

Why Make Changes?

Fan Research

Extensive fan research has revealed two key insights

1. Fans want crisper pace play
2. Fans want more action

Most Popular Plays

Stolen Base Attempts
Triples
Doubles
Great Defense

Least Popular Plays

Mound Visits
Walks
Pitching Changes

Current Gameplay

Games are longer and have less action than ever

The average MLB game lasted 3:07 in 2022, **37 minutes longer** than the fans' average desired game length of 2:30

.243 batting average in 2022 was the **lowest since 1968**

.706 OPS in 2022 is about **70 points lower** than peaks seen just 20 years ago

League-average **strikeout rates** have been hovering around **23%**, the career strikeout rate of Roger Clemens

Teams are averaging a combined **0.96 stolen bases** per game since 2019, the lowest since **1971**

New Rules for 2023

Pitch Timer

Time Between...

Innings/ Pitching Changes*	2:15 (Local) 2:40 (National)
Batters	0:30
Pitches	0:15 (Bases Empty) 0:20 (Runners On)
Extra Innings	2:15

*Pitch cannot be delivered with more than 15 seconds remaining on this timer

Restrictions on Hitter

- Must be **in batter's box** and alert to the pitcher with at least **8 seconds** remaining
- **One timeout** per plate appearance
- Violations result in an **automatic strike**

Restrictions on Pitcher

- Must **begin motion before timer expires**
- **5 Mound Visits** – extra mound visit awarded if a team uses their normal allotment prior to the 9th
- Violations result in an **automatic ball**

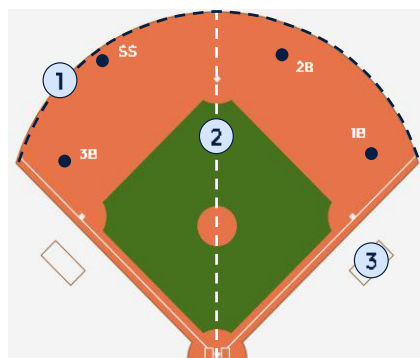
Disengagements

- Pitchers may **disengage the rubber 2x per plate appearance** w/o penalty
- If a pitcher disengages a third time, a **balk is called if all runners return safely to their previously occupied bases**
- Disengagement **count resets** if a **runner advances a base** during a plate appearance

When Does the Clock Start?

Inning Break	Last out of inning
Between Batters	Conclusion of previous play
Between Pitches (Live Ball)	Pitcher has ball, catcher and batter are in dirt circle
Between Pitches (Dead Ball)	Pitcher has ball, catcher and batter are in dirt circle, play is ready to resume
Pitching Change	Pitcher leaves bullpen

Shift Restrictions



1. **Depth.** All 4 infielders must have both feet within the outer boundary of the infield when the pitcher begins his delivery
2. **Lateral Positioning.** 2 infielders must be positioned on each side of second base when the pitch is released
3. **Switching Positions.** During an inning, infielders may not switch sides or move to the outfield unless there is a substitution

*Violations result in an automatic ball

Bigger Bases

1B, 2B, and 3B have increased from a 15" square to an 18" square

44% increase in surface area

Home-1B and 3B-Home closer by 3 inches; 90 ft still measured to back of the bag

1B-2B and 2B-3B closer by 4.5 inches

What To Expect

A **crisper pace of play, more action, and increased display of athleticism**. The new rules were **tested in nearly 8,000 games** at the Minor League. This allowed MLB to evaluate impacts and gather feedback received from Clubs, umpires, and players.

Adjustment Period

Players, coaches, and fans will all be adjusting to the new rules as the 2023 season commences. Spring Training will serve as a valuable time for all to acclimate themselves to the new regulations ahead of the Regular Season.

Players

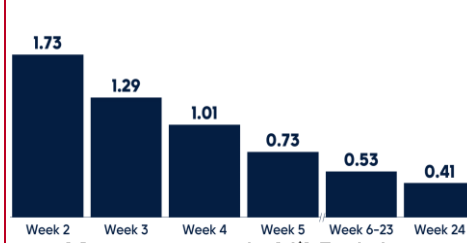
How long did it take you to adjust to the Pitch Timer?

Time	Position Players	Pitchers
About A Week	47%	48%
A Couple of Weeks	30%	28%
About A Month	14%	13%
A Couple of Months	5%	5%
Half the Season+	4%	6%

90% of Minor League Players adjusted within about a month

Clubs

Violations Per Game (Both Teams)

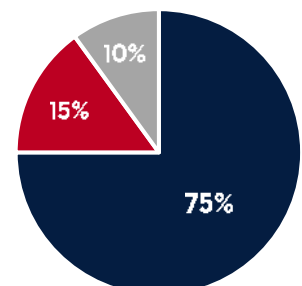


After one month, MiLB clubs averaged **~0.5 violations per game**.

NFL averages 0.6 delay of game penalties per game on half the number of plays (~150 snaps vs. ~300 pitches)

Fans

■ Support ■ Don't Support ■ Not Sure



(From a survey of 15,000 MiLB.tv subscribers)

Fan support of the Pitch Timer increased as they attended more games

Pace of Play

MiLB Gameplay Changes

	2021	2022
Time	3:03	2:38
Runs/Game	5.1	5.1
AVG	.247	.249
HR %	2.8	2.7
K %	25.4	24.4
BB %	10.2	10.5
HBP %	1.6	1.6

MiLB **game time decreased by 25 minutes** following the implementation of the Pitch Timer

Action remained about the same, indicating that the **Pitch Timer reduces in-game dead time, not in-game action**

Run Environment

BABIP on Groundballs (A-AA)

	2021	2022
LHB	.240	.249
RHB	.253	.254
Overall	.248	.252

BABIP on groundballs increased by 9 points for LHB and 1 point for RHB with Shift Restrictions in place

A larger impact is anticipated at the Major League level, where teams have shifted more frequently and more aggressively

Shift Restrictions also **prohibit the use of 4-man outfielders** (usage of these alignments increased by over 500% since 2018)

Baserunning

MiLB Stolen Base Activity

	2019	2022
SB Attempts	2.2	2.8
SB Success	68%	78%

A similar increase in stolen base activity in the Major Leagues would be a **return to levels previously seen in the early 2000s**

Injury Events Near the Bases

	2021	2022
AAA	110	98
AA	118	110
A+	106	85
A	119	99
Total	453	392

Player health and safety improved around the bases