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2024 Official Baseball Rules

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Rule 1.01 to 1.06

1.00–OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME

- 1.01** Baseball is a game between two teams of nine players each, under direction of a manager, played on an enclosed field in accordance with these rules, under jurisdiction of one or more umpires.
- 1.02** The offensive team's objective is to have its batter become a runner, and its runners advance.
- 1.03** The defensive team's objective is to prevent offensive players from becoming runners, and to prevent their advance around the bases.
- 1.04** When a batter becomes a runner and touches all bases legally he shall score one run for his team.
- 1.05** The objective of each team is to win by scoring more runs than the opponent.
- 1.06** The winner of the game shall be that team which shall have scored, in accordance with these rules, the greater number of runs at the conclusion of a regulation game.

Rule 2.01**2.00—THE PLAYING FIELD****2.01 Layout of the Field**

The field shall be laid out according to the instructions below, supplemented by the diagrams in Appendices 1, 2, and 3.

The infield shall be a 90-foot square. The outfield shall be the area between two foul lines formed by extending two sides of the square, as in diagram in Appendix 1 (page 156). The distance from home base to the nearest fence, stand or other obstruction on fair territory shall be 250 feet or more. A distance of 320 feet or more along the foul lines, and 400 feet or more to center field is preferable. The infield shall be graded so that the base lines and home plate are level. The pitcher's plate shall be 10 inches above the level of home plate. The degree of slope from a point 6 inches in front of the pitcher's plate to a point 6 feet toward home plate shall be 1 inch to 1 foot, and such degree of slope shall be uniform. The infield and outfield, including the boundary lines, are fair territory and all other area is foul territory.

It is desirable that the line from home base through the pitcher's plate to second base shall run East-Northeast.

It is recommended that the distance from home base to the backstop, and from the base lines to the nearest fence, stand or other obstruction on foul territory shall be 60 feet or more. *See Appendix 1.*

When location of home base is determined, with a steel tape measure 127 feet, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches in desired direction to establish second base. From home base, measure 90 feet toward first base; from second base, measure 90 feet toward first base; the intersection of these lines establishes first base. From home base, measure 90 feet toward third base; from second base, measure 90 feet toward third base; the intersection of these lines establishes third base. The distance between first base and third base is 127 feet, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches. All measurements from home base shall be taken from the point where the first and third base lines intersect.

The catcher's box, the batters' boxes, the coaches' boxes, the three-foot first base lines and the next batter's boxes shall be laid out as shown in the diagrams in Appendices 1 and 2.

Appendix 1

Diagram No. 1
Diagram of the Playing Field

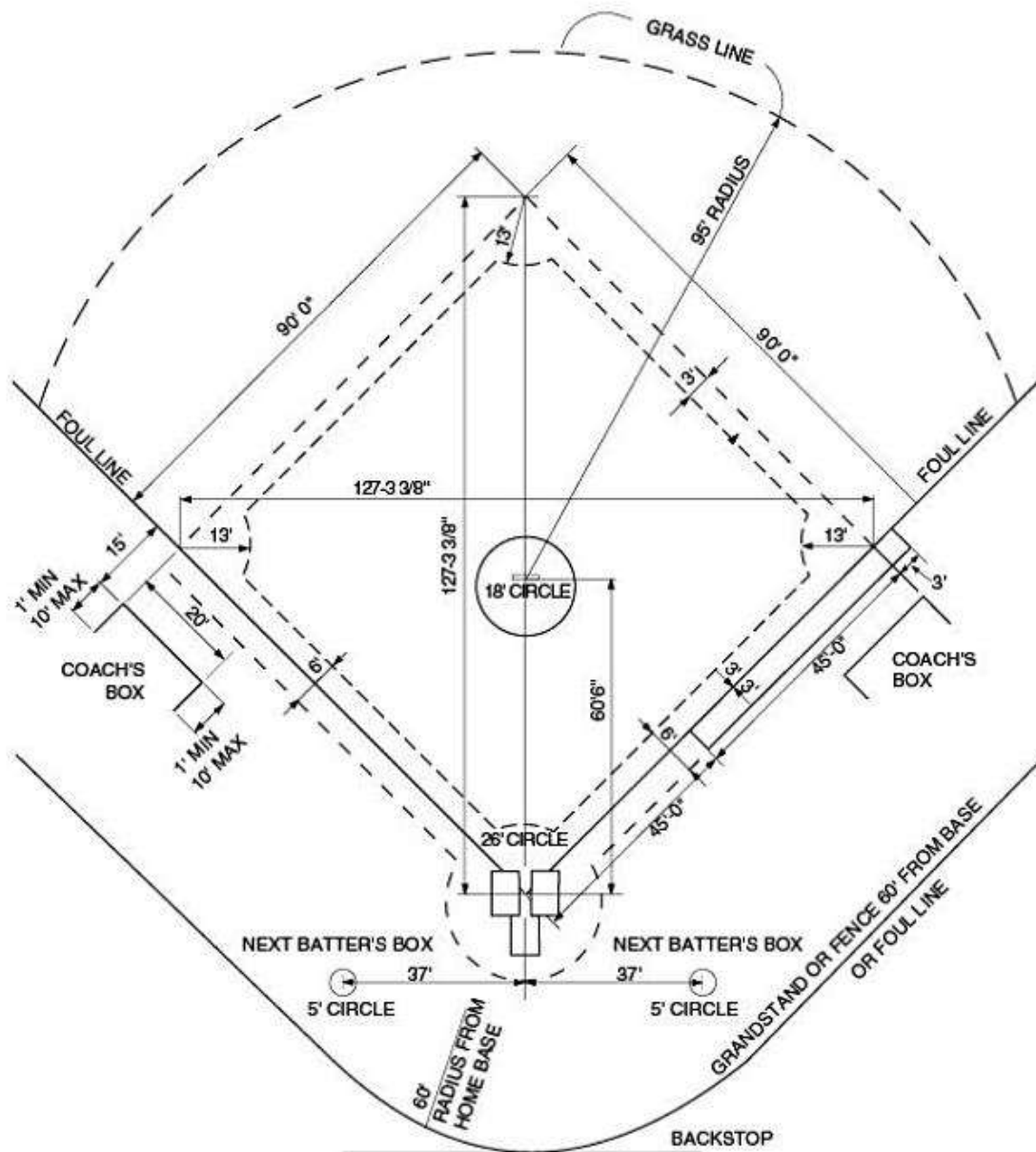


DIAGRAM NO. 1

LEGEND

- BATTER'S BOX, CATCHER'S BOX, FOUL LINE, PITCHER'S PLATE, COACH'S BOX
- NEXT BATTER'S BOX
- - - BASE LINES
- - - GRASS LINES

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Appendix 2

Diagram No. 2
Layout at Home Plate, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bases

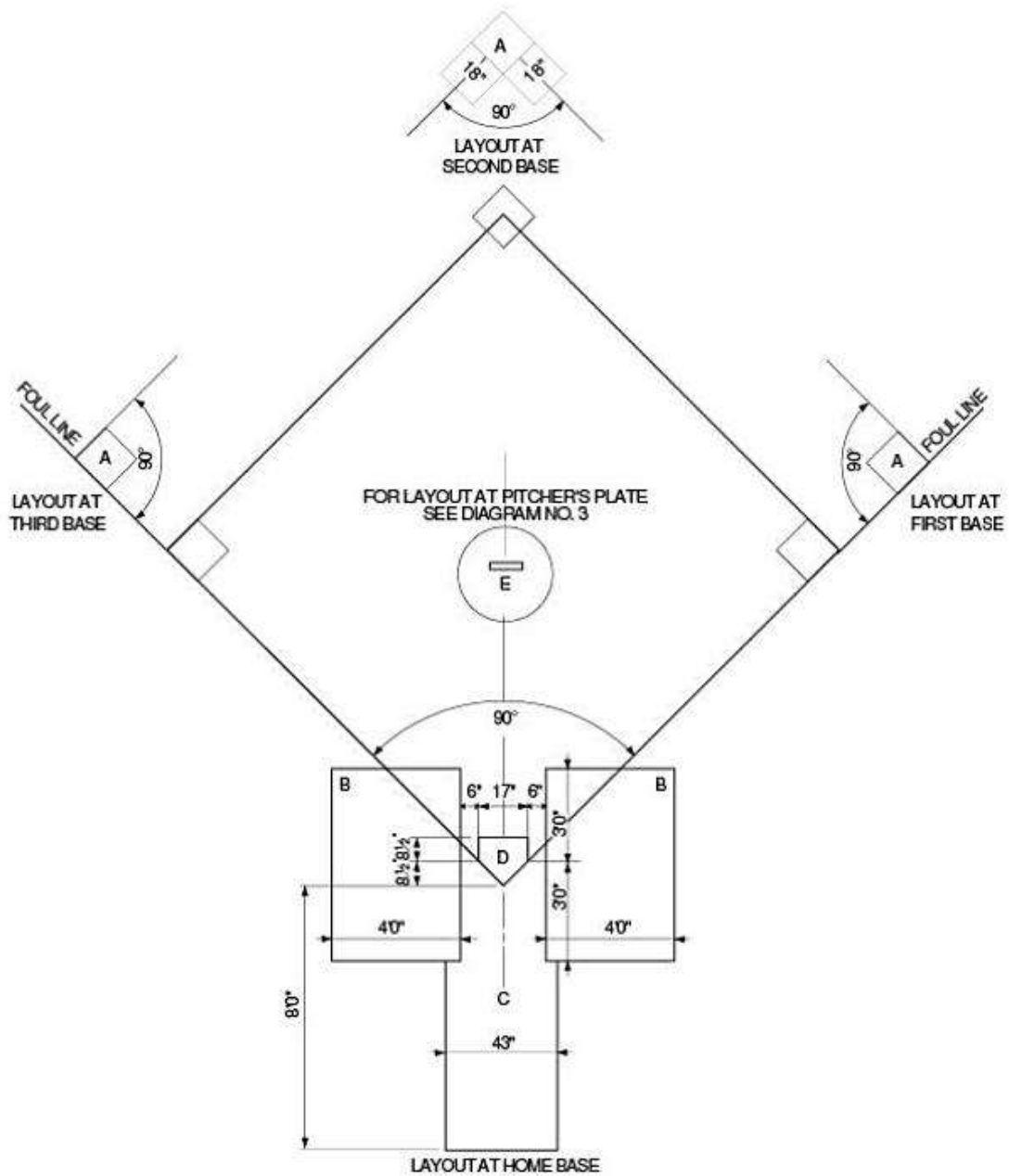


DIAGRAM NO. 2

LEGEND

- A 1st, 2nd, 3rd BASES
- B BATTER'S BOX
- C CATCHER'S BOX
- D HOME BASE
- E PITCHER'S PLATE

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Appendix 3

Diagram No. 3 Layout of Pitching Mound

Suggested Layout of Pitching Mound

This Diagram No. 3 supplements and, in cases of difference, supersedes Diagram No. 2.

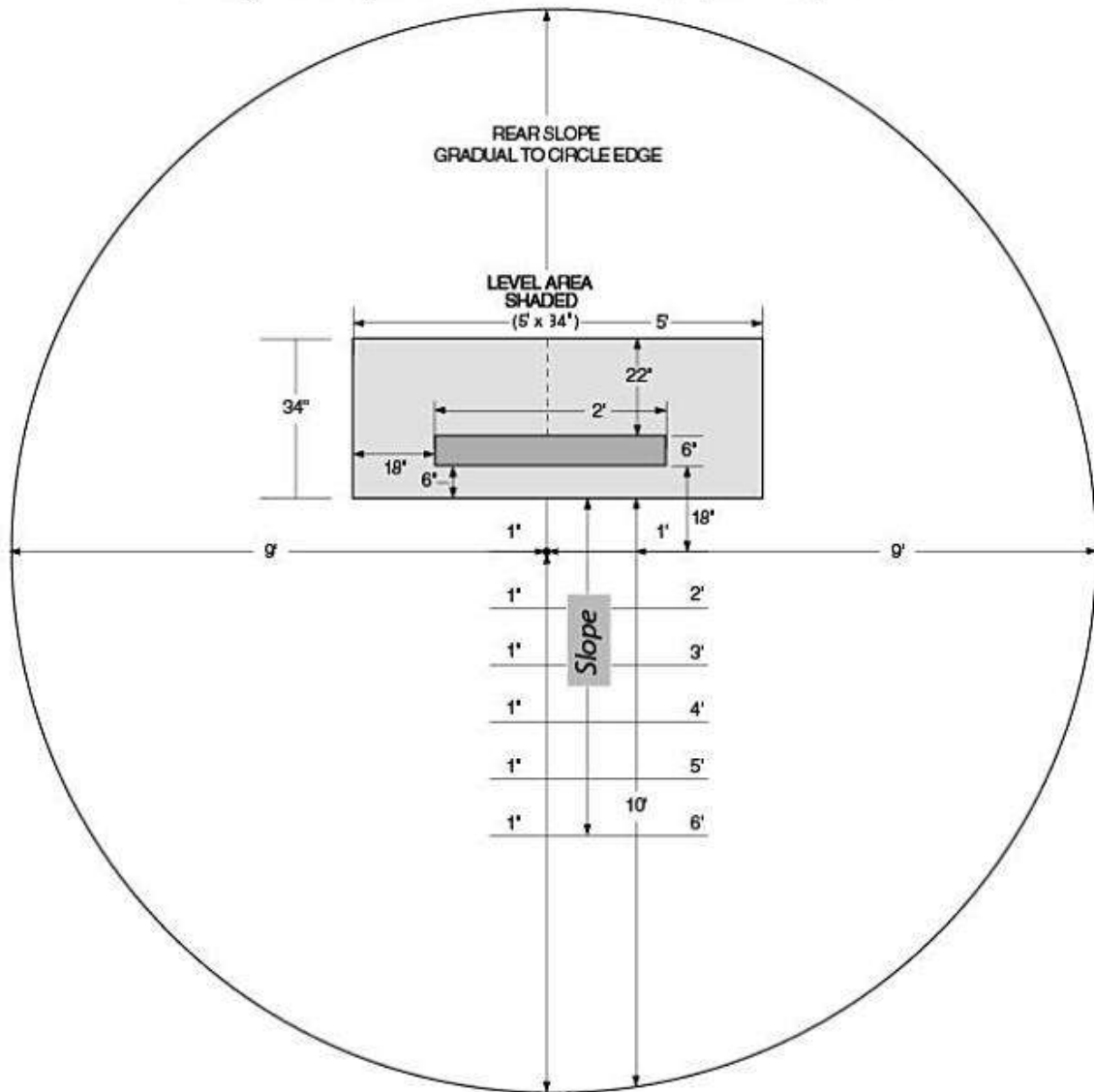


DIAGRAM NO. 3

Pitching Mound: An 18' diameter circle, center of which is 59' from back of home plate.

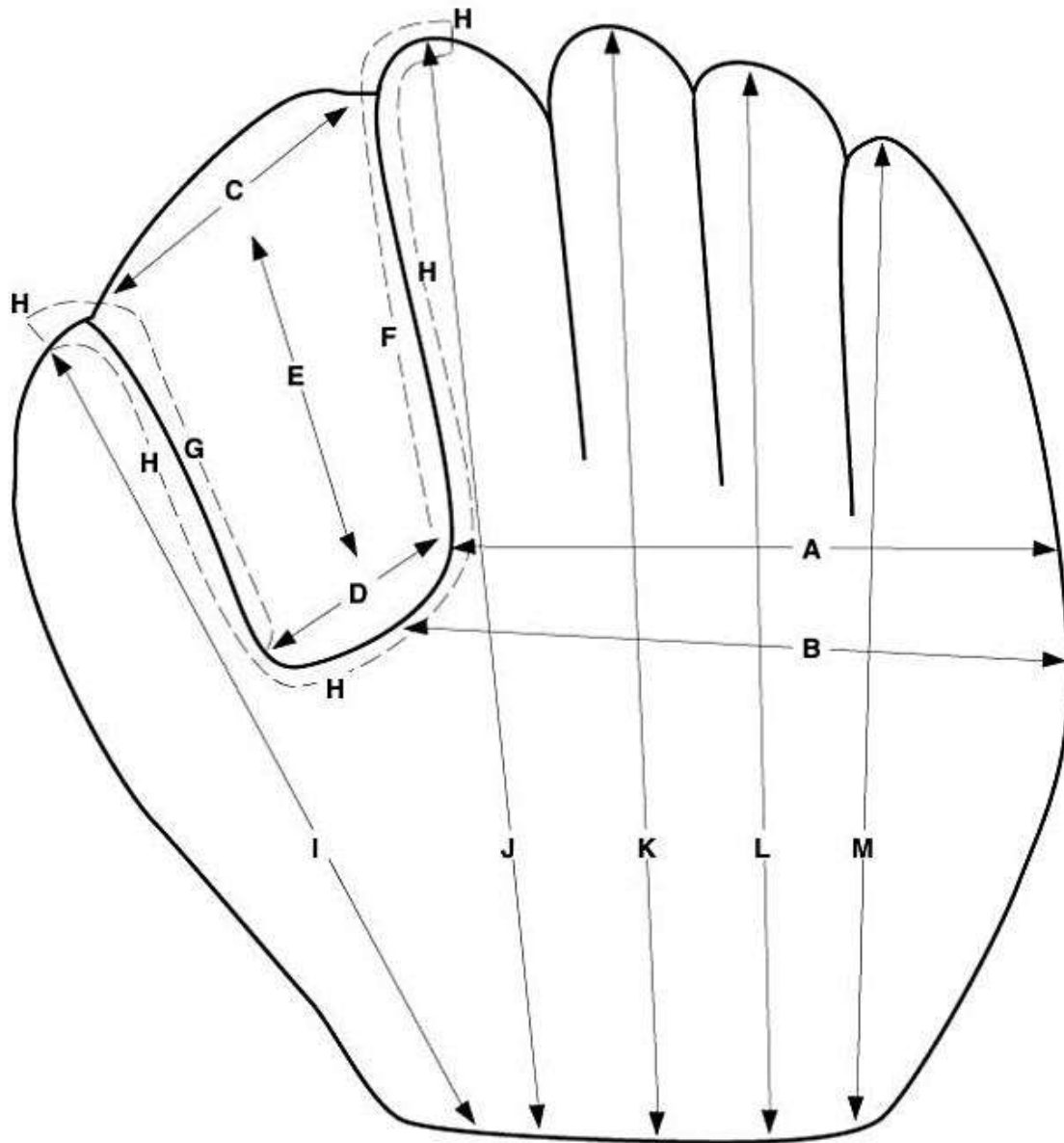
Locate front edge of rubber 18' behind center of mound.

Front edge of rubber to back point of home plate, 60'6".

Slope starts 6' from front edge of rubber.

The degree of slope from a starting point 6' in front of the pitcher's plate to a point 6' toward home plate shall be 1' to 1', and such degree of slope shall be uniform.

Level area surrounding rubber should be 6' in front of rubber, 18' to each side and 22' to rear of rubber. Total level area 5' x 34".

Appendix 4**Dimensions of Fielder's Glove****DIAGRAM NO. 4**

- | | |
|---|--|
| (A) Palm width— $7\frac{3}{4}$ " | (H) Crotch seam— $13\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| (B) Palm width—8" | (I) Thumb top to bottom edge— $7\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| (C) Top opening of web— $4\frac{1}{2}$ "
(webbing not to be wider
than $4\frac{1}{2}$ " at any point) | (J) 1st finger top to bottom edge—13" |
| (D) Bottom opening of web— $3\frac{1}{2}$ " | (K) 2nd finger top to bottom edge— $11\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| (E) Web top to bottom— $5\frac{3}{4}$ " | (L) 3rd finger top to bottom edge— $10\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| (F) 1st finger crotch seam— $5\frac{1}{2}$ " | (M) 4th finger top to bottom edge—9" |
| (G) Thumb crotch seam— $5\frac{1}{2}$ " | |

Appendix 5

The Strike Zone

