



# POSITIONING MANUAL

## Four-man System

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# INTRODUCTION

Umpiring in a four-man system .... you think the easy life has begun. Especially after having overcome all the difficulties of the three-man system. Of course, working a four-man crew is much easier, but the responsibilities and rotations require concentration and anticipation. On the other hand, if everyone understands the basics, a four-man crew provides enough eyes and authority to really cover the entire field and control the game.

If you're about to work your first four-man game in a minute, you're going to need all the help you can get from your colleagues who had better preparation. There is no quick fix on four-man mechanics just before a big game or tournament. Yes, four-man coverage is easier to understand if you've already worked the three-man system, but still there are major differences.

# 1 BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

## 1.1 Home Plate Umpire

Obviously, the home plate umpire handles balls and strikes. He also handles fair-foul decisions along both foul lines - to a point. That point is the base. There is always an umpire positioned along each foul line, so the home plate umpire rules fair-foul on any batted ball that is touched or fielded before it reaches the base. The base umpire (first base umpire or third base umpire) rules on any ball that reaches the base in flight or that is untouched when it reaches the base. When an untouched, batted ball hits the base, the base umpire makes the call. In case one of the umpires' view is blocked by a fielder, get help from your partner who has a better view (do not 'give away' the call but ask for assistance). This happens when the home plate umpire is screened on a fair-foul call before the base or when the first base umpire or third base umpire is screened on a fair-foul call on or beyond the base.

When a line drive is hit directly at the first base umpire or third base umpire and he has to move away from his initial position, fair-foul responsibility shifts to the home plate umpire. Even though the ball is beyond the base, the first base umpire or third base umpire is in no position to make the fair-foul call. This situation is different from 'a blocked view' as just described, where the first base umpire or third base umpire gets help from the home plate umpire but still is responsible for the call.

When a sharp ground ball is hit between F3 and the right field foul line or between F5 and the left field foul line and passes the base going into the outfield (fair or foul territory), the first base umpire or third base umpire respectively must 'chase' this ball to see what happens. This is only relevant in situations when the ballpark is not completely enclosed (such as an opening in the fence) or when there is a bullpen area located in foul territory (and interference might occur). In both cases an umpire close to the action can save a lot of trouble and discussion.

Outfield responsibilities are more than simple. There aren't any. One of the three base umpires rules on all outfield catch attempts.

The first base umpire or third base umpire handles all fair-foul decisions on batted balls that pass the base in flight.

Infield catch attempts are a bit tricky, but that's true no matter how many umpires are on the field. The most effective coverage is when the home plate umpire makes most of the decisions because the fielder making the play rarely screens him. The first base umpire, second base umpire or third base umpire takes the call if a fielder moving towards that umpire makes the catch attempt. For example, with the second base umpire in the outfield and F6 diving to his right for a low line drive; the third base umpire has the best view and should make the call. The catch attempt is generally between the third base umpire and F6's body. On a pop fly between home plate and the backstop, the home plate umpire reads the batted ball and immediately clears the catcher. The home plate umpire keeps looking at the catcher (does not look at the ball) and moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt. Just before the catcher reaches the backstop, the home plate umpire must find the ball to see if it touches the fence.

When the ball is hit, the home plate umpire must do one of four things. (1) Clear the catcher and move forward a couple of steps to get a clear picture of the situation (no runners on base). (2) Trail the batter towards first base up to the 45-foot mark to assist the first base umpire on any unusual play (no runners in scoring position). (3) Stay home because a runner may advance towards the plate. (4) Move towards third base when a batted ball takes the third base umpire to the outfield.

During the game, umpires must limit or even try to refrain from talking to players, coaches, managers and each other. In some situations, consulting with your partner in between innings may be necessary (when mechanics go wrong and you want to prevent that from happening again). In order to avoid yelling at each other for attention, a signal will be used. If you want to talk to your partner after the next half inning, cross your arms in front of your chest in the direction of that particular umpire (when he looks your way). That umpire acknowledges with the same signal. Please note that there will be no talking between umpires right after a problem situation or a questionable call. In that case, postpone the talking to the next half inning.

## 1.2 First Base Umpire

The first base umpire's starting position is slightly outside the first-base foul line, one to two meters deeper than F3 but at least six meters behind first base, all identical to two or three-man mechanics. In case the defense is holding a runner on first base, the first base umpire moves forward to a position about two to three meters from the base. The first base umpire has his right foot near the foul line and is squared to the pitcher's plate to observe pick off attempts, again identical to working a three-man crew.

With four umpires present, check-swings are quite simple. The umpire 'facing' the batter decides on check-swing appeals. That gives responsibility for right-handed batters to the first base umpire, but removes all check-swing responsibility for a left-handed batter (which is different from two-man).

Fair-foul responsibilities should bring no surprises. The first base umpire determines fair-foul on any batted ball that reaches first base before it is touched by a fielder. The first base umpire also 'kills' a batted ball that goes straight down and hits the batter. You share that responsibility with the rest of the crew. Note the word 'kill'. No matter what your habit may be, the best announcement is "Time!" Yelling, "Foul ball!" could be incorrect. If the batter is outside the box when he is hit by a fair ball, he should be declared out (normally by the home plate umpire). A 'foul' call from a base umpire, who has no angle to determine whether the batter is in or out of the box, could lead to real problems.

In case one of the umpires' view is blocked by a fielder, get help from your partner who has a better view (do not 'give away' the call but ask for assistance). This happens when the home plate umpire is screened on a fair-foul call before the base or when the first base umpire or third base umpire is screened on a fair-foul call on or beyond the base.

When a line drive is hit directly at the first base umpire or third base umpire and he has to move away from his initial position, fair-foul responsibility shifts to the home plate umpire. Even though the ball is beyond the base, the first base umpire or third base umpire is in no position to make the fair-foul call. This situation is different from 'a blocked view' as just described, where the first base umpire or third base umpire gets help from the home plate umpire but still is responsible for the call.

When a sharp ground ball is hit between F3 and the right field foul line or between F5 and the left field foul line and passes the base going into the outfield (fair or foul territory), the first base umpire or third base umpire respectively must 'chase' this ball to see what happens. This is only relevant in situations when the ballpark is not completely enclosed (such as an opening in the fence) or when there is a bullpen area located in foul territory (and interference might occur). In both cases an umpire close to the action can save a lot of trouble and discussion.

Outfield responsibilities are based on the second base umpire's starting position. When the second base umpire is 'outside', the first base umpire reads the second base umpire on all fly balls, but should expect to cover batted balls hit to the right fielder's left. When the second base umpire is 'inside', the third base umpire determines outfield coverage. The third base umpire is responsible for all balls hit towards F8 coming in or going out or moving to his right, identical to three-man mechanics.

For catches within the infield, pop-ups present few problems but low line drives create nightmares. The first base umpire is responsible for plays made by F4 moving towards the foul line and for plays made by F3 where the first base umpire can see into the fielder's glove. On any infield catch, a 'slow' call is important. Be certain, communicate with your partners (eye contact) and be assertive when you announce your decision.

When the ball is hit, the first base umpire might go in any of four directions. On any ground ball in the infield, set up for the play at first base. On a fly ball to right field, go out and see what happens. On a clean hit or a ground ball through the infield, move forward in foul territory and watch the batter-runner touch first. If the play draws the home plate umpire to cover third, rotate home only when the batter-runner or runner 1 commits to third base.

The fourth option is called 'the slide'. For a detailed overview of responsibilities, see 2.6. Rotation Six, under Basic Rotations. In short, the first base umpire slides towards position B when a play starts with a runner in scoring position and a ball to the outfield is hit to the third base umpire's area. A slide is similar to a normal, two-man pivot; it puts the first base umpire in position to handle plays at either first or second base and frees the second base umpire to cover a play at third.

During the game, umpires must limit or even try to refrain from talking to players, coaches, managers and each other. In some situations, consulting with your partner in between innings may be necessary (when mechanics go wrong and you want to prevent that from happening again). In order to avoid yelling at each other for attention, a signal will be used. If you want to talk to your partner after the next half inning, cross your arms in front of your chest in the direction of that particular umpire (when he looks your way). That umpire acknowledges with the same signal. Please note that there will be no talking between umpires right after a problem situation or a questionable call. In that case postpone the talking to the next half inning.

Does a base umpire really have to chase all fly balls? Yes!! There's a full crew for one reason: better coverage. Unless the batted ball is an obvious, clean hit, somebody should go. When you go out, indicate to your partners that you do ("I'm going." Don't say "I'm going out", because the word "out" might cause confusion). The definition of going out is turning your back. Once you do turn your back, never return for decisions on plays at the bases.

### 1.3 Second Base Umpire

Throughout the game, the second base umpire is in the best position to encourage communication and direct the crew. If the second base umpire is a strong communicator, good coverage should be increased dramatically.

The second base umpire's starting position with no runners on base is in center field about six meters beyond the edge of the outfield grass. The choice of right center or left center field depends on the batter. Always stand on the batter's pull side because most fielders play the opposite side of the batter. (See also Situation #1, number 4). The only exception is when there is a runner on third only with less than two outs. In that case, the second base umpire's starting position is about six meters behind the shortstop. The second base umpire must be able to cover plays at third when the third base umpire goes out in foul territory.

With runners on base, the second base umpire's starting position should be the edge of the infield grass on the second baseman's side near the cutout (this position is called 'deep B'). In all situations where there is a runner or a threat at second base, the second base umpire is in this position, regardless the number of outs. In other words, with a runner on third only the second base umpire moves to the outfield again. This 'deep B' position not only gives you an excellent view on the defense attempting a pick off, but also on the swipe tag made on the runner stealing from first. On top of that, covering second and first base when the first base umpire goes out is much easier. Again, these mechanics are identical to working a three-man crew.

In case the fielders are trying to prevent a run from scoring by 'playing in', the second base umpire stands behind these fielders near the edge of the outfield grass. On any fly ball to the outfield, the second base umpire does not go out, but comes to the infield and is responsible for runner 2 tagging up and other plays in the infield.

The second base umpire has no fair-foul or check-swings responsibility, but when he is positioned in the infield, the second base umpire must occasionally 'kill' a batted ball that goes straight down and hits the batter. You share that responsibility with the other base umpires. Again, note the word 'kill'. No matter what your habit may be, the best announcement is "Time!" Yelling, "Foul ball!" could be incorrect. If the batter is outside the box when he is hit by a fair ball, he should be declared out (normally by the home plate umpire). A 'foul' call from a base umpire, who has no angle to determine whether the batter is in or out of the box, could lead to real problems.

When the second base umpire begins in the outfield, he is the crew's guide. The second base umpire reads all batted balls to the outfield and determines which umpire should go out on fly balls. Any fly ball or line drive hit directly at or between the outfielders belongs to the second base umpire. Pause, read and react is absolutely vital. When the ball is hit, the second base umpire must pause long enough to see where the ball is going, read what direction the outfielders move to play the ball and react by moving aggressively either towards the outfielder while getting a good angle to view the catch attempt, or towards the infield. The first base umpire and third base umpire base their movement on what the second base umpire does. If the second base umpire's movement is hesitant or uncertain, his partners do not know what to do. Even if the second base umpire gets a bad read and moves in the wrong direction, he must move aggressively and keep going (within reason). It's better to have the first base umpire make a catch

decision in right-center field (in case the second base umpire made the choice to come in), than to have two umpires chasing the same fly ball. Of course, you don't want the second base umpire making a fair-foul decision just because he misread a batted ball down the line. When the second base umpire begins inside, he has no catch responsibility on balls hit to the outfield. The first base umpire and third base umpire then split that coverage.

The second base umpire has no responsibility for infield catches when he begins in the outfield. When the second base umpire is inside, he generally has the best angle for plays made by F4 and F6 (unless the fielder is diving away from the second base umpire) and often has the best view of a play made by any infielder moving forward. As on any infield catch, a 'slow' call is important.

When the ball is hit and the second base umpire is in the outfield, he will go in one of two directions. The second base umpire either moves towards the batted ball while getting a good angle to view the catch attempt, or moves aggressively towards second base to be ready in the event the batter-runner tries for a double. When the ball is hit and the second base umpire is inside, he will do one of three things. (1) He might stay put. If no wing umpire goes out, the second base umpire simply rules on plays at or near second base. (2) If the first base umpire goes out on a fly ball, either the second base umpire or home plate umpire may have to move towards first base to cover action there. (3) If the third base umpire goes out on a fly ball, either the second base umpire or the home plate umpire may have to move towards third base to cover action there. Which of the two umpires fills the open coverage is determined by whether the play begins with a runner in scoring position. If that is the case, the home plate umpire usually stays home and the second base umpire fills in as needed. With no runner(s) in scoring position, the home plate umpire is expected to fill the open spot. This is also true for situations where a fly ball results in a routine catch. (See also Situation #9, number 4).

During the game, umpires must limit or even try to refrain from talking to players, coaches, managers and each other. In some situations, consulting with your partner in between innings may be necessary (when mechanics go wrong and you want to prevent that from happening again). In order to avoid yelling at each other for attention, a signal will be used. If you want to talk to your partner after the next half inning, cross your arms in front of your chest in the direction of that particular umpire (when he looks your way). That umpire acknowledges with the same signal. Please note that there will be no talking between umpires right after a problem situation or a questionable call. In that case postpone the talking to the next half inning.

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## 1.4 Third Base Umpire

The third base umpire's starting position is slightly outside the third-base foul line, at least two or three steps onto the outfield grass. The only other alternative is when a play begins with a runner on second, third or both, the third base umpire moves forward to a position where he can comfortably observe either a third-base steal or a pickoff attempt at third. The third base umpire has all decisions on check swings by left-handed batters.

The third base umpire determines fair-foul on any batted ball that reaches third base before it is touched by a fielder. The third base umpire also 'kills' a batted ball that goes straight down and hits the batter. You share that responsibility with the rest of the crew. Again, note the word 'kill': No matter what your habit may be, the best announcement is "Time!" Yelling, "Foul ball!" could be incorrect. If the batter is outside the box when he is hit by a fair ball, he should be declared out (normally by the home plate umpire). A 'foul' call from a base umpire, who has no angle to determine whether the batter is in or out of the box, could lead to real problems. In case one of the umpires' view is blocked by a fielder, get help from your partner who has a better view (do not 'give away' the call but ask for assistance). This happens when the home plate umpire is screened on a fair-foul call before the base or when the first base umpire or third base umpire is screened on a fair-foul call on or beyond the base.

When a line drive is hit directly at the first base umpire or third base umpire and he has to move away from his initial position, fair-foul responsibility shifts to the home plate umpire. Even though the ball is

beyond the base, the first base umpire or third base umpire is in no position to make the fair-foul call. This situation is different from 'a blocked view' as just described, where the first base umpire or third base umpire gets help from the home plate umpire but still is responsible for the call.

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Outfield responsibilities are based on the second base umpire's starting position. When the second base umpire is 'outside', the third base umpire reads the second base umpire on all fly balls, but should expect to cover batted balls hit to the left fielder's right. When the second base umpire is 'inside', the third base umpire is responsible for all balls hit towards F8 coming in or going out or moving to his right.

For catches within the infield, pop-ups present few problems but low line drives create nightmares. The third base umpire is responsible for plays made by F6 moving towards the foul line and for plays made by F5 if the third base umpire can see into the fielder's glove. A 'slow' call is important. Be certain, communicate with your partners (eye contact) and be assertive when you announce your decision.

When the ball is hit, the third base umpire must go in one of two directions. If the ball is hit in his outfield area, the third base umpire goes out to cover the play, while getting a good angle to view the catch attempt. If the second base umpire goes out to cover a fly ball, the third base umpire moves towards second base to cover any play that develops there (unless there's a runner on third with less than two outs). Even on a batted ball that will be an obvious double and / or possible triple (and the second base umpire moving towards the batted ball), the third base umpire moves to second base. The home plate umpire must rotate up and cover third. Frequently, the third base umpire has no reason to move in reaction to a batted ball; he may simply observe and prepare for a play developing at third.

During the game, umpires must limit or even try to refrain from talking to players, coaches, managers and each other. In some situations, consulting with your partner in between innings may be necessary (when mechanics go wrong and you want to prevent that from happening again). In order to avoid yelling at each other for attention, a signal will be used. If you want to talk to your partner after the next half inning, cross your arms in front of your chest in the direction of that particular umpire (when he looks your way). That umpire acknowledges with the same signal. Please note that there will be no talking between umpires right after a problem situation or a questionable call. In that case postpone the talking to the next half inning.

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## 2 BASIC ROTATIONS

One home plate, three bases and four umpires, what a great deal!! Looking at this nobody has to move and can stay put in every possible situation ... WRONG!! Guess again!! Even though it seems there's not a whole lot of running around in a four-man system, the following rotations prove otherwise. You'll see that, in order to achieve the best coverage, there is a lot of running involved. The good news is that when everyone does what he's supposed to do, every play has an umpire waiting for the runner to arrive. There are eight basic rotations for a four-man crew. Using an umpire rotation as described in one of these eight basic rotations can cover (almost) every possible play.

### 2.1 Rotation one (no runners on base)

With no runners on base (and therefore the second base umpire outside), the batter hits a deep fly ball to center field.

The following umpire rotation applies:

1. The home plate umpire must pause to read the batted ball and the second base umpire's reaction. He then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire and third base umpire are moving properly. If the batted ball appears to become a routine play, the home plate umpire moves up to the 45-foot mark. If the batted ball appears to be an extra base hit, the home plate umpire must begin moving towards third and will base his own progress on the batter-runner's action. The home plate umpire must be within 10 meters of third well before the batter-runner. If the batter-runner commits towards third, the home plate umpire reads the developing play and, if both the runner and the ball are headed for third, the home plate umpire sets up at the third-base cutout to observe the action. If the play at third breaks down and the batter-runner advances towards the plate, the first base umpire should already be in position to cover the play at the plate.
2. The first base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire covers the ball, the first base umpire walks towards first, remaining on foul territory to observe the batter-runner's touch. If the batter-runner advances to and around second, the first base umpire rotates to the plate in case the batter-runner tries to score.
3. The second base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he's covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, or whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence. When he goes, the second base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
4. The third base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire covers the ball, the third base umpire moves towards second. He must be at the second-base cutout well before the batter-runner arrives there, so his movement is based on the batter-runner's pace. When the batter-runner commits towards second, the third base umpire sets up at the cutout for a play at second base. If the batter-runner commits to second, then for some reason decides to retreat to first, the first base umpire is already in position to cover the play at first base.

See also 4.1. Situation #1.

### 2.2 Rotation two (no runners on base)

With no runners on base (and therefore the second base umpire outside), the batter hits a fly ball to left field near the foul line.

The following umpire rotation applies:

1. The home plate umpire must pause to read the batted ball and the second base umpire's reaction. He then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire and third base umpire are moving properly. If the batted ball appears to become a routine play, the home plate umpire moves up to the 45-foot mark. If the batted ball appears to be an extra base hit, the home plate umpire must begin moving towards third and will base his own progress on the batter-runner's action. The home plate umpire must be within 10 meters of third well before the batter-runner. If the batter-runner commits towards third, the home plate umpire reads the developing play and, if both the runner and the ball are headed for third,

the home plate umpire sets up at the third-base cutout to observe the action. If the play at third breaks down and the batter-runner advances towards the plate, the first base umpire should already be in position to cover the play at the plate.

2. The first base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire moves towards the infield, the first base umpire walks towards first, remaining on foul territory to observe the batter-runner's touch. If the batter-runner advances to and around second, the first base umpire rotates to the plate in case the batter-runner tries to score.
3. The second base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is not covering. He then moves towards second base. He must adjust his movement to the batter-runner's speed. If the batter-runner attempts for extra bases, the second base umpire must arrive on the infield side of second well ahead of the batter-runner and the play.
4. The third base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire hands the batted ball over to the third base umpire, the third base umpire moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, straddling the foul line because fair-foul will be a factor. The third base umpire must also observe whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.

See also 4.2. Situation #2.

### 2.3 Rotation three (no runners on base)

With no runners on base (and therefore the second base umpire outside), the batter hits a fly ball to right field.

The following umpire rotation applies:

1. The home plate umpire must pause to read the batted ball and the second base umpire's reaction. He then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire and third base umpire are moving properly. When the first base umpire goes, the home plate umpire trails the batter-runner towards first base, observes the batter-runner's touch and prepares to cover a developing play if the defense throws behind the runner. If the batter-runner advances to and around second, the home plate umpire returns to the plate in case the batter-runner tries to score.
2. The first base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire hands the batted ball over to the first base umpire, the first base umpire moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the first base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
3. The second base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is not covering. He then moves towards second base. He must adjust his movement to the batter-runner's speed. If the batter-runner attempts for extra bases, the second base umpire must arrive on the infield side of second well ahead of the batter-runner and the play.
4. The third base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire hands the batted ball over to the first base umpire, the third base umpire can remain near third and basically relax. If the batter-runner advances beyond second, the third base umpire must move into position for a play at third, set and observe the action.

See also 4.3. Situation #3.

### 2.4 Rotation four (runner on first base)

With a runner on first (and second base umpire inside, position 'deep B'), the batter hits a fly ball to deep left field.

The following umpire rotation applies:

1. The home plate umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and the first base umpire are reacting properly. The home plate umpire then begins moving towards third base, adjusting his pace to runner 1's action. If runner 1 is going, the

home plate umpire must move aggressively towards third; if runner 1 is tagging up or holding half way to second, the home plate umpire starts for third but there is no reason to hurry. As the play develops and the home plate umpire rotates to third, he must communicate with his partners - particularly the second base umpire - by announcing, "I've got third if he comes!" Then, if runner 1 commits towards third, the home plate umpire announces, "I'm at third!" The home plate umpire remains in foul territory, about 10 meters from third base, unless he sees both runner 1 and the ball going to third base. If that happens, the home plate umpire moves into fair territory near the third-base cutout, sets and observes the developing play. If the play at third breaks down, the home plate umpire must look towards home plate to ensure that the first base umpire is in position. If the first base umpire is not in position, the home plate umpire retreats to the plate and covers any play that develops.

2. The first base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage. When the third base umpire goes, the first base umpire remains near first base to observe the batter-runner's touch and, if the ball is caught, runner 1 returning. If the ball falls for a hit (or an error), the first base umpire must prepare to rotate to the plate. That only happens when runner 1 commits to third base. If runner 1 eventually tries to score, the first base umpire must be in position along the third-base line extended to observe the play.
3. The second base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage, then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is holding near first and that the home plate umpire starts towards third. The second base umpire remains near second base to observe any play that develops there. If the ball falls for a hit (or an error) and runner 1 commits to third, the second base umpire then picks up the batter-runner. If the batter-runner only rounds first, the second base umpire may have to rotate towards first base to prepare for a subsequent play.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.

See also 4.6. Situation #6.

## 2.5 Rotation five (runner on first base)

With a runner on first (and the second base umpire inside, position 'deep B'), the batter hits a fly ball to deep right field.

The following umpire rotation applies:

1. The home plate umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and third base umpire are reacting properly. The home plate umpire then trails the batter-runner towards first base, moving at least to the 45-foot mark. The home plate umpire is responsible for any play that develops at first base until runner 1 commits around second towards third. If runner 1 does commit to third, the home plate umpire returns to the plate and the second base umpire picks up responsibility for all plays at second and first. Before the home plate umpire returns to the plate he announces, "I'm going back to home plate". If runner 1 eventually tries to score, the home plate umpire must be in position along the third-base line extended to observe the play.
2. The first base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the first base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage, then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is covering the batted ball and that the home plate umpire is moving towards first. The second base umpire remains near second base to observe any play that develops there. If runner 1 commits to third, the second base umpire then picks up the batter-runner. If the batter-runner only rounds first, the second base umpire may have to rotate towards first base to prepare for a subsequent play.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 1 advances beyond second, the third base umpire must move into position for a play at third, set and observe the action. If a play at third breaks down, the third base umpire must look towards home plate

to ensure that the home plate umpire is in position. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

See also 4.7. Situation #7.

## 2.6 Rotation six (runner on second base - at least): 'the slide'

With a runner on second at least (and the second base umpire inside, position 'deep B'), the batter hits a fly ball to deep left field. In this situation the first base umpire and second base umpire slide (if the ball remains in the infield, all four umpires cover their own bases).

The following umpire rotation applies:

1. The home plate umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 2 advances towards home plate, the home plate umpire must move into position, set and observe the action. If there is a runner on third base and runner 3 is tagging up (less than two outs), the home plate umpire must move into foul territory in order to see both the outfield play and runner 3 tagging up. If runner 3 advances to home plate, the home plate umpire must move back into position for the play, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the home plate umpire can basically relax.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards first base. When the third base umpire goes, the first base umpire must pivot, watch the batter-runner touch first and move aggressively to cover all possible plays at second base. As soon as he feels he can cover a play that develops at second, the first base umpire communicates, "I've got second!" That releases the second base umpire to fully concentrate on plays at third base. In this rotation, the first base umpire always has responsibility for plays at first base. When he communicates with the second base umpire as described, the first base umpire also has all plays at second base.
3. The second base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage, then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is moving into the infield. With less than two outs, the second base umpire observes the outfield play and runner 2 tagging up. The second base umpire moves cautiously towards third but remains close enough to second to return and cover a play that develops there until the first base umpire releases him. Before the first base umpire communicates that he is ready to cover second, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both second and third base. After the first base umpire communicates, the second base umpire is responsible only for plays at third.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball, then announces that he is covering and moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.

See also 4.8. Situation #8.

## 2.7 Rotation seven (runner on second base - at least)

With a runner on second at least (and the second base umpire inside, position 'deep B'), the batter hits a pop-up between home plate and the backstop.

The following umpire rotation applies:

1. The home plate umpire reads the batted ball and immediately clears the catcher. The home plate umpire keeps looking at the catcher (does not look at the ball) and moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt. Just before the catcher reaches the backstop, the home plate umpire must find the ball to see if it touches the fence.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards first base. In case there is a runner on third tagging up, the first base umpire moves aggressively to cover home plate in case runner 3 tries to score. The first base umpire must then move into position for the play, set and observe the action. If there is no runner on third base tagging up, the first base umpire can basically relax.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage. With less than two outs, the second base umpire observes the play in foul territory and runner 2 tagging up. With a runner on first

base, the home plate umpire moving away from home plate and the first base umpire covering, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both first and second base as soon as the first base umpire commits to home plate. The second base umpire must step up, turn and face the ball and then must determine where a play will develop. The second base umpire must move cautiously towards either first or second if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the second base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location.

4. The third base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and moves a few steps towards third base. If there is a runner on third tagging up, the third base umpire is responsible for the tag. If runner 2 is tagging up and advances towards third, the third base umpire must move into position for the play, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

See also 4.12. Situation #12.

## 2.8 Rotation eight (runner on second base - at least)

With a runner on second at least (and the second base umpire inside, position 'deep B'), the batter hits a fly ball to deep right field.

The following umpire rotation applies:

1. The home plate umpire must pause to read the batted ball and the first base umpire's reaction. He then spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and third base umpire are moving properly. If any runner advances towards home plate, the home plate umpire must move into position, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the home plate umpire can basically relax.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the first base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is covering the batted ball. With less than two outs, the second base umpire observes the outfield play and runner 2 tagging up. With the home plate umpire staying home and the first base umpire going out, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both first and second. The second base umpire must step up, turn and face the ball and then must determine where a play will develop. The second base umpire must move cautiously towards either first or second if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the second base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location.
4. The third base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and moves a few steps towards third base. If there is a runner on third tagging up, the third base umpire is responsible for the tag. If runner 2 advances towards third, the third base umpire must move into position for the play, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

See also 4.17. Situation #17.

## 3 BEFORE THE GAME STARTS

This part of the manual is not going 'to take you by the hand' on what to do before a game, step by step. A certain level of professionalism is assumed. The rulebook also provides valuable information on what to do before a game starts. You will therefore not find a guideline on how to pack your bag, even though that might prove a valuable lesson sometimes. What you will find is a checklist of items to cover among umpires (e.g. to be used in the hotel before a tournament, during a pre-seasonal meeting or in the locker room before a game), all to create more uniformity among umpires or crews.

### 3.1 Pre-game conference (between umpires)

#### 3.1.1 General

- Arguments

In case of discussions between a manager or player and an umpire, it's the rest of the crew's duty to keep these discussions one-on-one. Keep other players away; work as a team.

- Balks

In any situation and from any position in the infield, all umpires are responsible for all balks.

If you see a balk, you call it. There is no such thing as 'the home plate umpire looks for the quick pitch and the first base umpire watches the pitcher stepping to either home or first base'. Of course, some balk situations are easier to see from a certain position, but do not hesitate to call what you see.

- Communication

Verbal communication, after the ball is hit, is very important. Unless the batted ball is an obvious, clean hit, somebody should go and must announce that he's covering the play.

- Number of Outs

Indicating and acknowledging the number of outs must be done clockwise. The home plate umpire indicates to the third base umpire; the third base umpire indicates to the second base umpire; the second base umpire to the first base umpire and finally the first base umpire back to the home plate umpire. This way the home plate umpire doesn't have to be the central 'waiting point' and the second base umpire is involved as well.

- Rain Delays

During rain delays umpires never stay in the dugout(s).

- Speed-up Rules

Go over the applicable speed-up rules and agree upon who can help out (such as counting the number of warm up pitches, keeping track of time). When the manager visits the pitcher, one umpire always should go in the direction of the bullpen (normally, each to his side). Breaking up visits to the mound is the sole responsibility of the home plate umpire.

#### 3.1.2 Mechanics

- Starting Positions

1. The first base umpire's starting position is slightly outside the first-base foul line, one to two meters deeper than F3 but at least six meters behind first base.
2. The second base umpire's starting position with no runners on base is in center field about six meters beyond the edge of the outfield grass, always on the batter's pull side (unless there's a runner at third with less than two outs). In all situations where there is a runner or a threat at second base, the second base umpire's starting position is the edge of the infield grass on the second baseman's side near the cutout (this position is called 'deep B').
3. The third base umpire's starting position is slightly outside the third-base foul line, at least two or three steps onto the outfield grass but always one to two meters deeper than F5.

- With a Runner in Scoring Position, the Home Plate Umpire in Principle Stays Home

With a runner in scoring position (runner on second or runners on second and third), the home plate umpire in principle always stays home and doesn't cover any plays at the bases. The only exception is when a routine fly ball is hit to the outfield. If such a ball is hit to left field, the home plate umpire might have to cover third base; if such a ball is hit to right field, the home plate umpire might have to cover first base.

- Going Out

Unless the batted ball is an obvious, clean hit, somebody should go. When you go out, indicate to your partners that you do ("I'm going." Don't say "I'm going out," because the word "out" might cause confusion). The definition of going out is turning your back. Once you do turn your back, never return for decisions on plays on the bases.

- Fair-Foul Decisions

1. The home plate umpire determines fair-foul on any batted ball in the infield up to the bases; the first base umpire and third base umpire determine fair-foul on any batted ball that hits or passes the base. All base umpires must help out the home plate umpire on a batted ball that goes straight down and hits the batter.
2. In case one of the umpires' view is blocked by a fielder, get help from your partner.
3. When a line drive is hit directly at the first base umpire or third base umpire and he has to move away from his initial position, fair-foul responsibility shifts to the home plate umpire.
4. When a sharp ground ball is hit between F3 and the right field foul line or between F5 and the left field foul line and passes the base going into the outfield (fair or foul territory), the first base umpire or third base umpire respectively must 'chase' this ball to see what happens. This is only relevant in situations when the ballpark is not completely enclosed (such as an opening in the fence) or when there is a bullpen area located in foul territory (and interference might occur). In both cases an umpire close to the action can save a lot of trouble and discussion.

- Check Swings

The first base umpire has check swing responsibility on right-handed batters; the third base umpire on left-handed batters.

- Rotations

There are eight basic rotations for a four-man crew. When preparing for a game by means of a pre-game conference, go over the basic rotations as described in chapter 2. There are three basic rotations describing game situations with no runners on base, two basic rotations describing game situations with a runner on first base and three basic rotations describing game situations with at least a runner on second base.

### 3.1.3 Coverage

- Fly Balls to the Outfield

1. When the second base umpire is 'outside', he determines which umpire should go out on fly balls. Any fly ball or line drive hit directly at or between the outfielders belongs to the second base umpire.
2. When the second base umpire is 'outside', the first base umpire reads the second base umpire on all fly balls, but should expect to cover batted balls hit to the right fielder's left.
3. When the second base umpire is 'outside', the third base umpire reads the second base umpire on all fly balls but should expect to cover batted balls hit to the left fielder's right.
4. When the second base umpire is 'inside', the third base umpire determines which umpire should go out on fly balls, unless the situation is very clear. The third base umpire is responsible for all balls hit towards F8 coming in or going out or moving to his right.

Whenever one of the base umpires goes out, he does not return to cover any play in the infield.

- Fly Balls in the Infield

The home plate umpire makes most of the decisions because the fielder making the play rarely screens him. The first base umpire, second base umpire or third base umpire takes the call if a fielder moving towards that umpire makes the catch attempt. A 'slow' call is important. Be certain, communicate with your partners (eye contact) and be assertive when you announce your decision.

### 3.1.4 Signals

No matter what set of signals is used, uniformity is important. Before the game starts, the crew should at least decide on what signals to use for:

- Advice on weather situations
- Check swings
- Consulting with your partner in between innings
- Infield fly situations
- Time plays

## 3.2 Home Plate conference between managers and the umpire(s)

Since you'll be working a game between two teams, it's very important to function as a team of umpires as well. On numerous occasions you may need the help of your partners, especially in case of an argument. You'll see players act like a team, then umpires must be a team as well. This means that you enter and leave the field together. This does not mean that you shake hands or congratulate each other on the field after a game. If you think your partner did a great job, tell him afterwards in the locker room. Very seldom everyone in the stands agrees with all your decisions throughout the game, so don't give them any chances to say anything about it.

During the actual home plate conference between managers and the umpire(s), the home plate umpire must stand right behind home plate, with his back to the stands. Managers of the teams will stand right next to home plate, each in one of the batter's boxes. The base umpires will stand immediately in front of home plate, facing the stands. When one of the umpires acts as crew chief for that game, he will introduce himself as such. In principle, the home plate umpire is the only one who addresses the managers during this meeting. Always mention the enforcement of the speed-up rules.

During the playing of national anthems, the home plate umpire must remain in the position as described. The first base umpire must stand to the home plate umpire's right and the second base umpire and third base umpire to his left. During the actual playing of the anthems, each umpire will have his hat in his right hand across his chest and his left hand straight down his left leg.

After the home plate conference (or playing of the national anthems), the home plate umpire must verify if all agreements made are clear among the umpires (such as ground rules) and then the base umpires will run together to the outfield warning track and split up there, each to 'his side'.

Just before the first "play ball" call, the home plate umpire checks to see if the technical commissioner(s), official scorekeeper(s) and base umpires are ready. The latter is done by pointing at the first base umpire and third base umpire (and just check upon the second base umpire) after which these base umpires acknowledge. Before all other half inning starts, the home plate umpire just looks to see whether the base umpires are ready, without any actual signaling.

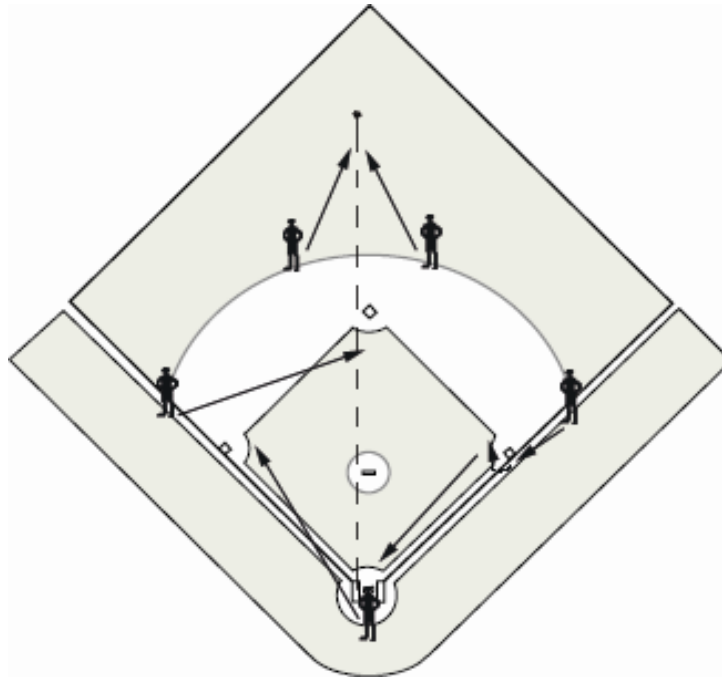
All in the above is comparable to two or three-man mechanics.



## 4 GAME SITUATIONS

## Situation #1: No runners on base, any number of outs

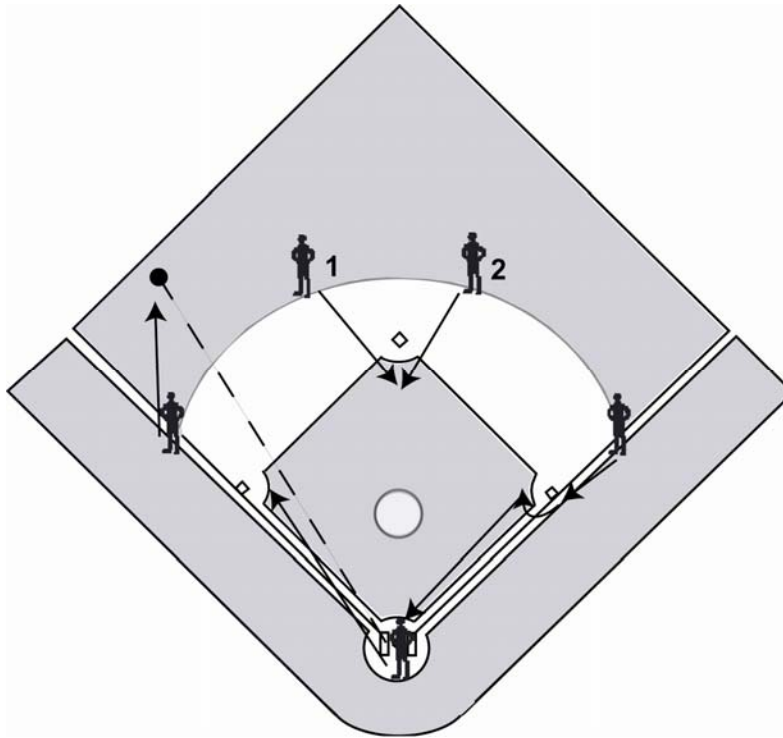
### Action on the field: Fly ball to center field



1. The home plate umpire must pause to read the batted ball and the second base umpire's reaction. He then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire and third base umpire are moving properly. If the batted ball appears to become a routine play, the home plate umpire moves up to the 45-foot mark. If the batted ball appears to be an extra base hit, the home plate umpire must begin moving towards third and will base his own progress on the batter-runner's action. The home plate umpire must be within 10 meters of third well before the batter-runner. If the batter-runner commits towards third, the home plate umpire reads the developing play and, if both the runner and the ball are headed for third, the home plate umpire sets up at the third-base cutout to observe the action. If the play at third breaks down and the batter-runner advances towards the plate, the first base umpire should already be in position to cover the play at the plate.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and lets the second base umpire determine coverage. When the second base umpire goes, the first base umpire walks towards first, remaining in foul territory to observe the batter-runner's touch. If the batter-runner advances to and around second, the first base umpire rotates to the plate in case the batter-runner tries to score.
3. The second base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he's covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, or whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence. When he goes, the second base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield. Remember that (1) is the starting position on a right handed batter and (2) the starting position on a left handed batter.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and lets the second base umpire determine coverage. When the second base umpire goes, the third base umpire moves towards second. He must be at the second-base cutout well before the batter-runner arrives there, so his movement is based on the batter-runner's pace. When the batter-runner commits towards second, the third base umpire sets up at the cutout for a play at second base. If the batter-runner commits to second, then for some reason decides to retreat to first, the first base umpire is already in position to cover the play at first base.

Situation #2: No runners on base, any number of outs

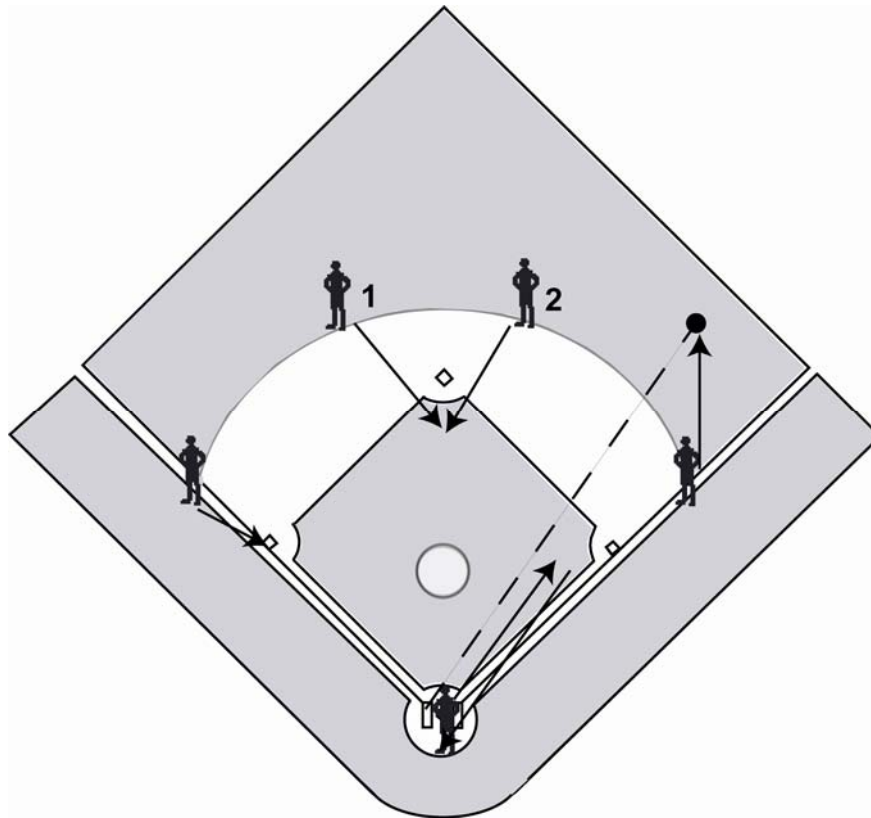
**Action on the field: Fly ball to left field near the foul line**



1. The home plate umpire must pause to read the batted ball and the second base umpire's reaction. He then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire and third base umpire are moving properly. If the batted ball appears to become a routine play, the home plate umpire moves up to the 45-foot mark. If the batted ball appears to be an extra base hit, the home plate umpire must begin moving towards third and will base his own progress on the batter-runner's action. The home plate umpire must be within 10 meters of third well before the batter-runner. If the batter-runner commits towards third, the home plate umpire reads the developing play and, if both the runner and the ball are headed for third, the home plate umpire sets up at the third-base cutout to observe the action. If the play at third breaks down and the batter-runner advances towards the plate, the first base umpire should already be in position to cover the play at the plate.
2. The first base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire moves towards the infield, the first base umpire walks towards first, remaining in foul territory to observe the batter-runner's touch. If the batter-runner advances to and around second, the first base umpire rotates to the plate in case the batter-runner tries to score.
3. The second base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is not covering. He then moves towards second base. He must adjust his movement to the batter-runner's speed. If the batter-runner attempts for extra bases, the second base umpire must arrive on the infield side of second well ahead of the batter-runner and the play. Remember that (1) is the starting position on a right handed batter and (2) the starting position on a left handed batter.
4. The third base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire hands the batted ball over to the third base umpire, the third base umpire moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, straddling the foul line because fair-foul will be a factor. The third base umpire must also observe whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.

Situation #3: No runners on base, any number of outs

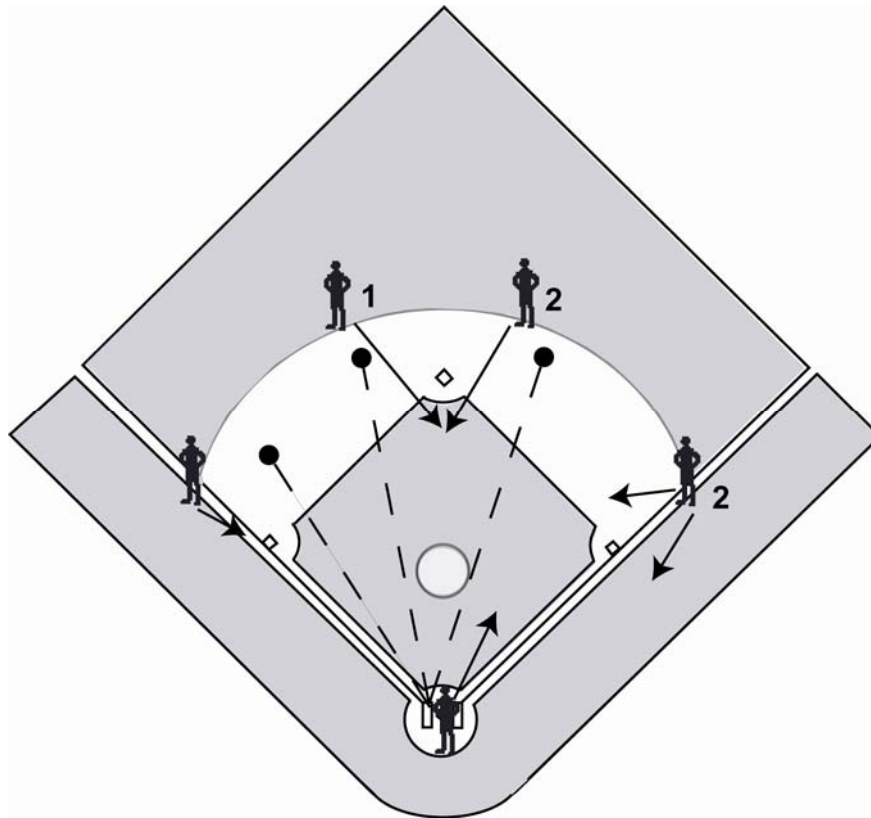
**Action on the field: Fly ball to right field near the foul line**



1. The home plate umpire reads the second base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire and third base umpire are reacting properly. When the first base umpire goes, the home plate umpire trails the batter-runner towards first base, observes the batter-runner's touch and prepares to cover a developing play if the defense throws behind the runner. If the batter-runner advances to and around second, the home plate umpire returns to the plate in case the batter-runner tries to score.
2. The first base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire hands the batted ball over to the first base umpire, the first base umpire moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, straddling the foul line because fair-foul will be a factor. The first base umpire must also observe whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence. When he goes, the first base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
3. The second base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is not covering. He then moves towards second base. He must adjust his movement to the batter-runner's speed. If the batter-runner attempts for extra bases, the second base umpire must arrive on the infield side of second well ahead of the batter-runner and the play. Remember that (1) is the starting position on a right handed batter and (2) the starting position on a left handed batter.
4. The third base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire hands the batted ball over to the first base umpire, the third base umpire can remain near third and basically relax. If the batter-runner advances beyond second, the third base umpire must move into position for a play at third, set and observe the action.

Situation #4: No runners on base, any number of outs

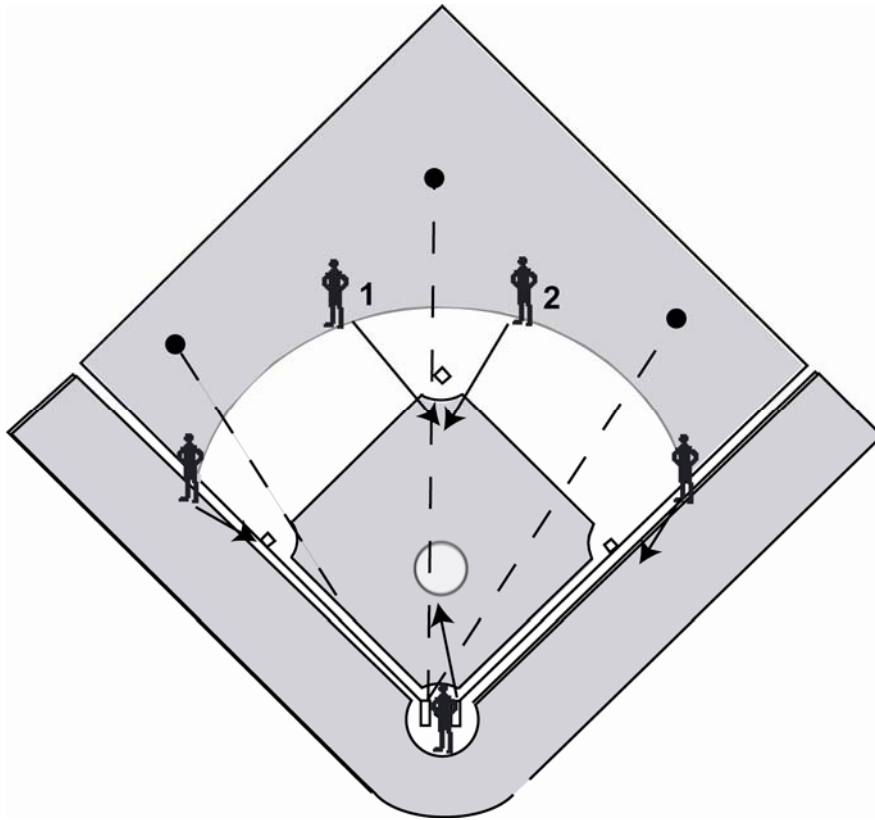
**Action on the field: Ground ball, fielded by F4, F5 or F6**



1. The home plate umpire reads the ball and clears the catcher. If fair-foul is a factor, the home plate umpire straddles the third-base line and observes until a fielder fields the batted ball. Otherwise, the home plate umpire trails the batter-runner towards first base (up to the 45-foot mark) and comes to a standing set. He then watches for any unusual play and if there is a pulled foot or swipe tag decision and assist the first base umpire if he asks for help.
2. The first base umpire reads the ball and (1) moves to fair territory if the ball is hit towards F5, F6, directly at F4 or to his right. When the ball is hit to F4's left, the first base umpire (2) must move forward in foul territory. Then the first base umpire must come to a standing set, read the throw and adjust if the throw is off line. He observes the play and will ask the home plate umpire for help (if needed) before making a call.
3. The second base umpire reads the ball and moves towards second to cover a possible play on the batter-runner. Remember that (1) is the starting position on a right handed batter and (2) the starting position on a left handed batter.
4. The third base umpire reads the ball. If fair-foul is a factor and the ball passes the base before F5 can make a play, the third base umpire straddles the foul line and waits for the play to happen. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

## Situation #5: No runners on base, any number of outs

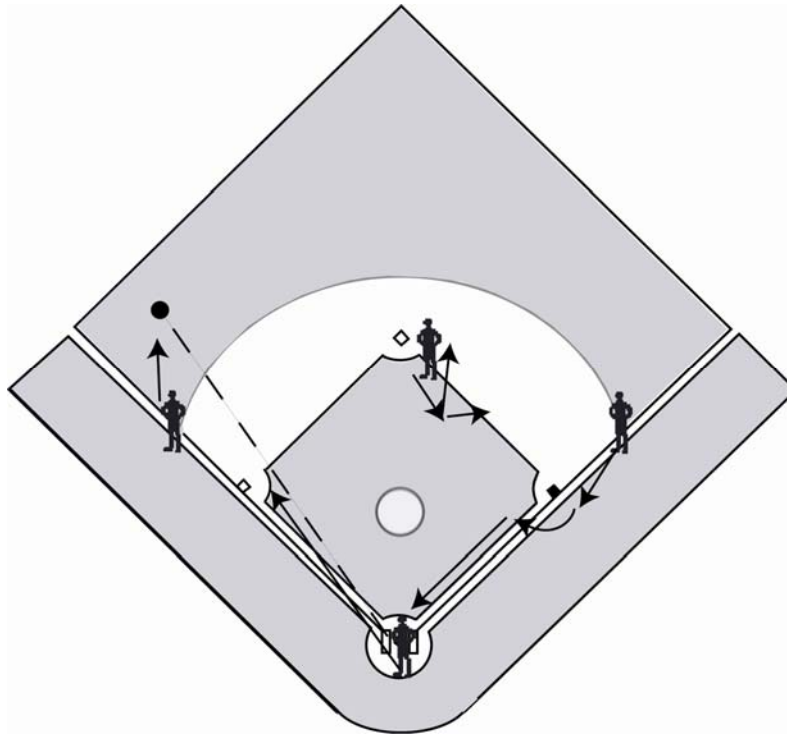
### Action on the field: Base hit



1. The home plate umpire reads the ball, clears the catcher and moves forward a couple of steps to get a clear picture of the situation. If the ball is hit to the outfield, the home plate umpire can basically relax. The only responsibility the home plate umpire has in this situation is a possible play at the plate.
2. The first base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction and the ball. He then walks towards first base, remaining in foul territory to observe the batter-runner's touch. On a short base hit to right field, the first base umpire keeps moving around first base into fair territory in case the defense tries to throw behind the batter-runner for an out at first.
3. The second base umpire reads the ball and moves towards second base to cover a possible play on the batter-runner. Remember that (1) is the starting position on a right handed batter and (2) the starting position on a left handed batter.
4. The third base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. If the ball is hit to the outfield, the third base umpire can remain near third and basically relax. If the batter-runner advances to and around second base, the third base umpire must move into position for a play at third, set and observe the action.

## Situation #6: Runner on first base, any number of outs

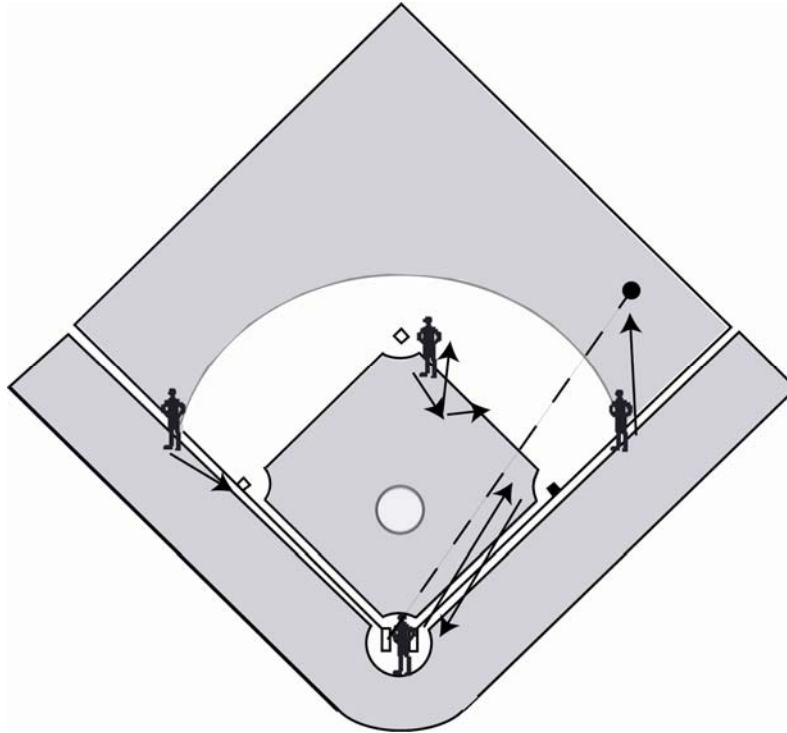
### Action on the field: Fly ball to deep left field



1. The home plate umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and first base umpire are reacting properly. The home plate umpire then begins moving towards third base, adjusting his pace to runner 1's action. If runner 1 is going, the home plate umpire must move aggressively towards third; if runner 1 is tagging up or holding half way to second, the home plate umpire starts for third but there is no reason to hurry. As the play develops and the home plate umpire rotates to third, he must communicate with his partners - particularly the second base umpire - by announcing, "I've got third if he comes!" Then, if runner 1 commits towards third, the home plate umpire announces, "I'm at third!" The home plate umpire remains in foul territory, about 10 meters from third base, unless he sees both runner 1 and the ball going to third base. If that happens, the home plate umpire moves into fair territory near the third-base cutout, sets and observes the developing play. If the play at third breaks down, the home plate umpire must look towards home plate to ensure that the first base umpire is in position. If the first base umpire is not in position, the home plate umpire retreats to the plate and covers any play that develops.
2. The first base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage. When the third base umpire goes, the first base umpire remains near first base to observe the batter-runner's touch and, if the ball is caught, runner 1 returning. If the ball falls for a hit (or an error), the first base umpire must prepare to rotate to the plate. That only happens when runner 1 commits to third base. If runner 1 eventually tries to score, the first base umpire must be in position along the third-base line extended to observe the play.
3. The second base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage, then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is holding near first and that the home plate umpire starts towards third. The second base umpire remains near second base to observe any play that develops there. If the ball falls for a hit (or an error) and runner 1 commits to third, the second base umpire then picks up the batter-runner. If the batter-runner only rounds first, the second base umpire may have to rotate towards first base to prepare for a subsequent play.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.

## Situation #7: Runner on first base, any number of outs

### Action on the field: Fly ball to deep right field

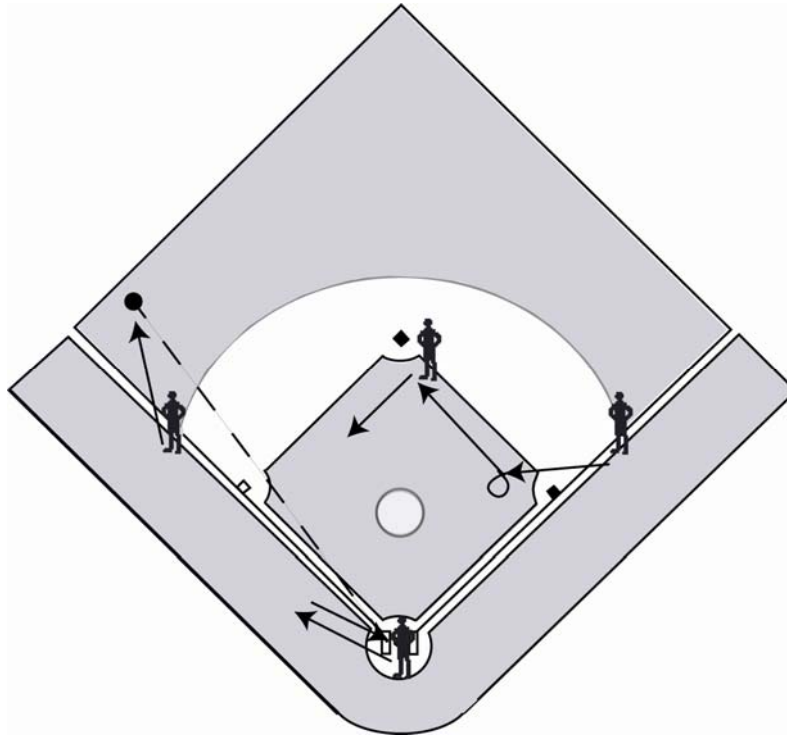


1. The home plate umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and third base umpire are reacting properly. The home plate umpire then trails the batter-runner towards first base, moving at least to the 45-foot mark. The home plate umpire is responsible for any play that develops at first base until runner 1 commits around second towards third. If runner 1 does commit to third, the home plate umpire returns to the plate and the second base umpire picks up responsibility for all plays at second and first. Before the home plate umpire returns to the plate he announces, "I'm going back to home plate". If runner 1 eventually tries to score, the home plate umpire must be in position along the third-base line extended to observe the play.
2. The first base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the first base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage, then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is covering the batted ball and that the home plate umpire is moving towards first. The second base umpire remains near second base to observe any play that develops there. If runner 1 commits to third, the second base umpire then picks up the batter-runner. If the batter-runner only rounds first, the second base umpire may have to rotate towards first base to prepare for a subsequent play.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 1 advances beyond second, the third base umpire must move into position for a play at third, set and observe the action. If a play at third breaks down, the third base umpire must look towards home plate to ensure that the home plate umpire is in position. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.



## Situation #8: Runners on first and second, any number of outs

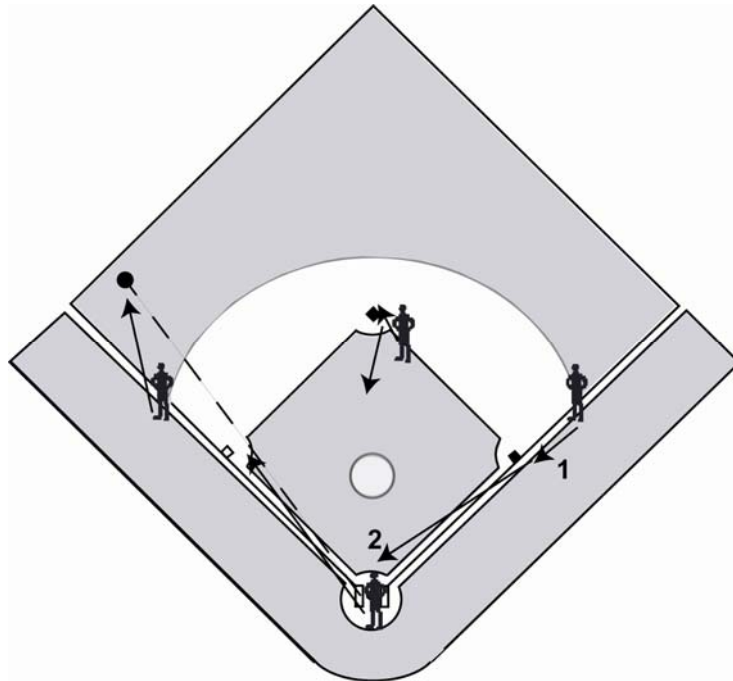
### Action on the field: Fly ball to deep left field



1. The home plate umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 2 advances towards home plate, the home plate umpire must move into position, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the home plate umpire can basically relax.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards first base. When the third base umpire goes, the first base umpire must pivot, watch the batter-runner touch first and move aggressively to cover all possible plays at second base. As soon as he feels he can cover a play that develops at second, the first base umpire communicates, "I've got second!" That releases the second base umpire to fully concentrate on plays at third base. In this rotation, the first base umpire always has responsibility for plays at first base. When he communicates with the second base umpire as described, the first base umpire also has all plays at second base.
3. The second base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage, then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is moving into the infield. With less than two outs, the second base umpire observes the outfield play and runner 2 tagging up. The second base umpire moves cautiously towards third but remains close enough to second to return and cover a play that develops there until the first base umpire releases him. Before the first base umpire communicates that he is ready to cover second, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both second and third base. After the first base umpire communicates, the second base umpire is responsible only for plays at third.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball for coverage and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.

## Situation #9: Runners on first and second, less than two outs

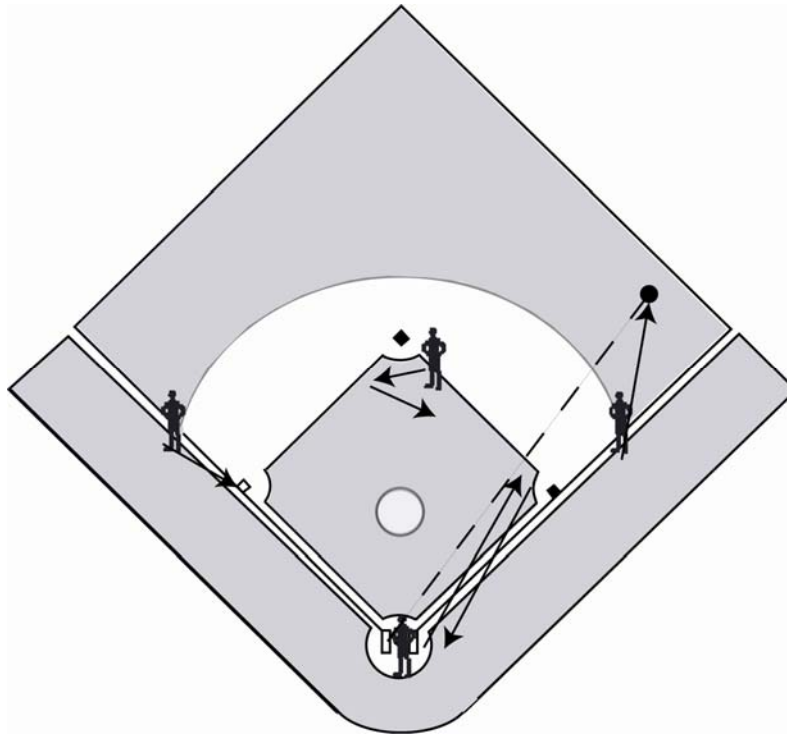
### Action on the field: Routine fly ball towards F7



1. The home plate umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and the first base umpire are reacting properly. If runner 2 is tagging up, the home plate umpire starts for third. As the play develops and the home plate umpire rotates to third, he must communicate with his partners - particularly the second base umpire - by announcing, "I've got third if he comes!" Then, if runner 2 commits towards third, the home plate umpire announces, "I'm at third!" The home plate umpire remains in foul territory, about 10 meters from third base, unless he sees both runner 2 and the ball going to third base. If that happens, the home plate umpire moves into fair territory near the third-base cutout, sets and observes the developing play. If the play at third breaks down, the home plate umpire must look towards home plate to ensure that the first base umpire is in position. If the first base umpire is not in position, the home plate umpire retreats to the plate and covers any play that develops.
2. The first base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage. When the third base umpire goes, the first base umpire (1) remains near first base (in foul territory) to observe the batter-runner's touch and, if the ball is caught, runner 1 returning. If the ball falls for a hit (or an error), the first base umpire (2) must prepare to rotate to the plate. That only happens when runner 2 commits to third base and the home plate umpire rotates to third. If runner 2 eventually tries to score, the first base umpire must be in position along the third-base line extended to observe the play.
3. The second base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage. In this situation (less than two outs), the second base umpire observes the outfield play and runner 2 tagging up. With the home plate umpire covering third base, the first base umpire covering home plate and the third base umpire going out, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both first and second base as soon as the first base umpire commits to home plate. The second base umpire must step up, turn and face the ball and then must determine where a play will develop. The second base umpire must move cautiously towards either first or second if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the second base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location.
4. The third base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.

## Situation #10: Runners on first and second, less than two outs

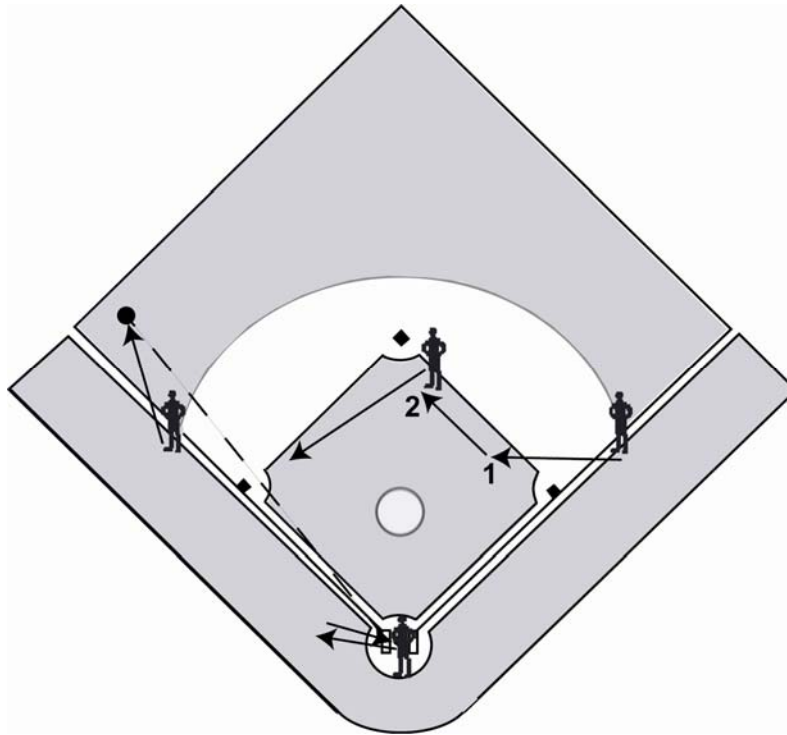
### Action on the field: Routine fly ball towards F9



1. The home plate umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and the third base umpire are reacting properly. When the first base umpire goes, the home plate umpire trails the batter-runner towards first base, observes the batter-runner's touch and prepares to cover a developing play on runner 1. If the ball falls for a hit (or an error), the home plate umpire must prepare to return to the plate. Before the home plate umpire returns to the plate he announces, "I'm going back to home plate." If runner 2 eventually tries to score, the home plate umpire must be in position along the third-base line extended to observe the play.
2. The first base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the first base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage, then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is covering the batted ball and that the home plate umpire is moving towards first. In this situation (less than two outs), the second base umpire observes the outfield play and runner 2 tagging up. With the first base umpire going out and the third base umpire remaining near third base, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both first and second base as soon as the home plate umpire returns to home plate. The second base umpire must step up, turn and face the ball and then must determine where a play will develop. The second base umpire must move cautiously towards either first or second if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the second base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 2 is tagging up and advances towards third, the third base umpire must move into position for the play, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

## Situation #11: Runners on first, second and third, any number of out

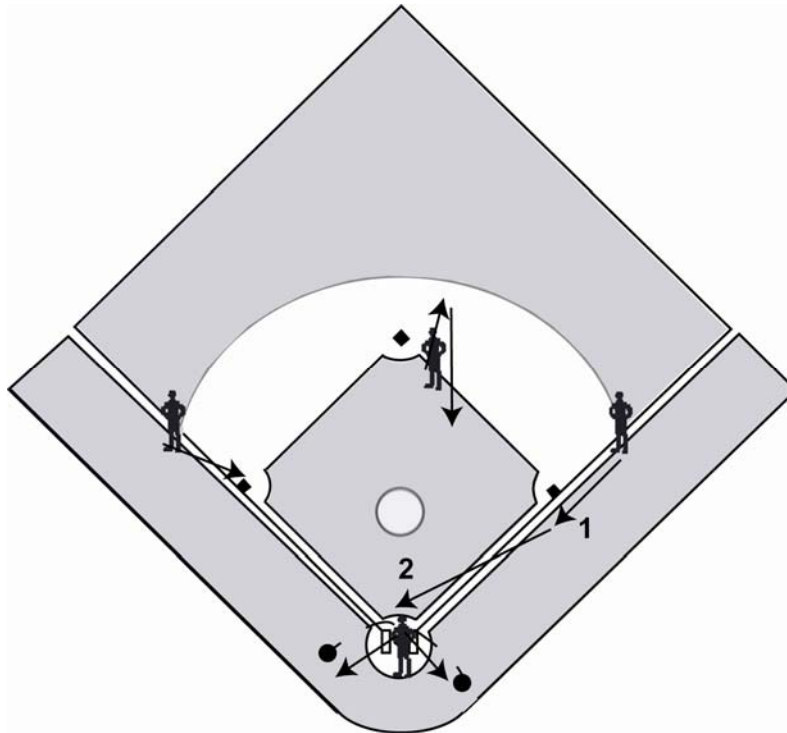
### Action on the field: Fly ball to left field



1. The home plate umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 3 is tagging up (less than two outs), the home plate umpire moves into foul territory in order to see both the outfield play and runner 3 tagging up. If runner 3 advances to home plate, the home plate umpire must move back into position for the play, set and observe the action.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and lets the third base umpire determine coverage. When the third base umpire goes, the first base umpire (1) must pivot, watch the batter-runner touch first and move aggressively to cover all possible plays at second base. As soon as he (2) feels he can cover a play that develops at second, the first base umpire communicates, "I've got second!" That releases the second base umpire to fully concentrate on plays at third base. In this rotation, the first base umpire always has responsibility for plays at first base. When he communicates with the second base umpire as described, the first base umpire also has all plays at second base.
3. The second base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is moving into the infield. With less than two outs, the second base umpire observes both the outfield play and runner 2 tagging up. Then, the second base umpire moves cautiously towards third but remains close enough to second to return and cover a play that develops there until the first base umpire releases him. Before the first base umpire communicates that he is ready to cover second, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both second and third base. After the first base umpire communicates, the second base umpire is responsible only for plays at third.
4. The third base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.

Situation #12: Runners on first, second and third, less than two outs

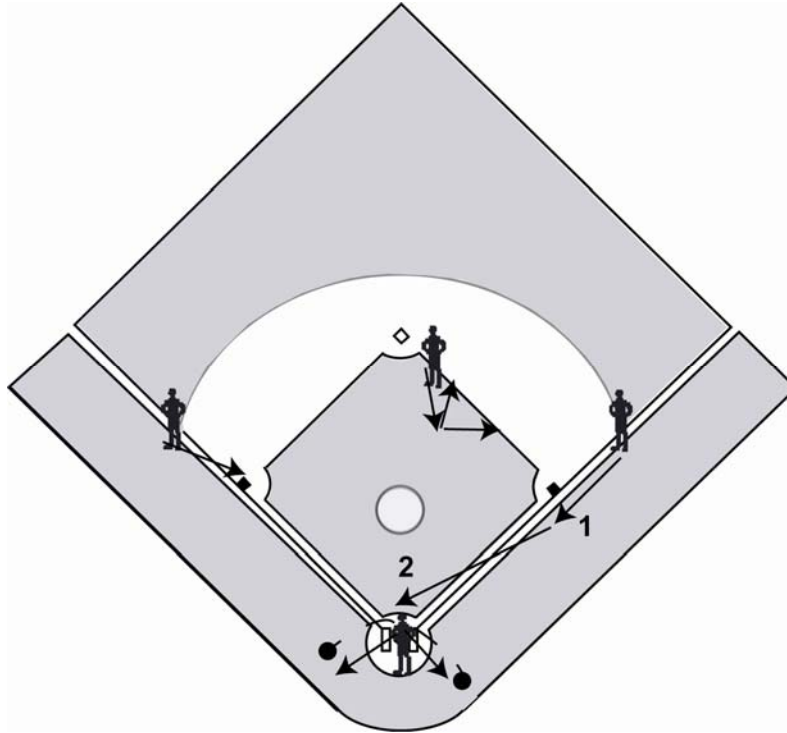
**Action on the field: Pop-up between home plate and the backstop**



1. The home plate umpire reads the batted ball and immediately clears the catcher. The home plate umpire keeps looking at the catcher (does not look at the ball) and moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt. Just before the catcher reaches the backstop, the home plate umpire must find the ball to see if it touches the fence.
2. The first base umpire (1) reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards first base. If runner 3 is tagging up, the first base umpire (2) moves aggressively to cover the home plate in case runner 3 tries to score. The first base umpire must then move into position for the play, set and observe the action.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage. He observes the play in foul territory and runner 2 tagging up. With a runner on first base, the home plate umpire moving away from home plate and the first base umpire covering, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both first and second base as soon as the first base umpire commits to home plate. The second base umpire must step up, turn and face the ball and then must determine where a play will develop. The second base umpire must move cautiously towards either first or second if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the second base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location.
4. The third base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 3 is tagging up, the third base umpire is responsible for the tag. If runner 2 is tagging up and advances towards third, the third base umpire must move into position for the play, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

## Situation #13: Runners on first and third, less than two outs

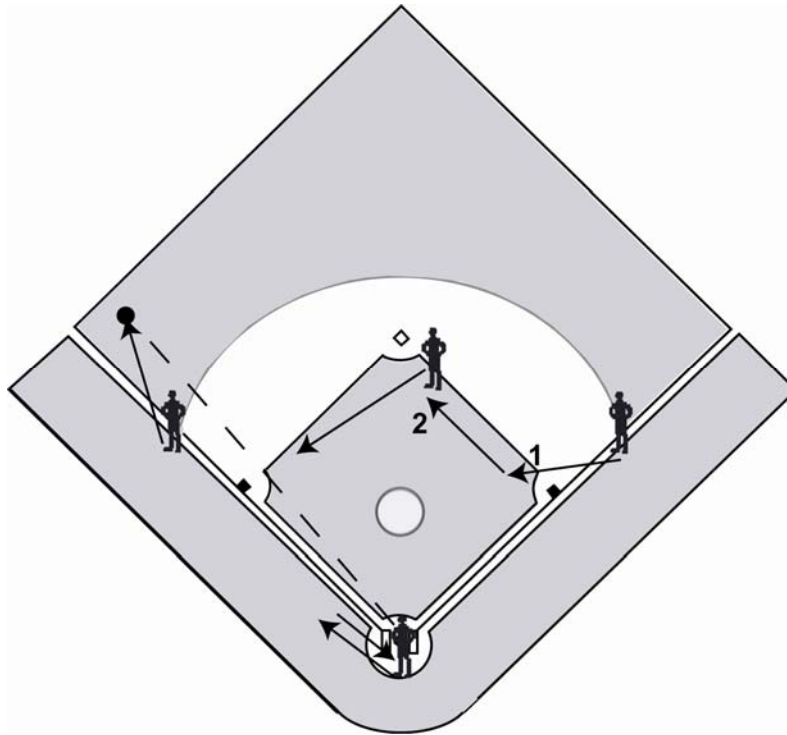
### Action on the field: Pop-up between home plate and the backstop



1. The home plate umpire reads the batted ball and immediately clears the catcher. The home plate umpire keeps looking at the catcher (does not look at the ball) and moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt. Just before the catcher reaches the backstop, the home plate umpire must find the ball to see if it touches the fence.
2. The first base umpire (1) reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards first base. If runner 3 is tagging up, the first base umpire (2) moves aggressively to cover home plate in case runner 3 tries to score. The first base umpire must then move into position for the play, set and observe the action.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage. He then moves a couple of steps towards first base. If runner 1 is tagging up and advances towards second base, the second base umpire must move into position for the play, set and observe the action. If runner 1 is tagging up, only takes a couple of steps towards second and the defense throws behind him, the second base umpire is responsible for the call at first base in the situation where the first base umpire is covering home plate.
4. The third base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 3 is tagging up, the third base umpire is responsible for the tag. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

## Situation #14: Runners on first and third, any number of outs

### Action on the field: Fly ball to left field

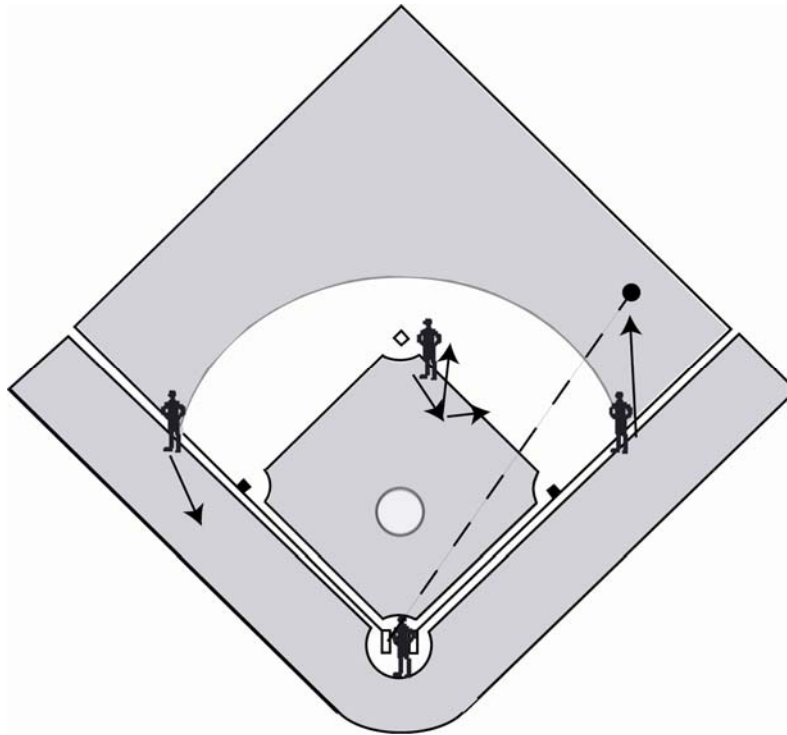


1. The home plate umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 3 is tagging up (less than two outs), the home plate umpire moves into foul territory in order to see both the outfield play and runner 3 tagging up. If runner 3 advances to home plate, the home plate umpire must move back into position for the play, set and observe the action.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and lets the third base umpire determine coverage. When the third base umpire goes, the first base umpire (1) must pivot, watch the batter-runner touch first and move aggressively to cover all possible plays at second base. As soon as he (2) feels he can cover a play that develops at second, the first base umpire communicates, "I've got second!" That releases the second base umpire to fully concentrate on plays at third base. In this rotation, the first base umpire always has responsibility for plays at first base. When he communicates with the second base umpire as described, the first base umpire also has all plays at second base.
3. The second base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is moving into the infield. The second base umpire moves cautiously towards third but remains close enough to second to return and cover a play that develops there until the first base umpire releases him. Before the first base umpire communicates that he is ready to cover second, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both second and third base. After the first base umpire communicates, the second base umpire is responsible only for plays at third.
4. The third base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.



## Situation #15: Runners on first and third, any number of outs

### Action on the field: Fly ball to right field

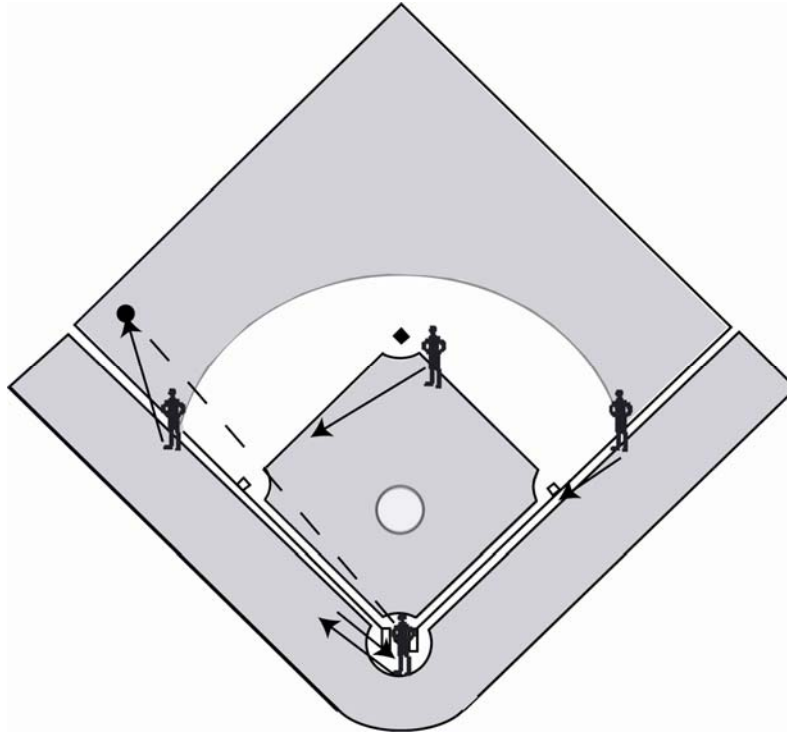


1. The home plate umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and the third base umpire are reacting properly. If runner 3 is tagging up and advances towards home plate, the home plate umpire must move into position, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the home plate umpire can basically relax.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the first base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is covering the batted ball. With the home plate umpire staying home and the first base umpire going out, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both first and second. The second base umpire must step up, turn and face the ball and then must determine where a play will develop. The second base umpire must move cautiously towards either first or second if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the second base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 3 is tagging up (less than two outs), the third base umpire is responsible for the tag. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.



Situation #16: Runner on second base, any number of outs

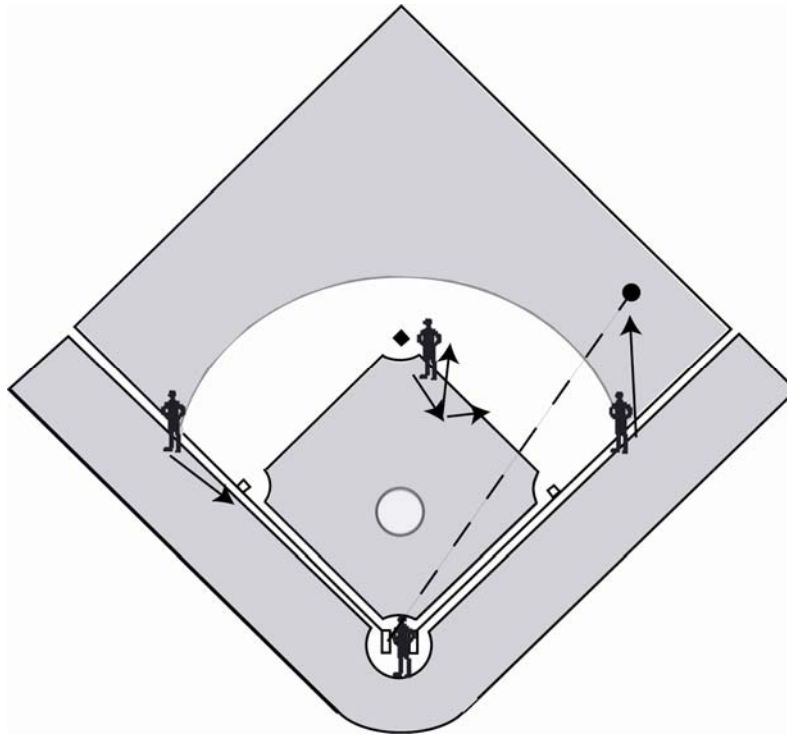
**Action on the field: line drive hit, fielded by F7**



1. The home plate umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and moves a few steps towards third base. The home plate umpire can then basically relax. If runner 2 advances towards home plate, the home plate umpire must move into position, set and observe the action.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and lets the third base umpire determine coverage. He then walks towards first, remaining in foul territory to observe the batter-runner's touch.
3. The second base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the third base umpire is covering the batted ball. With less than two outs, the second base umpire observes the outfield play and runner 2 tagging up. With the home plate umpire staying home and the third base umpire going out, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both second and third base. The second base umpire must step up, turn and face the ball and then must determine where a play will develop. The second base umpire must move cautiously towards either second or third if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the second base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location.
4. The third base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt (in case F7 is playing in shallow left field) and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.

## Situation #17: Runner on second base, any number of outs

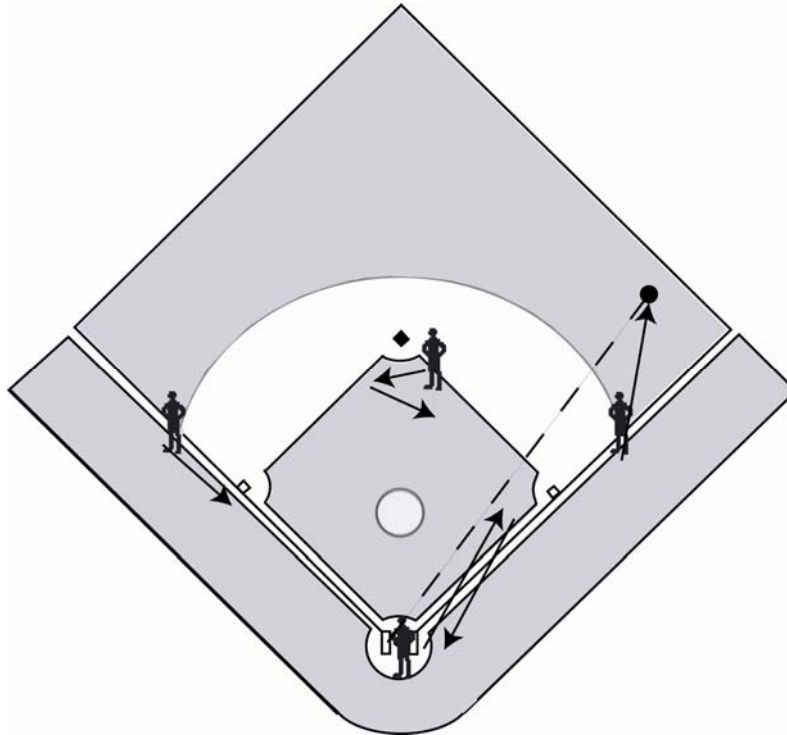
### Action on the field: Fly ball to right field



1. The home plate umpire reads the batted ball and the first base umpire's reaction. He then spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and the third base umpire are moving properly. If runner 2 advances towards home plate, the home plate umpire must move into position, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the home plate umpire can basically relax.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is covering, then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the first base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is covering the batted ball. With less than two outs, the second base umpire observes the outfield play and runner 2 tagging up. With the home plate umpire staying home and the first base umpire going out, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both first and second. The second base umpire must step up, turn and face the ball and then must determine where a play will develop. The second base umpire must move cautiously towards either first or second if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the second base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 2 advances towards third, the third base umpire must move into position for the play, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

## Situation #18: Runner on second base, less than two outs

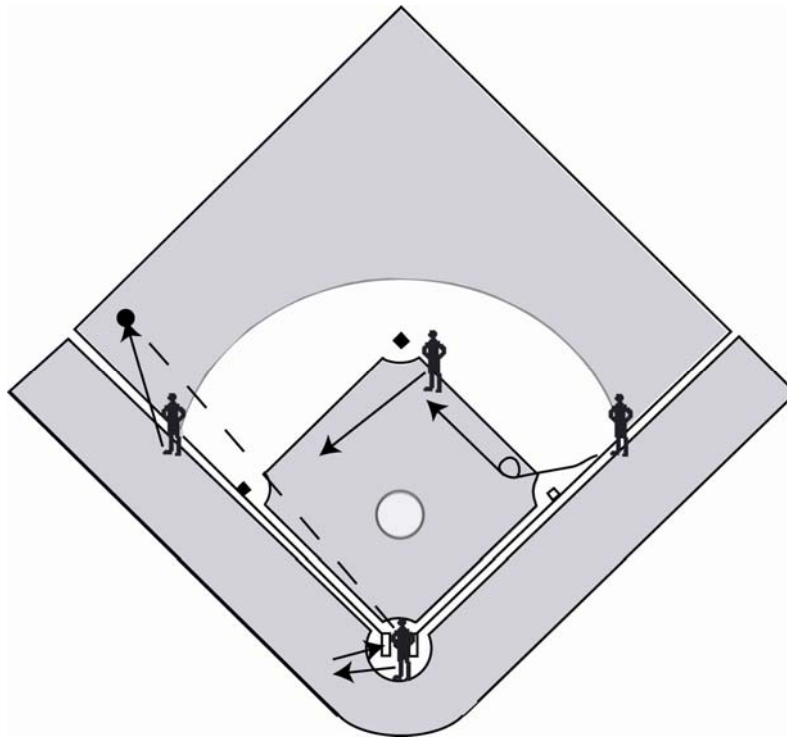
### Action on the field: Routine fly ball towards F9



1. The home plate umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and the third base umpire are reacting properly. When the first base umpire goes, the home plate umpire trails the batter-runner towards first base, observes the batter-runner's touch and prepares to cover a developing play if the defense throws behind the batter-runner. If the ball falls for a hit (or an error), the home plate umpire must prepare to return to the plate. Before the home plate umpire returns to the plate he announces, "I'm going back to home plate." If runner 2 eventually tries to score, the home plate umpire must be in position along the third-base line extended to observe the play.
2. The first base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the first base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage, then spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is covering the batted ball and that the home plate umpire is moving towards first. In this situation (less than two outs), the second base umpire observes the outfield play and runner 2 tagging up. With the first base umpire going out and the third base umpire remaining near third base, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both first and second base as soon as the home plate umpire returns to home plate. The second base umpire must step up, turn and face the ball and then must determine where a play will develop. The second base umpire must move cautiously towards either first or second if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the second base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 2 is tagging up and advances towards third, the third base umpire must move into position for the play, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

## Situation #19: Runners on second and third, less than two outs

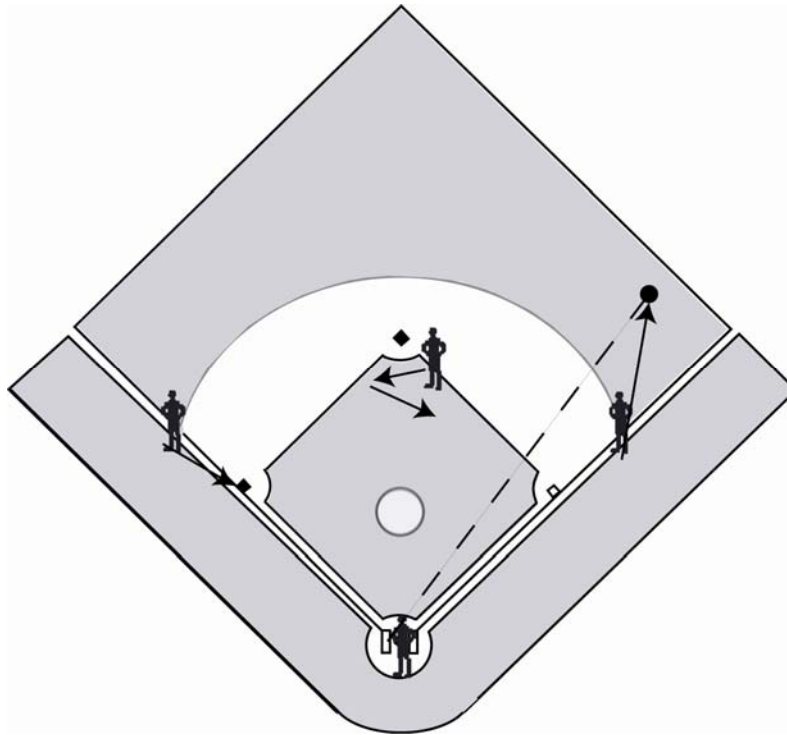
### Action on the field: Fly ball to left field



1. The home plate umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and the first base umpire are reacting properly. The home plate umpire moves into foul territory in order to see both the outfield play and runner 3 tagging up. If runner 3 advances towards home plate, the home plate umpire must move back into position for the play, set and observe the action.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and lets the third base umpire determine coverage. When the third base umpire goes, the first base umpire must pivot, watch the batter-runner touch first and move aggressively to cover all possible plays at second base. As soon as he feels he can cover a play that develops at second, the first base umpire communicates, "I've got second!" That releases the second base umpire to fully concentrate on plays at third base. In this rotation, the first base umpire always has responsibility for plays at first base. When he communicates with the second base umpire as described, the first base umpire also has all plays at second base.
3. The second base umpire reads the third base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is moving into the infield. The second base umpire observes both the outfield play and runner 2 tagging up. Then the second base umpire moves cautiously towards third but remains close enough to second to return and cover a play that develops there until the first base umpire releases him. Before the first base umpire communicates that he is ready to cover second, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both second and third base. After the first base umpire communicates, the second base umpire is responsible only for plays at third.
4. The third base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.

## Situation #20: Runners on second and third, any number of outs

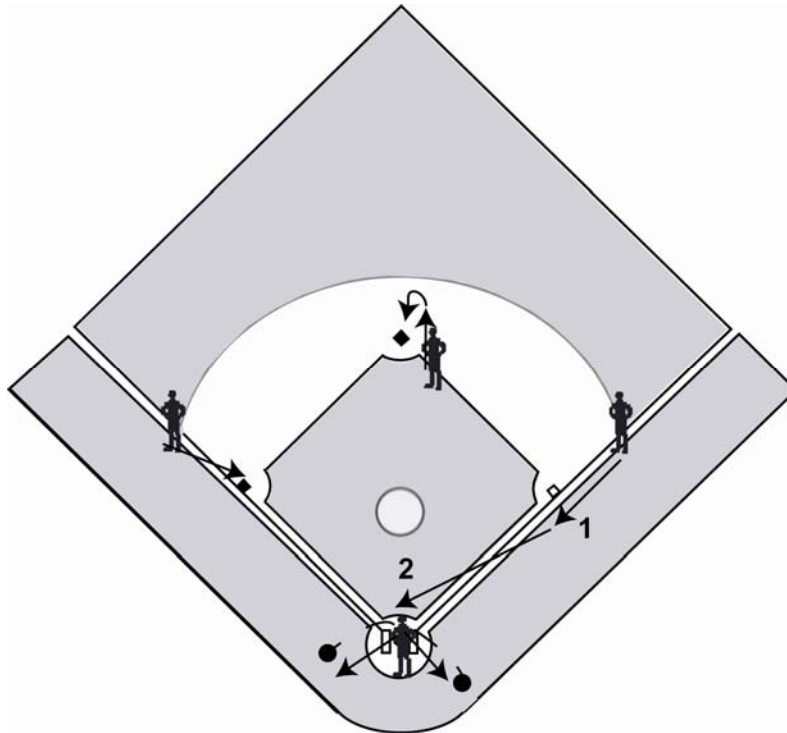
### Action on the field: Fly ball to right field



1. The home plate umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the second base umpire and the third base umpire are reacting properly. If runner 3 is tagging up and advances towards home plate, the home plate umpire must move into position, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the home plate umpire can basically relax.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence and, if necessary, to rule fair-foul. When he goes, the first base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage and spot checks to ensure that the first base umpire is covering the batted ball. With less than two outs, the second base umpire observes both the outfield play and runner 2 tagging up. With the home plate umpire staying home and the first base umpire going out, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays at both first and second. The second base umpire must step up, turn and face the ball and then must determine where a play will develop. The second base umpire must move cautiously towards either first or second if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the second base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 3 is tagging up, the third base umpire is responsible for the tag. If runner 2 is tagging up and advances towards third, the third base umpire must move into position for the play, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

Situation #21: Runners on second and third, less than two outs

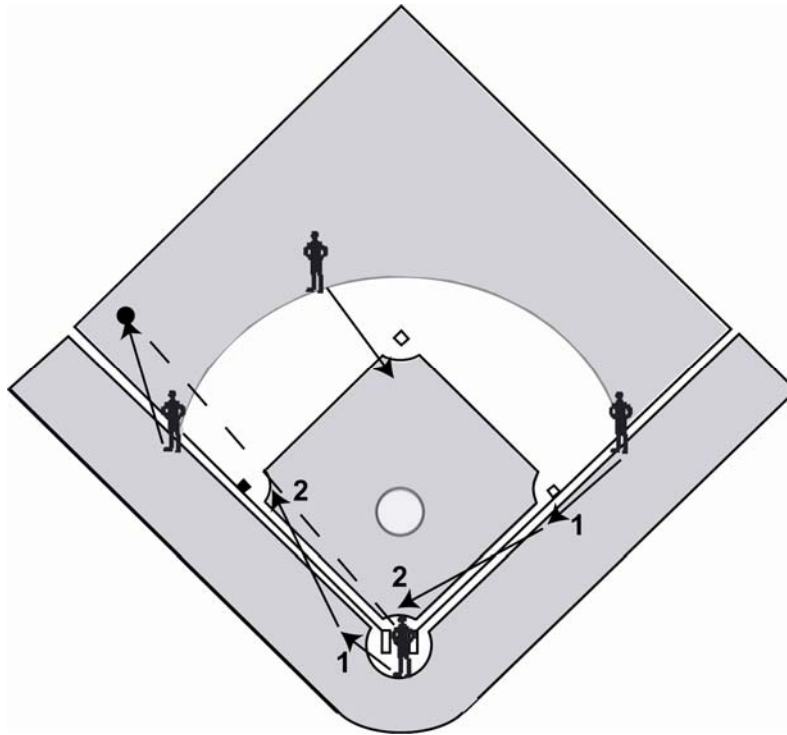
**Action on the field: Pop-up between home plate and the backstop**



1. The home plate umpire reads the batted ball and immediately clears the catcher. The home plate umpire keeps looking at the catcher (does not look at the ball) and moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt. Just before the catcher reaches the backstop, the home plate umpire must find the ball to see if it touches the fence.
2. The first base umpire (1) reads the ball and moves a few steps towards first base. If runner 3 is tagging up, the first base umpire (2) moves aggressively to cover home plate in case runner 3 tries to score. The first base umpire must then move into position for the play, set and observe the action.
3. The second base umpire reads the first base umpire for coverage. He then observes the play in foul territory and runner 2 tagging up.
4. The third base umpire spot checks to ensure that the home plate umpire is covering the batted ball. The third base umpire then reads the first base umpire for coverage and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 3 is tagging up, the third base umpire is responsible for the tag. If runner 2 is tagging up and advances towards third, the third base umpire must move into position for the play, set and observe the action. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

## Situation #22: Runner on third base, less than two outs

### Action on the field: Fly ball to left field near the foul line

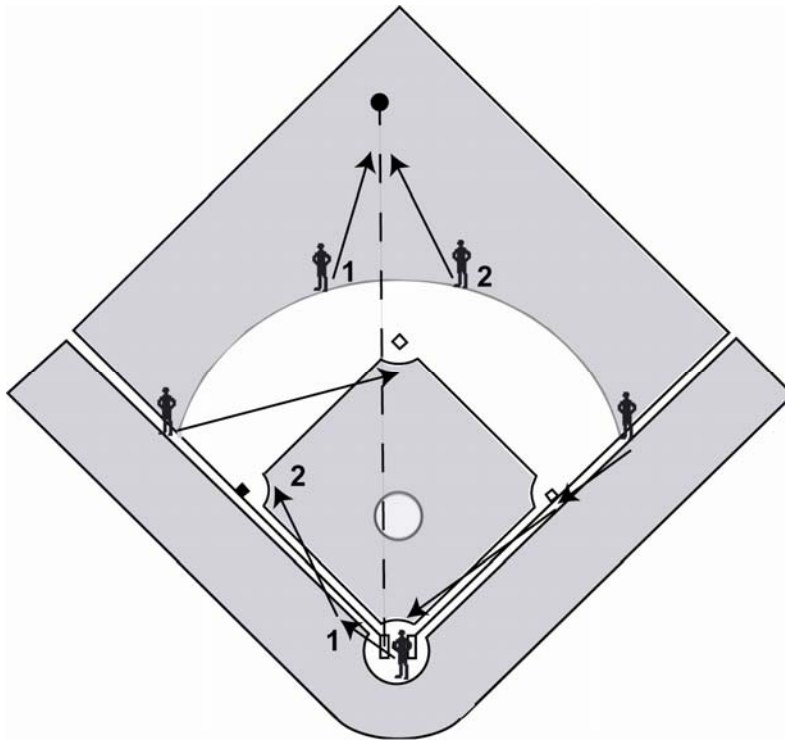


1. The home plate umpire must pause to read the batted ball and the second base umpire's reaction. He then spot-checks to ensure that the first base umpire and the third base umpire are moving properly. The home plate umpire (1) moves into foul territory in order to see both the outfield play and runner 3 tagging up. If runner 3 advances towards home plate, the home plate umpire must move back into position for the play, set and observe the action. If the batted ball appears to be an extra base hit, the home plate umpire (2) must begin moving towards third and will base his own progress on the batter-runner's action. While moving away from the plate, the home plate umpire observes runner 3 touch home plate. The home plate umpire must be within 10 meters of third well before the batter-runner. If the batter-runner commits towards third, the home plate umpire reads the developing play and, if both the runner and the ball are headed for third, the home plate umpire sets up at the third-base cutout to observe the action. If the play at third breaks down and the batter-runner advances towards the plate, the first base umpire should be in position to cover the play at the plate.
2. The first base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire moves towards the infield, the first base umpire (1) walks towards first, remaining in foul territory to observe the batter-runner's touch. If the batter-runner advances to and around second, the first base umpire (2) rotates to the plate in case the batter-runner tries to score.
3. The second base umpire reads the batted ball, announces that he is not covering and then moves towards second base. He must adjust his movement to the batter-runner's speed. If the batter-runner attempts for extra bases, the second base umpire must arrive on the infield side of second well ahead of the batter-runner and the play. Remember that in this situation (runner on third only with less than two outs), the second base umpire's starting position is about six meters behind the shortstop. The second base umpire must be able to cover plays at third when the third base umpire goes out in foul territory.
4. The third base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire hands the batted ball over to the third base umpire, the third base umpire moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, straddling the foul line because fair-foul will be a factor. The third base umpire must also observe whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.



## Situation #23: Runner on third base, two outs

### Action on the field: Deep fly ball to center field

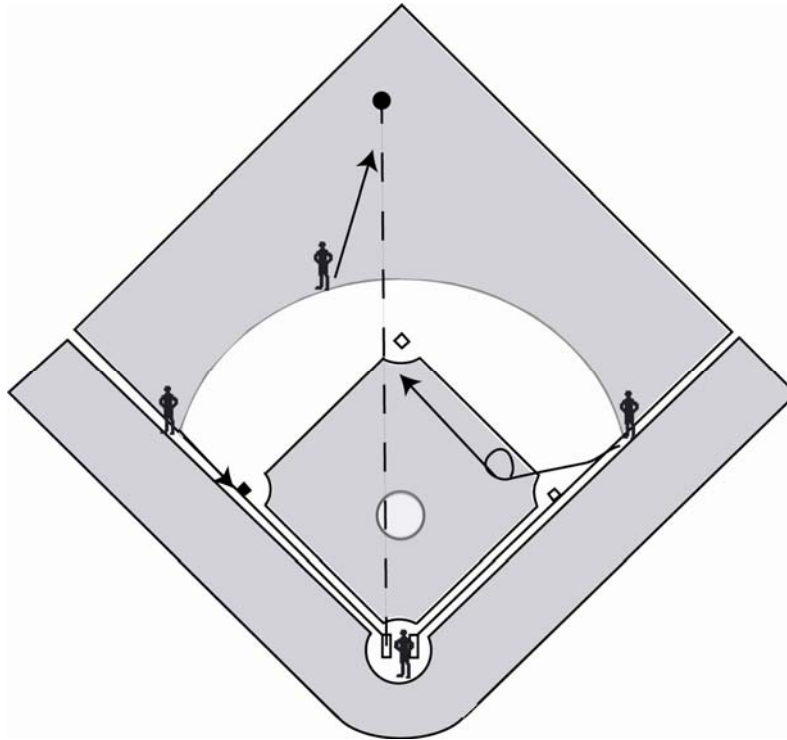


1. The home plate umpire must pause to read the batted ball and read the second base umpire's reaction. He then spot-checks to ensure that the first base umpire and the third base umpire are moving properly. If the batted ball appears to become a routine play, the home plate umpire (1) can remain near home plate and basically relax. His only responsibility is to observe runner 3 touch home plate in case the ball is not caught. If the batted ball appears to be an extra base hit, the home plate umpire (2) must begin moving towards third and will base his own progress on the batter-runner's action. While moving away from the plate, the home plate umpire observes runner 3 touch home plate. The home plate umpire must be within 10 meters of third well before the batter-runner. If the batter-runner commits towards third, the home plate umpire reads the developing play and, if both the runner and the ball are headed for third, the home plate umpire sets up at the third-base cutout to observe the action. If the play at third breaks down and the batter-runner advances towards the plate, the first base umpire should be in position to cover the play at the plate.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and lets the second base umpire determine coverage. When the second base umpire goes, the first base umpire walks towards first, remaining in foul territory to observe the batter-runner's touch. If the batter-runner advances to and around second, the first base umpire rotates to the plate in case the batter-runner tries to score.
3. The second base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he's covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, or whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence. When he goes, the second base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield. Remember that (1) is the starting position on a right handed batter and (2) the starting position on a left handed batter.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and lets the second base umpire determine coverage. When the second base umpire goes, the third base umpire moves towards second. He must be at the second-base cutout well before the batter-runner arrives there, so his movement is based on the batter-runner's pace. When the batter-runner commits towards second, the third base umpire sets up at the cutout for a play at second base. If the batter-runner commits to second, then for some reason decides to retreat to first, the first base umpire is already in position to cover the play at first base.



## Situation #24: Runner on third base, less than two outs

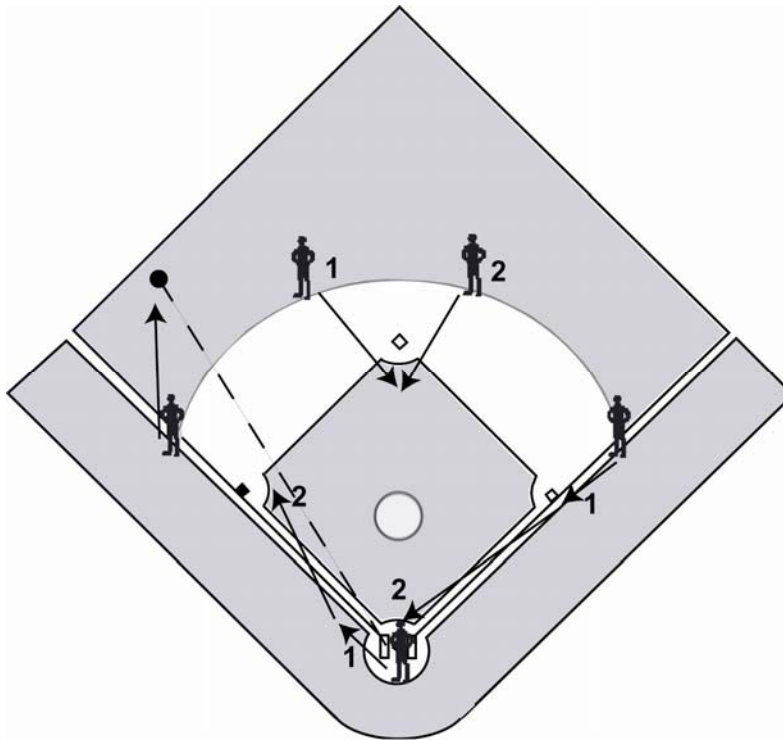
### Action on the field: Fly ball to center field



1. The home plate umpire must pause to read the batted ball and the second base umpire's reaction. He then spot-checks to ensure that the first base umpire and the third base umpire are moving properly. If runner 3 is tagging up and advances towards home plate, the home plate umpire must move into position, set and observe the action.
2. The first base umpire reads the batted ball and lets the second base umpire determine coverage. When the second base umpire goes, the first base umpire must pivot, watch the batter-runner touch first and move aggressively to cover all possible plays at second base. With the home plate umpire staying home, the second base umpire going out and the third base umpire staying near third base, the first base umpire is responsible for all plays on the batter-runner at both first and second base. Once in the infield, the first base umpire must determine where a play will develop. The first base umpire must move cautiously towards either first or second if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the first base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location.
3. The second base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he's covering. He then moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, or whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence. When he goes, the second base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield. Remember that in this situation (runner on third only with less than two outs), the second base umpire's starting position is about six meters behind the shortstop. The second base umpire must be able to cover plays at third when the third base umpire goes out in foul territory.
4. The third base umpire reads the batted ball and lets the second base umpire determine coverage. When the second base umpire goes, the third base umpire moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 3 is tagging up, the third base umpire is responsible for the tag. In all other situations, the third base umpire can basically relax.

## Situation #25: Runner on third base, two outs

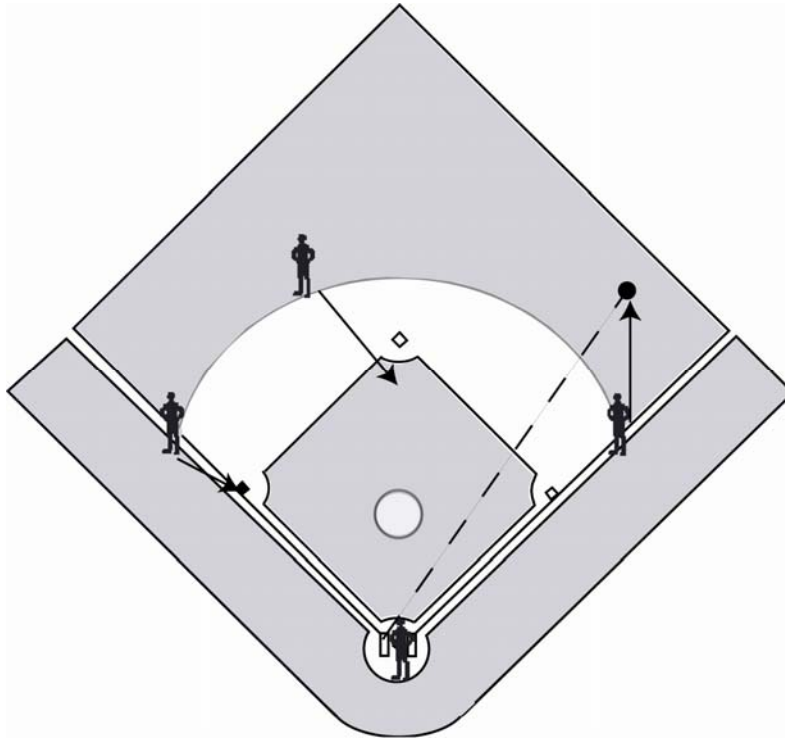
### Action on the field: Fly ball to left field near the foul line



1. The home plate umpire must pause to read the batted ball and the third base umpire's reaction. He then spot-checks to ensure that the second base umpire and first base umpire are moving properly. If the batted ball appears to become a routine play, the home plate umpire (1) can remain near home plate and basically relax. His only responsibility then is to observe runner 3 touch home plate. If the batted ball appears to be an extra base-hit, the home plate umpire (2) must begin moving towards third and will base his own progress on the batter-runner's action. While moving away from the plate, the home plate umpire observes runner 3 touch home plate. The home plate umpire must be within 10 meters of third well before the batter-runner. If the batter-runner commits towards third, the home plate umpire reads the developing play and, if both the runner and the ball are headed for third, the home plate umpire sets up at the third-base cutout to observe the action. If the play at third breaks down and the batter-runner advances towards the plate, the first base umpire should already be in position to cover the play at the plate.
2. The first base umpire reads the third base umpire's reaction. When the third base umpire covers the ball, the first base umpire (1) walks towards first, remaining in foul territory to observe the batter-runner's touch. If the batter-runner advances to and around second, the first base umpire (2) rotates to the plate in case the batter-runner tries to score.
3. The second base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is not covering. He then moves towards second base. He must adjust his movement to the batter-runner's speed. If the batter-runner attempts for extra bases, the second base umpire must arrive on the infield side of second well ahead of the batter-runner and the play. Remember that (1) is the starting position on a right handed batter and (2) the starting position on a left handed batter.
4. The third base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire hands the batted ball over to the third base umpire, the third base umpire moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, straddling the foul line because fair-foul will be a factor. The third base umpire must also observe whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence. When he goes, the third base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.

## Situation #26: Runner on third base, less than two outs

### Action on the field: Fly ball to right field near the foul line



1. The home plate umpire must pause to read the batted ball and the second base umpire's reaction. He then spot-checks to ensure that the first base umpire and the third base umpire are moving properly. If runner 3 is tagging up and advances towards home plate, the home plate umpire must move into position, set and observe the action.
2. The first base umpire reads the second base umpire's reaction. When the second base umpire hands the batted ball over to the first base umpire, he moves aggressively towards a position that will allow a good angle to view the catch attempt, straddling the foul line because fair-foul will be a factor. The first base umpire must also observe whether the ball flies or bounces over the outfield fence. When he goes, the first base umpire does not return to cover any play in the infield.
3. The second base umpire reads the batted ball and announces that he is not covering. He then moves towards second base. He must adjust his movement to the batter-runner's speed. If the batter-runner attempts for extra bases, the second base umpire must arrive on the infield side of second well ahead of the batter-runner and the play. With the home plate umpire staying home, the first base umpire going out and the third base umpire staying near third base, the second base umpire is responsible for all plays on the batter-runner at both first and second base. Once in the infield, the second base umpire must determine where a play will develop. The second base umpire must move cautiously towards either first or second if he anticipates a play at one of the bases. If he can't anticipate a play, the second base umpire holds his position and waits for the action to lead him to either location. Remember that in this situation (runner on third only with less than two outs), the second base umpire's starting position is about six meters behind the shortstop. The second base umpire must be able to cover plays at third when the third base umpire goes out in foul territory.
4. The third base umpire reads the second base umpire for coverage and moves a few steps towards third base. If runner 3 is tagging up, the third base umpire is responsible for the tag. If the batter-runner advances beyond second, the third base umpire must move into position for a play at third, set and observe the action.