

Official Rule Book

*Tony La Russa's*  
**ULTIMATE  
BASEBALL®**



STRATEGIC SIMULATIONS, INC.

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### WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A DEFECTIVE DISK

Each of our games undergoes extensive playtesting prior to its release. Through this process we hope to uncover and correct any errors in programming. However, due to the complex nature of our simulations, some program errors may go undetected until after publication. In addition to errors in the program, there are occasionally problems with the disk itself. We experience the industry standard of approximately a 3 to 5% failure rate of duplicated disks. Before assuming that a disk is defective, make sure to check your disk drive. Up to 95% of the disks returned to us as defective will run fine on our computer systems. Often the problem is with a disk drive that needs servicing for alignment, speed, or cleaning.

Should you have a defective disk, please return the disk only (keep all other parts of the game) to our Customer Support Department, along with a note describing the problem you have encountered. A replacement disk will be provided upon our receipt of the defective disk.

Should you uncover an error in the program, return both your game disk and any "save game" disks to our Customer Support Department. Please enclose a description of what was taking place in the game when the error occurred. Upon correction of the program error, we will return an updated disk to you.

Always make sure to include your name, address, and daytime telephone number with any correspondence. We will do our best to see that any problems are corrected as soon as possible.

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### QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS?

Our main business number is (408) 737-8999. If you encounter disk or system related problems you can call our Technical Support Staff at (408) 737-8950 between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, holidays excluded. NO GAME PLAYING HINTS WILL BE GIVEN THROUGH THIS NUMBER. If you need hints, please write to us at Hints, Strategic Simulations, Inc., 675 Alhambra Avenue, Suite 201, San Jose, CA 95106 (include a stamped self-addressed envelope for reply).

# GETTING STARTED

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Before you begin playing, please make a copy of your original game disk and play from the copy.

## Using the Menus

Use the joystick to move the yellow highlight through menu selections. Press the joystick button to select a highlighted option, which will change to red. The joystick also selects commands such as DONE or CLICK TO NEXT SCREEN at the bottom of many screens to take you to different menus.

On some menus, selections are made simply by pushing the joystick in a direction or pressing the joystick button. This is to hide decisions from your opponent during play.

On any menu where you are moving players into and out of the game, the changes are not permanent until you leave that menu. For example, if you replace a player with a pinch hitter

and then change your mind before you leave the Pinch Hitter Menu, you can return the players to where they were (following the same procedure you originally used to change them) and no change will take place.

## Starting The Game

To load the game:

1. Remove your Fastload Cartridge.
2. Type LOAD "BASEBALL",8 and press [Return].
3. When the computer says READY, type RUN and press [Return].

Before you can play the game, you will be asked to type in a word from a specified page in this manual. Type in the requested word and press [Return] to begin the game. Remember: Count section headings as well as paragraph text.



## SETTING UP THE GAME

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“When you’ve got a leadoff guy with real speed, it opens up a whole range of choices, gives you lots of things you can do to make the other team work a lot harder to get you out.”



You’ll be offered a list of teams to play in this game. Use either of the joysticks to highlight first the visiting, then the home team for your game. Press the button to select each team.

Select **DONE** to display the Ground Rules Menu.

### Ground Rules Menu

First, select if either team will be controlled by the computer. To place a team under computer control, use the joystick to highlight the **YES** setting for that team and press the button.

Next, select the difficulty level:

**PRO** You do everything yourself: pitching, batting, running and fielding. The game resets rapidly at the end of each play.

**ROOKIE** The computer fields the ball, but you tell the computer which base to throw to in the usual way. The computer always tries to throw strikes when it pitches (although a pitcher who is tired or who has poor control may still miss the plate). All other game play is the same as for **PRO**.

You can also choose on this menu whether or not to use the Designated Hitter (DH) rule.

Highlight **CLICK TO NEXT SCREEN STARTING LINEUP SCREEN** and press the joystick button to go on.

**Note:** If you don’t want to worry about the starting lineups, just press the joystick button when each of the lineup menus described below appears. This accepts the default lineups and starts the game.

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## Setting Starting Lineup

There are two menus to set your lineup. The first is to select your actual roster: who plays and who is on the bench. The second is to select batting order.

### *Choose Players*

Highlight any player on either team whom you wish to replace—the names and statistics of eligible replacements will appear at the bottom of the screen. Press the joystick button to move the cursor to the list of bench players at the bottom of the screen. Highlight the desired bench

player and press the button to make the change. Choose **CLICK TO NEXT SCREEN: BATTING ORDER** to go on.

### *Batting Order*

Highlight any player on either team and his stats will be displayed at the bottom of the screen; press the joystick button to select him and continue displaying his stats. Highlight any other player to compare his stats with those of the first player; press the button to reverse their positions in the batting order. Selecting the first player a second time, without selecting someone else, removes the highlight from his name. Choose **CLICK TO NEXT SCREEN: PLAY GAME** to begin playing.

## PLAYING THE GAME

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*“ You want to try to make it hard on the other manager. If you bat three lefties and then four right-handed guys in a row, you’re doing his work for him; he knows when to bring in his role guys from the bullpen. Go right-left-right-switch hitter and he’s got a problem. Now he has to figure out what you’re going to do next and he doesn’t know what move to make. That’s why I love switch hitters. ”*



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The Game Screen shows a close-up of the field at the top and the scoreboard at the bottom. The “Radar Screen” in the center of the scoreboard shows the locations of the runners at all times.

### **Managing Your Team**

If you chose to let the computer control a team’s players, you can still make the managerial decisions and plan your team’s strategy on the field.

Allow the computer to manage the team by selecting YES for the computer manager on the Ground Rules

Menu. Whenever you want to make a managerial move of any kind (using relievers, pinch hitters, different defenses, etc.), regain control of your team by pressing the joystick button while the big batter and pitcher are displayed and before the ball is pitched. This allows you to temporarily take over for the computer manager and give instructions to your team. See the Managerial Decisions section on page 10 for more information.

## CONTROLLING PLAYERS

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*“We want to have players who can do a lot of different things, because that means the other team has to worry about what we’ll do next. We never want to let the other team be comfortable out there. Sometimes we’ll do crazy things — like pitch out on a 2-0 count — just to make them worry more. The more they worry, the less they concentrate on what they have to do, which is field the ball and get us out.”*



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When all your orders have been given, select COMPUTER (from the Manager Menu) to return control of the team to the computer.

**Hint:** If you want to bring in a new pitcher, place that pitcher in the bullpen; the computer will bring him in when he’s warmed up. If you pitch hit for the pitcher, the computer will warm up a new pitcher automatically for the next inning.

If you select NO for the computer manager on the Ground Rules Menu, pop-up menus allow you to control your pitcher or batter on each play. Joysticks control fielding and baserunning.



## Pitching

All pitchers have fastballs, curves and changeups. Their fourth pitch varies, and may be a knuckleball, slider, screwball, or any of several other choices.

If you want to throw a fastball, just press the joystick button. To throw a different pitch or get to the Manager Menu, move the joystick in the direction indicated by the menu arrow, and the menu will drop away when your selection registers. The pitcher will start his windup, stopping in the "set position."

Do not press the joystick button to throw a pitch. The button will cause the pitcher to try to pick off the lead runner.

### Choosing Pitch Direction

While the pitcher is stopped in his set position, choose where you'll try to throw the pitch by moving the joystick in the pattern shown below:

Moving the joystick in a direction for just a moment means you want the pitcher to try to throw the ball almost "down the pipe." The longer you push the joystick in a given direction, the farther in that direction you want the ball to go.

Remember that your pitcher's control will affect whether or not the ball hits the desired target: a pitcher with 40 walks in 200 innings will hit the mark far more often than a pitcher who had 120 walks in the same number of appearances.



*Note: Reverse for left-handed batter.*

### Pickoffs

To attempt to pick off an opposing baserunner who's taken too long a lead, press the joystick button while the pitcher is in the set position. The pitcher will always try to pick off the lead runner.

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“ You don't want to have too many really slow guys batting next to each other in the lineup. They'll clog up the basepaths and you lose all your options for putting pressure on the other team. ”



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## Batting

Like the Pitching Menu, you make batting selections by pushing the joystick in the indicated direction. The following are your options:

**NORMAL** Take a normal swing.

**POWER** Tells the batter to swing for the fences. This increases both his power and the likelihood he'll miss the ball and/or strike out.

**CONTACT** Instructs the batter to choke up and just meet the ball. This reduces his power but makes it much more likely he'll put the ball in play.

**BUNT** Tells the batter to square around to bunt. You still must press the joystick button while the pitch is in the air to tell him to try to bunt the ball.

Once both sides have made their selections the menus drop away and the runners take their leads.

Press the joystick button to swing the bat.

**Hint:** Try swinging the bat a little sooner than you think you need to. Watch the ball's shadow during the pitch to get a feel for when it actually crosses the plate.

## Baserunning

You always control the lead runner on any play. Use the joystick to move the runner, including the batter after he hits the ball, as indicated below:



Pressing to the right always means go forward, to the left always means go back, no matter where in the baseline the runner is.

After the Batter and Pitcher Menus drop and when the pitcher comes to his "set position," move the joystick to take a lead with your lead runner. Very long leads will cause the window showing the batter and pitcher to drop away to display all the action.

To steal a base, take your lead and, when you're ready to go, hold the joystick to the right. The runner will break for the next base.

To slide at second, third or home, press the joystick button as you approach the base. The runner will slide automatically.

To overrun first base on a close play, press the joystick button as you approach the base. The runner will overrun the bag and can not be tagged out after he crosses first. Runners never slide at first base unless retreating there after having rounded the bag.

If after overrunning first you want to try to go to second, hold the joystick to the right to advance the runner. Once he turns to head for second base, as in real baseball, the runner is vulnerable and can be tagged out.

## Fielding and Throwing

When the ball is hit, the window in which the batter and pitcher were shown drops away. Time is "turned back" by about a second to allow the defense time to react, and the swing of the bat is replayed on the main field display.

The computer will automatically select the closest fielder to the ball and place him under your control. If the ball gets by the first fielder, the computer may select another. For example, when the ball gets by the shortstop, the left fielder is selected.

Once the ball touches a fielder he'll catch it, unless he makes an error.

Once the player has the ball, throw it by pressing the button and moving the joystick to indicate where to throw:



If you press the button without indicating a direction, an outfielder who has the ball will throw it to the cutoff man. An infielder will throw it to the pitcher.

Press the joystick button to start another game.





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## Managerial Decisions

Whether you manage only, or manage and play, selecting **MANAGE** from either the Pitcher or Batter menus allows you to make managerial decisions.

### *The Pitcher's Manager Menus*

The following are the managerial options from the Pitching Menu:

**DONE** Returns to the Game Screen.

**PITCHERS** Offers the following choices:

**MOUND** Instructs your manager to visit the mound. This tells the condition of your pitcher and who's warming up in the bullpen. You can highlight a bullpen pitcher and make a pitching change.

**BULLPEN** Shows the status of pitchers currently warming up and on the bench. Highlighting a pitcher and pressing the joystick button moves him back and forth between the bench and the bullpen.

**DONE** Returns to the Manager Menu.

**INFIELD** Offers the following choices:

**PLAY BACK** Moves infield to double play depth.

**PLAY IN** Moves the infield in to try to make a play at the plate.

**HOLD RUN / PLAY OFF** If there is a runner on first and second base is open the computer will automatically have the first baseman hold him on the bag to prevent steals. If you want the first baseman to play in his regular position, choose **PLAY OFF**.

**CHARGE** Instructs the first baseman and third baseman to charge so they can field a bunt.

**NORMAL** Appears if you have chosen a different defense so you can change it back to normal.

**DONE** Returns to the Manager Menu.

**OUTFIELD** Offers the following choices:

**DEEP** Tells the outfielders to play especially deep.

**SHALLOW** Tells the outfielders to play especially shallow, usually for a potential play at the plate.

**NORMAL** Appears if you have chosen a different defense so you can change it back to normal.

**DONE** Returns to the Defense Menu.

**COMPUTER** Tells the computer to take over control of this team.

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### *The Batter's Manager Menu*

The following are the managerial options from the *Batting Menu*:

**DONE** Returns to the *Game Screen*.

**PINCH HIT** Allows you to put in a pinch hitter, sending the current batter to the showers. All players on the bench are displayed, along with their stats. Highlight a player and press the joystick button to make the change.

**PINCH RUN** All available players on the bench are listed with their stats, as are those players currently on base. Move the joystick left and right to select different bases if more than one runner is on. Highlight a player and press the joystick button to reverse their positions; choose **DONE** to make the change official.

**BULLPEN** This option is the same as described for the pitching team on page 111. If you pinch hit for the pitcher, the computer will start warming up a reliever in the bullpen. You can change the reliever it selected if you wish.

**COMPUTER** Tells the computer to take over control of this team.

### **After the Game**

At the conclusion of the game, the computer will display the final line score. If the game ran more than 12 innings, move the joystick in any direction to see the line score for innings after the 12th. Only 24 innings can be displayed.

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