

Base Ball Rules of 1861

1. **No Over Running First Base** - Runner may be tagged out, so be sure to slow up to stop on first.
2. **No Leading** - May steal once ball has left pitcher's hand---sliding allowed. Like girls softball.
3. **Fair/Foul Rule** - If a ball touches fair territory, then bounces foul, it is in play---and is a fair ball! Unlike modern baseball, it need not get past third or first on the line.
4. **Foul/Pitcher Rule** - If a ball is caught in foul territory, any player caught off of a base when the ball gets back to the pitcher is out.
5. **One Bounce Rule (Fielding)** - A ball may be caught "on the fly" or on one bounce for an out. Purposeful one bounce catches in the outfield are discouraged (and might be booed by educated fans) but is still an out. This is true in fair or foul territory---so if you drift into foul ground and catch a ball on a bounce---it is an out. This is very important for the catcher! If a ball is tipped and caught, or tipped and caught on a bounce, it is an out. If you catch a ball on one bounce, base runners may advance. If you catch a ball "on the fly" they must tag up.
6. **One Bounce Rule (Running)** - If a ball is caught on the fly, you must return to your base to "tag" before moving on (same as modern baseball). However, if a ball is caught on a bounce, you may keep running. So, if you see a sinking liner that will obviously bounce before a fielder catches it---keep running! It is very important to watch and predict what a fielder will do.
7. **No Bunting** - It would have been deemed very "ungentlemanly" to bunt. You must swing at pitches, though there is nothing against a "soft swing."
8. **Balls/Strikes** - There are no balls and strikes.

