



OFFICIAL WBSC BASEBALL5 RULEBOOK 2026

#PlayEverywhere

OFFICIAL WBSC BASEBALL⁵ RULEBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

Baseball5™ or B5 is an urban version of the classic games of baseball and softball. It is a fast, young and dynamic discipline that follows the same founding principles of its parent disciplines.

Baseball5™ can be played everywhere and requires only a rubber ball.

THE FIELD

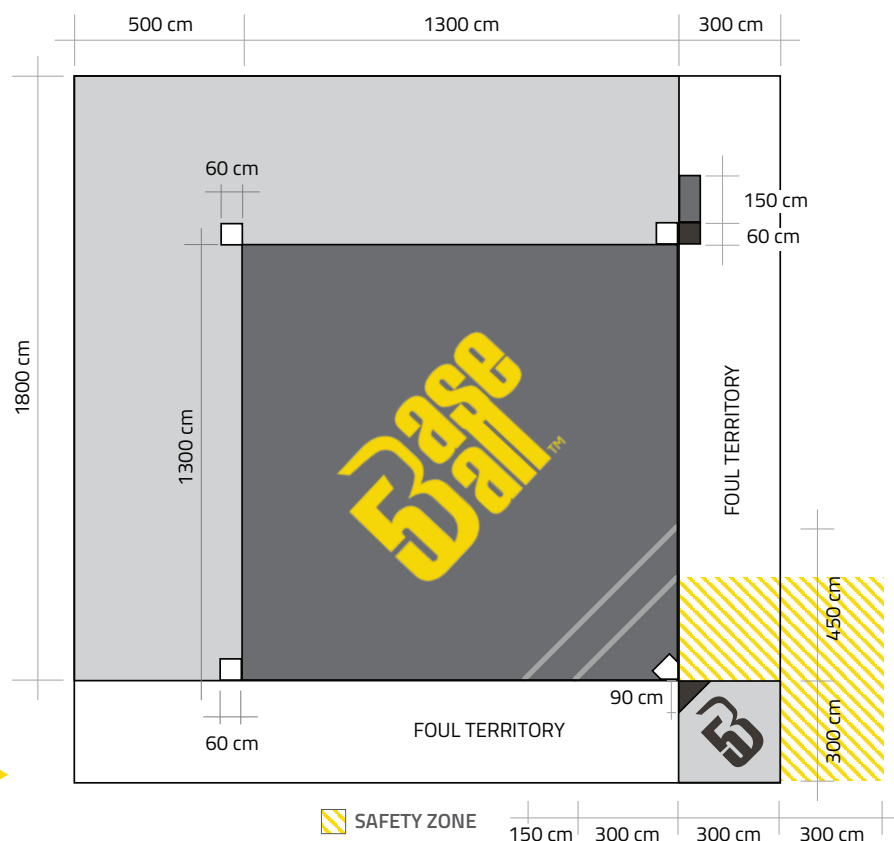
INFIELD AND OUTFIELD

The infield is square in shape, with a base in each corner. The distance in between bases is 13 m (dark grey area in Picture 1). The outfield is the rest of the fair territory between the infield and outfield fence (light grey area in Picture 1).

Starting from the batter's box, behind home plate (Picture 1), the bases are numbered counter clockwise. (1st, 2nd and 3rd).

 **Safety zone:**
The safety zone is an area to be clear of any potential hazards (such as table, chairs, cameras. Etc.) in order to protect the players.

Picture 1 ►



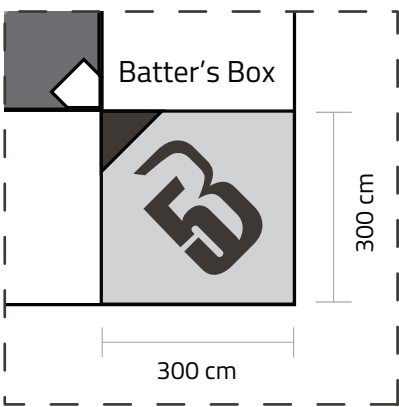
FAIR TERRITORY

Fair territory (dark and light grey areas in Picture 1) is square in shape, measuring 18 m per side, in which one of the corners coincides with home plate. The no-hit zone, located in front of home plate, is not part of fair territory (Picture 5) except for the diagonal line, marking the no-hit zone. Lines marking the field shall have a width of 5 cm, except the line marking the no-hit zone, which shall be 10 cm.

NO-HIT ZONE

A straight line shall be drawn starting 4.5 m from home plate on the 1st base foul line to its equivalent on the 3rd base foul line. For the U-15 category the no-hit zone is marked at 3 m. The line shall have a thickness of 10 cm.

BATTER’S BOX



The batter’s box has a square shape of 3 m per side. It is placed outside of fair territory and is built on the extension of the two foul lines crossing each other at the home plate corner. (See Picture 2)

Picture 2 ►

BASES

The ideal shape and size of 1st, 2nd and 3rd base is a square of 60 cm per side. Bases shall be simply marked on the ground. First, second and third bases sit in the outfield, home plate sits in the no-hit zone, and first base is split between outfield and foul territory.



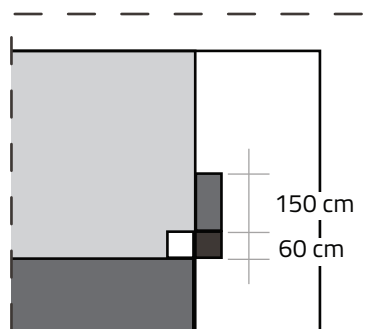
1ST BASE

To avoid collisions first base is 'doubled' (picture 3). This ensures that the defensive play can be made in fair territory (using the white base in Picture 3, called 'first base') while the batter-runner's goal is to reach/touch the first base in foul territory (dark grey in Picture 3, called 'safety base').

The batter-runner must run through the safety base except in the situations described below where they can use the base in fair territory:

1. No play is being made at first base;
2. An errant throw forces the defensive player into foul territory past first base in order to catch the ball before the runner touches first base. The defensive player can use the outer base to avoid collision.

Once the batter-runner goes beyond first base or the safe area and shows intention of advancing to second base, they may only return to the base that sits in fair territory unless they maintain continued contact with the safe area.



Picture 3 ►

In order to stay safe, the batter must remain in the area included within the base and the 1.5 m safe area attached to it (mid grey area in Picture 3). Should the batter fail to keep contact with the safe area, he/she can be ruled out by a tag while outside the safe area.

HOME PLATE

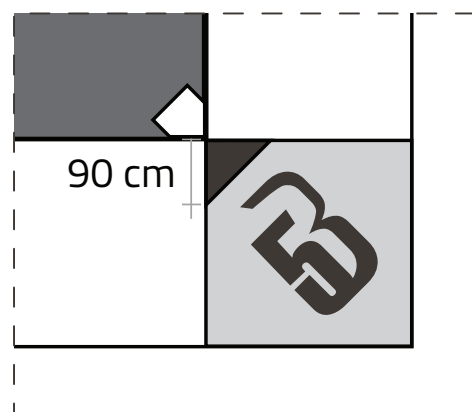
** If a defensive player, while waiting for a throw, is stepping/standing on the safety plate or in front of the safety plate in foul territory and without the ball, the Game Official should call obstruction.*

Home plate is a 60 cm square with two of its corners removed so that the top edge remains 60 cm long, two adjacent sides are 30 cm and the remaining two sides are 42,42 cm each and set at an angle to make a point.

To avoid collisions home plate is 'doubled' (Picture 4). This ensures that the defensive play can be made in fair territory (using the white base in Picture 4, called "home plate") while the batter-runner's goal is to reach/touch the base in the batter's box (dark grey base in Picture 4, called 'safety plate', a triangle of 90 cm per side).

The runner must run through the safety plate except in the situations described below where he/she can use the home plate:

1. No play is being made at home plate;
2. An errant throw forces the defensive player into foul territory in order to catch the ball. The defensive player can use the safety plate to avoid a collision *



Picture 4 ▲

FENCES

The ideal height of the fences is 100 cm. However, every league/tournament organisation may decide on other ways of limiting the field of play, such as using existing walls or marking the ground. In these cases, specific ground rules shall be established and communicated to all participants.



GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES OF BASEBALL5

Baseball5™ is an official sport discipline governed by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), and is therefore subject to all applicable WBSC Statutes, By-laws, rules and regulations and governance principles.

Abstract on international competition (see full article 19 of the WBSC Statutes here)

Any International Baseball5 competition, match, game, tournament between teams and/or clubs that come under the jurisdiction and/or auspices of one or more Members and/or comprising of one or more players that come under the jurisdiction and/or auspices of one or more Members, shall come under the jurisdiction of the WBSC and shall be subject to the Statutes, Code of the Divisions, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations as established by the WBSC.

WBSC Full Members are the only authorities in each country to select their National Team and have the exclusive right to represent the country or territory name, flag and colours.

Abstract on assets (see full article 24 of the WBSC Statutes here)

The WBSC's Baseball5 assets consist of:

1. The name "Baseball5", any publication by the WBSC like Newsletters, Magazines, Yearbooks, Documentaries, etc. and the acronym «WBSC» «B5» and the prevailing logos and brands of the organisation and all those that can be created in the future.
2. The Baseball5 World/Global Rankings for all categories
3. All Official National Team Competitions that fall under WBSC's jurisdiction.
4. The name Baseball5 World Cup as well as all its various Age Categories and all other trademarked and registered competitions (Baseball5 World Tour, Baseball5 Pro Circuit ...).
5. The Baseball5 official competitions and tournaments and others that can be created with this character.
6. Any logo, official look and branding related to Baseball5 and its competitions, activities and events.

GAME PRELIMINARIES

BALL

Official WBSC Baseball5 competitions are played with Approved WBSC Baseball5 balls.

- *WBSC, being the world governing body for Baseball5, is entitled to ball and equipment certification, homologation and licensing.*
- *WBSC sanctioned competitions shall be played with certified Baseball5 balls that have passed the WBSC homologation process.*

INNING

An inning is a division of a Baseball5™ game consisting of a turn at bat for each team. A Baseball5 game is made of five innings.

A different game format in which a game is played over a series of the best of three sets (where each set is a game of 5 innings), may be developed for events such as, but not limited to, World Cups, Youth Olympic Games etc.

TEAM PLAYERS

The number of active players per team during a game is five at all times. If a team cannot meet the minimum required number of players on the field, the team shall forfeit, and the match is over.

The maximum number of players on the roster is eight (five in play and three reserves).

Athletes must be registered on the line-up card with a number which can be freely chosen from 0 to 99. This number must appear clearly on the player's jersey. Please refer to the tournament regulations documents for uniform specifications.

MIXED TEAMS

In mixed gender competitions the defensive team must always have a minimum of two athletes per gender on the field. The same applies to the official line-up.

OUTFIT AND PROTECTIVE GEAR

Each team’s players must wear appropriate matching urban sports attire when participating in Baseball5. The WBSC reserves the right to establish additional uniform and equipment requirements for its official competitions. Any such requirements will be specified in the relevant tournament manual.

Only kneepads and elbow sleeves are permitted as protective equipment. In exceptional circumstances, protective taping may be allowed solely for injury prevention purposes. Any such taping must be declared to and approved by the Game Official before the start of the game and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

LINE-UP (ANNEX 1)

The coach of each team must present the line-up card, duly filled and signed, to the Table Official, 15 (fifteen) minutes before the start of the game. An event organiser can require a line-up card to be presented up to 90 (ninety) minutes before game. In the absence of a coach, the team manager or captain shall be responsible for presenting the line-up card. A copy of the line-up card must be presented to the opposing team before the beginning of the game.

OFFICIAL LINE-UP

WBSC
Baseball5

STARTERS

M/F

N°

1

2

3

4

5

SUBSTITUTES

M/F

N°

COMPETITION

PLACE

DATE

GAME #

SET #

VISITOR

HOME

TEAM

MANAGER

SIGNATURE

GAME RULES

The Home Team starts the game on defence, and the Visiting Team starts on offence.

The goal of the defensive team is to eliminate (get out) three players of the offensive team in order to switch sides. When the teams switch sides, the defensive team will play offence and vice-versa.

The goal of the offensive team is to score runs (points). A run is scored when an offensive player is able to complete a full run by touching all bases in order and safely returning home without being eliminated by the defence.

DEFENSIVE TEAM

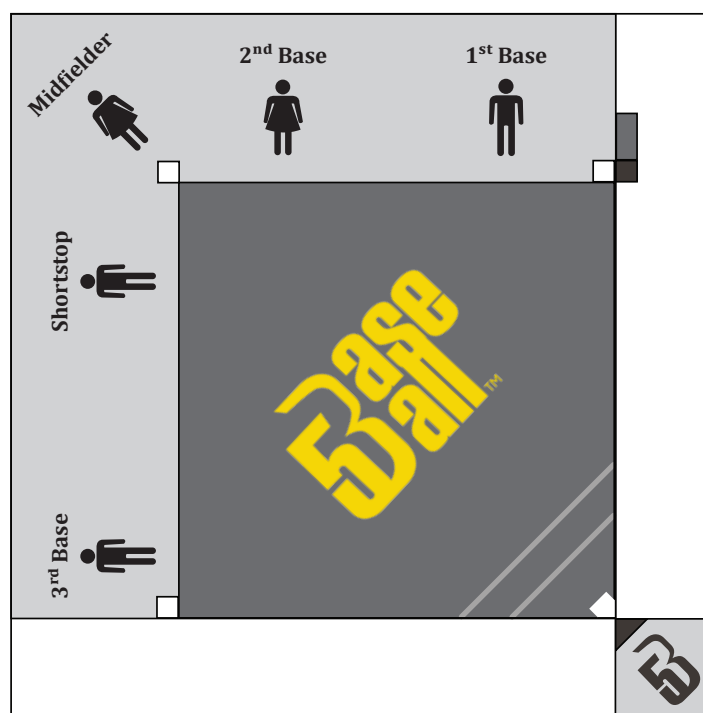
The five players of the defensive team shall all be in fair territory in order to start a new play.

Positions:

- 1st Base
- 2nd Base
- 3rd Base
- Shortstop
- Midfielder

In Picture 5 you will see a typical formation.

However, the defensive players may change their position before every action according to their team requirements



Picture 5 ►

OFFENCE/OFFENSIVE TEAM

On the line-up card the teams must list the five active players hitting from one to five, and the reserves. The batting order shall be followed throughout the game unless a player is substituted for another. In which case, the substitute shall replace the player in the batting order.

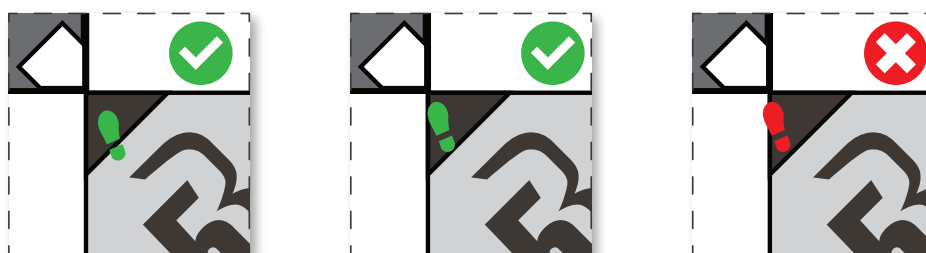
HITTING/BATTING

The act of hitting/batting must take place while the batter is completely within the batter's box. The batter shall maintain contact and fully remain within these lines until the ball is hit away from the batter's hand.

The offensive player shall enter the batter's box and raise the hand they intend to use to hit the ball.

The ball must be hit/slapped either with the palm or the fist.

Picture 6 ▶

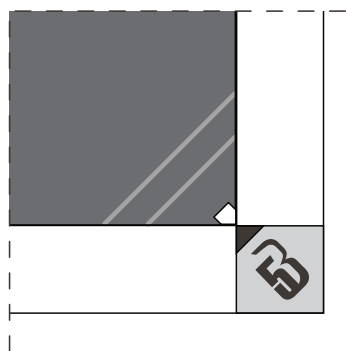


ILLEGAL HITTING

NOTE:

In the U-15 category and other age-group categories below, players will have a second chance in the case of an illegal hit or foul-ball.

Picture 7 ▶



The first bounce of the batted ball must be on or after the no-hit zone line and on or within the first and third base foul lines. The batted ball must be able to roll until the outfield fence if not touched by any defensive player.

POINTS/RUNS

One run shall be scored each time a runner legally advances to and touches first, second, third and home plate in order before three offensive players are put out to end the inning.

EXCEPTION: A run is not scored if the runner advances to home-plate during a play in which the third out is made:

- by the batter-runner before they touch first base;
- by any runner being forced out; or
- by a preceding runner who is declared out because they failed to touch one of the bases.

In the event of a fly out, runners must return to or remain on their starting base until the ball is touched. A runner will be called out should the defensive team touch that base while in possession of the ball before the runner returns before the start of the next play.

OUTS

**If a returning runner has already passed the next base(s), he/she shall retouch the base(s) in reverse order.*

*** 'Faking' definition: declaring one hand and hitting with the other OR starting the hitting motion, then STOPPING and restarting*

**** If a player erroneously hits out of turn, the action will result in an out for the offensive team. The legitimate batter shall be ruled out and the batting order should resume with the following player. The defensive team is responsible for notify any of the Game Officials before the next batter.*

***** In running to a base, a player will be ruled out if he/she runs more than 1 m away from his/her base path to avoid being tagged, unless his/her action is to avoid interference with a fielder fielding a batted ball. A runner's base path is established when the tag attempt occurs and is a straight line from the runner to the base, he/she is attempting to reach safely*

****** Offensive players are forbidden to slide/dive in Baseball5.*

NOTE: Runners must do everything possible to avoid a collision with the defenders. Should a Game Official decide that a runner could have avoided a collision, the runner shall be ruled "out".

The defensive team needs to eliminate three opponents in an inning in order to switch sides and become the offensive team.

How the defence makes "outs":

- By touching the base (while in possession of the ball) where the runner is "forced" to run to;
- By catching a hit ball before it touches the ground (fly out);
- By touching the base (while in possession of the ball) where the runner is "forced" to return to after a fly out; *
- By tagging a runner when they are not on a base; Tagging = touching the runner with the ball in hand;
- If a batter reaches 1st base safely but fails to remain in the safe area and is tagged by a defender while outside the safe area.

How the offensive players eliminate themselves due to an illegal behaviour/action:

- By crossing (passing) on one of the batter's box lines before or while hitting the ball (lines are part of the field, in this case of the batter's box) (See Picture 6);
- By stepping outside the batter's box before the ball reaches fair territory;
- By the first bounce of the batted ball being in foul territory;
- If, after bouncing in fair territory, the ball reaches foul territory before it passes first or third base, and no previous touch by any defensive player;
- By being hit by a legally hit ball, in case of no previous touch by any defensive player;
- By completely missing the ball in the attempt of hitting;
- By intentionally 'faking' to hit the ball; **
- By not making a hit ball touch the fairground at least once before touching the fences or going above the fences, in case of no previous touch by any defensive player;
- By not making the hit ball reach the outfield fence, in case of no previous touch by any defensive player;
- By not respecting the batting order and hitting in place of a teammate; ***
- By a runner leaving the base before the batter hits the ball; in this case the runner is called out;
- By passing a teammate while in the action of running the bases;
- By being tagged while two or more runners are on the same base by (the player listed later in the batting order shall be called "out" if we are in a non-force situation);
- By a runner diverting more than 1m from their base path to avoid the defender's attempt to make a tag ****;
- By sliding/diving in the attempt to safely reach a base or in the attempt to avoid a tag*****.

DEAD BALL

**If a defensive player, in solid possession of the ball while they are in fair territory, should leave the field of play, the ball remains live*

Fielding = the attempt of the defensive player to gain possession of the ball after a hit.

Catching = the attempt of the defensive player to gain possession of the ball after it has been thrown to him/her by a teammate.

If, after a valid hit, the ball leaves the field of play and is no longer playable by the defence, the game stops. In such cases, one of the following will be applied:

- No extra base is awarded if the ball leaves the field of play while a defensive player is attempting to field the hit.*
- Extra bases are awarded only on defensive errors.
- Should a ball leave the field of play due to an errant throw or a missed catch on a throw, the ball is dead and an error assessed / assigned to the defensive team.
- In the event of a defensive error, each runner advances one more base than the one he/she was trying to reach at the instant the defensive player threw the ball.

BASES LOADED, TWO OUTS – SPECIAL CASE

In a situation with bases loaded and two outs where the runner on 3rd base is the next batter (according to the batting order), each runner advances one base: the runner on 3rd base goes to hit, the runner on 2nd base goes to 3rd base and the runner on 1st base goes to 2nd. A pinch runner (player from the bench) is placed at 1st base so that the batting order is maintained. In mixed gender competitions the gender of the pinch runner shall be selected in order to always respect the gender-balance rule.

On teams with only five players, in any situation where the next player at bat is on base, the second player called out in that inning shall pinch-run on the base occupied by the one at bat. The batting order will always be respected.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOUR

NOTE:

During tournaments, any ejection will result in a minimum suspension of one game.

Should a Game Official detect any unsportsmanlike behaviour from any delegation member (players, coach and team manager) on or off the field, the responsible person may be ejected from the game.

If a delegation member, during the game, should blatantly protest a Game Official decision, a verbal or written warning could occur. A second warning to the same delegation member will automatically result in an ejection.

The use of foreign substances such as pine tar or glue to improve the grip of the ball is forbidden and considered unsportsmanlike behaviour. Should a player be found using foreign substances, he/she will be automatically ejected from the game.

INTERFERENCE

Should a Game Official deem that a runner has interfered with the defensive play, the ball becomes dead. The runner that committed the interference shall be ruled out. If the interference happens during the attempt of fielding or throwing the hit ball, also the batter-runner should be ruled out. All other runners (if any) go back to their initial base.

OBSTRUCTION

Should a Game Official deem that any runner is obstructed by a defender without the ball while running to a base, Time is called upon completion of the immediate play, and runners advance to the bases they would have reached had there been no obstruction.

TIME

A player can request time by raising the hands while in possession of the ball and a play is completed. The ball is live until the Home Plate Official grants the request.

In every game/set, each team can request one time out of 30 seconds. The request must be made by the Coach to the Home Plate Official and it will be granted before the following play.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Tactical substitution: Tactical substitutions can take place only when a team changes from offence onto defence. (not when changing from defence to offence!)

Reserve players can only enter the game once. Therefore, they cannot re-enter the game once they are substituted out of the game. A starting player can only re-enter the game to regain their original spot in the batting order once, therefore they may not re-enter the game when they are substituted a second time.

Injury substitution: Should a player suffer an injury, they can be substituted at any time. The injured player cannot re-enter the game. Should the match be played over a series of three games, the injured player is out for the whole series.

Temporary bleeding/injury substitution: For health and security reasons, any player who is bleeding or needs treatment due to a collision shall leave the field of play to receive treatment. To re-enter they must wait for the completion of the half inning. Temporary substitution shall be granted by the Game Officials not requested by the team. Temporary substitutions do not count; therefore, the designated substitute player does not lose his/her right to enter the game.

END OF GAME

The game ends at the end of the fifth inning if one team has scored more runs than the opponent.

Should the Home Team be ahead on the scorecard after the Visiting Team has completed its fifth offensive half-inning, the game is over, and the Home Team wins.

In games played over a series of three sets, the team that wins two sets is the winner.

TIE-BREAK RULE

In the case of a tied game, the teams shall play and complete extra inning(s) until one team scores more runs than the opponent.

- The first extra inning will start with a runner on 1st base (the last batter of the previous inning).
- The second extra inning will begin with runners on 1st and 2nd base (the last batter and the second-last batter of the previous inning).
- Runners will start on all bases from the third extra inning onwards (the last batter, the second-last batter and the third to last batter of the previous inning).
- Runners must be placed on base(s) without modifying the batting order.

RUN-AHEAD RULE

A game is over if a team leads by 15 runs after three (3) innings or 10 after (4) four innings. Should a team reach a 10 or more run advantage during the top of the 5th (fifth) inning the game shall be completed by playing the bottom part of the 5th (fifth) inning.

APPLICATION AND LEGAL NOTICE

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ANNEX 1

OFFICIAL LINE-UP CARD

OFFICIAL LINE-UP

STARTERS

		M/F	N°
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

SUBSTITUTES

		M/F	N°

COMPETITION

PLACE

DATE

GAME # **SET #**

VISITOR

HOME

TEAM

MANAGER

SIGNATURE

ANNEX 2

OFFICIAL SCORE CARD

OFFICIAL SCORE CARD

VISITOR LINE-UP

		M/F	N°	INNING
1	SUB			
2	SUB			
3	SUB			
4	SUB			
5	SUB			

HOME LINE-UP

		M/F	N°	INNING
1	SUB			
2	SUB			
3	SUB			
4	SUB			
5	SUB			

Competition

Place

Date

Game # **Set #**

Visitor

Home

Home Plate Official

1st Field Official

2nd Field Official

3rd Field Official

Table Official

☒ Offensive player ruled out
☒ Batter safe on a HB
☒ Batter safe on a HB
☒ Runner on base in extra inning

☒ End of offensive inning
☒ Substitution
☒ Run scored

TIME OUTS

VISITOR ☐ HOME ☐

ERRORS

VISITOR ☐ HOME ☐

Start-time

Finish-time

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