



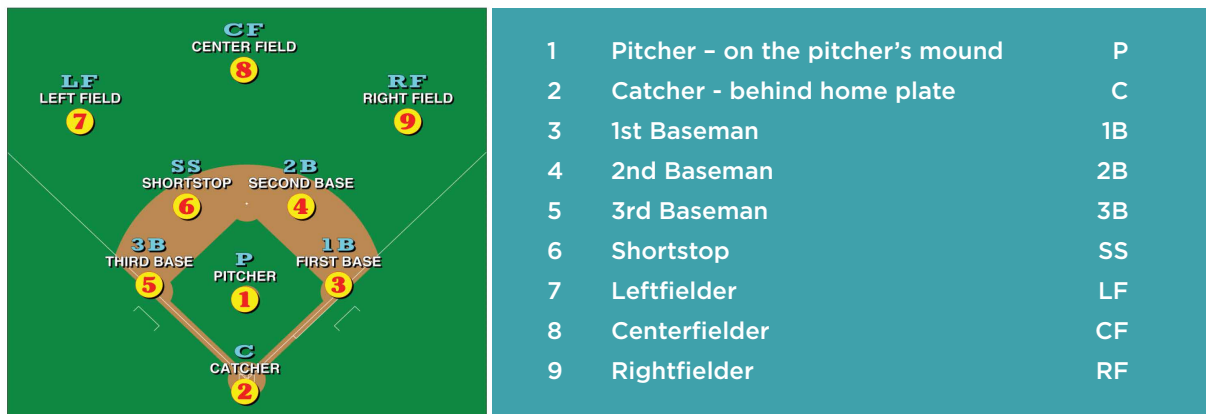
THE RULES OF BASEBALL: THE BASICS

BASEBALL IS SIMILAR TO “ROUNDERS” WITH JUST A BIT MORE RULES

Baseball is played by two teams of 9 players, each trying to score more runs than their opponent by “rounding” the bases and crossing home plate as many times as possible. The batting team stays up to bat until the fielding team puts out 3 batters.

THE DIAMOND

The playing area is often referred to as a baseball diamond due to its shape. It consists of a pitcher’s mound, 4 bases, an infield, and an outfield.



STARTING THE GAME

The visiting team bats first while the home team starts out in the field on defense. Each fielder lines up in one of the 9 fielding positions. The first batter steps into the batter’s box and prepares to hit the pitch.

DURATION

A standard game lasts 9 innings, but The Mariners games are shortened to 4-innings or 1-hour (which ever occurs first). Each inning is divided into a top and bottom half with each team having a turn at bat.

The visiting team bats the first half (or top) of each inning, and the home team bats the second half (or bottom) of the inning. A half inning is completed when the batting team gets 3 outs. If the score is tied at the end of all allotted, “extra innings” are played until there is a winner. If the home team is ahead going into the bottom of the 9th inning, there is no need for them to come up to bat, so the game is over.



SCORING

The team that scores the most runs is the winner. A run is scored when a base runner rounds all of the bases by stepping on each one in order from 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and crosses home plate. If the ball is hit over the outfield fence in fair territory, it is considered a home run and the batter has a free trip all the way around the bases until he/she crosses home plate.

Grand slam - A home run that's hit with the bases loaded (runners on every base.) All of the base runners round the bases and go home for a total of 4 points.

STRIKES

The strike zone is the area between the batter's shoulders and knees. A "strike" is called by the umpire when the batter:

- fails to swing at a pitch that crosses the plate in the strike zone.
- swings at a pitch and misses.
- hits the ball out of bounds with fewer than two strikes against him/her.



Once the batter gets 3 strikes he/she is out, and the next batter comes up to the plate. A batter can't strike out on a foul ball. If there are two strikes, there's no limit to the number of foul balls the batter is allowed to hit. The batter can only strike out on a swing and miss or a ball he/she fails to swing at in the strike zone.