

Official Rounders Rules for 25th July 2026!!

Rounders' Basics

Each team has one innings consisting of 18 balls, with all people in the team having a go at batting. The innings is over when all the batting players are either all out or at a base so that there is no-one left to face the next ball or all 18 balls have been bowled.

Bowling and No-Balls

The bowler must bowl a ball towards the batter so that:

- it is thrown with a smooth underarm action (asked to throw again if deemed too fast, not a no ball)
- the ball arrives without bouncing and within the batter's square
- the ball is above the batter's knee, below the batter's head, and not at the batter's body
- the bowler's feet are inside the bowler's square when the ball is bowled

otherwise a 'no-ball' is called.

A batter can attempt to hit a no-ball and can run on a no-ball, if desired whether the ball is hit or not, but cannot return once first post is reached. If two consecutive no-balls are bowled to the same batter, the batter scores a half-rounder. This process can be repeated until the batter receives a good ball.

Batting

- The batter gets one chance to hit the ball (ignoring no-balls) and must run even if the ball is not struck.
- If the ball is hit behind the batting square or not hit at all, the batter can only run to first base.
- Otherwise, the batter runs around as many of the bases as possible and stops at a post only when the batter thinks there is a danger of the next post being 'stumped'.
- You must touch 4th Post on getting home, not just to score a rounder.

The batter is out if:

- the batter hits the ball and it is caught without first hitting the ground.
- the post being run to is 'stumped' - a fielder must touch the post with the ball.
- the batter runs inside a post.
- the batter loses contact with a post when the bowler has the ball inside the bowler's square.
- the batter overtakes a fellow batter when running around the posts.
- while not running between posts, the batter obstructs a fielder.
- the batter's foot is outside the batter's square when the ball is bowled.
- if the batter throws the bat or lets it out of their hand while trying to strike the ball with the bat going either forwards or backwards (it will be ok to accidentally drop the bat and run).

Scoring Rounders

- If the batter hits the ball or is bowled a no ball and then reaches the fourth post without being "stumped", a rounder is scored.
- if the batter fails to hit the ball and reaches the fourth post, a half-rounder is scored.
- if a fielder obstructs a batter running to a post, a rounder is scored (accidentally or not).
- a half-rounder will be awarded to the bowling side for every opposition player they get out.

If the batter hits the ball and reaches the first, second or third post without being out, the batter stays at that post (and must keep in contact with it) until the next ball is bowled. As soon as the ball leaves the bowler's hand, the player can run to the next post, if they wish, even if a no-ball is called.

If the batter does not keep contact with the post, the fielding side can stump the next post to get the player out. 2 batters cannot be at the same post so a batter must run on to the next post if the next batter catches up with them.

Once the fourth post is reached, the person goes to the back of the batter's line and awaits their next turn to bat.

Winning

After both sides have played their innings, the side with the most rounders' wins and will receive two points.

If the scores are drawn then one point is awarded to both sides.

Other Rounders' Rules

- A team consists of nine players: of which at least 3 girls/women must be playing.
- The umpires' rulings are final. The umpire may ask any player to leave the field of play if deemed he/she is basically spoiling the day for everybody else.
- If the ball goes or is hit behind, the batter may only run to first post but may continue to run once the ball has returned in front of the batter's square again. In this way, it is possible to reach 4th post and score a rounder, even if the ball is hit behind (although this would only happen in practice due to a fielding error).
- Batsmen must try to carry their bat when running.
- When the bowler has the ball in his square, you cannot move on, but if you are between posts, you can carry on to the next.
- The batting order must not change during the game, if the umpire notices a whole rounder will be taken off the batting team's score.

After the Group Games

Once the group games have finished, the top four teams will play a semi-final, The winner of Group A will play second place in Group B and the winner of Group B will play second place in Group A. If the result is tied in either the semi-final or final then a nine-ball bowl off will be played.

The winners of the semi-finals will meet in a winner takes all final no matter which position you finished in the group stage. (if there are more than 4 teams at the end of the group stage with the same points, then a nine-ball bowl off will ensue between the teams to see who goes through to the semi-final)