

# ► Official Softball Statistics Rules

*Extracted in entirety from Rule 14 in NCAA Softball Rules and Interpretations Book*

**Note:** Failure of an official scorer to adhere to Rule 14 shall not be grounds for protest. These are guidelines for the official scorer.

## ► SECTION 1—OFFICIAL SCORER

The home team conference commissioner or tournament director shall appoint and identify (at the pregame meeting) an official scorer for each game. The official scorer shall be responsible for the following:

14.1.1 The official scorer shall record in writing or electronically the team lineups, names of the head coaches and umpires, and inning, score, number of outs, runners' position and count on the batter throughout the game.

14.1.2 The official scorer shall have sole authority to make all decisions involving scoring judgment. The scorer shall be objective and shall score for both teams in a similar manner.

14.1.3 The official scorer shall have a current copy of the NCAA Softball Rules at the game and shall know the rules pertinent to his or her responsibilities (e.g., illegal re-entry, unreported substitution, designated player).

14.1.4 The official scorer shall sit in the press box or a neutral area (not in or near the dugout), whenever possible.

14.1.5 The official scorer's decision shall be communicated to both teams and members of the media present.

14.1.6 The official scorer shall inform the public-address announcer of all substitutions recorded and relayed by the umpire.

14.1.7 The official scorer's decision shall be in agreement with the NCAA Softball Rules and the umpire's decision. The scorer shall have the authority to rule on any scoring matter not specifically covered in the rules.

14.1.8 The official scorer shall notify the umpire immediately if the teams attempt to change sides before three outs are recorded in one half of an inning.

14.1.9 The official scorer shall notify an umpire immediately in the bottom of an inning if the home team has enough runs to win by the run-ahead rule.

14.1.10 The official scorer shall not notify an umpire if the offensive team is batting out of order or if either team has an unreported substitution or an illegal player. This is the responsibility of the opposing team.

**Note:** In the unfortunate circumstance that the official scorer is in the team dugout, he/she may communicate with his or her own team. At all other times, information gained outside the dugout shall not be communicated into the dugout.

14.1.11 If the game is protested or halted, the official scorer shall make note in writing of the exact situation at the time of the interruption. The inning, score, number of outs, runners' position and count on the batter shall be recorded.

## ► SECTION 2—SCORING TERMS

14.2.1 **Assist:** Credit given to a defensive player when she handles or effectively deflects the ball during action that is connected with a putout.

14.2.2 **At-Bat:** A plate appearance that does not include sacrifices, hit by pitch, base on balls, gaining first base by interference, obstruction, or an incomplete turn at bat.

14.2.3 **Base Hit:** A batted ball that permits the batter to reach first base safely because of a fair hit; because a runner is declared out for being hit by a batted ball or because the umpire is hit by a batted ball; or when a fielder attempts to put out a preceding runner but is unsuccessful, although there is no fielding error and the official scorer believes the batter-runner would have reached first base with perfect fielding; when a batter reaches first base safely on a fair ball hit with such force or so slowly that any fielder attempting to make a play has no

opportunity to do so. A hit shall be scored even if the fielder deflects the ball from or cuts off another fielder who could have put out a runner.

14.2.4 **Base on Balls (Walk):** An award of first base granted by the umpire to the batter who, during her time at bat, receives four pitches that are declared balls.

14.2.5 **Batters Faced:** A statistic kept for each pitcher that indicates the number of opposing batters who make plate appearances.

14.2.6 **Caught Stealing:** Action of a runner who is thrown out by the catcher as she attempts to steal a base.

14.2.7 **Double Play:** A play by the defense in which two offensive players are put out as a result of continuous action, provided there is no error between the putouts.

14.2.8 **Error:** A misplay charged to a defensive player when it is judged by the official scorer to have prolonged the time at bat (causes one or more pitches to be thrown) of an offensive player or contributed to an offensive player being declared safe.

14.2.9 **Extra-Base Hit:** A hit that allows the batter-runner to safely advance past first base without an error or indifference by a defensive player. It may be a double, triple or home run.

14.2.10 **Fielder's Choice:** A fielder fielding a ground ball and attempting to put out a preceding base runner rather than the batter-runner at first when a throw to first base would have put out the batter-runner.

14.2.11 **Force Out:** A putout in which a runner, who is being forced to advance, is either tagged out or put out by a fielder holding the ball and touching the base to which the runner is being forced to advance.

14.2.12 **Game-Winning Run Batted In:** The run batted in that gives the team the lead that is never tied or lost.

14.2.13 **Games Started:** Credit given to the players listed on the lineup card submitted to the umpire before the start of the game, whether or not they actually pitch, field or bat.

14.2.14 **Games Played:** Credit given to starting players and their substitutes reported in the game, as recorded on the umpire's official game lineup card.

14.2.15 **Hit Batter by Pitch:** An award of first base granted by the umpire to the batter who, during her time at bat, was hit by a pitch, including a pitch that would have resulted in a base on balls. (See Rule 11.16.)

14.2.16 **Illegal Pitch:** Any pitch by the pitcher that is in violation of the pitching rules.

14.2.17 **Intentional Base on Balls (Intentional Walk):** An award of first base granted by the umpire to a batter who, during her time at bat, received a fourth ball that the pitcher intentionally threw outside the strike zone. An intentional base on balls also is referred to as an intentional walk.

14.2.18 **Left Early:** Action of a base runner who is called out for leaving the base she occupied before the release of the pitch.

14.2.19 **Left on Base:** A runner legally occupying a base at the end of a half-inning. This includes a batter-runner whose batted ball results in another runner being the third out.

**Note:** Every player who completes a plate appearance must be put out, score a run or is left on base.

14.2.20 **Passed Ball:** A pitched ball that the catcher can reasonably be expected to catch but misses, resulting in a base runner advancing.

14.2.21 **Pick-Off:** Credit given to the catcher for a throw behind a runner that catches that runner off base and results in an out.

14.2.22 **Plate Appearance:** Anytime a batter completes a turn at bat. Exception: When a batter leaves the game with two strikes and the substitute batter strikes out, the substitute receives credit for the game played but neither a plate appearance nor a time at bat. The first batter is credited with a game played, plate appearance, at bat and strikeout.

14.2.23 **Putout:** Credit given to a defensive player for retiring a batter or base runner.

14.2.24 **Run:** The act of an offensive player legally advancing to and touching home plate without being put out.

14.2.25 **Run Batted In:** Credit given to the batter for each run that scores as a result of: a batter's safe hit (including a batter scoring on a home run), a sacrifice or sacrifice fly, a ground out, a double play, a fielder's choice, a walk with the bases loaded, a hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, or defensive obstruction with the bases loaded.

14.2.26 **Sacrifice:** Credit given to a batter who, with fewer than two outs, advances one or more runners by bunting and is called out at first base or would have been called out had no error occurred.

14.2.27 **Sacrifice Fly:** A legally batted fly ball with fewer than two outs that results in a runner scoring a run. If the fielder drops the ball but, in the scorer's opinion, the runner would have scored had the fielder held the ball, the play shall be scored as a sacrifice fly, and an error shall be given to the defensive player.

14.2.28 **Stolen Base:** Credit given to a runner who advances a base unaided by a safe hit, putout, error, force, fielder's choice, illegal pitch, wild pitch, base on balls, hit batter, passed ball, interference or obstruction.

14.2.29 **Strikeout:** A putout that is credited to the catcher as a result of the batter being charged with three strikes in a single at-bat.

14.2.30 **Throw Out:** Credit given to the catcher for initiating the play on an attempted stolen base when an out results. It also is given to a catcher for throwing in front of a runner who subsequently is put out in a rundown.

14.2.31 **Total Bases:** The sum of all bases a player earns in a game as a result of a hit(s).

14.2.32 **Triple Play:** A play by the defense in which three offensive players are put out as a result of continuous action, provided there is no error between putouts.

14.2.33 **Wild Pitch:** A pitched ball that the catcher misses and could not be expected to catch, resulting in a base runner advancing.

### ► SECTION 3—BATTING

A base hit is credited to a batter when she advances to a base safely:

14.3.1 On a fair ball that settles on the ground or clears or touches the home-run fence before being touched by a fielder.

14.3.2 On a fair ball hit with such force or so slowly that more than a routine play is required to put out the batter-runner.

14.3.2.1 It should not be anticipated that an off-balance throw would retire a runner. A hit is credited to the batter even if the throw is wild.

14.3.2.2 When a ground ball is fielded and no throw or a late throw is made, a hit is credited to the batter unless a throw was not made or was made late because of checking or holding a runner on base.

14.3.2.3 If a slowly hit ball or a hard-hit ball is deflected and eliminates a routine play for another fielder, a hit is credited to the batter.

14.3.2.4 When a fair-batted ball deflects off of a fielder playing in front of the base line, a hit is credited to the batter.

14.3.3 When a play is made on a lead runner unsuccessfully and the batter would have been safe had a play been made on the batter. This includes bunts and running slaps.

14.3.4 When a fly ball is misjudged and the fielder does not recover in time to gain good position.

14.3.5 On a fair ball that takes an unnatural bounce so that the ball cannot be handled with ordinary effort or that bounces off the pitcher's plate or any base (including home plate) before being touched by a fielder and at an angle such that it cannot be handled with ordinary effort.

14.3.6 On a ball that reaches the outfield untouched by an infielder, unless the ball should have been handled by an infielder with ordinary effort (e.g., ball between the legs).

14.3.7 On a fair ball that might have touched a fielder but was blown by the wind, lost in the sun or lights, or that falls to the ground because the fielder slips on the field or an object on the field (e.g., catcher's mask, base, home plate, sprinkler).

14.3.8 On a fair line drive hit to the outfield that drops to the ground, if the outfielder is attempting to catch the ball on the run or if the outfielder had to cover considerable distance or make the catch running at a high rate of speed. A hit is credited even if the ball is touched.

14.3.9 On a fair batted ball not touched by a fielder that touches a runner or umpire.

14.3.10 On a fair batted ball that strikes a hat or glove thrown at it.

14.3.11 When no one covers the base or a fielder is late in covering the base.

14.3.12 If the official scorer judges the batter would have earned a base hit had runner interference not occurred.

14.3.13 If the ball is not touched because of confusion as to who should have fielded it.

14.3.14 When a fielder obstructs a preceding runner.

**Note:** Always give the batter the benefit of the doubt and score a hit when exceptionally good fielding fails to result in a putout. When in doubt, scoring should always award base hits instead of charging errors.

### ► SECTION 4—BASE HIT NOT CREDITED

A hit is not credited to the batter in the following situations:

14.4.1 When a batter advances one or more bases while a fielder who handles a fair hit attempts to put out a preceding runner.

14.4.2 When a batter misses first base and is then called out on an appeal.

14.4.3 When a batter hits safely and a preceding runner misses the first base to which she was forced to advance. This is an appealed force out, and the batter is credited with a fielder's choice.

14.4.4 When a runner is called out for being touched by an infield fly ball.

14.4.5 When a runner is forced out on a batted ball or would have been forced out except for a fielding error.

14.4.6 When a fielder fails in an attempt to retire a preceding runner and, in the official scorer's judgment, the batter-runner could have been retired at first base.

14.4.7 When the base runner interferes with a batted ball and the official scorer judges that the batter would have been put out but for the interference. In this case, the batter is credited with a fielder's choice.

### ► SECTION 5—EXTRA-BASE HIT

14.5.1 A batter is credited with an extra-base hit when she reaches a base beyond first base solely because of her hit. It may be a double, triple or home run. Exception: A batter never gets credit for a triple if a preceding runner is out at home plate or would have been out had no error occurred. The same applies with receiving credit for a double.

**Note:** When the batter is tagged out after oversliding or overrunning second or third base, for scoring purposes, she is not credited with reaching such base unless she touched the base before oversliding or overrunning and is tagged out while attempting to return. When a batter misses a base, she gets credit only for the

bases touched before missing a base.

14.5.2 A batter is credited only with the base she would have reached had no play on a preceding runner taken place. If she stops, sees another play and then advances, she does not receive credit for that base.

14.5.3 If a fielder merely holds the ball too long, the batter gets credit for all the bases she takes.

14.5.4 A batter is credited with a home run when any fair batted fly ball strikes the foul pole above the fence level or leaves the playing field in fair territory without being caught, touching the ground or going through the fence, even if the ball is deflected by a fielder.

### ► SECTION 6—GAME-ENDING HIT

14.6.1 A hit that scores a winning run is credited with as many bases as the scoring runner traveled as long as the batter advances at least the same number of bases. Exception: On an out-of-the-park home run, ground-rule double or awarded bases, the batter is credited with the appropriate bases as long as all runners legally touch all bases.

14.6.2 When the winning run scores on a home run, but a preceding runner stops running before reaching home plate, the batter is credited with her last legally touched base.

### ► SECTION 7—FIELDER'S CHOICE

A fielder's choice is credited in the following situations:

14.7.1 To a batter:

14.7.1.1 When a ground ball is put in play and any preceding runner is out on the hit or would have been out had no error occurred.

14.7.1.2 When a ground ball is put in play and the lead runner is safe, but the batter would have been out had the initial play gone to first base.

14.7.1.3 When a ground ball is put in play and any preceding runner, who is forced to advance, is called out on an appeal for missing the first base to which she was advancing.

14.7.1.4 When a runner is checked and no throw or a late throw is made, but the runner would have been out had the initial play gone to first base.

14.7.1.5 When the base runner interferes with a batted ball and the official scorer judges that the batter would have been put out but for the interference. In this case, the batter is credited with a fielder's choice.

14.7.2 To the runner:

14.7.2.1 When, after reaching base safely, a batter earns extra bases because of a play on a preceding runner.

14.7.2.2 When other runners advance while the catcher makes a play on the batter on a dropped third strike.

14.7.2.3 When a fielder makes a play on a base she thought the runner was advancing to, but was wrong and the batter-runner would have been out if the fielder had made a play on her at first base.

14.7.2.4 When a runner safely advances and another runner is:

14.7.2.4.1 Put out in a rundown;

14.7.2.4.2 An error allows a runner to be safe; or

14.7.2.4.3 Credited with a stolen base.

### ► SECTION 8—SACRIFICE

A sacrifice is credited to the batter in the following situations:

14.8.1 When a plate appearance meets the following four criteria: 1) there are fewer than two outs, 2) the batter advances one or more runners by bunting, 3) the ball must be bunted (i.e., not swung at), and 4) the batter is called out at first base or would have been out had no error occurred.

**Note:** *Just as the official scorer should award base hits instead of charging errors in cases involving doubt, a play that meets all four criteria for a sacrifice should be scored as such instead of simply awarding a putout and assist (if applicable).*

14.8.2 When, with fewer than two outs, the defense (without error) fails to get the lead runner out on any type of bunt.

**Note:** *If the lead runner is tagged out in an attempt to advance more than one base, it is scored a fielder's choice. If the batter is obviously bunting for a hit in a situation in which a sacrifice is not normally used, credit the hitter with an at-bat.*

14.8.3 When, with fewer than two outs, the lead runner advances by means of a bunt but a trailing runner is out.

14.8.4 When, with fewer than two outs and runners at first and third base, the pitcher fields a bunt, holds the runner at third base, throws the runner out at first base and the runner at first advances safely to second base.

### ► SECTION 9—SACRIFICE NOT CREDITED

No sacrifice is credited in the following situations:

14.9.1 When a lead runner advances on a bunt because of a dropped good throw.

14.9.2 When a batter inadvertently taps the ball into fair territory and it results in a runner advancing and the batter being retired. The intent to sacrifice bunt or slap must exist.

14.9.3 When modifications are not made to the running slapper's swing or motion.

#### **Notes:**

1. *Modifications could include, but are not limited to, the following: sacrifice motion, a controlled compact swing, a pause in the running slapper's motion or a reduction of foot speed.*

2. *Scoring for the left-handed running slapper should be the same as for a traditional left- or right-handed batter. If the running slapper clearly shows the intent to advance a base runner, credit a sacrifice. If modifications are not made to the running slapper's swing or motion, charge an at-bat, even if a base runner advances.*

14.9.4 When a play made on the lead runner is successful and she is put out, charge the batter with an at-bat and fielder's choice.

### ► SECTION 10—SACRIFICE FLY

A sacrifice fly is credited to the batter in the following situations:

14.10.1 When a plate appearance meets the following four criteria: 1) there are fewer than two outs, 2) the batter hits a fly ball or line drive that scores a runner, regardless of where the ball is caught (in fair or foul territory), as long as it is in play, 3) a run must score, and 4) a run batted in must be credited to the batter.

14.10.2 When a fair ball is dropped and an error charged, credit the batter with a sacrifice fly if the runner would have scored with the catch.

#### **Notes:**

1. *Although the batter in this case reaches base by virtue of an error when a sacrifice fly is not caught, she is not charged with an at-bat but is credited with a sacrifice fly and the fielder is charged with the error.*

2. *Just as the official scorer should award base hits instead of charging errors in cases involving doubt, a sacrifice that meets all four criteria for a sacrifice fly should be scored as such instead of simply awarding a putout.*

3. *If the catcher clearly has the ball in her possession before the runner arrives but drops the ball as the runner comes into home plate, the catcher is charged with an error, and a sacrifice fly and run batted in are not credited to the batter.*

4. *Unlike scoring for a sacrifice (bunt/hit), the batter's intentions are irrelevant for a sacrifice fly.*

### ► SECTION 11—RUN BATTED IN

A run batted in is credited to the batter for each run that scores as a result of: a batter's safe hit (including a batter scoring on a home run), a sacrifice or sacrifice fly, a ground out, a double play, a fielder's choice, a walk with the bases loaded (whether caused by ball four or an illegal pitch), a hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, or defensive obstruction with the bases

loaded. A game-winning run batted in is the RBI that gives the team the lead that is never tied or lost.

**Notes:**

1. On a play involving an error, an RBI is credited to the batter only if the runner would have scored without the error. In addition, an RBI is credited when, with fewer than two outs, an infielder makes an error on a play made to a base other than home plate. On a third out, when the runner crosses the plate before the third out is made on another runner, credit an RBI.

2. No RBI is credited when a) a runner rounds third base, stops, notices a misplay and then advances safely to home, or b) on a base award such as catch and carry or a thrown ball that goes out of play.

► **SECTION 12—APPEAL PLAYS**

14.12.1 Batting Out of Order. When an incorrect batter is reported after she is retired and before the next pitch is thrown, the player who should have batted is out and the play is scored as if she had been the correct batter. If the incorrect batter becomes a base runner and is then reported out of order, the proper batter is out and the putout is credited to the catcher. If a pitch has been thrown, all play is legal and the next batter is the player whose name follows that of the player who batted out of order. If more than one batter bats out of order, score all play as it stands and skip the turn at bat of those who missed their turn.

14.12.2 Inaccurate Lineup Card. If submitting an inaccurate lineup card results in a runner being removed from a base and declared out, the results of her at-bat are nullified and the putout is credited to the catcher.

14.12.3 In all other appeals, credit the fielder closest to the misplay with the putout.

► **SECTION 13—STRIKEOUT**

The batter is charged with a strikeout in the following situations:

14.13.1 When her third strike is caught by the catcher before striking the dirt.

14.13.2 On a dropped third strike, whether or not the batter-runner is safe at first base.

14.13.3 When, with first base occupied and fewer than two outs in the inning, she is put out on a dropped third strike because she cannot legally advance to first base.

14.13.4 When the catcher catches a foul tip directly from the bat to the glove/mitt on a third strike.

14.13.5 When a foul bunt on the third strike is not caught in the air.

14.13.6 When the batter receives two strikes, a substitute batter is inserted and the substitute batter strikes out. Both the plate appearance and the strikeout are charged to the first batter and not the substitute batter. When after sharing a turn at bat with more than one other batter, none of whom received more than one strike, the final batter receives the strikeout.

► **SECTION 14—STOLEN BASE**

A stolen base is credited:

14.14.1 To a runner who advances to a base unaided by a safe hit, putout, error, force, fielder's choice, illegal pitch, wild pitch, base on balls, hit batter, passed ball, interference or obstruction.

14.14.2 To a runner, if the runner starts for the next base on the release, and the pitch results in what would otherwise be scored a passed ball or wild pitch. If the runner advances another base because of the wild pitch or passed ball, only the initial base is stolen.

14.14.3 To a runner, regardless of the accuracy of the throw and whether an accurate throw would have resulted in a sure putout. No error is charged unless another base is gained due to the wild throw.

14.14.4 To a runner who gets caught in a rundown attempting to steal and advances to the next base safely, only if the

next base was unoccupied and no error is made. The base runner must show the intent to steal.

14.14.5 To a runner awarded a base due to obstruction during an attempted steal.

14.14.6 To a runner who advances to a base because of a pick-off play on another runner, provided the runner broke for the next base before the release of the catcher's throw.

14.14.7 To each runner who successfully advances in a double- or triple-steal attempt, whether played on or not, as long as no other runner is put out. If a runner is played on and she is safe without the aid of an error, she is credited with a stolen base as are any other runners who safely advance. If a runner is played on and she is safe by virtue of an error, charge the error to the fielder and any other runner who advances is safe on a fielder's choice. If a runner is played on and she is put out, she is charged with a caught stealing and any other runner who advances is safe on a fielder's choice. If the lead runner fails to advance but is instead safe at the base she occupied at the time of the pitch (and no error occurred), credit the trailing runner who successfully advances with a stolen base.

14.14.8 To a runner who advances on a bobbled (not dropped) pitch, even if the runner decides to advance after seeing the bobble.

**Note:** A passed ball is NOT charged to the catcher.

► **SECTION 15—STOLEN BASE NOT CREDITED**

14.15.1 A stolen base is not credited to a runner who advances to a base with the aid of a safe hit, putout, error, force, fielder's choice, illegal pitch, wild pitch, base on balls, hit batter, passed ball, interference or obstruction.

14.15.2 A stolen base is not credited to any runner when any other runner is thrown out on an attempted double or triple steal.

**Exceptions:**

1. On a double-steal attempt, with runners at first and third, an unsuccessful but legitimate attempt was made to put out the runner stealing second base, and the runner at third is thrown out at home plate on a continuous play.

2. With runners at first and third, credit a stolen base to the runner advancing to second base even if the initial throw is not to second base. The base runner must show the intent to steal.

3. With runners at first and third, credit a stolen base to the runner advancing to home plate even if the initial throw is not to third base. The base runner must show the intent to steal.

4. With runners on first and third, credit a stolen base to the runner advancing to second base if no throw is made even if the advance was immediately after a base on balls.

14.15.3 A stolen base is not credited to a runner if another runner is put out in a rundown or an error allows the runner to be safe. In these cases, the runner not in the rundown who safely advances does so on a fielder's choice.

► **SECTION 16—CAUGHT STEALING**

14.16.1 Charge a runner with caught stealing when:

14.16.1.1 She is put out or would have been put out had no error occurred on her attempt to steal a base.

14.16.1.2 There is a throw and she immediately attempts to advance to the next base and is thrown out.

14.16.1.3 She attempts to advance after being picked off a base and is subsequently called out on the play.

14.16.1.4 She attempts to steal a base but is tagged out while oversliding or overrunning the base.

14.16.2 Do not charge caught stealing unless the runner has an opportunity to be credited with a stolen base when the play starts (i.e., unsuccessfully advancing on a wild pitch or passed ball would not be caught stealing).

**Note:** When in doubt, give the benefit of the doubt to the runner.

## ► SECTION 17—THROW OUT

The catcher is credited with a throw out when she throws in front of the runner, resulting in a rundown, regardless of the base at which the putout occurs. If the catcher initiates the play on an attempted stolen base and an out results, she also is credited with a throw out.

## ► SECTION 18—PICK-OFF

The catcher is credited with a pick-off when a throw behind the runner results in a putout. If there is a pick-off throw during which the runner immediately attempts to return to the last base touched and the runner is thrown out, it is a putout.

## ► SECTION 19—PUTOUT

14.19.1 Credit a putout to a fielder who catches a fly ball or line drive, tags out a runner or tags the base to force out the runner.

14.19.2 Credit a putout to the catcher in the following instances:

- 14.19.2.1 A legally caught third strike.
- 14.19.2.2 The batter is called out for an illegally batted ball.
- 14.19.2.3 A batter is out on a third-strike foul bunt.
- 14.19.2.4 A batter is out for being touched by her own fair batted ball while one or both feet are completely out of the batter's box or for stepping on home plate.
- 14.19.2.5 A batter is out for intentionally interfering with her own foul batted ball.
- 14.19.2.6 A batter interferes with the catcher.
- 14.19.2.7 A batter who batted out of order becomes a base runner and a proper appeal is made.
- 14.19.2.8 A batter-runner fails to touch first base after a base on balls.
- 14.19.2.9 A catcher steps on the plate with the ball in her possession with the bases loaded. This includes a dropped third strike.
- 14.19.2.10 A runner is out for not advancing legally to home plate for the game-winning run.
- 14.19.2.11 A runner fails to touch home plate and makes no attempt to return. The catcher properly appeals, and the runner is called out.

14.19.3 Credit a putout to the nearest fielder in the following instances:

- 14.19.3.1 A batter is out on an infield fly that is not caught.
- 14.19.3.2 A runner is out for failing to keep contact with the base to which she is entitled until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- 14.19.3.3 A runner is out for being hit by a fair batted ball.
- 14.19.3.4 A runner is called out for being out of the base line in order to avoid a tag.
- 14.19.3.5 A runner runs backward in the first-base line to avoid a tag.
- 14.19.3.6 A runner is out for passing another runner.
- 14.19.3.7 A runner is out for running the bases in reverse order.
- 14.19.3.8 A runner is out for interfering with a fielder. If the interference is a deliberate attempt to impede an other play, a second runner also may be declared out.

**Note:** *If the fielder was in the act of throwing or fielding a ground ball, the fielder is credited with an assist but the putout is credited to the fielder for whom the throw was intended.*

- 14.19.3.9 A runner is out when a proper appeal is made on a missed base or home plate.

14.19.3.10 An unreported player or an illegal player is declared out.

14.19.3.11 A proper appeal is made on a batter who batted out of order but was put out. The proper batter is out and the play scored as if she had batted.

## ► SECTION 20—ASSIST

An assist is credited to a fielder in the following situations:

14.20.1 A fielder deflects a batted or thrown ball that results in a putout.

14.20.2 A fielder throws a ball that results in a putout. If several fielders handle the ball or one fielder handles it more than once during a play, only one assist is credited to each of such fielders. The fielder may receive a putout in addition to an assist.

14.20.3 A fielder throws or deflects a ball that results in a runner being called out for interference or running out of the base line.

14.20.4 A fielder makes a wild throw and, after the throw, the runner is tagged out before reaching the next base. If the runner reaches the next base safely and, in an attempt to advance to another base, is tagged out, credit the initial fielder with an error.

**Note:** *Do not credit the pitcher with an assist on a strikeout or when after a pitch, the catcher tags out or throws out a runner.*

## ► SECTION 21—ERROR

14.21.1 An error is charged against any fielder for each misplay (i.e., fielding, wild throws, missed catches on good throws) that prolongs the life of a batter (causes one or more pitches to be thrown) or a runner or permits a runner to advance. This includes a dropped foul ball (unless it was allowed to drop intentionally to prevent a runner from advancing), whether or not the batter subsequently is put out.

14.21.2 A single error is charged even if more than one base is gained by a runner or more than one runner advances as a result of the play.

**Note:** *An error is charged when a wild throw allows a runner to be safe only if the runner would have been put out had the throw not been wild. Exception: See Rule 14.22.13.*

14.21.3 An error shall be charged against any fielder when she catches a thrown ball or fields a ground ball in time to put out any runner on a force play and fails to tag the base or the runner, including a batter-runner on a play at first base.

14.21.4 An error shall be charged against any fielder whose throw takes an unnatural bounce, touches a base or the pitcher's plate, or touches a runner, a fielder or an umpire, thereby permitting any runner to advance. Apply this rule even when it appears to be an injustice to a fielder whose throw was accurate. The official scorer must account for every base advanced by a runner.

14.21.5 When a throw is made to a base and more than one fielder could have received the throw but neither did, an error is charged to the fielder who should have received the throw.

14.21.6 An error is charged to a fielder (including the catcher) committing obstruction when an additional base is gained as a result of the obstruction.

14.21.7 An error is charged to a defensive player who collides with a fielder making the initial catch on a fly ball that is dropped.

14.21.8 An error is charged when an unnecessary throw allows a runner to advance.

**Note:** *This does not include a throw made to play on a different runner.*

14.21.9 An error is charged to the thrower when an otherwise good throw hits a runner, umpire or bat.

## ► SECTION 22—NO ERROR IS CHARGED

No error is charged to a fielder in the following situations:

14.22.1 When a ball is misplayed because of being lost in the sun or lights, blown by the wind, or if the fielder slips and falls — even if contact is made with the ball.

14.22.2 When there is a mental mistake. Throwing to the wrong base is considered a mental mistake.

14.22.3 When a catcher attempts a pick-off, unless the runner advances an additional base.

14.22.4 When a runner returns safely to her original base on a rundown.

14.22.5 When a runner beats a wild throw or dropped catch (unless an additional base is gained or a good throw would not have led to a different result). This also pertains to the second or third out of a double or triple play.

**Note:** A dropped ball by the receiver is an error if the runner would have been out.

14.22.6 When a ball is hit with such force, so slowly or with erratic spin, that it would require more than ordinary effort to play the ball.

14.22.7 When a fly ball is misjudged and the fielder cannot recover in time to make the play.

14.22.8 When a fielder drops a ball after running a considerable distance or if she fails in her attempt to catch the ball while running at a high rate of speed.

14.22.9 When a fielder drops a line drive after moving more than a few steps to catch the ball.

14.22.10 As a result of an illegal pitch, wild pitch, passed ball or hit batter, even if more than one base is gained from the initial misplay.

14.22.11 When a runner advances on a dropped third strike. In such a case, a wild pitch or passed ball shall be charged; however, if an accurate throw or proper catch would have resulted in an out, an error shall be charged to the appropriate player.

14.22.12 When a pitcher mishandles a sharply batted ball. Wild throws and the mishandling of routine ground balls and bunts are reason for charging the pitcher with an error.

14.22.13 When a wild throw is made in an effort to prevent a runner from stealing, no error is charged even if a good throw would have resulted in a putout, unless the runner advances at least one additional base.

14.22.14 When a fielder intentionally does not catch a foul fly ball to prevent a runner from advancing.

14.22.15 When the official scorer charges the pitcher with a wild pitch or the catcher with a passed ball.

14.22.16 When a batter advances on a dropped third strike that is also a wild pitch or passed ball. In this case, the batter is charged with a strikeout and the pitcher or catcher with a wild pitch or passed ball, respectively.

### ► SECTION 23—DOUBLE PLAY/TRIPLE PLAY

14.23.1 A double or triple play is credited to one or more fielders when two or three players are put out between the time the pitch is delivered and the time the ball next becomes dead or is in the possession of the pitcher in her pitching position. Play must be continuous. If an error occurs between putouts, no double or triple play is credited. In addition, a double or triple play is credited when an appeal play results in a second or third out after the pitcher has the ball in her possession but before the next pitch is thrown.

14.23.2 The second part of a double play never should be assumed. If an overthrow is made, no error is recorded unless the runner advances to another base. If the second throw is catchable and is dropped, an error is charged to the person receiving the throw.

### ► SECTION 24—EARNED/UNEARNED RUNS

14.24.1 Earned runs are runs for which the pitcher is statistically accountable. An earned run shall be charged against the pitcher when a runner scores as a result of: a base on balls, a fielder's choice, a hit, a putout, a batter hit by a pitch, an illegal pitch, a sacrifice bunt (including a slap and running slap), a sac-

rifice fly, a stolen base and a wild pitch (including a third-strike wild pitch). Earned runs are charged only in the event that the defense did not have the opportunity to make the third putout. Earned runs are determined by reconstructing the inning as if there were no errors or passed balls. The pitcher should be given the benefit of the doubt in determining the advancement of runners had the defensive team been errorless. Any pitcher who is replaced is charged with earned runs for which she is totally responsible.

**Note:** A batter who gets on base as a result of a fielder's choice can score an earned run only if the runner that was out as a result of the fielder's choice was a potential earned run.

14.24.2 When a runner who began the inning on second base during the tiebreaker scores and the pitcher is held accountable for all bases gained, score the run as earned but charge it to the team total and not to the individual. (See Rule 14.30 for information on the tiebreaker rule.)

14.24.3 A run is unearned if the runner, who scores, reached first base by error or had prolonged life because of a dropped foul fly or obstruction.

### ► SECTION 25—RELIEF PITCHER

14.25.1 A relief pitcher is charged with every run that scores when the batter has reached base while she was pitching. Exception: If a batter reaches base on a fielder's choice that puts out an inherited runner and the batter subsequently scores, the run is charged to the previous pitcher, not the relief pitcher.

14.25.2 When a relief pitcher enters the game to pitch to a batter in mid-count and the batter gets on base and scores, charge the first pitcher with the run if the batter has a count of two or three balls and fewer than two strikes, or if the count is full, and in either case, the batter walks. Charge the relief pitcher with any other action of the batter (including a strikeout).

14.25.3 A relief pitcher does not receive the benefit of previous chances of outs when reconstructing the inning to determine earned and unearned runs charged to her. The original pitcher does. Thus, a relief pitcher could be charged with an earned run that does not appear in the team's totals.

### ► SECTION 26—STRIKEOUT

14.26.1 The pitcher who throws the third strike to a batter is credited with the strikeout, even if the batter reaches first base on a dropped third strike.

14.26.2 The official scorer determines whether it is scored as a strikeout-passed ball or strikeout-wild pitch.

14.26.3 For all circumstances scored as strikeouts, see Rule 14.13.

### ► SECTION 27—WILD PITCH

A wild pitch is charged to a pitcher when the pitch is so high, wide or low that the catcher cannot handle the ball with ordinary effort and at least one runner advances. Any pitch in the dirt is wild. Only one wild pitch is recorded regardless of the number of runners who advance or the number of bases advanced. A third strike not handled by the catcher because it was wild, when the batter reaches first base safely, is scored as both a wild pitch and a strikeout. No wild pitch is charged if a runner stealing on the pitch advances only one base. A wild pitch is not an error.

### ► SECTION 28—PASSED BALL

A passed ball is charged to the catcher when she fails to stop or control a pitch with ordinary effort and at least one base runner advances. Only one passed ball is recorded regardless of the number of runners who advance or the number of bases advanced. A third strike not handled by the catcher that could have been handled with ordinary effort, when the batter reaches first base safely, is scored as both a passed ball and a strikeout. No passed ball is charged if a runner stealing on the pitch advances only one base. A passed ball is not an error.

## ► SECTION 29—PITCHING STATISTICS

14.29.1 Credit a pitcher with a complete game, no-hitter, shutout, etc., if she pitches the first pitch and every subsequent pitch of a new game. For statistical purposes, she is considered the starting pitcher, however, she does not have the substitution rights of a starting player unless she is listed on the lineup card in one of the nine or 10 starting positions.

14.29.2 The flex player is charged with a game played in terms of eligibility, but not statistically (unless she participates in the game as a pitcher), if she is replaced in the lineup before the first pitch.

14.29.3 If a pitcher is removed from the game offensively by a batter or a runner, all runs scored by her team during the remainder of that inning are credited to her benefit in determining when her team is in the lead.

14.29.4 A shutout is recorded if the starting pitcher pitches scoreless ball for the entire game or if a relief pitcher pitches scoreless ball after relieving in the first inning before any outs or score. If two or more pitchers combine for a shutout, it shall be noted in the game summary as a combined shutout.

14.29.5 A pitcher is credited with a perfect game when she faces the minimum number of batters required for the number of innings played, none of whom reach any base safely.

### 14.29.6 Winning Pitcher.

14.29.6.1 The starting pitcher is credited with a win in the following circumstances:

14.29.6.1.1 She has pitched at least four total innings (cumulative, not necessarily consecutive) of a game of six or more innings, her team is ahead when she is replaced (including runners for whom she was responsible and later scored), and her team stays ahead for the remainder of the game.

14.29.6.1.2 She has pitched at least three total innings (cumulative, not necessarily consecutive) when a regulation game is called after five innings, her team is ahead when she is replaced (including runners for whom she was responsible and later scored), and her team stays ahead for the remainder of the game.

14.29.6.1.3 She has pitched the required number of innings, her team is ahead or tied when she is replaced, she re-enters the game with her team behind, and her team subsequently recaptures the lead.

**Note:** A pitcher cannot receive credit for a save if she receives the win.

14.29.6.2 The relief pitcher is credited with a win in the following circumstances:

14.29.6.2.1 The starting pitcher did not pitch the required number of innings, or her team fell behind.

14.29.6.2.2 The relief pitcher who pitches most effectively after the starting pitcher did not pitch the required number of innings, more than one relief pitcher was used and the lead was never lost.

14.29.6.2.3 The relief pitcher was the pitcher of record when her team gained the lead and stayed in the lead.

14.29.6.2.4 A relief pitcher left the pitching position while the score was tied or her team was behind, and she re-entered as the pitcher and her team regained the lead.

### 14.29.7 Losing Pitcher.

14.29.7.1 A starting pitcher receives the loss if she is relieved while her team is behind and her team

remains behind for the remainder of the game, regardless of the number of innings pitched.

14.29.7.2 A relief pitcher receives the loss if she is the pitcher of record when the opponent goes ahead and stays ahead for the remainder of the game.

### 14.29.8 Save.

A pitcher must meet all three of the following conditions to be credited with a save:

14.29.8.1 She is the last pitcher in the win.

14.29.8.2 She is not the winning pitcher.

14.29.8.3 She meets one of the following conditions:

14.29.8.3.1 She enters the game with a lead of not more than three runs and pitches for at least one inning.

14.29.8.3.2 She pitches effectively for at least three innings.

14.29.8.3.3 She enters the game with the potential tying run on base, at bat or on deck.

**Note:** Not more than one save may be credited in a game.

## ► SECTION 30—TIEBREAKER RULE

14.30.1 A run scored by the player starting as a runner at second base shall be charged to the defensive team and not the pitcher. Whether a run scored by any other player shall be charged to the pitcher is up to the judgment of the official scorer.

14.30.2 If action by a subsequent batter, such as a fielder's choice, causes the lead-off runner to be put out, the first run scored that inning may be charged to the team. (Example: If a runner reaches first base safely on a fielder's choice as a result of a first-to-third putout, this new runner still is charged to the team.)

14.30.3 If the lead-off runner at second is put out without action by the batter (e.g., caught stealing, picked off or leaving the base early), then no run scored in that half-inning is charged to the team.

### Notes:

1. A run charged to the "team" is neither earned nor unearned because there is no actual person to whom the run is to be charged. It is technically impossible for the "team" to have an earned-run average, because the "team" will always have zero innings pitched.

2. In the statistical pitching summary for a game using the tiebreaker rule, "team" is listed as a pitcher. The only statistic recorded for "team" is total runs allowed. The total runs allowed by a team may exceed the sum total of earned and unearned runs. The box score will not prove as it normally does since there is usually an extra runner left on base for each inning in which the rule is in effect.

3. The respective pitchers of record receive the win and loss.

4. See Rule 6.15 for an explanation of the tiebreaker rule.

## ► SECTION 31—CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE RECORDS

14.31.1 A consecutive-at-bat hitting streak continues with a hit or if all the plate appearances result in a base on balls, hit batter, obstruction, interference or a sacrifice bunt. A sacrifice fly ends a streak even though it is not counted as an official at-bat.

14.31.2 A consecutive-games hitting streak continues without a hit when all plate appearances result in either a base on balls, hit batter, obstruction, interference or a sacrifice bunt. A sacrifice fly, as well as no other hit, ends the streak.

14.31.3 A consecutive-games playing streak continues by playing one half of an inning on defense (three outs) or by completing one turn at bat. Pinch running does not continue the streak.

14.31.4 If a player is ejected from a game before an official at-bat and before meeting any of the above requirements, a streak continues.

14.31.5 For purposes of a streak, all performances in the completion of a halted game are considered as occurring on the date when the game officially began.

### ► SECTION 32—CALLED, FORFEITED AND PROTESTED GAMES

14.32.1 Called Game. If a regulation game (five or more complete innings) is called, the record of all individual or team actions up to the moment the game ends (as specified in Rule 6.16), shall be recorded. If the scoring in an incomplete inning has no bearing on the outcome of the contest, include all individual and team statistics. If a called game is a tie, the winning and losing pitchers shall not be designated.

14.32.2 Forfeited Game. When a regulation game (five or more complete innings) is forfeited, the record of all individual or team actions up to the moment the game is

forfeited shall be recorded. If the winning team by forfeit is ahead at the time the forfeit is declared, the winning and losing pitchers shall be designated. If the winning team by forfeit is behind or the score is tied at the time the forfeit is declared, the winning and losing pitchers shall not be designated. If a game is forfeited before it becomes a regulation game, no statistics shall be recorded. Refer to Bylaw 31.9.5 of the NCAA Manual for more information concerning statistics from forfeited games.

14.32.3 Protested Game. When a protest is ruled valid but the game is not replayed to conclusion, it shall be declared "No contest." The record of all individual and team actions shall be recorded; however, the winning and losing pitchers shall not be designated.

### 14.33 Proving the Box Score

To prove a box score, the total of the team's plate appearances (times at bat, bases on balls, hit batters, sacrifice hits, sacrifice flies and batters awarded first base because of interference or obstruction) and the international tie-breaker runner must equal the total of the team's runs, players left on base and the opposing team's putouts.

## Table of Symbols

Symbol	Definition	Symbol	Definition
A	assist	L	loss
AB	at-bat	LE	left early
BA	batting average	LOB/left	left on base
BB	base on balls (walk)	OB	obstruction (defensive)
BF	batters faced	PA	plate appearance
CG	complete games pitched	PB	passed ball
CS	caught stealing	PKO	pick-off
DP	double play	PO	putout
E	error	R	run scored
ER	earned runs	RBI	run batted in
ERA	earned-run average	SB	stolen base
GP	games played	SBA	stolen base attempt
GS	games started	SAC/SH	sacrifice
GWRBI	game-winning run batted in	SF	sacrifice fly
H	base hit	SHO	shutout
HBP	hit by pitch	SO	strikeout
HR	home run	SV	save
IBB	intentional base on balls	TB	total bases on safe hits
ILP	illegal pitches thrown	TO	throw out
INT	interference (offensive)	TOA	throw out attempt
IP	innings pitched	TP	triple play
K	strikeout (swinging)	W	win
⋈	strikeout (called)	2B	double
		3B	triple

## Percentage Table

Batting average:	$\frac{\text{hits}}{\text{at-bats}}$	$\frac{H}{AB}$
Earned-run average:	$\frac{\text{earned runs} \times 7.0}{\text{innings pitched}}$	$\frac{ER \times 7.0}{IP}$
Fielding percentage:	$\frac{\text{putouts} + \text{assists}}{\text{putouts} + \text{assists} + \text{errors}}$	$\frac{PO + A}{PO + A + E}$
On-base percentage:	$\frac{\text{walks} + \text{hit by pitch} + \text{hits}}{\text{walks} + \text{hit by pitch} + \text{sacrifices} + \text{at-bats}}$	$\frac{BB + HBP + H}{BB + HBP + SAC + AB}$
Winning percentage:	$\frac{\text{games won} + .5 \text{ games tied}}{\text{games won} + \text{games lost} + \text{games tied}}$	$\frac{W + .5 T}{W + L + T}$
Reached-base percentage:	$\frac{\text{any possible way batter reached base safely}}{\text{plate appearances minus sacrifice bunts}}$	$\frac{\text{total on-base}}{PA - SAC/SH}$
Slugging percentage:	$\frac{\text{total bases earned by hits}}{\text{at-bats}}$	$\frac{TB}{AB}$
Stolen-base percentage:	$\frac{\text{stolen bases}}{\text{stolen-base attempts}}$	$\frac{SB}{SBA}$
Strikeout ratio:	$\frac{\text{strikeouts} \times 7.0}{\text{innings pitched}}$	$\frac{SO \times 7.0}{IP}$
Throw-out percentage:	$\frac{\text{throw-outs}}{\text{throw-out attempts}}$	$\frac{TO}{TOA}$
Total bases: (home runs x 3) + (triples x 2) + (doubles x 1) + total number of hits		