

Q2. Propose a rule change MLB could make that would make baseball more fun.

7.03 (b) Forfeited Games

*A game shall be forfeited to the opposing team when a team is unable or refuses to place **nine** **eight** players on the field, **three of which must be in the outfield.***

Of the defensive baseball players, only the pitcher and catcher have locations that are defined by the rules. Adding an additional rule requiring three outfielders and eight players would mean removing an infielder. This would make baseball more fun.

Most complaints about baseball focus on the long periods between game action. There have been many suggestions on how to improve the pace of play, and some have been implemented. Pitching four times for an intentional walk is no longer required, and the number of mound visits has been reduced. These are improvements, but they make baseball less boring, not more fun.

For simplicity, assume all line drives and fly balls are fielded by outfielders, and all ground balls and pop ups are fielded by infielders. FanGraphs uses Baseball Info Solutions for batted ball data, but it requires a paid subscription. Thus, Statcast data was used, even though it seems to differ from Baseball Info Solutions by a few percent. The following tables shows the number of hits and outs by batted ball results for the league in 2019.

Type	Total Count	Hits	Outs	Infield / Outfield Outs (Count)	Infield / Outfield Outs (%)
Line Drive	30749	18917	11832	32758	39%
Fly Ball	23910	2984	20926		
Ground Ball	54381	13169	41212	50177	61%
Pop Up	9158	193	8965		
Total	118198	35263	82935	82935	100%

From the chart, 61% of batted ball outs are made in the infield, mostly from ground balls. With an infielder removed, more ground balls would carry to the outfield, and the number of pop ups caught would decrease slightly. This would lead to more runners on base, more attempted steals, and more runs scored. Removing a player would increase the action many people believe is lacking, and it would make the game more fun.