

# Baseball Study Guide

\*A baseball game is **9 innings** long. An inning consists of each team getting a chance to bat. The **Away** team bats in the top half of the inning. The **Home** team bats in the bottom half of the inning. Each team gets to bat until they make **3 outs** during their half inning.

\*A batter can be declared **out** in a variety of ways:

\*Hitting the ball in the air and having it be caught before it touches the ground.

\*Hitting the ball on the ground and having the fielder throw it to the person covering 1<sup>st</sup> base before the batter gets there.

\*Running around the bases and being tagged with the ball while not on a base.

\***Striking out.**

\*Each batter gets **3 strikes**.

\*A strike occurs if a batter swings and misses a pitched ball.

\*A strike also occurs if a batter does not swing at a pitched ball, but the ball crosses the plate between the batter's chest and knees.

\*A strike also occurs if a batter hits the ball foul (this only counts as a strike on the first 2 pitches).

\*If a batter does not swing and the ball does not cross home plate between the batter's chest and knees, it is a **ball**. **4 balls**=a **walk**=a free trip to 1<sup>st</sup> base.

\*When there is a runner on 1<sup>st</sup> base and the batter hits a ground ball, the infielder can touch 2<sup>nd</sup> base without tagging the runner from 1<sup>st</sup>. This is called a **force out**. It only occurs if there is a runner behind another runner. In the above example, the batter was behind the runner at 1<sup>st</sup>, so the defense had a force out at 2<sup>nd</sup>. If there is a runner at 2<sup>nd</sup> and no one on 1<sup>st</sup>, then there is no one behind the runner at 2<sup>nd</sup> and he is not forced to run. So, in order to get the runner out at 3<sup>rd</sup> (if he runs), the defense must tag him with the ball when he is not touching a base.

\*Runners on base may not advance unless the ball hits the ground. If the ball is hit in the air, the runners must wait to see if it is caught. If they run and the ball is caught, the runner must run back to the base before the fielder throws the ball there (no tag needed).

\*1<sup>st</sup> base and home plate are the only bases that runners may run through. Runners might need to stop at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> or they may get tagged out.

\*Fielders may not stand on the base or in the runner's way unless they have the ball (this is **obstruction**). Runners may not get in the way of fielders trying to field the ball (this is **interference**).

\*An umpire will signal an **out** by making a fist. The signal for being **safe** is the arms extended at the side.

\*Points in baseball are called **runs**.

\*A hit ball that allows you to get to first base safely is called a **single** (1B). When you can run all the way to second base on a hit, it is called a **double** (2B). A **triple** (3B) is when the batter can get to third base on a hit. When a batter can run around all the bases without the fielders making an error, this is called a **home run** (HR).

\*Every time a runner crosses home plate safely, he is credited with a **run** (R).

\* The batter is awarded a run batted in (**RBI**) for every person (and sometimes himself) who scores on the hit.

\*An **error** is charged to the defense (and the batter doesn't get credit for a hit) when the defender misplays fielding or throwing a ball.