



Softball Scorer's Field Guide

Hits, errors, FC & the calls scoring apps need from you

Scan to learn
the rules behind it
tallingo.com/field-guide



SCORING THE BATTER

When does she reach base?

PLAY	DEFENSE	THE CALL	NOTE
Clean Hit	Clean play, runner beat throw	HIT	1B, 2B, 3B, HR
Fielder's Choice	Tried for a different runner	FC	Batter only safe because defense chose another play
Error	Routine play missed (drop, bobble, wild throw)	E	Failed an ordinary-effort play
Heroic effort	Dive, sprint, leap — couldn't reach	HIT	No penalty for going above and beyond
Dropped 3rd strike	Pitch in the dirt / over head	K + WP	Pitcher still gets the K
Dropped 3rd strike	Catcher dropped a catchable pitch	K + PB	Pitcher still gets the K

CATCHER MISSES

& special-call shortcuts

PITCH WAS...	CALL
Catchable — catcher missed it	PB
Uncatchable — dirt, over head, way wide	WP

Infield Fly: runners on 1B&2B (or loaded), <2 outs, catchable fair fly by infielder → **OUT**. If dropped, still **OUT**.

Look-Back: runner off base when pitcher has the ball in the circle → **OUT**. Not an error.

Dropped 3rd: batter may run when <2 outs & 1B empty, OR with 2 outs.

WHERE DOES THE ERROR GO?

When an error happens, who gets credit for it?

PLAY	WHAT HAPPENED	ERROR GOES TO
Wild throw	Throw over or wide of the bag	The thrower
Dropped throw	Throw was on target, dropped at the bag	The receiver
Pulled foot	Good throw, fielder left the bag early	The thrower
Routine fly dropped	Pop-up or fly that ordinary effort would've caught	The fielder

PRO-TIP

Ordinary effort is the foundation

Every error call comes back to one question: would an **average defender at that position, in normal conditions, make this play most of the time?**

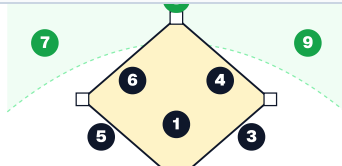
THE SURPRISE

If a fielder **touches** the ball and drops it, it's almost always an **E**. If they had to **dive or sprint** to reach it, that's a **HIT** — we don't penalize heroic effort.

Adjust the standard to the players' age and skill. 8U is not 18U.

POSITION NUMBERS

For reading the box score



- 1 Pitcher
- 4 Second Base
- 7 Left Field

- 2 Catcher
- 5 Third Base
- 8 Center Field

- 3 First Base
- 6 Shortstop
- 9 Right Field

Most apps don't make you type these — you tap the player — but the play-by-play uses them (E5, 6-3).

THE APP DOES THE MATH. THIS SHEET IS THE INPUTS.

GameChanger and other scoring apps reconstruct earned vs unearned runs for you automatically — including the third-out rule, K + WP vs K +

WANT TO GO DEEPER? Scan the QR (top right) for full explanations:

→ What's an **infield fly**, really — and why is it an automatic out?

→ The **look-back rule**: when can a runner be called out for just standing there?

