

# Scorekeeping Tips

You are part of a TEAM (Official Scorekeeper, Official Pitch Counter AND the Umpires)

Work with each other, Help each other, Look out for each other.

You are working together – **To Help the KIDS Enjoy Playing a Game of Baseball !!!**

There may be several runners and many fielders –

**but there is ONLY ONE BASEBALL.**

Follow the ball – and the rest will generally take care of itself.

And – always watch the ENTIRE play before scoring what happened

Strive to record **THE BIG FOUR – Plus ONE:**

1. Every **PITCH** that was thrown (ball, strike, foul, etc), and by which pitcher.
2. What every **BATTER** did at the plate.
3. Where every **RUNNER** is on the Base Paths  
(and, if you are able, How they got there).
4. Who made every **OUT** or **RUN** and How.

**Plus**

- I. What Defensive Position (if any) every player played each inning.

It is normal to be confused on particular plays. Don't Hassle It.

Score the play to the best of your ability, write down what happened on a notepad and continue scoring the inning. Then get help to sort out what happened between half-innings.

**Above All – Have Fun !!!**

(From the Western Region Scorekeeping Clinic)

"New scorekeepers are writing a simple book that gives the ABC's of the game. Record hits, runs and outs. Make sure each player's name is written down correctly. No need for lots of details. Think of someone learning to read. Make it clean, clear + easy to read: connecting the dots from the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch to the last out.

*As you become a more experienced scorekeeper ... have fun! It's like writing a novel. The more details, the greater the story. Everyone matters, every position is important, every play impacts the next play. Have a goal that if someone (who wasn't at the game) were to read your scorebook they would be able to relive the game through you!"*

## The Rule Of “ORDINARY EFFORT”

The decision between Hit and Error is often ruled by judging what the player in question should have been able to do with “ORDINARY EFFORT”.

- Always take into account the individual player in question: **THEIR** age and ability level. A play that would be “great” for Billy Newbie, may be second nature for Johnnie All-Star.
- Even the youngest and most novice player has some plays they could make with effort that is (for them) ordinary and normal – so don’t give hits blindly: if the child should have made the play, score an error.
- **HOWEVER**, “remember that Little Leaguers are not professionals. The benefit of the doubt should always go to the batter.”

**NEVER announce or volunteer (to anyone) that a batter is batting out of order.** This is up to the Manager to catch and appeal. Respond **ONLY** if the Umpire inquires after a manager has made a proper appeal.

**DO** Inform the Umpire when a pitcher has reached his MAX PITCH LIMIT.

This is a safety matter (protecting a kid’s arm) – it’s also to avoid a protest situation.

However, **NEVER** volunteer when a pitcher is passing a Day’s-Of-Rest pitch threshold (eg. 35 pitches, 50 pitches, etc).

It’s up to the manager to keep track of this and ask if they wish.