

The Knickerbocker Base Ball Rules of 1845

- Sec. 1. The bases shall be from "home" to second base 42 yards; from first to third base 42 yards equidistant.*
- Sec. 2. The game to consist of 21 counts or aces (runs), but at the conclusion an equal number of hands must be played.*
- Sec. 3. The ball must be pitched (underhand) and not thrown for the bat.*
- Sec. 4. A ball knocked outside the range of the first or third base is foul.*
- Sec. 5. Three balls being struck at and missed, and the last one caught, is a hand out; if not caught, is considered fair, and the striker bound to run.*
- Sec. 6. A ball being struck or tipped, and caught either flying or on the first bound, is a hand out.*
- Sec. 7. A player, running the bases, shall be out, if the ball is in the hands of an adversary on the base, as the runner is touched by it before he makes his base-it being understood, however, that in no instance is a ball to be thrown at him.*
- Sec. 8. A player running, who shall prevent an adversary from catching or getting the ball before making his base, is a hand out.*
- Sec. 9. If two hands are already out, a player running home at the time a ball is struck, can not make an ace if the striker is caught out.*
- Sec. 10. Three hands out, all out. (three outs per inning)*
- Sec. 11. Players must take their strike in regular turn.*
- Sec. 12. No ace or base can be made on a foul strike.*
- Sec. 13. A runner can not be put out in making one base, when a balk is made by the pitcher.*
- Sec. 14. But one base allowed when the ball bounds out of the field when struck.*

Base Ball rules from 1845, 1860, 1866, and 1873 are available at:
vbba.org/rules.html



VINTAGE
BASE + BALL
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Vintage Base Ball Rules and Customs

Texas Powder Horn
2010

Powder Horn Base Ball Club
R. E. Tipley, Commissioner

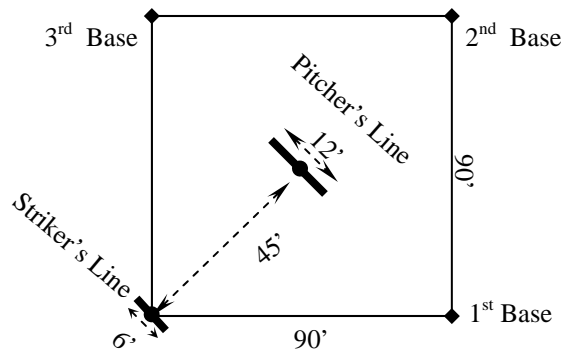
Powder Horn Vintage Base Ball Rules

Adapted from 1860 National Association of Base-Ball Players Rules

Nineteen century *base ball*, with its dead balls and amateur play, is the game that was the national pastime. Men, women, boys and girls from all walks of life, in urban and rural settings, played base ball. The game was carried across the country as the United States continued its western expansion, so that it was as likely to be played in the wheat fields of Oregon as on the streets of New York City or on the prairies of Texas. Come re-discover why base ball was the favorite outdoor game of your grandparents.

Uniform: Come as you are, in your work or outdoor clothing.

Equipment: Round wooden bats will be $\leq 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and length is to suit the striker. Simple gloves are not typically used in 1860s base ball, but are allowed with no webbing. Balls have a soft rubber core, are leather-bound, measure less than 10 inches in circumference and weigh 5.75-6 ounces.



Field: The infield diamond is a square, 30 yards per side, with one square foot bases. 1st, 2nd and 3rd bases are white canvas sacks, filled with sand or sawdust. Home base and the pitcher's point are marked by white circles. The pitcher's line is four yards wide and is located 15 yards from home base. A striker's line extends 1 yard on each side of home base.

Play: Three outs per team in each inning. Nine innings per game. Add extra innings to break tie scores.

Pitching: A pitcher's job is to **pitch underhanded** over the home base for the batter's benefit. While delivering the pitch, **both feet must be on the ground behind the pitcher's line**. There are no called balls or non-swinging strikes, except after the umpire has warned the pitcher or batter about not making fair efforts to put the ball in play. Pitchers must not balk.

Scoring: Runs (aces) are scored as in modern baseball.

Players: There will be nine defensive players on the field and nine players batting in order.

Hitting: A batter must stand astride the **striker's line** that is parallel to the pitcher's line and crosses the home base. There will be three strikes at the ball allowed. Foul ball rules are like modern baseball. The first batter in each inning is the person following the last player to be put out in the previous inning. No bunts.

Fly outs: A batter is out if a ball is hit (fair or foul) and is either caught in the air **or caught after one bounce**.

Force outs: A runner is out if a ball is held at a base where a runner is forced to run, or fails to return after a fly out.

Tag outs: A runner is out if touched by the ball in the hand of a fielder when the runner is off of a base.

Other outs: A runner is out if they run more than 3 feet out of the path between bases to avoid being tagged out. Runners or hitters are out if they interfere with an opponent catching or fielding a ball. Caught foul ticks are outs.

Misc.: If any defender intentionally blocks access to a base, the runner is safe. A fielder may not catch the ball in his/her hat. If the catcher fails to catch the third strike in the air **or after one bounce**, the runner may attempt to run to first base.

Officials: An umpire's calls are not to be questioned.

