

1860's Vintage Base Ball

Vintage base ball is baseball played by rules and customs from an earlier period in the sport's history. The game's name is typically written "base ball" rather than "baseball," as that was the spelling used before the 1880s. The ball of the 1860s was a bit larger, heavier and softer than the modern baseball.

BASE BALL RULES

(Subject to change at the Judge's discretion before the game begins)

There shall be:

No bunting, sliding or running out of the base path;
No uncivil language, spitting, alcohol consumption, chewing of tobacco, wagering;
The ball is delivered underhand in a shallow arc to allow good striking.

Fielders play the following positions until the hurled ball has crossed home

1st, 2nd, and 3rd basemen play on or within one foot of their respective bags;
Short scout (shortstop) can position himself anywhere on the playing field;
Behind (catcher) plays not more than 45 feet behind home base;
Left, middle and right scouts (outfielders) play in the middle of their respective outfields.

A striker (batter) is dead (out) when:

A batted ball is caught on the fly, fair or foul;
A batted ball is caught on one bound, fair or foul;
Three hurled balls are swung at and missed.

A base runner is dead (out) when:

Forced out at base;
Tagged out;
Runs three feet or more out of the base path.

Other rules:

Foul ticks (balls) are not considered strikes;
When fielding, the ball must be caught with the HANDS - gloves, hats, or other items may not be used;
The Judge's (umpire's) determination if a batted ball is fair or foul is made by where the ball first hits the ground;
A base runner may advance at his own risk when a batted ball is caught on one bound, but must return to base on those caught in the air;

A base runner can lead off at his own risk and steal if the behind (catcher)muffs the ball (makes an error);

All disputes are arbitrated by the team captains and the Judge (umpire). A Judge's decision is final. The Judge is always to be treated in a respectful manner.

Vintage terminology:

Huzzah!	Hooray!
Club Nine	Team
Match	Game
Ballist	Player
Cranks	Fans/spectators
Judge	Umpire
Pitcher	Pitcher
Catcher	Behind
Scorekeeper	Tallykeeper
Horsehide, onion	Ball
Willow	Bat
Striker	Hitter
Striker to the line	Batter up
Dish	Home plate
Four baser	Homerun
Aces/Tallys	Run
Hurl	Throw/pitch
Foul tick	Foul ball
Player dead	Out
Muff	Error
Leg it	Run to base
Show a little ginger	Play harder
Stir your stumps	Run fast/hustle