

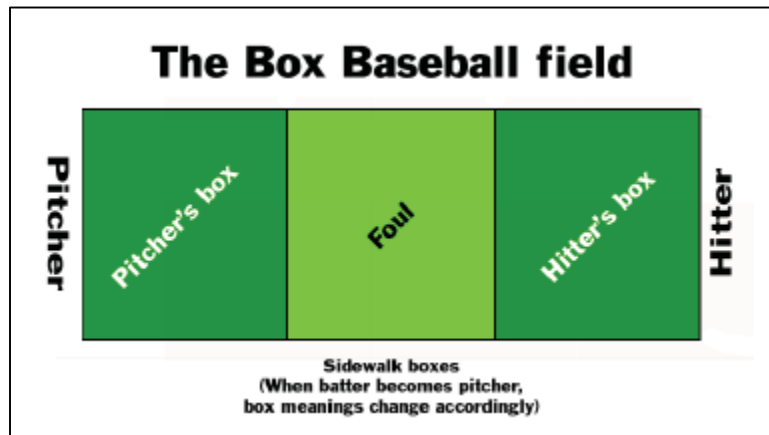
Box Baseball

A crash course for sidewalk baseball

About Box Baseball

Box baseball provides a full baseball simulation on a postage stamp-sized field. It can be quite competitive, but doesn't require much running around. This is a fun activity for two kids looking for something to do and is ideal for a couple of players who are part of a larger group that is "hanging out."

To learn more about box baseball, visit <http://www.streetplay.com/thegames/boxbball.htm>



box. If the ball does not land in the hitter's box, it is a walk ("man on first"). If it does land in the box, the hitter tries to hit it. The hitter must hit the ball after the first bounce, not on the fly and not after a consequent bounce.

If the hitter fails to hit the ball into the pitcher's box on the first bounce, it is an out: this includes if the first bounce is in the middle box (the "foul" box), to the side of the pitcher's box, past the pitcher's box, etc. If it is caught on the fly by the pitcher, it is also an out. After 3 outs are reached, the pitcher becomes the hitter (and vice-versa), and the second half of the inning is played.

If the ball indeed bounces in the pitcher's box, it is hit. After the first bounce, it may continue bouncing anywhere before being caught. The number of times a "hit" bounces determines its baseball value: once, a single; twice, a double; 3 times, a triple; 4 or more times, a home run.

Players keep track of imaginary runners on an imaginary baseball diamond. Unlike real baseball, runners advance 1 base at a time—for example, if there's a "man" on second and then the hitter gets a single, there are then "men on first and third" (whereas in real baseball, the man on second would probably score from second on a single). Rules for walks, however, are exactly like real baseball; a runner on second (with first base empty) doesn't advance on a walk.

Both the pitcher and hitter must stay out of the boxes before the hitter strikes the ball; however, pitcher is allowed go anywhere after a ball is hit, as to make a catch, or chase a ball s/he errantly attempted to catch.

Pitching is the key to this game. Mastering a rubber ball's ability to be squeezed produces a full range of unique spins and speeds. A low "stopper" is a pitch that lands just inside the hitter's box and bounces in place without moving forward. A curve can cause the ball to veer sharply left or right. A speeder causes the ball to bounce sharply up. Some pitches may be agreed to be "illegal" if it helps the game. Curves that bounce out of the side of the box can be considered unfair as is "rifling" the ball (some people can throw quite fast, even underhanded).

The last word

This is a fun activity for two kids looking for something to do or ideal game for a couple of players who are part of a larger group that is "hanging out." It is ideal for those long summer afternoons where you want to play but not too hard.

Game Essentials

Players: 2

Materials needed:

- Bouncing rubber ball (spaldeen is ideal)
- A sidewalk (with boxes; can be drawn if needed)

Time to play: About 15-30 minutes, depending on innings, score, and skill

The Box baseball field

Box baseball needs three adjacent sidewalk boxes, and some space around them. The boxes should be equal in size and relatively free of sidewalk splits, holes, or other imperfections (the middle box can be less pristine than the ends).

How to play

Players decide on the length of the game (usually 7 or 9 innings), and who bats first. Players can straddle their feet along the edge of their box, but must keep feet and hands outside the box during a pitch and attempt to hit.

The pitcher tosses the ball underhand into the hitter's