

## Beginning Softball Scoring

## GETTING STARTED

*It is suggested that this document be read in conjunction with the brochure 'Softball – Slow Pitch & Fast Pitch' available from Softball Australia ([www.softball.org.au](http://www.softball.org.au)) or call (03) 9890 8200*

**Don't panic - The order of importance for scoring softball is runs, outs, the count. The rest is useful recording for the coach. Start slow and build up your knowledge and skills.**

For more information, examples and resources log onto [www.scoring.softball.org.au](http://www.scoring.softball.org.au) or contact your local or state association.

To begin to score softball you will need a scorebook, and a pencil.

## THE SCOREBOOK

A softball scorebook can take various forms; however, as a beginner you need only use a basic score sheet as shown below. (Also see the back page for a completed scoresheet.) You will need two sheets per game as you score both teams during the game.

Top \_\_\_\_\_ vs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bottom \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

P l a y e r	SURN A M E	U N I T	B O A R D	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
			1								
			2								
			3								
			4								
			5								
			6								
			7								
			8								
			9								
			10								

Bench Players: \_\_\_\_\_

Game won by \_\_\_\_\_

Final Score \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Top – team who bats first

Bottom – team who fields first

Team A name v Team B name

### Column Headings

POS - fielding positions for each player in the line up

Blank heading – player names: SURNAME first name

## UNI – players uniform numbers

BAT – batting number (cannot change during game)

1, 2, 3, etc – innings number being played

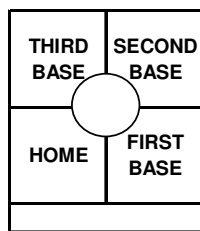
## WRITING UP BOTH TEAMS

Before the game starts write the players names in their batting order (your coach and the other teams scorer will give you this information) using a sheet for each team. Any extra batters are 'on the bench' and are included at the bottom of the sheet.

Fill in the players position numbers, 1 = pitcher, 2 = catcher, 3 =first base, 4 = second base, 5 = third base, 6 = shortstop, 7 = left field, 8 = centre field, 9 = right field.

## THE SCORE BOX

Against each player for each innings is a **score box**. It is used to record all the details of each players turn at bat. This means you will be scoring vertically!



The four outer sections are used for the manner in which a player reaches a base or is put out.

The inner circle is used to indicate an out (1 for the first out, 2 for the second, 3 for the third) or a run (color in the circle).

The bottom space is called the **count box** and records what pitches have occurred for the batter.

# Beginning Softball Scoring

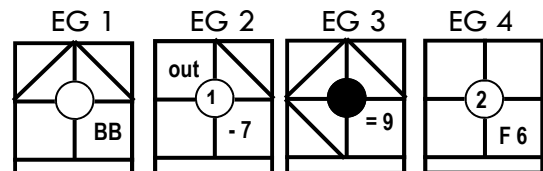
## SCORING SYMBOLS

Symbols or combinations of symbols are used to record how a player reaches a base or is put out. The fielding number/s (mentioned earlier) may also be used to show who participated in the play (shown by an \* in the table below). Place the symbol/s in the first base section of the score box. (A pdf download of these and other symbols is available under **Symbols** on the scoring website.)

Ways to get on base	Symbol	Ways to get out	Symbol
a 1 Base safe hit	– *	Fly ball (caught ball)	F *
a 2 Base safe hit	= *	Foul fly ball (caught in foul area)	FF *
a 3 Base safe hit	≡ *	Put out (usually a force play)	PO *
a 4 Base safe hit or home run	≡ *	Assisted put out (more than one fielder helps to make the out)	* - * eg 6 - 3
		Strike out – (batter swings at 3 <sup>rd</sup> strike and it is caught by catcher)	K2
<b>Ways to get on base by the other teams mistakes</b>	<b>Symbol</b>	Strike out called – (as above but batter doesn't swing at 3 <sup>rd</sup> strike)	KC
Muffed fly (dropped catch)	MF *	3 <sup>rd</sup> strike dropped, ball thrown to first who makes the out	K2 - 3
Wild throw	WT *		
Error	E *	<b>Unusual ways to go out</b>	<b>Symbol</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> strike dropped by catcher and batter advances safely to 1 <sup>st</sup> base	KE2	Infield fly (umpire will call - uwc)	IF *
Batter swings & misses a wild pitch on strike 3 and gets to 1 <sup>st</sup> base	KWP	Batting out of the box (uwc)	BOB
Base on balls (usually 4 balls)	BB	Batting out of order (appeal play)	BOO
Hit by a pitched ball	HPB	Batting the ball twice (uwc)	BB2

## MOVING PLAYERS AROUND THE DIAMOND

Use lines in the other outer sections to indicate if the player moved further around the diamond (EG 1) or were put out (EG 2). Use the inner circle to show if they scored a run (EG 3) or were put out (EG 2 & 4). If you get lost just use lines or the word out in the relevant sections!



## COUNT BOX

There are 4 symbols that are used in the count box.

Type of pitch	Symbol
Ball	· (Dot)
Swinging strike – the batter swings and misses	X
Called strike – the batter doesn't swing but umpire calls it	C
Foul – batter hits the ball but it is called a foul by the umpire	record the number of the closest fielder 2, 3, 5, 7, or 9

Every pitch is recorded, EXCEPT for the last pitch that results in the batter either getting on base or going out.

# Beginning Softball Scoring

## FINISHING AN INNINGS

At the end of an innings you need to

A) finish off the innings by drawing a diagonal line (bottom left to top right) in the score box below the last player to bat, and

B) place the runs scored during that innings and the total runs now scored in the Runs box (opposite batter no. 10).

The number of runs scored in that inning is placed in the upper left half of the Runs box.

The cumulative total for that inning is placed in the lower right half. →

	↓	↓	↓	↓			
10	0 → 0	1 → 1	4 → 5	2 → 7	0 → 7	1 → 8	0 → 8

## STARTING A NEW INNINGS

Start a new innings in the next column, alongside the player who had the diagonal line from the last innings. You should use the entire innings column before going to the next innings column (see inning 3 in sample game). You will need to re number the innings heading if you have batters facing the pitcher for a second time in the same innings (see inning 4).

## END OF THE GAME

At the end of the game, confirm the winner and the final score with the other scorer - the umpire should help you with this if you have a different score. A match card must also be completed according to the local competition rules.

(For timed games a reference sheet called **Game result** is available on the scoring website.)

## MAKING CHANGES

Batting – Enter the name of the new batter above the name of the original batter in the correct batting position box. Cross the new batters name off the bench but don't cross off the original batter (see batting #3 in sample game) as they may return, called re-entering.

Re-entering – The original player returns to the game in the same batting position. Write RE next to their name and cross out the player now going out of the game (see batting #6).

Fielding – Players may change fielding positions at any time. Cross out the old fielding position and record the new one close by.

## EXAMPLE GAME

The next page has an example of a completed teams scoresheet using the information below as well as the material contained in this pamphlet.

The teams are North and South. North (your team) is fielding first.

The coach wants AA to bat 1<sup>st</sup> and field at shortstop, BB to bat 7<sup>th</sup> and play catcher, CC to bat 2<sup>nd</sup> and play pitcher, DD to bat 9<sup>th</sup> and play centre field, EE to bat 5<sup>th</sup> and play second base, FF to bat 3<sup>rd</sup> and play right field, GG to bat 6<sup>th</sup> and play first base, HH to be on the bench, JJ to bat 4<sup>th</sup> and play third base, KK to be on the bench and LL to bat 8<sup>th</sup> and play left field.

The first pitch of the game was a ball, then a strike that the batter swung at, then they hit a high ball that the centre fielder caught. The next batter had 2 balls then 2 swinging strikes then hit a ball which was caught by the catcher in foul territory. The next batter had 3 balls and one swinging strike then hit the ball to the first baser who stood on their base for the put out. This finished the innings with no runs.

You would then score the other teams turn at bat on another sheet. And so on...

For more information, examples and resources go to [www.scoring.softball.org.au](http://www.scoring.softball.org.au)

# Beginning Softball Scoring

Top

NORTH

vs

SOUTH

Bottom

at WEST PARK

Date: 24/8/2006

P O S	SURNAME	U N I	B A T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	ADAMS Andrea	15	1	1 F8		1 F9	HPB		-8	
				•X		•XC				
1	CONNOR Cathy	6	2	2 FF2		8 E8	KWP		-5	
				••XX			X•2			
8 9	FERRY Frances	7	3	3 P03		2 6-3	2 IF3			
2	KING Kerrie	55		•••X		•X				
5	JOHNS Jane	21	4		1 4-3	3 P04		-5		
					C•23					
4	EVANS Ema	23	5		9 =9		WT5	3 S-3		
							•X			
3	GORDON Gina RE	17	6		-7		8 =8		E3	
	HUDSON Helen	32			•2		••X			
9 2	BLOOM Beth	-	7		2 K2		MF8	out 3 -7		
					XX•		•C2•5•	•2C•		
7	LONG Leonie	12	8		3 KC		BB	1 KC		
					•3•C		X••9	X•C•7		
8 2 8	DAVIS Diane	9	9			7 E7	1 K2	2 S-4		
							CX23•			
			10	0 0	1 1	2 3		4 7	0 7	

Bench Players: HUDSON Helen (32), KING Kerrie (55)

Game won by NORTH

Final Score 7 - 5

Scorer: H. BROWN