putout. The batter is automatically put out by virtue of rule 8 (Infield Fly), while the runner is tagged out.

No error is charged against the first baseman as there were no negative consequences. Score a putout by Infield Fly to the batter, an assist to the first baseman and a putout to both the first baseman and the third baseman.

This is not a double play, as the continuity of action between the two putouts was interrupted by the misplay. This is recorded in the notes of the score report.



Example 25: With first and second bases occupied and one out, the batter hits a fly ball along the line between first and home bases, and the umpire therefore calls “Infield fly if fair”; the ball lands in foul territory and bounces fair before being touched by a fielder: charge a putout by infield fly to the batter and credit a putout to the fielder nearest the ball (in this case the first baseman).



Example 26: With first and second bases occupied and one out, the batter hits a fly ball along the line between third base and home plate, and the umpire therefore calls “Infield fly if fair”; the ball lands in fair territory and bounces foul before being touched by a fielder. This is considered a foul ball, and consequently the batter is not out, he is charged with a further strike (except if he already has two) and returns to bat. An error is charged to the fielder who was in the best position to catch the ball.

NOTE: As this is an automatic putout, even if it is governed by rule 6.05 l) of the OBR, “OBR” rule 8 is applied when all of the conditions provided by the rule and the note are true, namely:

- Fewer than two out;
- Runners on first base, first and second, first and third, or first, second and third;
- The batter hits a line drive or fly ball;
- A fielder drops the ball after having touched it;
- The umpire, judging the fielder’s action to be deliberate, declares the batter-runner out.

ATTENTION: If this rule is applied the ball is dead, unlike in the case of an infield fly.

Batting out of turn

When a batter fails to step up to the plate and another batter in the batting order completes his turn at bat, this batter is batting out of turn, and the opposing team is entitled to appeal. It should be noted that if the opposing team fails to appeal, the improper batter becomes a proper batter and the results of his time at bat become legal [OBR 6.07].

Each time an improper batter appears in the batter's box, the following consequences are possible:

- No one notices, in which case, regardless of the outcome of the turn at bat, after a play, an attempted play or the first pitch is made to the next batter, the improper batter becomes the proper batter.
- The offensive team realises the error while the improper batter is in the batter's box, and therefore sends the proper batter to take his place [OBR 6.07 a)1].
- After the improper batter has completed his turn at bat, the opposing team appeals before the first pitch is made to the next batter; the proper batter is declared out and the next batter is the batter whose name follows that of the proper batter who has been called out [OBR 6.07 b)].

Batting out of turn is noted on the score report with "OBR" in the case that the appeal is sustained and "LT" (Lost Turn) in the event that the incident went unnoticed.

It should be noted that, regardless of the outcome of the improper batter's turn at bat, the scorer should await any further developments before recording the action on the score report, as it is impossible to know until that point who will be considered the proper batter.

NOTE: In the event that the umpire or official scorer realises that an improper batter is in the batter's box, they should in no case call the attention of the defense to this fact; it is up to the defensive team to realise the error and act in consequence.

We shall now look at the various situations of batting out of turn and their consequences:

- a) Improper batter who becomes a runner.** If an improper batter becomes a runner and, after an appeal by the opposing team, the proper batter is called out, the proper batter is credited with a turn at bat, the putout is credited to the catcher, and all other actions that occurred after the improper batter advanced to first base are ignored;
- b) Improper batter who is put out.** If an improper batter is put out and as a result of the appeal play by the opposing team the proper batter is also declared out, the proper batter is credited with a turn at bat, and the putout and any assists are credited to the fielders who made the putout during the action that was nullified by the appeal;
- c) Improper batter who has not been put out or who has not yet batted.** If an improper batter is in the batter's box and, before he completes his turn at bat, the offensive team realises the error or the defense appeals, the proper batter shall take his place and inherits the ball and strike count already accumulated by the improper batter;
- d) Improper batter who becomes a runner or who is put out, and appeal made after the first pitch to the next batter.** If an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and the defense does not make its appeal until after the first pitch has been made to the next batter, the appeal is rejected, the improper batter becomes the proper batter and the results of his turn at bat become legal.

NOTE: If, while an improper batter is in the batter's box, a runner advances on a stolen base, balk, wild pitch, passed ball or fielding error, his advance is legal; it will not therefore be annulled by the results of any ensuing appeals.

The next batter after an out-of-turn batter is determined by the following two criteria:

- When the proper batter has been put out because he failed to bat in his proper turn, the next batter is the batter immediately after him in the batting order.
- When an improper batter becomes the proper batter as a result of no appeal play having been made, or an appeal being made late, the next batter is the batter whose name follows that of the formerly improper batter, who is now the proper batter. It can be seen, therefore, that when the actions of the improper batter are legalised, the batting order resumes, omitting not only the batter who failed to bat in his proper turn, but also all the other batters who appear in the line-up between him and the now proper batter.

NOTE: If, after one or more uncontested irregular turns at bat, the batter who should go to bat is on base, he skips a turn at bat and the next batter in the batting order becomes the proper batter.

To illustrate the various situations that can arise from batting out of turn, let us assume a batting order as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| 1 Abel | 4 Daniel | 7 George |
| 2 Baker | 5 Edward | 8 Hooker |
| 3 Charles | 6 Frank | 9 Irwin |

Example 27: Abel is the proper batter, but Baker goes to bat and is put out by the first baseman on an assist by the shortstop.

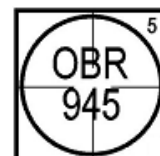
The defense appeals before the first pitch is made to the next batter and the umpire declares Abel out. Baker returns to bat as the next batter after Abel. Score a turn at bat to Abel and an automatic putout under rule 5.



The shortstop is given an assist and the first baseman a putout.

Example 28: Frank is the proper batter, but Hooker goes to the plate and hits a double to the right field. He is put out attempting to advance to third base by the third baseman, assisted by the right fielder and second baseman.

The defense appeals before the first pitch is made to the next batter and the umpire calls Frank out. George goes to bat as the next batter after Frank. Score a turn at bat to Frank and an automatic putout under rule 5.



Credit the second baseman and right fielder with assists and the third baseman with a putout.

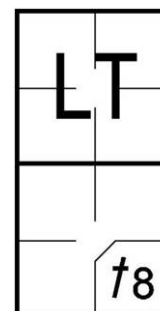
Example 29: Daniel is the proper batter, but Edward goes to bat and hits a single.

Frank then goes to bat and with the count at one ball and one strike the defense appeals.

As the defense appealed after the first pitch was made to the next batter, the umpire rejects the appeal.

Frank became the proper batter once the first pitch was made to him.

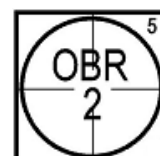
Score a "LT" (Lost Turn) to Daniel with no turn at bat or plate appearance, and credit Edward with the hit.



Example 30: Frank is the proper batter, but Hooker goes to bat and reaches second base on an error by the right fielder.

The defense appeals before the first pitch is made to the next batter and the umpire declares Frank out.

George goes to bat as the next batter after Frank. Score a turn at bat to Frank and an automatic putout under rule 5. The putout is credited to the catcher and the error committed by the right fielder is ignored.



Example 31: Irwin is the regular batter, but Abel goes to bat. With the count at two balls and one strike the offensive team realises their error and informs the umpire. Irwin takes his place in the batter's box and inherits the count of two balls and one strike. As the offensive team noticed the error before the end of the turn at bat the situation returns to normal and the action is completely transparent in terms of the score report.

Example 32: Charles, as the proper batter, takes his turn at bat and reaches first base on a base on balls. Abel (improper batter) and Baker go to bat and are both struck out. Once the first pitch had been made to Baker, Abel's situation became legal. At this point Charles should have gone to bat, but since he is still on first base he is passed over and Daniel becomes the proper batter.

Assists

An assist shall be credited to each fielder who:

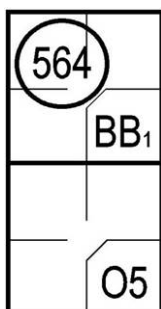
- Throws or deflects a batted or thrown ball in such a way that a putout results, or would have resulted except for a subsequent error by any fielder. Only one assist and no more shall be credited to each fielder who throws or deflects the ball in a run-down play that results in a putout, or would have resulted in a putout, except for a subsequent error [OBR 10.10 a) 1];
- Throws or deflects the ball during a play that results in a runner being called out for interference, or for running out of line [OBR 10.10 a) 2)];

Throws a ball to a fielder who makes an appeal in the same action of the game, and this appeal is sustained. The same fielder may nevertheless be credited with an assist and a putout, or an assist and an error.

Comment: Mere ineffective contact with the ball shall not be considered an assist. ‘Deflect’ shall mean to slow down or change the direction of the ball and thereby effectively assist in putting out a batter or runner [OBR 10.10 a) 1, comment].

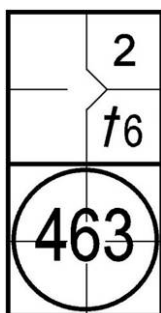
Do not credit an assist to [OBR 10.11 b) 1, 2, 3]):

- the pitcher on a strikeout, unless the pitcher fields an uncaught third strike and makes a throw that results in a putout.
- the pitcher, when, as the result of a legal pitch received by the catcher, a runner is put out, as when the catcher picks a runner off base, throws out a runner trying to steal, or tags a runner trying to score or
- a fielder whose wild throw permits a runner to advance, even though the runner subsequently is put out as a result of continuous play. A play that follows a misplay (whether or not the misplay is an error) is a new play, and the fielder making any misplay shall not be credited with an assist unless such fielder takes part in the new play.



Example 33: With a runner on first base the batter hits a ground ball to the third baseman, who deflects the ball towards the shortstop, who catches it and throws to second in time to put out the runner.

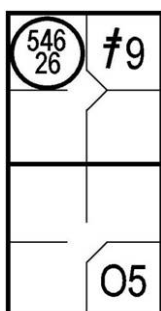
Credit assists to both the third baseman and the shortstop, and a putout to the second baseman.



Example 34: With a runner on first base, the batter hits a ground ball to the second baseman, who throws to the shortstop too late to put out the runner.

The shortstop throws to the first baseman who puts out the batter-runner.

Credit assists to both the second baseman and the shortstop and a putout to the first baseman.



Example 35: With a runner on second base the batter hits a ground ball to the third baseman, who catches the ball and throws it to second, catching the runner off base.

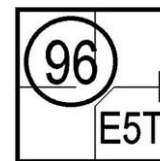
This leads to a rundown play.

The ball is passed from one fielder to another (third baseman, second baseman, catcher, shortstop, third baseman, second baseman, catcher) until the shortstop makes a putout.

Credit an assist to the third baseman, the second baseman, the shortstop and the catcher and a putout to the shortstop.

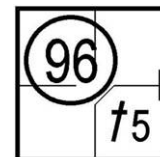
Example 36: The batter hits a ground ball to the third baseman, who catches it in time to put him out at first base, but throws wild to the first base.

The batter-runner advances towards second base but is put out by the shortstop assisted by the right fielder, who caught the ball thrown by the third baseman. Charge an error to the third baseman, an assist to the right fielder and a putout to the shortstop.



Example 37: The batter hits a very slow line drive towards the third baseman, who catches it too late to put him out at first base, but throws in any case, muffing the throw.

The batter-runner continues towards second base but is put out by the shortstop, assisted by a throw from the right fielder, who caught the ball thrown by the third baseman. Credit an assist to the right fielder and a putout to the shortstop.



Example 38: The batter is struck out but on the third strike the catcher fails to catch the ball, which bounces against the protective barriers behind him and back onto the field.

The pitcher catches the ball and assists the first baseman in a putout. Credit an assist to the pitcher and a putout to the first baseman.

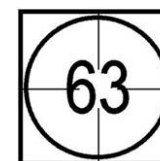


Example 39: The batter hits a difficult high ball between second base and the right fielder. The second baseman runs back and, jumping to make the putout, deflects the ball with his glove but fails to catch it. Before the ball lands the right fielder catches it and makes the putout. Credit an assist to the second baseman and a putout to the right fielder. Or



Example 40: The batter hits an easy high ball between second base and the right fielder. The second baseman tries to make the putout but merely deflects the ball with his glove. Before the ball lands the right fielder catches it and makes the putout. Credit an assist to second base and a putout to the right fielder. The action of the second baseman should be considered a misplay but not charged as an error.

Example 41: The batter hits an easy ground ball towards third base, who deflects the ball but fails to catch it. It is caught by the shortstop who throws to first base in time to make the putout. Credit an assist to the shortstop and a putout to the first baseman. No assist is credited to the third baseman.



Errors

Before we launch into an explanation of what is meant by an error, it should be noted that, as with a safe hit, an error is always linked with the judgement of the official scorer. We shall deal with this issue at greater length when we discuss hits.

According to rule 10.12 of the OBR, *The official scorer shall charge an error against any fielder whose misplay (fumble, muff or wild throw) prolongs the time at bat of a batter, prolongs the presence on the bases of a runner, or permits a runner to advance one or more bases, unless in the judgement of the official scorer, such fielder deliberately permits a foul fly to fall safe with a runner on third base before two are out in order that the runner on third shall not score after the catch.*

Comment: *Slow handling of the ball that does not involve mechanical misplay shall not be construed as an error. For example, the official scorer shall not charge a fielder with an error if such fielder fields a ground ball cleanly but does not throw to first base in time to retire the batter. 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 fly ball falls untouched and, in the scorer's judgement, the fielder could have handled the ball with **ordinary effort**, the official scorer shall charge such fielder with an error. For example, the official scorer shall charge an infielder with an error when a ground ball passes to either side of such infielder if, in the official scorer's judgement, a fielder at that position making ordinary effort would have fielded such ground ball and retired a runner. The official scorer shall charge an outfielder with an error if such outfielder allows a fly ball to drop to the ground if, in the official scorer's judgement, an outfielder at that position making **ordinary effort** would have caught such fly ball. If a throw is low, wide or high, or strikes the ground, and a runner reaches base who otherwise would have been put out by such throw, the official scorer shall charge the player making the throw with an error.*

The official scorer shall not score mental mistakes or misjudgements as errors unless a specific rule prescribes otherwise. A fielder's mental mistake that leads to a physical misplay—such as throwing the ball into the stands or rolling the ball to the pitcher's mound, mistakenly believing there to be three outs, and thereby allowing a runner or

runners to advance—shall not be considered a mental mistake for purposes of this rule and the official scorer shall charge a fielder committing such a mistake with an error.

The official scorer shall not charge an error if the pitcher fails to cover first base on a play, thereby allowing a batter-runner to reach first base safely. The official scorer shall not charge an error to a fielder who incorrectly throws to the wrong base on a play.

The official scorer shall charge an error to a fielder who causes another fielder to misplay a ball—for example, by knocking the ball out of the other fielder’s glove. On such a play, when the official scorer charges an error to the interfering fielder, the official scorer shall not charge an error to the fielder with whom the other fielder interfered.

To clarify what is stated in the rules, we could summarise by saying that an error is charged whenever a misplay by the defense benefits the opposing team.

DEFENSE				
PO	A	E	DP	IP

Errors are recorded with a vertical stroke in column “E” of the defense sheet, in the box corresponding to the fielder who committed them.

ATTENTION: All errors must be recorded (both “E” and “e”). Each kind of error covered by the rules can be classed as either:

- A decisive error;
- An extra-base error.

Decisive errors

A decisive error is one that prolongs the life of an offensive player. In other words, a decisive error is charged only when we are certain that the defense would have scored a putout if it had not been committed. This type of error is recorded on the scoresheet with an “E” followed by the symbol for the fielder who made the error, and, if applicable, preceded by the fielders who made assists. There are three ways of recording a decisive error:

- Error catching a ground ball or throw E#
- Throwing error E#T
- Error on fly E#F

The hash mark after the E should be replaced by the symbol of the fielder who committed the error.

Extra base errors

Extra base errors are errors that enable one or more offensive players to advance one or more bases. These errors, had they not been committed, would not have led to a putout but would have prevented any further advances. Such errors are recorded on the score report with a lower-case “e” followed by the symbol for the fielder who made the misplay. No assists are credited with this type of error.

There are two ways of recording an extra base error:

- Catching error e#
- Throwing error e#T

According to rule 10.12 of the OBR, an error (one error whenever any of the following actions is observed) should be charged against any fielder:

- *When he muffs a foul fly, to prolong the time at bat of a batter whether the batter subsequently reaches first base or is put out [OBR 10.12 a) 2)]* **Decisive error.**
- *When he catches a thrown ball or a ground ball in time to put out the batter-runner or any runner on a force play and fails to tag the base or the batter-runner / runner [OBR 10.12 a) 3, 4]* **Decisive error.**

- *Whose wild throw permits a runner to reach a base safely, when in the scorer's judgement a good throw would have put out the runner, unless such wild throw is made attempting to prevent a stolen base [OBR 10.12 a) 5] **Decisive error.***

- *Whose wild throw in attempting to prevent a runner's advance permits that runner or any other runner to advance one or more bases beyond the base such runner would have reached had the throw not been wild [OBR 10.12 a) 6] **Extra base error.***

- *Whose throw takes an unnatural bounce, or touches a base or the pitcher's plate, or touches a runner, a fielder or an umpire, thereby permitting any runner to advance [OBR 10.12 a) 7] **Decisive error or extra base error.***

***Comment:** The official scorer shall apply this rule even when it appears to be an injustice to a fielder whose throw was accurate. For example, the official scorer shall charge an error to an outfielder whose accurate throw to second base hits the base and caroms back into the outfield, thereby permitting a runner or runners to advance because every base advanced by a runner must be accounted for.*

- *Whose failure to stop, or try to stop, an accurately thrown ball permits a runner to advance, so long as there was occasion for the throw. If such throw was made to second base, the official scorer shall determine whether it was the duty of the second baseman or the shortstop to stop the ball, and an error shall be charged to the negligent player [OBR 10.12 a) 8] **Decisive error or extra base error.***

NOTE: The Official Scorer may, if he deems it necessary, ask the team coach who should have covered the base in any given play.

Comment:** If in the official scorer's judgement there was no occasion for the throw, the official scorer shall charge an error to the fielder who threw the ball [OBR 10.12 a) 8 Comment] **Extra base error.

- *When an umpire awards the batter or any runner or runners one or more bases because of interference or obstruction, the official scorer shall charge the fielder who committed the interference or obstruction with one error, no matter how many bases the batter, or runner or runners, may advance [OBR 10.12 c)] **Decisive error or extra base error.***

***Comment:** The official scorer shall not charge an error if obstruction does not change the course of play, in the opinion of the scorer.*

IMPORTANT: *The official scorer shall charge only one error on any wild throw, regardless of the number of bases advanced by one or more runners [OBR 10.12 b)].*

NOTE 1: In a rundown play it is preferable always to score a decisive error, because if the rundown is executed correctly, it is almost impossible for the runner not to be put out, as long as, in the official scorer's judgement, the runner was not able to avoid being put out. Clearly, this applies to a decisive error in a rundown play, not any other types of action.

NOTE 2: Where a fielder interferes with the play of another fielder, thereby causing the error, an error should be charged to the fielder who obstructs the play.

NOTE 3: If an error leads to an advance of more than one base, the first shall be recorded as described above. The other bases are noted with an arrow leading from the base reached on the error and ending at the base where the runner came to rest.

Interference and obstruction

Defensive interference is an act by a fielder which hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch [OBR 2.00].

The fielder who committed the interference (usually the catcher) is charged with an error, noted with "INT".

Offensive interference is an act by the team at bat which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play [OBR 2.00]. This is discussed under rules 14 and 15 of the "Automatic putouts".

Obstruction is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball and not in the act of fielding the ball, impedes the progress of any runner [OBR 2.00].

Obstruction of a batter-runner before he reaches first base is a decisive error, recorded as "OB" (upper case) followed by the number of the fielder who committed the obstruction.

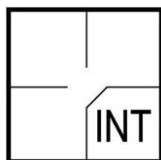
NB: Neither "INT" nor "OB" count as a turn at bat.

Obstruction of a runner is an extra base error and is recorded with "ob" (lower case) followed by the number of the fielder who committed the obstruction.

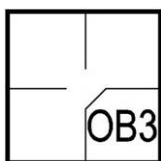
NOTE: If the umpire calls “obstruction” and, in the judgement of the scorer, the runner would have advanced in any case, the action is recorded as if it had taken place normally, and no obstruction is charged against the fielder.

IMPORTANT: Advances made by “obstruction” (lower-case “ob”) are not recorded in the “I-O” column of the offensive sheet, which must only be used for advances by the batter-runner to first base through “INT” or “OB” (upper case).

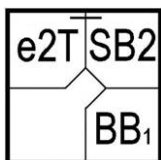
Now that we have seen how the rules describe the circumstances in which the Official Scorer should score an error, we shall show how they should be recorded on the score-sheet.



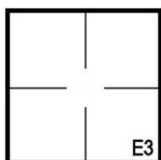
Example 42: The batter-runner reaches first base on interference by the catcher. Mark as “INT” and charge the catcher with a decisive error.



Example 43: The batter-runner reaches first base on obstruction by the first baseman. Mark as “OB” followed by the number of the fielder who committed the obstruction. Charge a decisive error to the fielder responsible, in this case the first baseman.

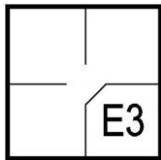


Example 44: The runner sets off to steal second base and comes to rest at third base thanks to a throwing error by the catcher. Charge an extra base throwing error to the catcher for having enabled the runner to advance to third.

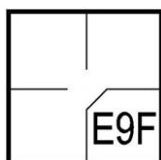


Example 45: The batter hits a foul fly which is dropped by the first baseman. Charge a decisive fly ball error to the first baseman for having allowed the batter-runner to return to bat.

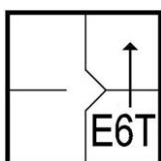
The error is noted in one corner of the first base square, leaving room for any further notes about the batter.



Example 46: The batter hits a ground ball to the first baseman who, after having recovered the ball, despite having the opportunity, fails to tag the base, thus allowing the batter to reach base safely. Charge a decisive catching error to the first baseman for failing to put out the batter-runner.

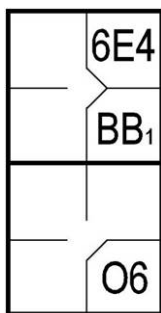


Example 47: The batter hits a fly ball to the outfield. The right fielder muffs the catch, enabling the batter-runner to reach first base. Charge a decisive catching error to the right fielder for having failed to put out the batter-runner.



Example 48: The batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop, who recovers the ball in time to put out the batter-runner, but bungles his throw to first base, enabling him to advance to second. Charge a decisive throwing error to the shortstop for having failed to put out the batter-runner.

NOTE: Record one error for the two-base advance.



Example 49: With a runner on first base the batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop, who recovers it in time to put out the runner and throws to second base.

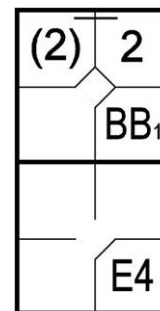
The second baseman, who had moved quickly to cover second base, fails to catch the ball, allowing both runners to reach base safely. Charge a decisive catching error to the second baseman for having failed to put out the runner, and credit the shortstop with an assist.

Example 50: With a runner on first base the batter hits to the second baseman, who lets the ball pass between his legs.

The batter-runner reaches first base and the runner advances to third.

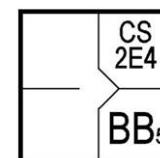
Charge a decisive catching error to the second baseman for having failed to put out the batter-runner and allowed the runner to reach third base.

NOTE: Record just one error, which allowed two runners to advance one or more bases.



Example 51: The runner on first base sets off to steal second but the catcher makes an excellent throw to second base in ample time to put out the runner. Strangely, neither the second baseman nor the shortstop go to cover second base, allowing the runner to steal the base.

The official scorer may ask the coach of the defending team which of the two fielders should have gone to the base (in this case, the second baseman). Charge a decisive catching error to the second baseman for having failed to put out the runner, and credit an assist to the catcher.

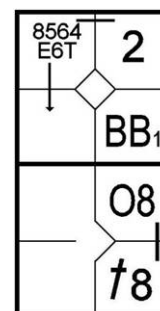


Example 52: With a runner on first base the batter hits a single to the center fielder, allowing the runner to reach second base.

The center fielder throws to third base to stop the runner from advancing. The runner between second and third is trapped. The trap is prolonged for a time, with the participation of several fielders.

Finally the shortstop bumbles a throw to third and the runner takes the opportunity to score a run. The batter-runner uses the opportunity to reach second.

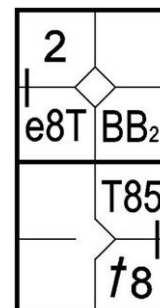
Charge a decisive throwing error to the shortstop, for having allowed the runner to score, and an assist to each fielder who took part in the play.



Example 53: With a runner on first base the batter hits a single to the center field, enabling the runner to reach third base.

The center fielder throws towards the pitcher's plate to halt the advance of the runner on third base. The batter-runner takes this opportunity to run to second. However, the ball makes an unnatural bounce and the defense loses control of the ball. Realising this, the runner on third base runs in.

Charge an extra base throwing error to the center fielder for having allowed the opposing team to score.

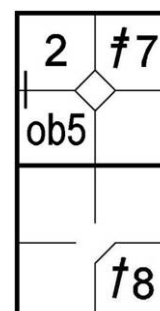


Example 54: With a runner on second base the batter hits a single and the runner reaches third base and continues towards the home plate.

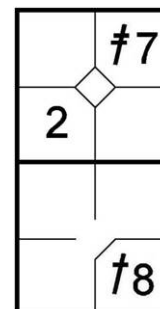
The third baseman intervenes and tries to impede his progress. The umpire awards the runner a base for obstruction.

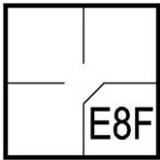
If the official scorer deems the obstruction to have been a determining factor in scoring the run he should record the run as shown in the example.

Charge an extra base error to the third baseman for having committed the obstruction.



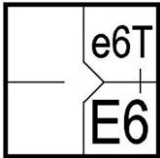
If, however, he considers that the runner would have scored regardless of the obstruction, he should record the action as given to the right.





Example 55: Fly ball between the left fielder and center fielder. Both run to the ball, the left fielder catches it but the center fielder knocks him over, making him drop the ball. The batter-runner reaches first base.

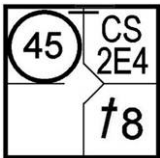
Charge a decisive fly ball error to the center fielder for having prevented the left fielder from making the putout.



Example 56: The batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop who fumbles the grounded ball, although in the judgement of the official scorer he would have had time to throw to first base. He recovers the ball and throws to first anyway, bungling the throw and enabling the batter-runner to advance another base.

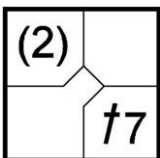
Charge the shortstop with two errors: one decisive error and one extra base error, the first a catching error and the second a throwing error, as the batter-runner reached each of the two bases on a different

error.



Example 57: The runner on first sets off to steal second but is anticipated by a throw from the catcher to the second baseman who, although he would have had time to make the putout, muffs the catch. The runner sees this and, after having reached second, continues to third. The second baseman recovers the ball and throws it to the third baseman, who makes the putout.

Charge a decisive catching error to the second baseman, who missed the catch, and credit the third baseman with a putout, and the catcher and second baseman with an assist.



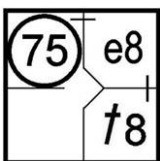
Example 58: With a runner on first base, the batter hits a fly ball to the left field. The left fielder fails to catch the ball, enabling the runner to reach third base. The batter-runner sees the error and tries to reach second, but is put out by the second baseman on an assist by the left fielder.

Charge a decisive fly ball error to the left fielder for having enabled the batter-runner to reach first base, and credit an assist to the left fielder and a putout to the second baseman.



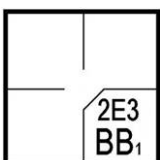
Example 59: With a runner on second base, the batter hits a fly ball to the center fielder, who muffs the catch. The runner is put out by the third baseman on an assist by the center fielder as he runs to third base.

Charge a decisive fly ball error to the center fielder for having allowed the batter-runner to reach first base, and credit an assist to the center fielder and a putout to the third baseman.



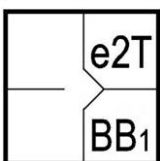
Example 60: The batter hits a single to the center fielder who, while trying to catch the ball, drops it and allows the batter-runner, who has already reached second base, to continue to third. In the meantime the left fielder, running to cover, recovers the ball and assists the third baseman, who makes the putout.

Charge an extra base catching error to the center fielder for having allowed the batter-runner to reach second base and credit an assist to the left fielder and a putout to the third baseman.



Example 61: The catcher, after having caught the pitch, throws to first base to try to catch the runner off base, but the first baseman drops the ball from his glove, thus failing to make the putout.

Charge a decisive catching error to the first baseman for having failed to put out the runner, and credit an assist to the catcher.

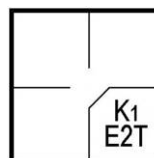


Example 62: With a runner on first base the catcher calls for a pitchout and quickly throws to first base, but bungles the throw, allowing the runner to reach second base.

Charge an extra base throwing error to the catcher.

Example 63: The catcher fails to catch the third strike and recovers the ball but bumbles his attempted assist to first base.

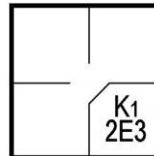
Charge a decisive throwing error to the catcher for having failed to make the putout, and credit the pitcher with a strikeout.



NOTE: Unlike in the previous example, the decisive error is charged against the catcher, as the batter-runner was forced to advance.

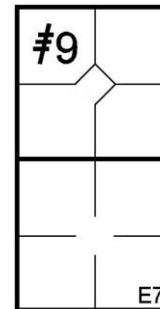
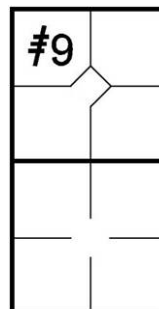
Example 64: The catcher fails to catch the third strike, recovers the ball and throws to the first baseman, who muffs the catch.

Charge a decisive catching error to the first baseman for having failed to make the putout and credit an assist to the catcher and a strikeout to the pitcher.



Example 65: With a runner on third base and fewer than two out, the batter-runner hits a foul fly which is dropped by the left fielder. If the official scorer deems the action to be intentional, to prevent a run being scored, he should ignore it.

If not, he should charge a (decisive) error against the left fielder for having allowed the batter-runner to return to the batter's box.



Only two types of error may, if committed, result in the award of a grounded into double play.

- a) Decisive catching error on the second putout, which would have completed the double play [OBR 10.12 d) Comment];
- b) Failure to tag the base or the runner by the fielder when making the first putout [OBR 10.12 a)4].

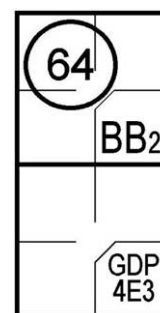
NOTE: There must be no doubt as to the dynamics of the errors described above, before a grounded into double play is charged against the batter, in the absence of two putouts. If not, it is not to be considered a double or triple play.

In the following seven examples, which all begin with the same initial situation, the action in question results in different outcomes according to the different defensive plays made.

Example 66: With a runner on first base, the batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop, who assists the second baseman in putting out the runner.

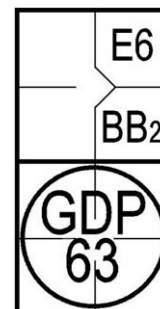
The second baseman throws to first, but the first baseman muffs the catch and the umpire, after having called out the runner, declares the batter safe.

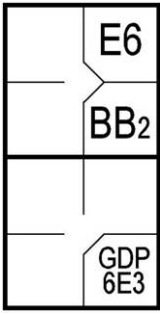
As the umpire called "Out safe", charge a catching error to the first baseman.



Example 67: Same situation as in the previous example, but the shortstop, after having recovered the ball, overruns second base and assists the first baseman in time to make the putout.

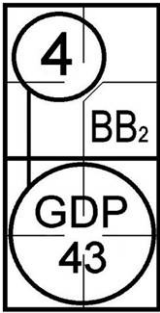
As the shortstop missed second base, charge him with an error.





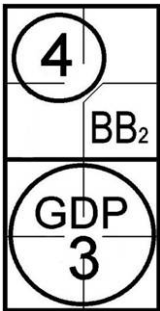
Example 68: Still with the same situation, both misplays, by the shortstop and by the first baseman, are made.

In this case, two errors are charged.



Example 69: In this example, both offensive players are retired, but the second baseman drops the ball (thrown by the shortstop) after having tagged second base, then recovers it in time to retouch the base and assist the first baseman in putting out the batter-runner.

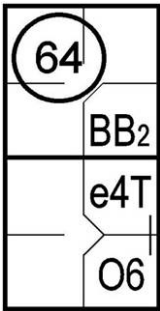
The error, while not decisive, cancels out the assist by the shortstop. It is a double play, since the error was committed before the two putouts.



Example 70: Both offensive players are put out, but the first baseman drops the ball thrown by the second baseman, then recovers it in time to put out the batter-runner.

This misplay, although not decisive, interrupts the continuity of action and therefore this is not a defensive double play.

For the above reasons, the assist to second base is not recorded on the scoresheet, and it would be advisable to record it in the notes.

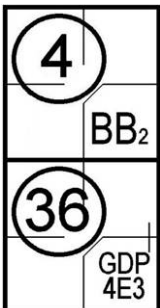


Example 71: With a runner on first base, the batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop, who throws to second and puts out the runner.

The second baseman then throws to first but muffs the throw, enabling the batter-runner to reach second.

Charge an extra base throwing error to the second baseman for having allowed the batter-runner to reach second.

Remember that in no case should an error be charged against the fielder for the batter-runner reaching first base, even if, in the opinion of the official scorer, he could have made the putout, as the throw was made to complete a double play.



Example 72: Same action as in the previous example, but the batter-runner is put out at second base after the error by the first baseman. This is not a defensive double play.

ATTENTION: Record in the “notes” on the score report the reason for the lack of a double play line (Examples 70 and 72).

NOTE: In all of the previous seven examples, with the exception of number 71, although there were not actually two putouts, a hit into double play is always charged against the batter.

Exempted errors

These are errors whose effects are cancelled out by the same fielder or a team mate; in other words, the defense succeeds nevertheless in forcing a putout. These errors are consequently not scored against the person who committed them, and are therefore not recorded with any symbol on the score-sheet. They do, however, determine the continuity of play in double or triple plays.

According to rule 10.12 d) of the OBR, *The official scorer shall not charge an error against* (these are the “exempted errors”):

- a) *the catcher when the catcher, after receiving the pitch, makes a wild throw attempting to prevent a stolen base, unless the wild throw permits the stealing runner to advance one or more extra bases, or permits any other runner to advance one or more bases* [OBR 10.12 d) 1].
- b) *any fielder who makes a wild throw if in the scorer’s judgement the runner would not have been put out with ordinary effort by a good throw, unless such wild throw permits any runner to advance beyond the base he would have reached had the throw not been wild* [OBR 10.12 d) 2].
- c) *any fielder who makes a wild throw in attempting to complete a double play or triple play, unless such wild throw enables any runner to advance beyond the base such runner would have reached had the throw not been wild* [OBR 10.12 d) 3].

Comment: *When a fielder muffs a thrown ball that, if held, would have completed a double play or triple play, the official scorer shall charge an error to the fielder who drops the ball and credit an assist to the fielder who made the throw* [OBR 10.12 d) Comment].

- d) *any fielder when, after fumbling a ground ball or dropping a batted ball that is in flight or a thrown ball, the fielder recovers the ball in time to force out a runner at any base.* It is completely irrelevant whether it is the same fielder or a different one who makes the putout. [OBR 10.12 d) 4].
- e) A number of misplays apply specifically to the pitcher and catcher. These misplays are not defined as errors but as wild pitches and balks for the pitcher, and passed balls for the catcher [OBR 10.12 e), f) 1, 2].

These errors are comprehensively listed under rule 10.12.

Example 73: The batter hits a deep ground ball to the shortstop who recovers it and bungles his throw to first base.

The official scorer judges that, even if the throw had been perfect, the batter-runner would nevertheless have reached first base safely, and he is awarded a hit.

No errors are charged, because the wild throw had no effect on the outcome of the action.

Example 74: With a runner on first base, the batter hits a fly ball to the center fielder, who muffs the catch but recovers the ball in time to put out the runner by throwing to second base.

In this case no error is charged, as the fielder recovered the ball in time to put out the runner in a force play, and the misplay had no effect on the outcome of the play.

