



## THREE-TEAM BASEBALL

Do you need something new and fun to do during a practice? Or maybe the other team didn't show up, or it showed up with only a few players?

Why not play a game of three-team baseball?

More than forty years ago, we kids used to play game after game of three-team, when we weren't playing one of the other pickup teams in the neighborhood.

Most of the regular baseball rules apply, except the players present divvy up into three teams instead of two. You need a minimum of 12 players, plus a permanent pitcher (usually the team's manager or a coach) who's only there to lob pitches to get them clobbered. If you also have a permanent catcher and your league allows it, then you can have steals. When you make the divvy, be sure the teams come out as close to equal in ability and skills as possible.

**TEAM A:** Is at bat.

**TEAM B:** Takes the left part of the diamond and is responsible for left field, center field, third base and short-stop.

**TEAM C:** Takes the right part of the diamond and is responsible for right field, second base, first base and defensive (fielding only) pitcher.

There's no catcher – unless you assign a permanent catcher – because it takes too long for three different catchers to doff and don the tools of ignorance. And the two defensive teams act together to put out runners.

After three outs, team A moves to the left part of the diamond, team B moves from the left part of the diamond to the right, and team C goes in to bat. After the next three outs, team A moves to the right part of the diamond, team B goes in to bat, and team C takes the left part of the diamond. Nine outs, three for each team, constitute a full inning.

You keep playing for a couple of full nine-out innings. Then you find someone else to lob in the pitches and assign the pitcher to the team from whence came the reliever. Or maybe the pitcher swaps off with the catcher. (If there's a coach present, the coach should serve up the pitches.) Eventually it gets dark or it's dinner time and everyone has to go home. But three-team is a lot of fun while you're playing it.

The first time you play three-team, it's usually pandemonium. But don't get discouraged. After the first time, players (and coaches!) figure out their roles and it becomes much more organized.

Needless to say, three-team does not fit in a regular scorebook very well. And it's complicated enough that it's easy to lose track of the score, etc. So the next page is a scoring form for three-team baseball.

**MANAGERS AND COACHES:** You might want to print out this instruction page and several copies of the scoring form to put in your score-book, just in case.



### THREE TEAM BASEBALL SCORING FORM

DAY - DATE - DIAMOND

TEAM _____	PLAYER _____	POSITIONS			INNING								hits / runs		
		innings	left	right											
1					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
2					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
3					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
4					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
5					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇

TEAM _____	PLAYER _____	POSITIONS			INNING								hits / runs		
		innings	left	right											
1					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
2					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
3					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
4					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
5					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇

TEAM _____	PLAYER _____	POSITIONS			INNING								hits / runs		
		innings	left	right											
1					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
2					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
3					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
4					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇
5					◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇