Teams take turns batting for 9 innings. Each team bats until 3 batters are “out.” If a batter hits a “foul” ball, it counts as a strike but only 2 times. Then foul balls can be hit without limit. A pitch that is not in the “strike zone” (over home plate between shoulder and knee height) is a “ball.” A batter may walk to “first base” after receiving 4 balls. Batters run to “first base” (or even second and third) when they hit a ball that stays in “fair territory.” They are out if they receive 3 “strikes” while at bat, if the fielders tag a runner or step on a base ahead of the runner, or if a fielder catches a “fly ball” the batter has hit even in “foul territory.”. A “run” is scored each time a batter completes a run around the diamond and gets back to home plate. If the score is tied at the end of 9 innings, more innings are played until someone wins. The “home” team always gets one last chance to bat and score runs. Pitchers throw balls that spin and therefore “curve.” “Fast balls” can be pitched at over 100 miles per hour. Catchers send signals to the pitcher telling them which kind of pitch to throw. Then pitcher makes the final decision. There are many rules and common patterns, but unexpected and exciting hits and outs always happen. 4 “umpires” enforce the rules.



The **Catcher** is behind **Home Plate**.

**Home Plate** is in front of the **Catcher**.