

OBR Rule Changes for 2024

The Runner's Lane

- The runner's lane, which is the space a player is allotted to run to first base, will be widened in the upcoming season, expanding to include the dirt area between the foul line and the grass on the infield.
- The distance between the foul line and the infield grass is now required to be between 18 and 24 inches in all MLB baseball parks.

Pitching changes

- The pitch clock is also getting a refresh. Previously, pitchers had slightly more time when a runner was on base to throw the next pitch — a full 20 seconds, whereas they only had 15 seconds if no runners were on base. Now, pitchers will only have 18 seconds to throw the next ball with runners on base.
- The pitch clock will also restart after a "dead ball" — meaning a ball that is out of play, such as a foul ball — when the pitcher gets the ball, when previously, the clock only began when the pitcher had reached the mound.
- Visits to the pitcher's mound will be reduced from five to four per game, with an extra mound visit awarded in the ninth inning if the defensive team has zero remaining at the end of the eighth inning.
- MLB is also implementing a new rule that states that any pitcher who warms up at the start of an inning must throw to at least one batter before being removed from the mound.