

## Abbreviated Rules of Base Ball for 1861 and 1865

1861

Umpire calls “striker to the line.” Batter must have one foot behind a 3 foot line, extending midway through home base on either side, when making contact with a pitched ball. Time-outs can only be requested of the umpire by either teams captain.

The hurler must deliver the ball while the pitching hand is below the waist and from behind a 12 foot chalked line, 45 feet from the center of home base.

The batter is allowed to take as many pitches as he sees fit. Home base does not determine a fair pitched ball.

The strike zone consists of a pitched ball that is within fair reach of the batsman’s bat; between six inches off the ground and the batter’s shoulders. A warning by the umpire and three called strikes equals a hand out. Any fair batted ball, foul batted ball or foul tip caught in the air or on one bound at anytime, puts the batter out. Base runners may advance on a fair batted ball that has been caught on one bound.

Foul batted balls are not counted as strikes. A hit batsman does not take his base and base runners may not advance.

If a runner overruns first base he is able to be put out.

No modern day infield fly rule existed. Base runners must ‘tag-up’ when the ball is caught on the fly but are not required to do so when the ball is caught on a single bound.

There is no advancement on foul batted balls. Base runners must return to their original base or potentially be put-out. When attempting to put out a base runner or runners on a foul batted ball, the ball must go through the pitcher, anywhere on the field, before an out can be made.

There are no gloves. Then as now, it is considered more “manly” for a ballist to catch the ball on the fly. Cranks are encouraged to jeer unnecessary ‘muffin’ catches by fielders.

A fair ball is determined by where it first strikes the ground. A “fair foul hit” occurs when a batter strikes down on the ball causing it hit fair ground first, before moving into foul ground.

There is only one umpire. He monitors the game and is asked for decisions only when the players cannot agree on an outcome. His decision is final and there is no disputing a call. The umpire will occasionally ask the “cranks” their opinion before making a call.

1865

By 1865, the game had evolved and the following changes made the game different than it was in 1861:

### Pitching

The hurler must deliver the ball while the pitching hand is below the waist and from behind two 12 foot chalked lines, three feet apart with the front line 45 feet from the center of home base.

### Base Running

Base runners may not advance on a fair batted ball that has been caught on one bound. Base runners must ‘tag-up’ when the ball is caught on the fly. (The fair bound-out rule was eliminated.)

