

THE INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL BOARD

Formed in the year 1927 by The English Baseball Association and The Welsh Baseball Union.

The International Baseball Board members shall be elected annually, five from each body, two of whom must be the Chairman and Secretary, together with a Schools Representative from each country.

The Honorary General Secretary (without vote) shall be elected for a period of three years.

All matters relating to the Laws of the Game are dealt with by the International Baseball Board, through the General Secretary. The decisions of the International Baseball Board concerning the Laws of the Game are final.

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International Board Secretary:
TOM HOLLEY, M.B.E.
84 Brynteg, Rhiwbina, Cardiff CF14 6TU
Tel: (029) 2069 3730

THE OFFICIAL LAWS OF THE GAME
AS ADOPTED BY
THE ENGLISH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
AND
THE WELSH BASEBALL UNION
FOR THEIR AFFILIATED LEAGUES AND CLUBS
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LAWS OF THE GAME

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EQUIPMENT

Ground

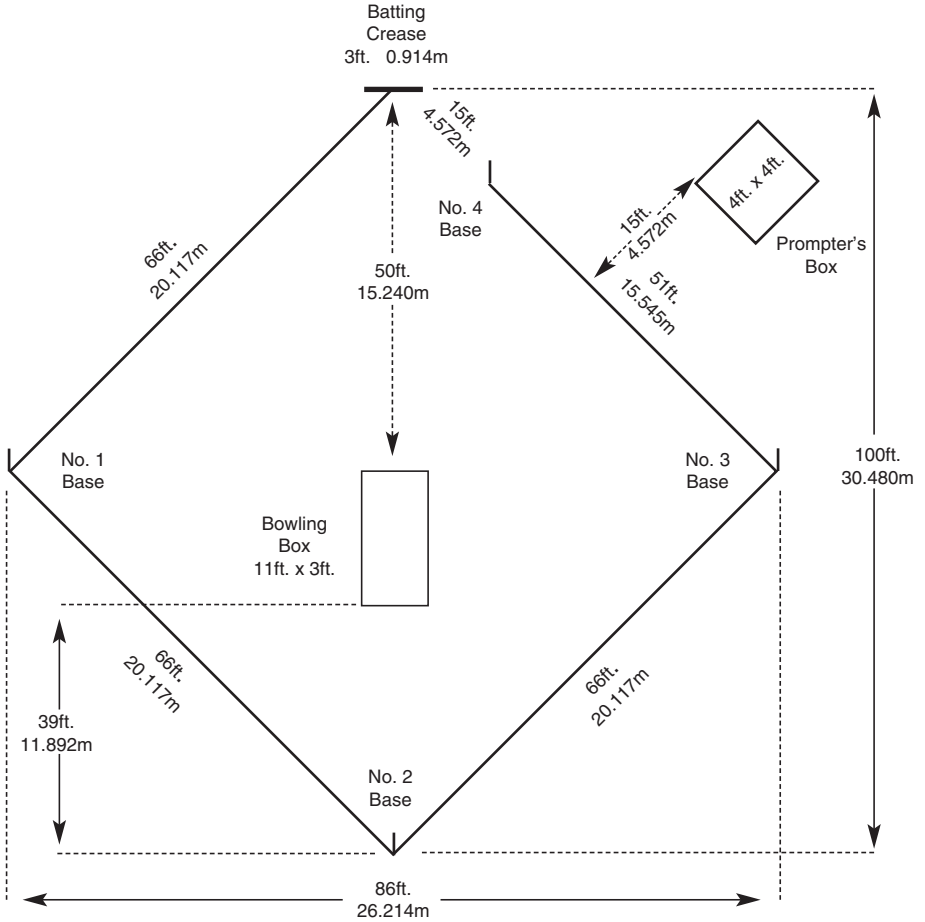
Two 100ft. (30.48m) tape measures or one tape measure and two lengths of cord - Line marker - Four bases - Seven white rubber pegs - Two scorers' seats - Players' bench - Score board.

Team

Bats (regulation size and pattern) - Ball (International Board approved - Backstop's gloves - Backstop's mask (optional). Shirts, shorts and stockings in registered club colours - footwear (football boots, spikes, rubber shoes, but other footwear of an approved pattern can be worn) - Cap (optional but of an approved pattern).

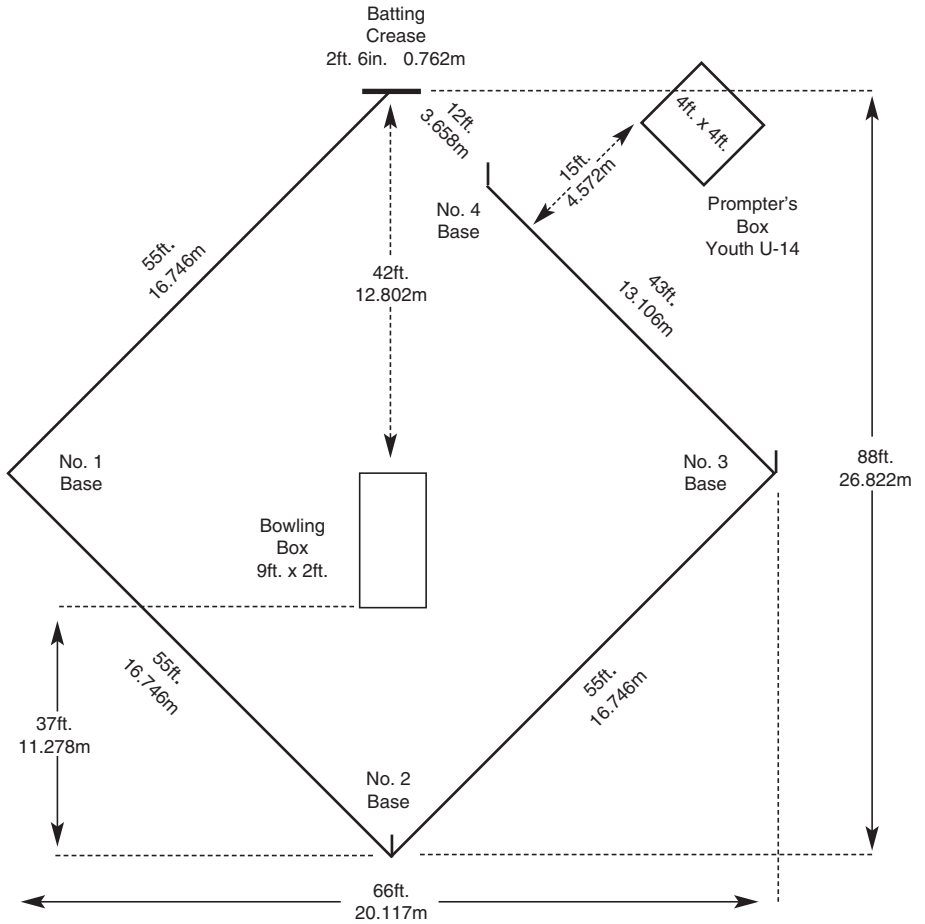
Law 1. LAYING OUT THE GROUND Men and Under 16 Youth

A. The field of play and appurtenances shall be as shown in the following plan:—



Law 1. LAYING OUT THE GROUND
Under 14 Youth

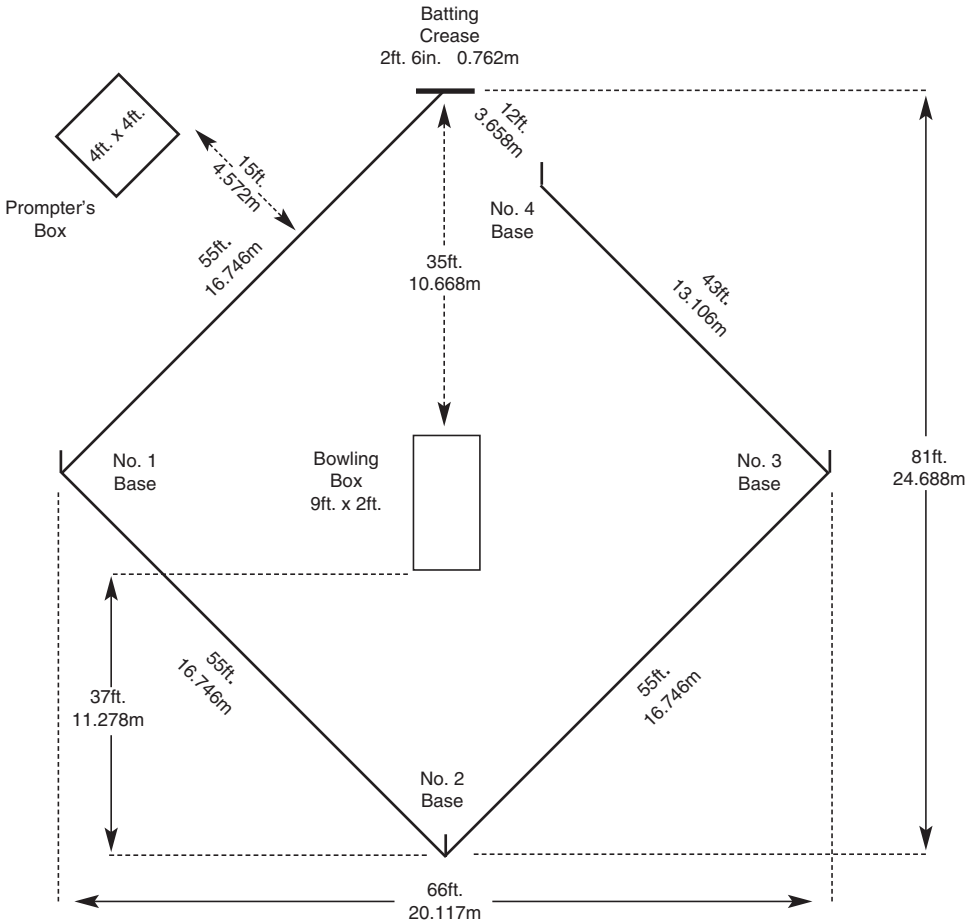
A. The field of play and appurtenances shall be as shown in the following plan:—



Law 1. LAYING OUT THE GROUND

Primary Schools Boys and Girls and Under-12 Youth

A. The field of play and appurtances shall be as shown in the following plan:—



Official Decision

Law 1

Unless a complaint is laid, prior to the commencement of a game, concerning the field of play and appurtances, they cannot form the subject of a subsequent appeal.

Instructions to Referees, Players and Officials

Reference Law 1

It is the responsibility of the Home Club to see the diamond is placed suitably and marked correctly.

It is the duty of the referee to check the field of play and appurtances before the com-mencement of the game.

Boundaries

It is the duty of all Home Club to see that spectators are moved well away from the playing diamond and all obstacles removed.

The referee must ensure this rule is carried out and ensure that on enclosed grounds there must be boundaries agreed upon by the captains and referee.

Where railings or roadways intervene there must also be agreement over them between the referee and both captains before the commencement of the game.

C. DIAMOND

The ground shall be laid out in the form of a diamond, to the dimensions in the previous illustrations

D. BOWLER'S BOX

It is a rectangle to the dimensions in previous illustration. The marked line should be outside the dimensions. The front is to be in line with No. 1 and No.3 bases.

E. BATTING CREASE

This line shall be as illustration with a rubber peg at each end, and an additional rubber peg in the centre, and the container, holding each rubber insert must be flush with the ground.

F. BATTING CREASE DIAMOND

From the centre of the batting crease line a diamond of 18in. (0.457m) diagonal must be provided.

G. PROMPTER'S BOX

It is a square of 4ft. (1.220m) sides, placed centrally between No. 3 and No. 4 bases, and 15ft (4.572m) from the line. (Ladies, under 12 boys and girls, the box is between 1 and 2 bases)

H. LINES

The batting crease, running and bowling box lines are to be marked clearly and straight. Marking lines should not be more than 2in. (0.051m) in width and the measurements of the bowling box, batting crease and the prompter's box are to be taken from inside the lines. The rubber pegs, in the case of the bowling box, are to be placed at the inside corners.

Law 2 – EQUIPMENT AND PLAYERS

A. BASES

To mark the position of numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 bases, cylindrical, hexagonal or octagonal poles, from 2 to 3in. (0.076m) max. in diameter, are to be used, 3½ft. (1.066m) above the ground, and laid out in accordance with the Plan of the Field. The top 18in. (0.457m) max. of each base must be painted white. Bases are to be of wood but light metal can be used subject to the approval of the E.B.A. or the W.B.U. Steel plates, with a spike for anchoring the base, are permitted.

B. PEGS

The part of the peg above the ground must be made of white rubber and not less than 4in. (0.102m) and not more than 6in. (0.152m) high. The holder must be driven in flush with the ground. They must be painted white or fluorescent.

C. BAT

The bat to be used must not exceed 36in. (0.914m) in length, 3½in. (0.089m) in breadth at the base, or 2½in. (0.064m) in breadth 19in. (0.483m) from the base of the bat, and taper evenly from base to handle.

D. BALL

Size. In all matches, the ball to be used is that approved by the International Board and stamped accordingly by the makers. The ball shall weigh from 4½ oz. (128gr) to 5oz. (142gr) inclusive, while the circumference shall not exceed 9in. (0.229m) or be less than 8½in. (0.216m). A metal or plastic template can be used to check the size of the ball.

Referee's inspection. The referee must inspect the ball at the beginning of a match. He has the power to discard it at any period of the play if it be found unsuitable or unplayable.

Each batting side may, before the commencement of a match, hand its own ball to the referee, unless it has been mutually agreed to play with one ball. Then the ball will be provided by the home side.

At international games the referee will be handed two new baseballs, one marked "E" the other "W" by the IBB secretary. Each team could then use their own ball when batting.

E. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- (i) In a match the number of players shall not exceed eleven on each side, plus one substitute.
- (ii) On all grounds no player shall position himself outside the boundary, but must be visible to the referee and the batsmen.
- (iii) No player is allowed to catch any ball in any part of his clothing or equipment except the backstop who may use gloves of an approved pattern for that purpose.

F. DRESS OF PLAYERS

A team must be attired in the registered regulation dress of the club (shirt, shorts, socks and suitably approved footwear), unless there is a clash of colours, when shirts distinguishable from those of the opponents must be worn by the home side unless agreed otherwise. Players may wear a cap of an approved design

G. INJURED PLAYER AND SUBSTITUTE

Any player may be substituted during the course of the game by another nominated player of his club. A player who has been substituted cannot take any further part in that game.

A substitute may fully participate in the game and be allowed to bat and bowl. **Clubs must inform the referee prior to the commencement of the game the name of the nominated substitute; failure to do so will prevent a substitute being used.**

First Aid treatment can be given to an injured player during the progress of the game and subject to the approval of the referee a runner can be permitted for any other injured player, provided that a substitute has already been used.

Law 2 G

The referee shall be consulted prior to a substitute being permitted. A player must not be allowed to commence a match if he is unfit through

Law 2 G continued

previous injury or wearing any medical apparatus which could constitute a danger to himself or others. Should a batsman hit the ball and be knocked out or be unable to proceed, he shall be declared “retired hurt”, and can upon recovery, bat in his rightful place in a subsequent round, unless he is the last man home and provided he has not been previously replaced by a substitute. The referee shall also be consulted before a runner is permitted.

In the event of a player becoming concussed, as a result of a blow to the head, he/she must **NOT** be allowed to resume playing and must receive medical attention as soon as possible.

H. BACKSTOP

A backstop must stand behind the batting crease clear of the batsman. Should he interfere with the batsman’s stroke or take the ball before it crosses the batting crease, a **NO BALL** is declared.

A backstop is permitted to wear a face mask and / or gloves.

I. PROMPTER

A team must elect a prompter, who shall be one of its players and who must wear regulation dress.

Official Decision

Law 2 I

A prompter shall not interfere with the fielders nor encroach upon the field of play, but must remain standing in the prompter’s box. He cannot, unless he is captain, appeal to the referee under any circumstances.

If a ball is caught from a ricochet off the prompter before touching the ground, the batsman is **OUT-CAUGHT**.

If the ball hits the prompter and rolls to a fielder, who bases out an oncoming baserunner, the baserunner is **OUT - RUN OUT**.

J. REFEREE

A referee shall be appointed in each game. He shall:—

- (i) enforce the laws and decide any disputed point:
- (ii) record the scores of the game at the end of each innings:
- (iii) stop the game for any infringement of law, or if any player is seriously injured:
- (iv) suspend or terminate the game when he deems such action necessary:
- (v) caution a player guilty of misconduct or ungentlemanly behaviour, or suspend a player from further participation in the game if guilty of persistent misconduct or violent behaviour:
- (vi) stop any person, other than the players, from entering the field of play without permission.

The referee’s decision on point of fact connected with the play is final insofar as the result of the game is concerned.

K. REFEREES’ DRESS

International referees will be presented with gold colour shirts bearing a badge agreed by both unions and wear dark trousers.

Law 3 - DURATION OF GAME

A. NUMBER OF INNINGS

Normally two innings each side shall be played to decide the match, but either side may terminate the game when the referee has satisfied himself, on perusal of the two official score books, that a winning score has been made.

B. FOLLOW ON AND DECLARATION

When a team is 30 runs or more behind, it is optional for the leading side to compel its opponents to follow on.

Both teams may agree to declare their first innings closed after batting for one round. This is to ensure the game is completed, especially when weather / light may threaten abandonment.

The governing body (EBA-WBU) may instruct certain games to be played under the aforementioned law.

C. INTERVAL

An interval not exceeding 10 minutes shall be allowed at the completion of the first two innings. No other interval shall be permitted.

Law 3 C

This does not apply to evening matches where no interval is permitted. When the referee instructs the teams to take the field they must do so at once.

D. TERMINATION

When there is none of the batting side HOME the innings may be terminated by placing the ball inside the batting crease diamond and leaving it there. Should there be any baserunners holding the bases when the last batsman takes his stance and strikes, the baserunners can be run out individually until there is only one left, but he can only be put out by the ball being placed inside the batting crease diamond as above.

E. NON-COMPLETION OF INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

In the event of an international match not being completed on the first day it will commence from that point on the subsequent day (2008). If the match does not finish it will be declared a drawn match.

F. WINNING SCORE

An Extra, No Ball or a Bye constitutes a winning score, at which time the game should cease

G. LAST MAN - REST

When there is only one player left on the batting side, he shall be entitled to claim a rest of one minute after running the continuous circuit of the bases before being called upon to take his place at the batting crease again.

H. LAST MAN - OUT (See also Law 7)

When there is only one player left on the batting side, such player cannot be dismissed by being based.

Law 4 - BOWLING

A. STYLE

The ball must be bowled underarm with an uninterrupted pendulum swing from the back to the front of the bowling box.

The arm holding the ball must be within the width of the bowling box and, at the moment of delivery, must be fully extended in front of the body within the width of the bowling box. The feet must at all times be within the limits of the bowling box.

The bowler must not change Bowling Arm until the Current Batsman has been served off the pegs.

Throwing. Should the arm come in contact with the body prior to delivery or the ball be jilted or jerked it constitutes THROWING which is not allowed, and a No Ball must be declared.

Law 4 A

Should a bowler be adjudged guilty of throwing the ball, he shall be cautioned. Should he deliver three such balls, he shall be sent out of the bowling box for the rest of the match and reported for misconduct.

B. NO BALL

(i) Every ball not bowled in accordance with the above law shall be declared a No Ball by the referee immediately it has left the bowler's hand. Referee will also raise both hands above his head to indicate to the scorers that "No Ball" has been called.

(ii) **Bowling to Fielders.** A bowler, while standing within the limits of the bowling box in the act of delivery to the batsman, must not bowl a ball underarm to a fielder with the object of putting out a baserunner.

The referee will declare "No Ball" for contravention of this rule and the baserunner be allowed to proceed to the base he was attempting to reach.

C. DELIVERY

The ball is not allowed to be delivered to a batsman until he toes the peg and is ready to receive the ball when he faces the first delivery from the bowler in each round.

For every subsequent delivery he must be prepared to receive the ball or take the consequences of not being ready unless there are circumstances which make the acceptance of the ball impossible, i.e. if the batsman receives an injury.

Law 4 C

Should a batsman, having received one ball and having removed his toeing foot from the peg, and seeing the bowler bowl, slide his foot back to the peg and strike, the stroke be a legitimate one. Should he not slide his foot back to the peg but strikes, the stroke to be a Penalty Stroke.

D. GOOD AND BAD BALLS

Every ball delivered over the batting crease not higher than the CHIN or lower than the forward KNEE of the batsman shall be declared by the referee a GOOD BALL. Referee will when calling "good ball" point his right hand extended straight to the batsman. "one good" 2 such good ball to a batsman on any visit to the pegs will dismiss that batsman, referee to call "2 goods and out".

D. GOOD AND BAD BALLS continued

Every ball delivered outside these limits or touching the ground before reaching the batting crease will be declared a **BAD BALL**. **TWO BAD BALLS** constitute an **EXTRA** to the batting side.

Law 4 D

In the event of a bowler wishing to retire from the bowling box, he must play the batsman off the crease before so doing.

In the event of a bowler being injured while the batsman is at the batting crease, he can be replaced, but the game carries on normally.

Should a bowler deliver three **No Balls**, for other than throwing, to a batsman in his one visit to the batting crease, the bowler's captain has the option of taking him off at once.

Law 4 D

The whole of the ball must pass outside these limits before a bad ball will be declared.

Law 5 - BATTING

A. STYLE

Double or single-handed batting is permitted. Only the face side of the bat is to be used. The FOREARMS for all purposes are to be regarded as part of the bat when a batsman has made a stroke.

Law 5 A

Right or left-handed batting is permitted but the appropriate peg must be toed.

A batsman must not change hands until he has been served off the pegs.

When coming to the pegs in a subsequent round he may then, but with the alternative hand.

B. STANCE

The batsman must stand with his forward toe touching the batting crease peg and clear of the batting crease while his rear foot must be clear of the batting crease until the delivery of the ball.

After delivery he is at liberty to move his rear foot across the batting crease but not beyond the centre peg.

The stance of the batsman is considered to be his natural height.

C. PENALTY STROKE

(i) A penalty stroke is committed when a batsman deliberately removes his forward foot from the toeing peg except at the completion of the stroke or pass the centre peg with his rear foot to gain advantage of the bowling.

(ii) A player committing a penalty stroke must gain No. 1 base and then return to the batting crease and bat again. A batsman can be touched out by the backstop, caught or based from a penalty stroke.

(iii) **No Ball - Penalty Stroke.** In the event of a bowler bowling a no ball and the batsman committing a penalty stroke, the referee shall declare a NO DELIVERY, the baserunners will return to their former bases and neither the no ball or the penalty run shall be recorded.

Law 5 C (i)

Or pass the centre peg means "Bringing" the rear foot from the direction of the toeing peg towards the centre peg. Bringing the rear foot forward across the batting crease line into the diamond, between the limits of the toeing peg and the centre peg is permissible. In the event of the batsman being out, the baserunners are not ordered to revert to former bases.

Law 5 C (ii)

The referee must satisfy himself that both scores are erased.

Law 5 C (i)

When a Penalty Stroke has been committed, except as defined below under No Ball-Penalty Stroke, the game carries on normally until the penalised batsman reaches No. 1 base. Should he reach there, he will be ordered to return to the batting crease and baserunners ordered to revert to their former bases.

D. BACK HITTING

If, in the opinion of the referee, any batsman strikes back, he shall be declared out.

Law 5 D

Back hitting is following the flight of the ball with the face of the bat over the opposite shoulder to that above toeing foot.

E. NO STROKE

Law 5 E

As NO STROKE is committed by a batsman who upon receiving a ball does not strike but merely drops the bat and proceeds to a base.

This is considered Misconduct. For the first offence the referee will warn the batsman and make him bat again. On the second offence, in same innings, is declared out (P.20) - Law 7 (E).

F. BATSMEN STRIKING

Should a batsman strike at any ball he must proceed to a base and take the consequences of his stroke.

A batsman failing to strike at one of two good ball must be declared out.

Law 5 F

Except as provided for in Law 5 G.

G. NO BALL

It is optional for a batsman to strike at a No Ball. Should a batsman strike he must proceed to No. 1 base and all baserunners move forward one base without penalty. After passing No. 1 base a batsman proceeds at his own risk. A baserunner is allowed to take the risk of advancing should the batsman not take the option, but he can be touched out.

Law 5 G

Should a batsman take the option and strike the ball and fails to proceed to No. 1 base, he shall be given out for not making progress.

H. NO BALL BOWLER - BACKSTOP

In the event of a bowler giving away a NO BALL during delivery, and the backstop preventing the batsman from making a stroke by taking the ball before it has crossed the batting crease or by otherwise interfering with him, the referee shall declare a No Ball for the bowling offence and No Ball for the backstop offence. The batsman, however, will only be allowed the option of proceeding to No. 1 base without penalty and the baserunners shall, if the option be claimed by the batsmen, proceed one base likewise.

Law 5 H

The Referee shall caution the backstop for his offence and send him from the field of play if the offence is repeated.

I. A batsman must bat in the correct place in the Batting Order.

Law 6 - METHOD OF SCORING

A. RUNS

A batsman, after hitting the ball, scores one run for each base he succeeds in touching without stopping. Should a batsman miss a base, upon reaching the next he shall be ordered back to touch the missed base and be credited with only that number of runs.

Law 6 A

Stopping is defined as “when a batsman overruns, turns back or fails to advance forward.”

B. BYES

Should a batsman, when making a stroke, fail to hit the ball but succeed in reaching a base without being put out, such scores must not be credited to the batsman but entered as byes in the score book and must be included in the total score of the innings.

C. EXTRAS

For every two Bad Balls delivered to any one batsman one extra is credited to the batting side.

D. NO BALL

One run is added to the batting side for each No Ball declared.

E. PENALTY RUNS

One run is added to the score of the fielding side for the first and second penalty stroke committed by each batsman in one innings. The run if committed in the first innings, must be credited to the opponent's first innings score and so on.

F. OBSTACLES

Should the ball strike No. 4 base from a batsman's stroke, he is allowed to proceed to No. 1 base and all baserunners move forward one base without penalty, except when hit off a foul stroke.

Law 6 F

When there is only one player remaining and the ball hits No. 4 base from his stroke and is placed in the batting crease diamond before he reached No. 1 base the decision shall be **ONE-RUN – ALL OUT**.

Instructions to Referees, Players and Officials

If the backstop should impede the batter, the batter should be allowed the option of keeping the runs scored or returning to bat again, in the case of the latter only the no-ball to be awarded.

Law 7. BATSMAN - HOW OUT

A BATSMAN SHALL BE DECLARED OUT:—

A. BOWLED

- (i) Should he strike, miss and be touched by the ball or the hand of the backstop holding the ball.
- (ii) Should he strike, miss and walk off, or fail to proceed.
- (iii) Should he strike, miss and be hit on the body, including his dress (except the forearm which is regarded as part of the bat).
- (iv) Should he not strike at one of two good balls.
- (v) Should he strike, miss and No. 1 base be touched with the ball or the hand containing the ball before the batsman touches the base.
- (vi) Should he strike at a No Ball and fail to proceed.

Law 7 A

Should the referee be satisfied the base or baserunner has been touched fairly, the dropping of the ball subsequently by the fielder is ignored.

B. CAUGHT

If the ball be caught off the bat and held by any of the fielding side before touching the ground, or hitting an obstacle, and no runs shall be scored. No. 4 base is the only obstacle.

Law 7 B

A batsman or baserunner cannot be put out should the ball first strike No. 4 base.

Instructions to Referees, Players and Officials

Law 7 B

The forearm (or forearms, depending on double or single-handed batting) is part of the bat where a catch is concerned.

C. THIRD PENALTY STROKE

Should he commit three penalty strokes in one innings. Runs are only given away on the first two occasions.

D. BACK HITTING

Should he, in the opinion of the referee, strike back.

E. SECOND NO STROKE

Should he commit a second no stroke in one innings.

F. LAST MAN OUT

by ball being placed in batting diamond before batsman reaches No. 4 base.

G. CAUTION AND SENDING OFF

Law 8 - BASERUNNER - HOW OUT

A BASERUNNER SHALL BE DECLARED OUT:

A. BASED

Having hit a ball and No. 1 base be touched by a fielder with the ball or the hand containing the ball before he reaches No. 1 base.
The fielder must not lose possession of the ball during this action.

Law 8 A

Where a base has been dislodged or displaced, its correct position must be used when making a decision.

B. RUN OUT

- (i) If he be touched with the ball or the hand containing the ball before he has touched Nos. 2, 3 or 4 bases.
- (ii) If he be overtaken and passed or his base be claimed by an oncoming baserunner.
- (iii) Should, he, having claimed a base, return to a former base.
- (iv) **MISSING BASES.** If, on the forward journey, after missing a base, he be touched with the ball or the hand containing the ball before reaching the next base.
Should the base missed by him be claimed by an oncoming baserunner, the offender is declared run out.
- (v) **OVERRUNNING BASES.** If, on the forward journey, he overruns a base then turns to the left and is touched by a fielder with the ball, or the hand containing the ball, he shall be declared out as he is considered to be trying to steal to the next base.

Instructions to Referees, Players and Officials

Law 8 A and B (i)

Should the referee be satisfied the base or baserunner has been touched fairly, the dropping of the ball subsequently, by the fielder, be ignored.

Law 8 B (iv)

Should a baserunner, failing to touch No. 1 base, be touched with the ball or the hand containing the ball before reaching No. 2 base, the referee shall declare RUN OUT – NO RUN.

LAW 8 B (V)

A baserunner may overrun any of the bases on the forward journey after touching them, but he must turn to the right and come back to the base before starting for the next. Should a baserunner overrun a base and not turn to tag right on returning he can be run out for not holding.

C. DEVIATION

If he deliberately deviates from the defined running lines to avoid any fielder with the ball, or if he retires from the diamond without permission.

D. OBSTRUCTION

- (I) Should a batsman, or baserunner, wilfully obstruct by kicking, carrying or delaying the ball, or should he hit the ball twice consecutively, or should he interfere with a fielder, such offender must be declared OUT.
- (II) Any member of the batting side deemed guilty of wilfully obstructing the ball so as to gain an advantage for his side, should be dismissed from the Field of Play and the Batsman given out.

Law 9 - MISCONDUCT

- A.** Any misconduct on the part of players, officials or spectators must be reported to the ruling body concerned.
- B. WILFUL OBSTRUCTION**
Should the baserunner be so obstructed as to prevent him reaching a base by the action of any fielder, the baserunner shall be declared Not Out and the offending fielder cautioned for misconduct will be dismissed and sent from the field of play and all base runners be allowed to advance to Base 4.
Any member of the batting side deemed guilty of wilfully obstructing the ball to gain an advantage for his side should be dismissed from the field of play and the batsman given out.
Situations involving spectators to be left to the referee to deal with as he sees the situation.
- C. PROMPTER**
Any misconduct by a prompter may be dealt with first by a caution or by removal from the prompter's box by the referee and a replacement permitted, but any serious misconduct renders the prompter liable to be sent from the field of play.
- D.** Abusive language will be considered violent misconduct and the offenders removed from the field of play without warning and reported by the referee.
- E.** Any player striking an opponent will be sent from the field of play and reported for violent misconduct.
- F.** Any offence committed by players or officials before or after the match shall be dealt with as having been committed on the field of play.
- G.** The referee will officially caution a player for an offence by showing him a yellow card and if it becomes necessary for the same player to be ordered from the field because of further misconduct, the referee shall show the player a red card. The referee, of course, can order a player from the field without first issuing a caution if he considers that the misconduct warrants such action. Any player so ordered from the field must retire to the dressingroom.

INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION

“A player be allowed to play for the country in which he plays his baseball, but having accepted a cap from one country, he cannot accept one from another.”

GUEST PLAYERS

A guest player from a team in one country be allowed to play for a team in another country if:—

- (i) he signs the appropriate signing on form of the team for which he wishes to play;
- (ii) he receives approval of the parent body (E.B.A. or W.B.U.) of the country in which he wished to play, and
- (iii) the matches in which he participates having no bearing on promotion or relegation, or are cup matches.