

Scorekeeping and Pitch Counting for Beginners

Introduction

Scorekeeping, especially for a Little League baseball game, is both fun and simple. The key is to know the basic abbreviations, how to score the plays and, of course, paying attention to the game. There is no one correct way to keep score—there are many variations, and various bits of information can be conveyed from the score card. This guide presents a simple method for keeping score.

Who IS the scorekeeper/pitch counter?

- Scorekeepers and pitch counters are people just like you who usually are friends or family of a player on the field.
- The scorekeeper and pitch counter are important **officials**.
- The scorekeeper and pitch counter **work for the umpire, not** the managers regardless of team affiliation.
- The official scorekeeper is a volunteer from the **home** team.
- The official pitch counter is a volunteer from the **visitor** team.

The Scorekeeper – count runs and outs.

- The official scorekeeper's record of runs scored is the final word – The umpire, the scoreboard, and the team managers are all secondary.
- The umpire's record of batter's count and the number of outs is the final word – The official scorekeeper's, scoreboard, and team managers are all secondary.
- So just like the umpire, your records must also be accurate. Your primary duty once a play starts is to **count the people crossing the plate!** When in doubt if a run counts, ask the umpire.
- Minors and below have a 5 run-per-inning maximum rule.

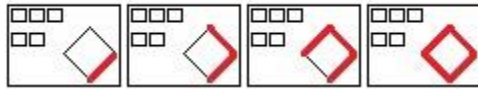
The Pitch Counter – count pitches.

- Managers keep count for their pitchers but the official pitch counter's tally is the final word.
- So your record must be accurate. Your primary duty once a pitcher enters the game is to **count the number of pitches thrown!** When in doubt if a pitch counts, ask the umpire.
- Be ready to give the current pitch count to the umpire any time he asks for it.
- At the end of an at-bat, if a pitcher is at or past his maximum, **you must inform the umpire** if the manager forgets, because the pitcher must be removed.
- Little League limits pitches per game.
- Depending on how many pitches are thrown in a given day, the pitcher must rest a certain number of days. It will be the responsibility of the pitcher's manager to manage how many pitches a pitcher throws. If asked by the manager to inform said manager when a pitcher reaches a certain number of pitches thrown, it will be your responsibility to do so.

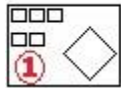
What do I use to keep score or record pitches?

- Runs, pitches, etc. are recorded on specially formatted cards – the score card and pitch log.
- The information recorded on these cards allow for a complete reconstruction of the events of the game, in case of questions during or after the game.

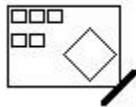
- If the batter/runner gets on base, you will note this by making a line to the base the batter/runner progress to in the following manor:



- If the batter is put out, you will note this by writing down the number of out the batter/runner is (1, 2, or 3) in the following manor:



- As you progress down the roster during each inning, you have to remember to go back and mark your base runners as they progress around the base.
- If a team hits through the lineup, you will proceed to mark the batter in the column to the right even though it indicates the next inning.
- For the last official batter of the inning, you will indicate the end of the inning in the following manor:



- At the end of each half inning, the score keeper will tally up the runs scored for that inning and record the number at the bottom of the sheet.
- If in doubt about anything, ask the umpire.
- You, the umpire, and each manager must sign the score card.

Pitch Count Log

- The manager of each team will inform the pitch counter of their starting pitcher (name, uniform number, and league age)
- The pitch counter will fill in the pitcher's name on either side of the pitch count log respectively. League age is the player's age as of April 30.
- Once the umpire puts the ball in play, the pitch counter will make an 'X' on top of each number indicating that a pitch has been thrown.

Pitcher's Name	Uniform Number	League Age	X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
John Doe	00	9	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

- Whenever a pitching change is made, the pitch counter is to start a new entry for the relieving pitcher.
- If in doubt about anything, ask the umpire.
- You, the umpire, and each manager must sign the pitch count log.