



2-UMPIRE POSITIONING MANUAL

The information contained within this training manual was prepared for exclusively for Baseball Canada by the Baseball Ontario Umpires Committee. Baseball Canada would like to thank those individuals who contributed their time and effort to this project.

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FOREWORD

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Positioning is a building block of umpiring, along with sound rules knowledge and application, and the ability to demonstrate good judgment in all situations. Together, they form the foundation of umpiring. It is not enough to possess one of the building blocks without the other two. An umpire can be in the proper position but if they do not know the applicable rule, or possess the ability to judge correctly, they will not be successful. Likewise, an umpire who has good judgment and rules knowledge but is in the incorrect position for the play will be perceived as being unsuccessful.

Any umpire, whether new or experienced, within the Baseball Canada Umpiring Program must have a sound understanding of the 2-Umpire system. The 2-Umpire system is the foundation of the 3-Umpire system, which in turn is the foundation of the 4-Umpire system.

This manual has been created for all umpires within the program. It is a tool and resource for any umpire at any level. Some umpires will choose to review the manual on a regular basis and others will turn to it when a situation arises which they are unsure of the proper rotation for a particular play. Each situation has been broken down and includes both the text of the proper rotation as well as a diagram to supplement the text; it is important that an umpire utilise both in combination to gain a complete understanding of each rotation. It is recommended that umpires, especially new umpires, have the manual with them as a resource for whenever it is needed, and can facilitate discussions amongst crews prior to and after a game.

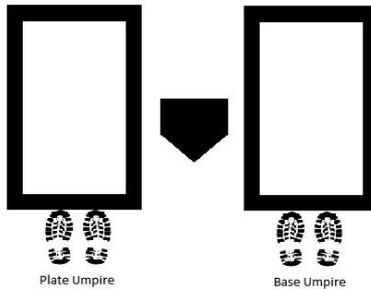
This manual also discusses some of the fundamental mechanics and techniques of umpiring, as well as discussing the proper positioning of umpires throughout the course of the game. This manual is not an interpretational manual. Umpires must continue to become more knowledgeable on the Official Rules of Baseball as well as specific Canadian Content Rules and Interpretations.

FUNDAMENTALS

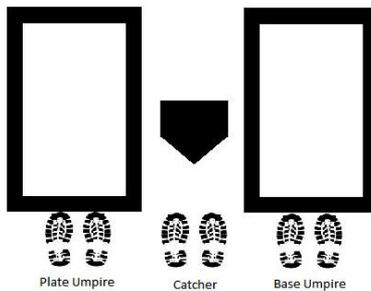
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POSITIONING PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME

If prior to the start of the game umpires are required on the field for the playing of the National Anthem, umpires will take a position standing beside each other, or with the catcher between them, with their toes lined up with the back line of the batter's box. Umpires should be respectful and not speak with each other during the playing of the National Anthem; umpires must present themselves in a professional and respectful manner from the moment they walk on to the field.



POSITIONING FOR NATIONAL ANTHEM

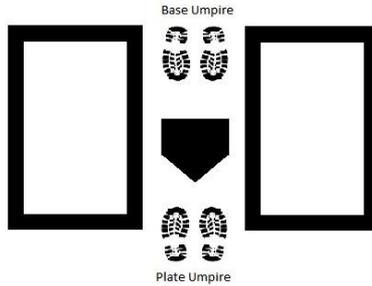


POSITIONING FOR NATIONAL ANTHEM WITH CATCHER

During the ground rules meeting, the plate umpire will take his position behind home plate facing the field; the base umpire will stand on the opposite side facing the plate umpire. The ground rules meeting is a very important part of the game and should not be

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rushed, it is an opportunity to clarify or address any items prior to the start of the game; it is the first opportunity to show good game management as an umpire.



POSITIONING FOR GROUND RULES

After the National Anthem and ground rules meeting, the plate umpire should move to a position along one of the foul lines. It is recommended that the plate umpire take the opportunity to watch a few pitches prior to the start of the game; this would also be the case prior to the start of the bottom of the 1st inning. Prior to putting the ball in play, the plate umpire should also take the time to scan the playing field, specifically behind home plate and in the vicinity of the dugouts.

The base umpire should jog to a position a couple feet on to the outfield grass between 1st and 2nd base. The base umpire should take this opportunity to scan the playing field and make sure to address any items such as gates being open or equipment left on the field. As the catcher throws the last warm-up pitch to 2nd base, the base umpire should use that as a cue to jog to his position at P2 to start the game.

PAUSE-READ-REACT

The **'pause-read-react'** technique is utilised in all umpiring systems and is very important in the 2-Umpire system. Although this technique has applications every time a play occurs, it has particular importance in the 2-Umpire system and particularly with no runners on base. This technique's main application is with no runners on base and a fly ball or line drive hit to the outfield, which is originally the responsibility of the base umpire.

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The technique is broken down in to three parts; the **'PAUSE'**, **'READ'**, and **'REACT'** portions.

The **'PAUSE'** begins with the base umpire taking a **'read step'** forward with his left foot opening himself up to the field; the base umpire should then be standing with his feet parallel to the fair/foul line. From this position the base umpire will hesitate momentarily taking his eyes off of the ball and focus his attention on the elements of the **'read'** portion.

The **'READ'** portion consists of the base umpire reading the reactions of the fielders, both the outfielders and the infielders. The base umpire will **'read'** their reactions to help determine whether any of the qualifications of a **'trouble'** ball have been met. For example, if the fielder is charging in towards the infield, the fielder has turned his back and is running towards the outfield, if the fielder is running towards the foul line, or if there are converging fielders, all of which are indicators of a **'trouble'** ball. The base umpire should consider the weather, which may impact the flight and visibility of the fly ball, and should also consider the starting position of the fielders. Both umpires will also **'read'** the other umpire to determine his responsibilities during the play.

The **'REACT'** portion is simply the base umpire determining whether the hit is a trouble ball. If the base umpire determines it to be a **'trouble'** ball, he will go to the outfield and keep responsibility of the fly ball. If he determines that the hit is routine, he will come in to the infield and pivot, giving up responsibility to the plate umpire.

This technique is also used by the base umpire when positioned in the infield in determining whether to move to the grass dirt line for a **'trouble'** ball to the outfield, which is his responsibility, or to move to a position within the working area for a routine fly ball. Unlike with no runners on base, the **'read step'** will be replaced with the **'step-up, turn, and face the ball'** technique.

The **'pause-read-react'** technique, or portions of it, should be used by both umpires in almost every situation, no matter how quickly it may occur in its application. Prior to any pitch, or throw, both umpires should **'read'** where the fielders are positioned. Communication between the crew prior to each pitch, or throw, will assist in reminding each other of the expected rotation and responsibilities prior to having to **'react'**.

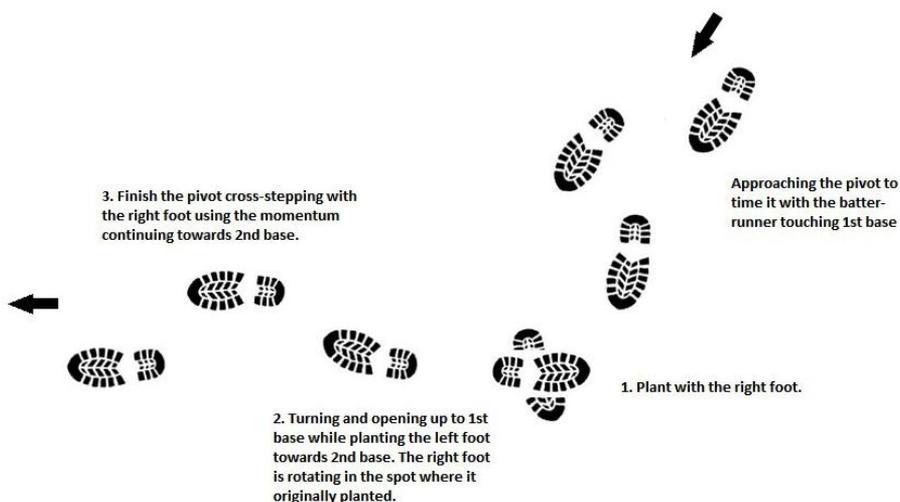
PIVOT

The **'pivot'** mechanic is utilised by the base umpire in a 2-Umpire system when moving from his starting position at P2 into the infield after a batted ball for which he is not responsible and/or does not need to go out on. The mechanic allows the base umpire to continually watch the batted ball while moving into the infield and timing his 'pivot' to allow him to watch for the batter-runner touching 1st base as well as any possible obstructions while rounding the base. The 'pivot' allows the base umpire to stay ahead of the batter-runner in case he decides to continue advancing on the bases.

The base umpire, after having utilised the **'pause-read-react'** technique will run in a straight line to a spot in the infield approximately 2 to 3 steps towards the 2nd base side of the cut-out. From that spot he will begin the 'pivot', which can be broken down into 3 steps; the first of which is planting his right foot. For the second step, the base umpire will then open his body towards 1st base, timing this step with the batter-runner rounding 1st base, and planting his left foot towards 2nd base. For the final step he will then finish the 'pivot' cross-stepping with his right foot using the momentum and continuing towards 2nd base.

Each individual umpire must consider their own physical abilities, as well as the speed of the batter-runner, when determining where to 'pivot' in order to stay ahead of the batter-runner. It may be necessary to 'pivot' closer to the cut-out or further towards 2nd base in individuals cases; umpires must not simply run to the exact same spot every time to 'pivot'.

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PIVOT FOOTWORK

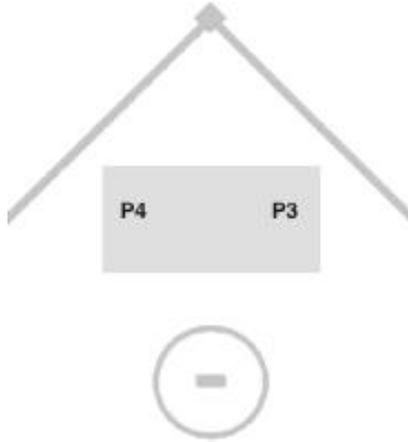
WORKING AREA

The **'working area'** is a term, which refers to the area behind the pitcher's mound, within the infield, in which the base umpire will position himself to observe the play, and his responsibilities, as it develops. From the 'working area' the base umpire will move into a position to make a call on a play as it develops. The concept of the 'working area' ensures that the base umpire doesn't over commit to any base prior to a play developing, and that the base umpire is in a good position to react to a play at any base. If no play develops at a base, the base umpire should remain within the 'working area'. In the 2-Umpire system, the base umpire only works within the infield with runners on base, and therefore has multiple responsibilities in every situation.

In terms of width, the 'working area' itself is defined on either side of the pitcher's mound by the P3 and P4 starting positions respectively. In terms of depth, the P3 and P4 starting positions define the back edge of the area and the front edge would be approximately 10'

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towards the pitching mound; this would allow the base umpire to take two to three steps towards the mound opening up towards the field while still being within the defined area. A proper starting position in either P3 or P4 will ensure that the base umpire is in a good position within the working area and will help provide a proper reference point.



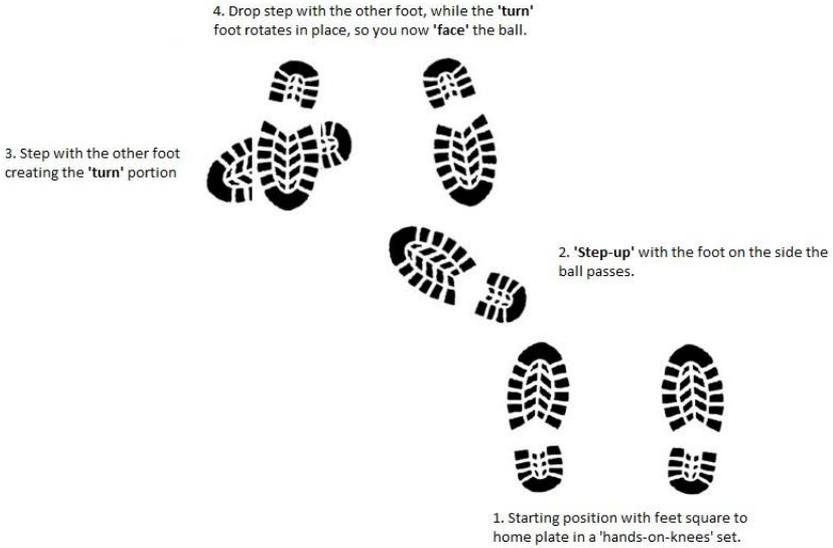
THE WORKING AREA

STEP-UP, TURN, FACE THE BALL

The **'step-up, turn, and face the ball'** mechanic is utilised in all umpiring systems by a base umpire working within the infield. The technique ensures that the base umpire always keeps the ball in front of him, never turning his back on the ball and always having his chest facing the ball. The base umpire will **'step-up'** with the foot in which the ball passes that side of his body. For example, if the base umpire is in his starting position at P3 on the 2nd base side of the mound and a ground ball is hit to the shortstop, he would **'step-up'** with his right foot as the ball passes by him. The base umpire will then take a step with his other foot forming the **'turn'** portion of the technique. Lastly, the base umpire will take a drop step with his original foot completing the technique and ending up in a position to **'face the ball'**. The base umpire should never turn his back on the ball and should always keep in mind the concept of keeping his chest to the ball. Keeping the

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ball in front of him, the base umpire will be able to read the developing play and get to the proper position quicker than he would turning his back on the ball and having to relocate it.



STEP-UP, TURN, FACE THE BALL FOOTWORK

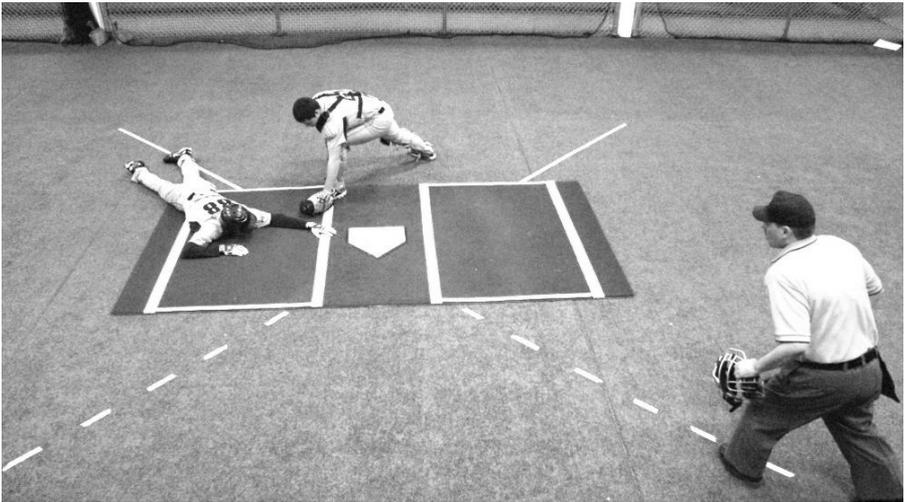
POSITIONING FOR PLAYS AT HOME

If there is a play at home, PU will move to a position 10-12' from home plate on 1st base line extended to read the play. As an umpire gains experience umpiring, is it acceptable for the PU to move to a position 10-12' from home plate working off the point of the plate as opposed to 1st base line extended. For the purpose of this manual, PU will take a position on the 1st base line extended to read any plays. From this position, PU has the option of moving to a position either on 1st base line extended or on 3rd base line extended, still 10-12' from the plate.

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When determining which position to be in for the play at the plate, the plate umpire should consider where the throw is originating from, the speed of the runner and ability of the fielder, the direction of the throw itself, and how close the play will be. The plate umpire must make a determination quick enough to allow him to get to a position and be set for the play; the plate umpire must not be moving.

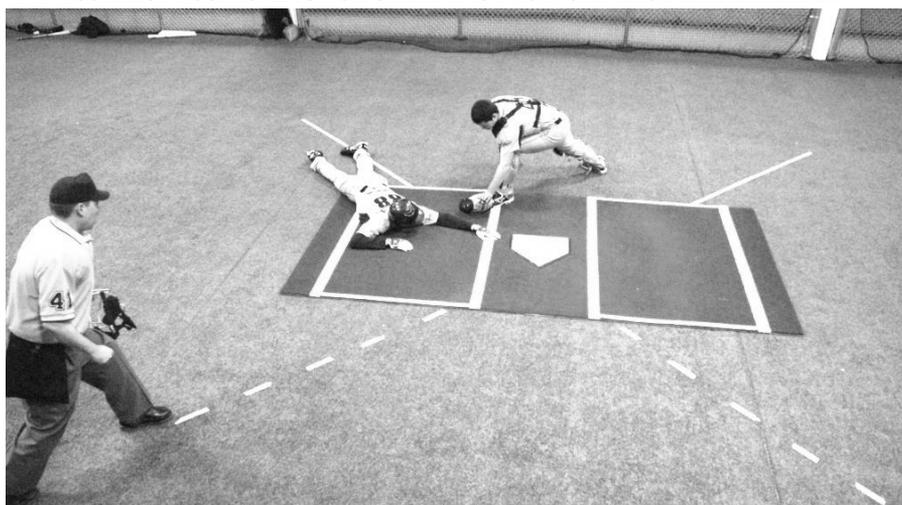
The key element to consider is where the throw is originating. If the throw is originating from the right side of the field, the natural tendency of the catcher is to reach for the ball to receive it, resulting in a swipe tag of the runner. For a play that involves a swipe tag, the best position for the umpire is on 3rd base line extended. If the throw is originating from the left side of the field, the natural tendency of the catcher is to hold his position in front of home plate, resulting in a sliding play at home plate. For a play that involves a sliding play with the catcher in front of the plate, the best position for the umpire is on the 1st base line extended.



FUNDAMENTALS



CORRECT POSITIONING FOR SWIPE TAG FROM 3RD BASE LINE EXTENDED





INCORRECT POSITIONING FOR SWIPE TAG FROM 1ST BASE LINE EXTENDED



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CORRECT POSITIONING FOR SLIDE PLAY FROM 1ST BASE LINE EXTENDED





INCORRECT POSITIONING FOR SLIDE PLAY FROM 3RD BASE LINE EXTENDED

FUNDAMENTALS

TIME PLAYS

A **'time play'** is a play in which the 3rd out is recorded on the bases at approximately the same time that another runner is attempting to score a run. The majority of 'time plays' occur during situations in which a runner is in scoring position at 2nd base with 2 outs. There are other scenarios however; including situations where there are multiple runners on base with only 1 out and a fly ball is hit with runners tagging up attempting to advance, as well as runners retreating to a base on a fly ball which is caught while another runner tags up. The plate umpire must be aware of the situation at all times and recognize when a 'time play' situation develops. For simple scenarios with a runner on 2nd base with 2 outs, umpires should use a signal to communicate with each other reminding them that the possibility exists. A commonly used signal is for umpires to indicate 2 out and then point down to home plate.

As the 'time play' situation develops, the plate umpire must move to a position behind home plate approximately 6-8' and line up the runner attempting to score with the possible 3rd out on the bases, whichever base that may occur at. From this position the plate umpire will watch and judge whether the runner touches home plate before or after the 3rd out keeping in mind that the runner is out at the moment the tag, or appeal, is recorded and not when the base umpire gives the 'out' mechanic.

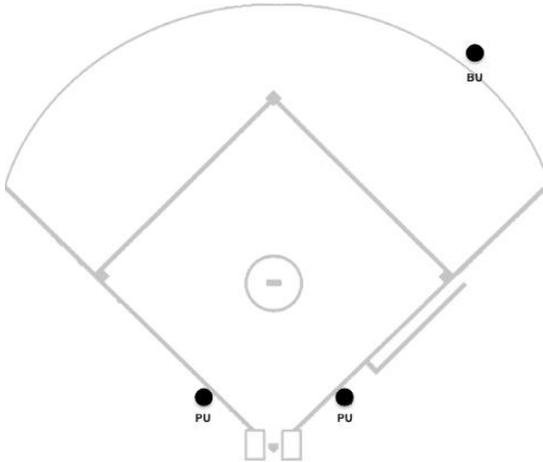
If the run scores, the plate umpire will communicate, "**That run scores! That run scores!**" while emphatically point at the plate twice. The plate umpire will then turn around and communicate, "**Score that run!**" while pointing up to the press box or scorekeeper. If more than one run scored during the play, the plate umpire might have to visually and verbally indicate to the scorekeeper the number of runs that scored.

If the run does not score, the plate umpire will communicate, "**No run scores! No run scores!**" while facing the press box or scorekeeper and waving his arms in cross-wise manner above his head.

POSITIONING BETWEEN INNINGS

In between innings it is recommended that the plate umpire move to a position along one of the foul lines, approximately 1/3 of the way towards 1st or 3rd base. The plate umpire must use good game management skills in determining his positioning between innings.

In between innings it is recommended that the base umpire jog to a position a couple feet on to the outfield grass between 1st and 2nd base. The base umpire must always consider the body language he is demonstrating while standing at this position between innings. As the catcher throws the last warm-up pitch to 2nd base, the base umpire should use that as a cue to jog to his position at P2 to start the inning.



POSITIONING BETWEEN INNINGS

POSITIONING DURING PITCHING CHANGES

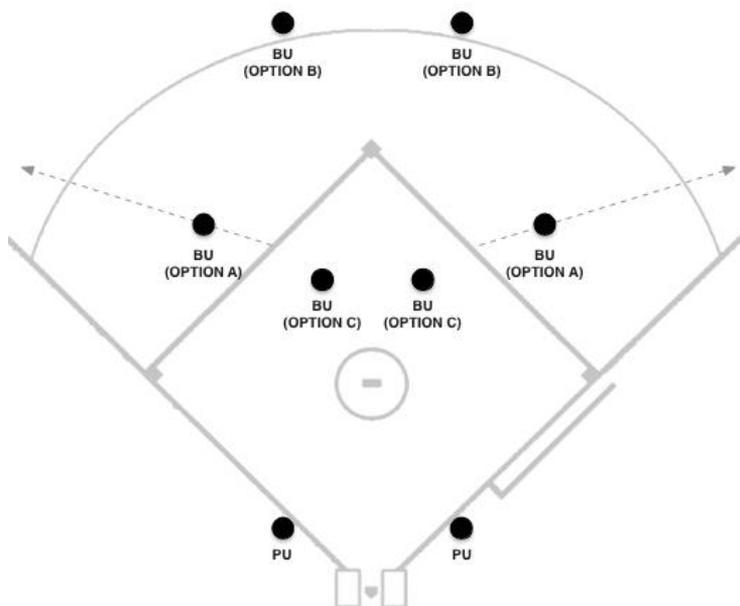
During pitching changes it is recommended that the plate umpire move to a position along one of the foul lines, approximately 1/3 of the way towards 1st or 3rd base. The plate umpire should utilise good game management skills and move to the foul line opposite of the team making the pitching change. This position prevents the plate umpire from

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having any potential confrontations with either the pitcher being removed or the manager making the pitching change.

There are several recommended positions for the base umpire to choose from during pitching changes. The base umpire should consider the level of baseball, the dimensions and set up of the field, as well as utilising good game management skills. For higher levels of baseball which have a bullpen area on the field, it is recommended that the base umpire, once notified by the plate umpire, or after the manager has indicated the change to the bullpen, jog towards the bullpen while visually and verbally calling for the new pitcher. The base umpire is not required to jog all the way to the bullpen, and should stop once it is apparent that the new pitcher has stopped warming up and is making his way to the playing field. (Option A). The second option would be a position similar to that of between innings, a couple feet on to the outfield grass keeping in line with P3 or P4 depending on where he would normally take his starting position. (Option B). The third option, recommended for lower levels and smaller fields with no bullpens, is to simply hold his position at his regular starting position of P3 or P4. (Option C).

The above positions are recommendations and umpires must utilise common sense and good game management skills. Umpires should attempt to avoid confrontations with pitchers and managers, and must not give the appearance of fraternizing with players of the defensive team on the field.



POSITIONING DURING PITCHING CHANGES

NO RUNNERS

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NO RUNNERS

SITUATION 2U-1 BASIC POSITIONS

PLATE UMPIRE

PU stands in the slot behind the catcher until the batter hits the ball. The **box** and the **scissors** stance are acceptable for calling balls and strikes. **This position is referred to as P1.**

BASE UMPIRE

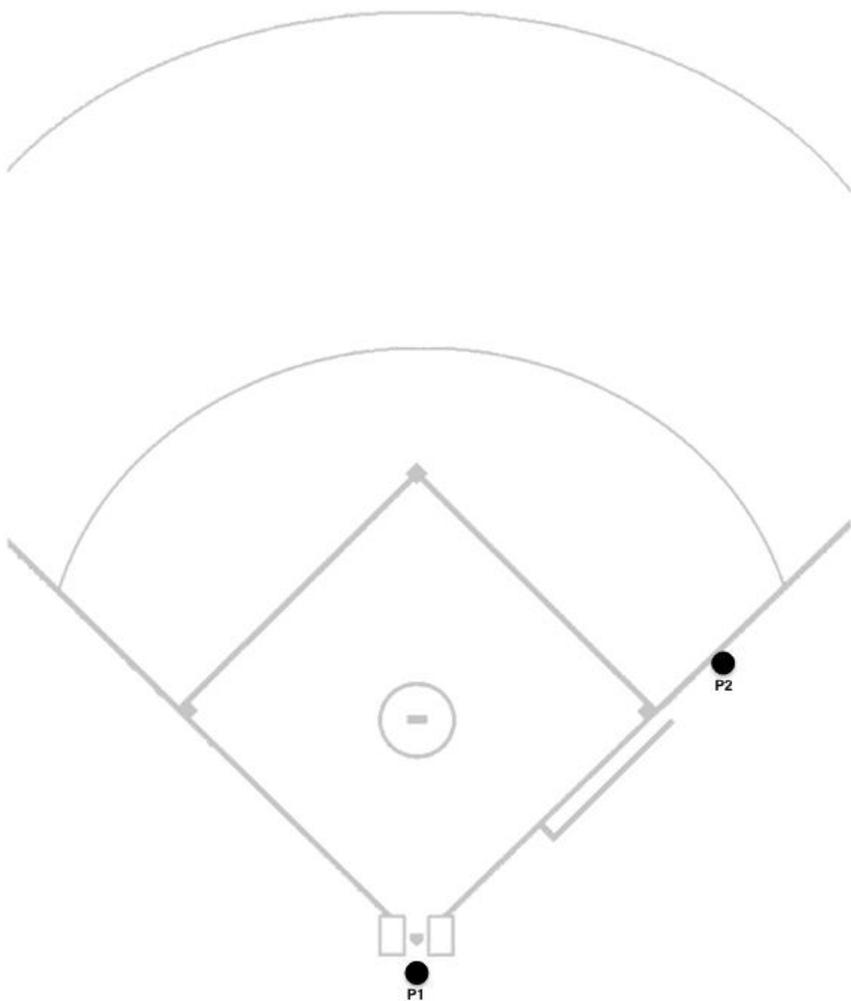
BU should be positioned 10 to 12' behind the 1st baseman with both feet in foul territory, adjacent to the foul line. If the 1st baseman moves backwards, so will BU, however, the distance between BU and 1st baseman will get closer, with BU never being closer than 4 to 6'. If the 1st baseman moves forward and is parallel with, or closer than the base, BU will be positioned 12 to 15' behind 1st base. BU will assume a set position as the pitcher begins his delivery to ensure he is set for each pitch. **This position is referred to as P2.**

NOTES

In the 2-Umpire system, BU will take a hands-on-knees set before every pitch; there is no option for a standing set position.

SITUATION 2U-1

BASIC POSITIONS



NO RUNNERS

SITUATION 2U-2 RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all line drives to the pitcher, 3rd baseman, shortstop, 2nd baseman diving to his *right*, and the 1st baseman diving to his *right*.

BASE UMPIRE

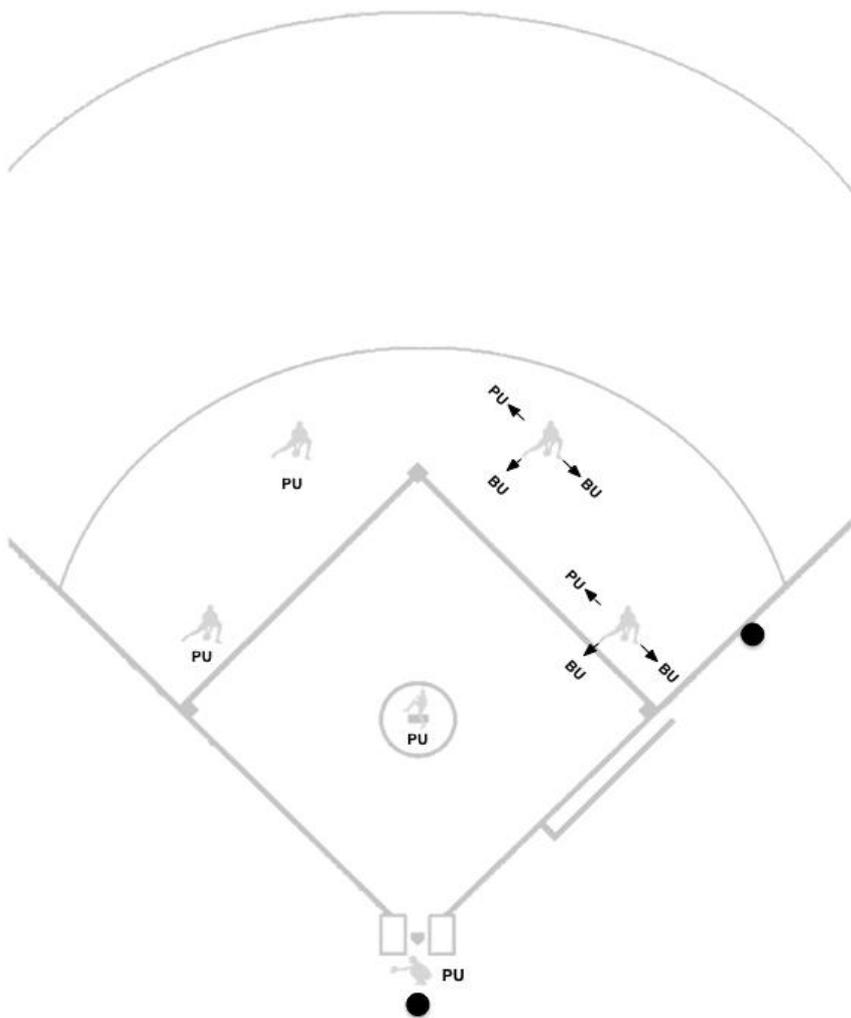
BU is responsible for all line drives, which are hit directly at the 1st baseman or 2nd baseman, and line drives, which cause the 1st baseman and 2nd baseman to dive to their *left*.

NOTES

Umpires must review line drive coverage prior to every game to ensure there is no confusion during the game.

SITUATION 2U-2

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES TO THE INFIELD



NO RUNNERS

SITUATION 2U-3

RESPONSIBILITIES ON FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD – NO TROUBLE

PLATE UMPIRE

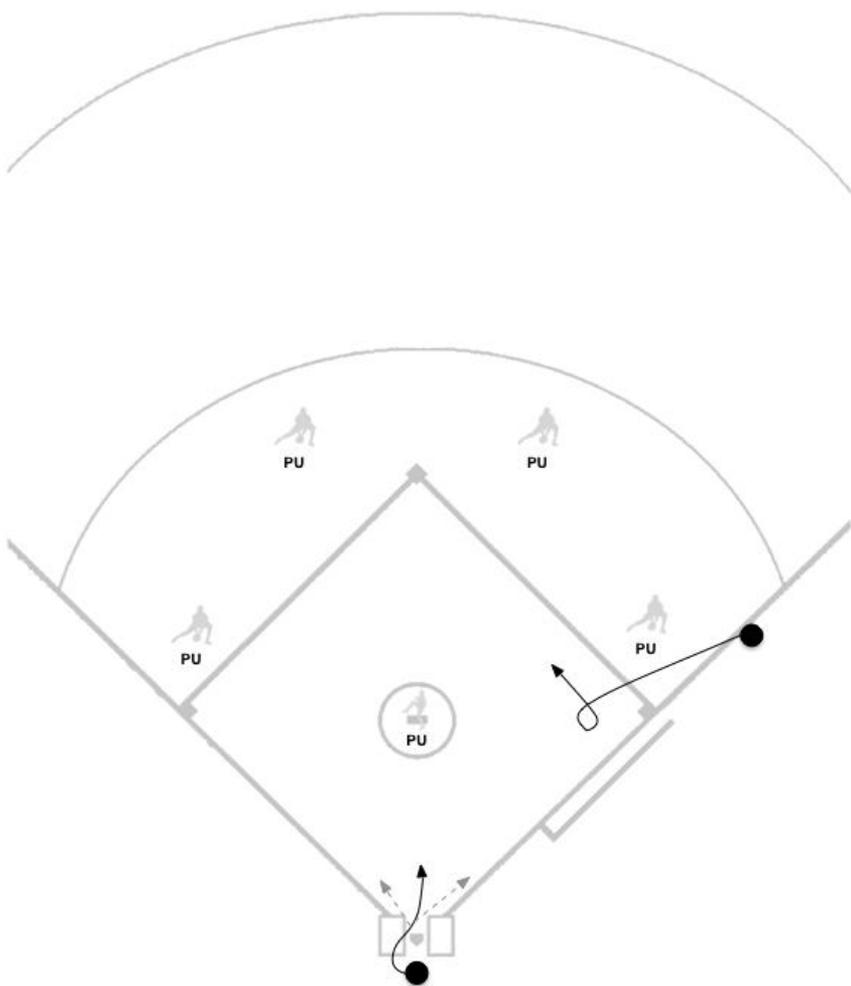
PU is responsible for all fair fly balls hit to the infield, unless the BU decides to go out on a fly ball. PU will exit the catcher left and move out in front of home plate in the direction of the fly ball, going no further than halfway to the mound. If the fly ball requires a **fair/foul** decision, the PU will take a standing set position on the foul line to make the call. The PU should communicate to his partner **“That’s a catch”** if the ball is caught, or give a signal and communicate, **“No catch, no catch”**, if the ball is not caught.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will take a read step with his left foot forward opening up to the infield allowing BU to **pause, read, and react** to the play. If BU does not read any trouble on the fly ball, he will immediately come in and pivot in the infield. BU is responsible for all plays on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. While pivoting on fly balls hit to the left side of the infield, BU must be aware of his positioning should the ball not be caught; BU must be aware that there may be a play on the batter-runner back in to 1st base.

SITUATION 2U-3

RESPONSIBILITIES ON FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD – NO TROUBLE



NO RUNNERS

SITUATION 2U-4

RESPONSIBILITIES ON FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD – WITH TROUBLE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU recognizing the fly ball will immediately exit the catcher left and move out in front of home plate. If PU **reads** (visually and verbally) that the BU will take responsibility for the fly ball, he will continue towards 1st base in the infield splitting the difference between the mound and the cut-out areas. PU would communicate to his partner, “**I’ve got the runner**”. PU would be responsible for all plays on the batter-runner at 1st, 2nd, or 3rd should the ball not be caught.

BASE UMPIRE

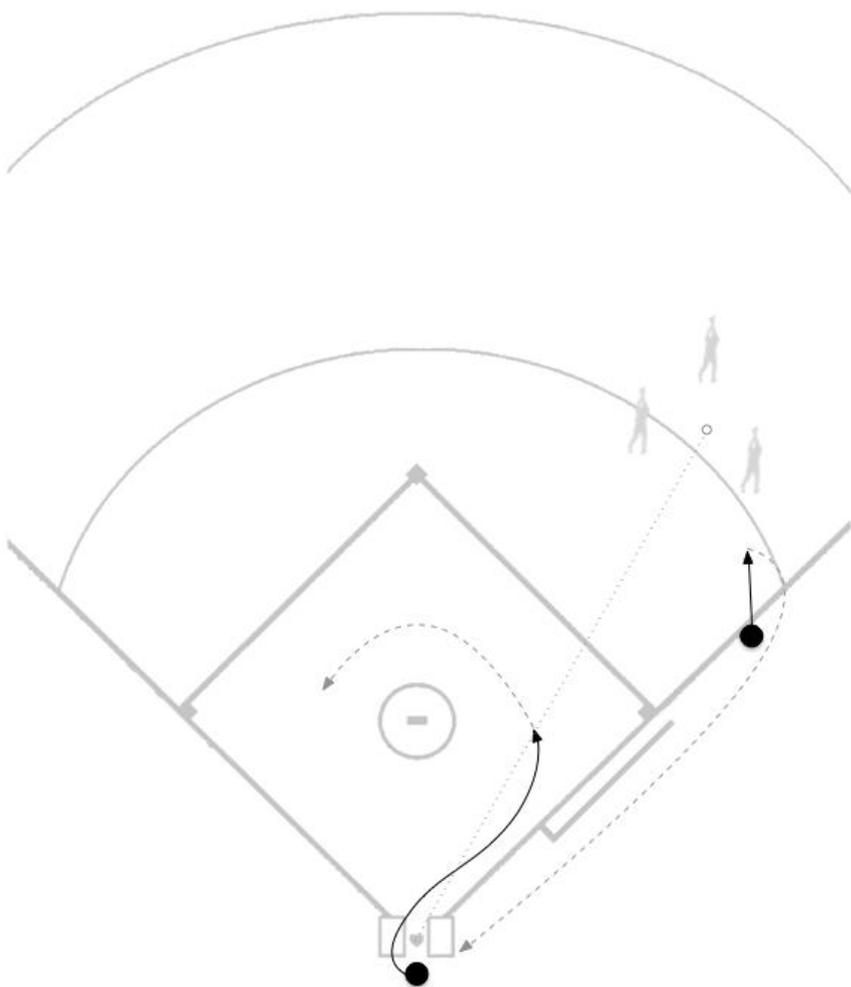
BU will take a read step with his left foot forward opening up to the infield allowing BU to **pause, read, and react** to the play. If BU reads “**trouble**”, (converging fielders, or a fair foul decision *behind* 1st base) he will communicate to his partner, “**I’m going out!**”, and take responsibility for the fly ball, even if it’s only a couple steps. If the fly ball requires a **fair/foul** decision, BU will take a set position on the foul line. If the ball is not caught, BU must wait until the ball is fielded, before deciding whether or not he can cover home plate to help PU.

NOTES

For a fair fly ball directly at or in the vicinity of 1st base, BU will immediately come in and pivot. BU will only take responsibility for fly balls **behind** the 1st baseman.

SITUATION 2U-4

RESPONSIBILITIES ON FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD – WITH TROUBLE



NO RUNNERS

SITUATION 2U-5

RESPONSIBILITIES ON FOUL FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU would be responsible for all obvious foul fly balls towards the 3rd base dugout. PU will immediately get distance towards the fielder(s) and be set for the call. For foul fly balls towards the 1st base dugout, if the catcher moves for the ball, PU will go with him. If the catcher and the 1st baseman both go for the ball, PU will also head towards the catch/no catch. If only the 1st baseman moves towards the ball, then PU would remain in the vicinity of home plate still watching the play. The reason that PU will not move towards the catch/no catch if only the 1st baseman goes is that the BU is responsible for the call with only one fielder.

BASE UMPIRE

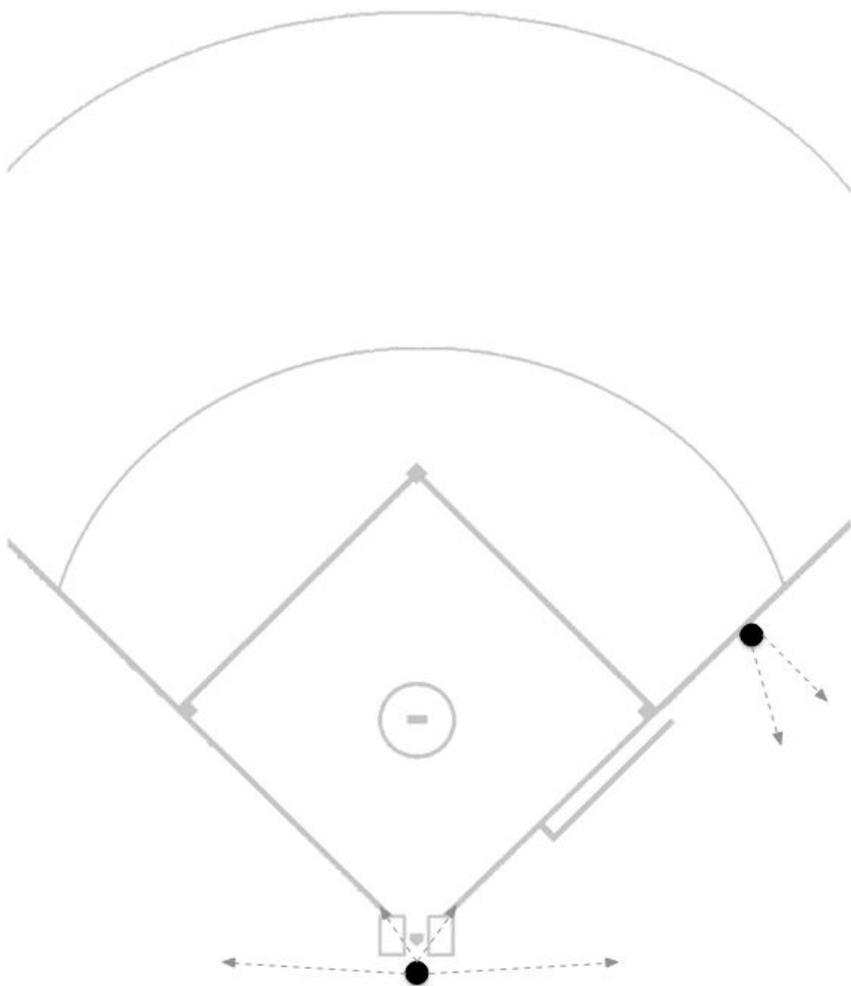
On foul fly balls towards the 3rd base dugout, BU will remain at his starting position watching the play. For foul fly balls towards the 1st base dugout, if the catcher moves for the ball, then BU will again remain in his starting position watching the play. If the catcher and 1st baseman move towards the ball, then BU will move towards the catch/no catch in foul territory. If only the 1st baseman moves towards the ball, then BU will let the 1st baseman clear him and then move into position to make the call.

NOTES

In all of the above situations, umpires must be in a set position to make the catch/no catch decision. If both umpires move towards the foul fly ball, the umpire facing the catch will be responsible for making the signal, not the umpire who is behind the fielder no matter how close to the play. If there is any chance of the fly ball becoming a fair fly ball, BU must come in and pivot and take responsibility for the batter-runner while PU is responsible for the fair/foul decision and should be straddling the foul line

SITUATION 2U-5

RESPONSIBILITIES ON FOUL FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD



NO RUNNERS

SITUATION 2U-6

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD – NO PRESSURE

PLATE UMPIRE

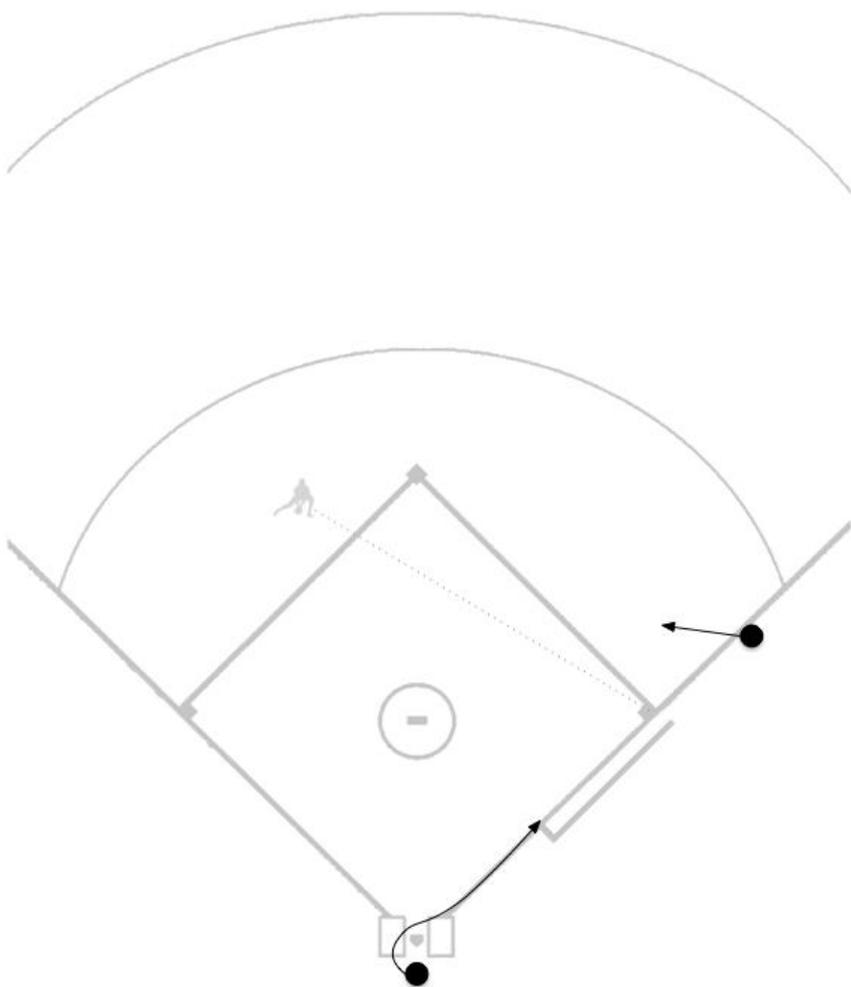
PU will exit left and immediately hustle down the 1st base line following the batter-runner. PU will hustle as far as possible down the line coming to a standing set position no further than the 45' line, straddling the foul line. His main responsibilities are any fair / foul calls prior to a base, watching for **runner's lane interference**, any **overthrows** at 1st base, and helping BU with **swipe tags** if needed. It is essential that the PU watch the release of the throw by the fielder to ensure that it is a true throw and assist in anticipating any type of trouble play. On batted balls near either foul line, PU is responsible for the fair / foul decision on balls up to but not including the base. PU will stop in a position straddling the foul line before making the call, and then re-position to the 1st base line for his remaining responsibilities. On balls hit in front of the plate, he may need to take a position on the 1st or 3rd base line extended. He is responsible for all calls at home plate.

BASE UMPIRE

BU should take a read step with his left foot forward opening up to the infield, allowing him to **pause, read, and react** to the play. From that position BU will move to a spot in fair territory approximately 12 to 15' from 1st base creating a 90-degree angle from where the throw is originating and squaring his legs and body to the base. BU will watch the release of the ball by the fielder, and after ensuring it is a true throw, come to a set position, turning and squaring his head and shoulders to the base. If BU reads that the throw from the fielder is not a true throw, he will remain in a standing position and take a step in whatever direction necessary to create the best angle possible to make the call on a possible swipe tag or to see whether the fielder pulled his foot off the base. BU should always be in fair territory unless he reads "pressure" from the 2nd baseman moving towards him, or in some cases when the throw originates in foul territory between home and 1st base. On an overthrow, BU will immediately hustle in to the infield, pivot, and pick-up the batter-runner for any possible plays developing at 1st or 2nd base.

SITUATION 2U-6

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD – NO PRESSURE



NO RUNNERS

SITUATION 2U-7

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD – WITH PRESSURE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit left and immediately hustle down the 1st base line following the batter-runner. PU will hustle as far as possible down the line coming to a standing set position no further than the 45' line, straddling the foul line. His main responsibilities are watching for **runner's lane interference** and helping BU with **swipe tags** if needed. It is essential that the PU watch the release of the throw by the fielder to ensure that it is a true throw and assist in anticipating any type of trouble play. On an overthrow, PU would take responsibility for any plays back in to 1st base or at 2nd base on the batter-runner.

BASE UMPIRE

A ground ball, which causes the 2nd baseman to move towards 1st base and results in BU having to snap his head to get in to a set position, is defined as “**pressure**”. BU should take a read step with his left foot forward opening up to the infield, allowing him to **pause, read, and react** to the play. From that position BU will move to a spot in foul territory approximately 12 to 15' from 1st base creating a 90-degree angle from where the throw is originating and squaring his legs and body to the base. BU will watch the release of the ball by the fielder, and after ensuring it is a true throw, come to a set position, turning and squaring his head and shoulders to the base. If BU reads that the throw from the fielder is not a true throw, he will remain in a standing position and take a step in whatever direction necessary to create the best angle possible to make the call on a possible swipe tag or to see whether the fielder pulled his foot off the base. The other time BU may take this position is if the throw originates from foul territory by the catcher, usually on a swinging strike three not caught. On an overthrow, BU will remain in foul territory and take responsibility for the overthrow.

NOTES

Ground balls towards the 1st baseman, or **fair/foul** ground balls are NOT “pressure”. BU will signal the fair ball and then take a position in fair territory. Moving to foul territory

prevents BU from seeing the inside of the base where the 1st baseman or pitcher is taught to touch and push off from.

SITUATION 2U-8

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

On a base hit, or extra base hit, the PU will exit the catcher on the left side and move in to the infield in the direction of the ball. PU is responsible for all **fair/foul** decisions along the 3rd base line. PU should not go any further than halfway to the mound on the infield. PU will watch the play from that position, watching for any infractions (i.e. ball getting by a fielder and rolling out of play, possible overthrows, any obstructions which BU might not see and may need help with later, or to assist if a run-down develops.) PU is responsible for all plays at home on the batter-runner.

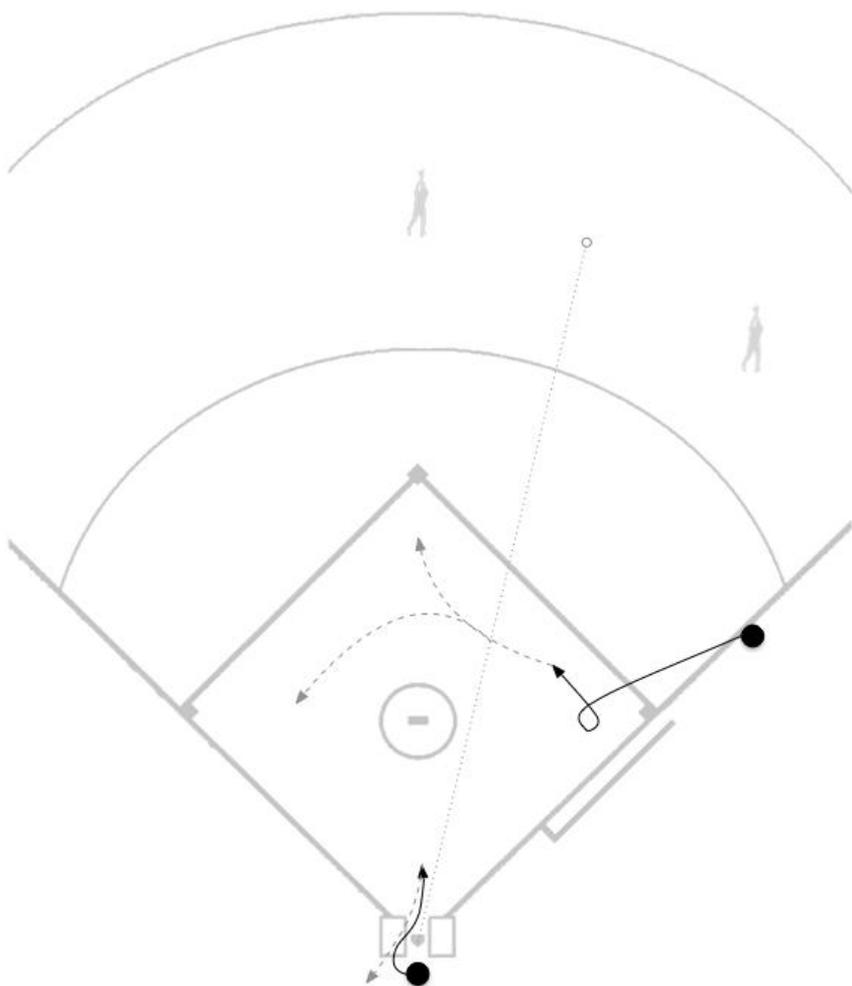
BASE UMPIRE

BU will take a read step with his left foot forward opening up to the infield allowing BU to **pause, read, and react** to the play. BU will immediately head in to the infield and pivot, taking responsibility for the batter-runner. BU should time his pivot so that it occurs as the batter-runner is touching 1st base. BU must then pick up the ball immediately and read where the play may develop. If there is no play at 2nd base, the BU will cross step and take a few steps towards the start of the 45° lane creating an angle for a play back in to 1st base. If BU reads that a play will develop at 2nd or 3rd base, he will stay ahead of the batter-runner and get to a position set to make a call on a play. If no play develops on the batter-runner, BU should finish in a position ahead of the batter-runner. The BU must always be aware of where the ball is and will momentarily take his eye off the ball to watch for the batter-runner touching the bases. BU is responsible for all plays on the bases on the batter-runner including the touch of 3rd base.

NO RUNNERS

SITUATION 2U-8

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-9

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

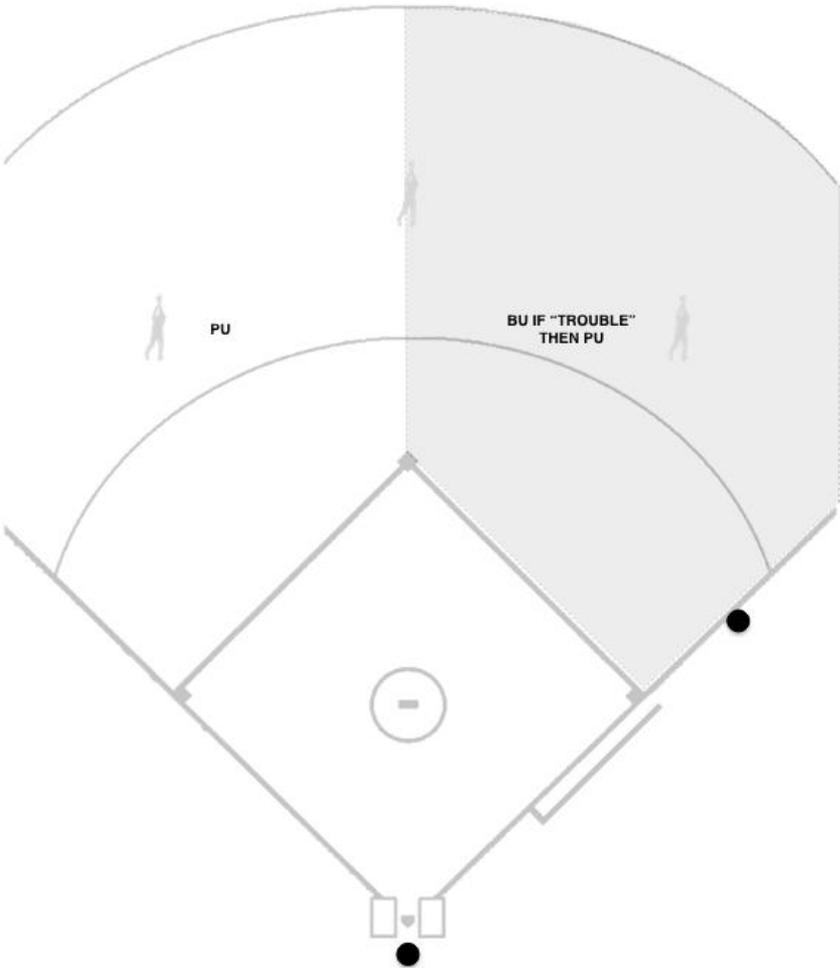
PU is initially responsible for fly balls to the outfield, which take the CF to his right all the way to the left field line. PU may become responsible for all fly balls to the outfield if the BU, after **pause, read, and reacting**, determines the fly ball is routine and does not meet the requirements of a “trouble” fly ball.

BASE UMPIRE

BU is responsible for all fly balls directly at the CF, moving forward or backwards, all the way to the right field line. BU will **pause, read, and react**, to determine if the fly ball meets one of the requirements for a “trouble” fly ball. If BU determines the fly ball to be “trouble” and his responsibility, he will go out on the fly ball. If BU determines the fly ball is not a routine fly ball, and not “trouble”, he will give up responsibility to the PU.

SITUATION 2U-9

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-10

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE CENTER FIELDER OR TOWARDS THE RIGHT
FIELD LINE – ROUTINE BALL**

PLATE UMPIRE

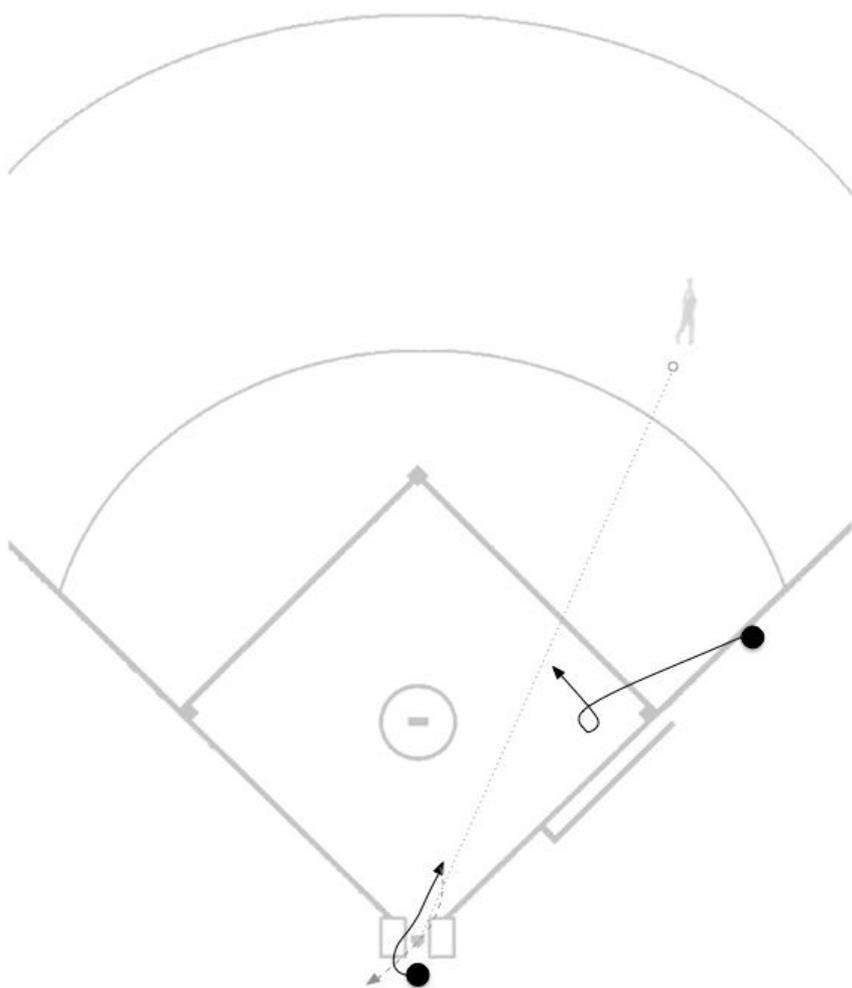
PU recognizing the fly ball will immediately exit the catcher left and move out in front of home plate. If PU reads that the BU has determined the fly ball to be routine, PU will continue in the direction of the fly ball. PU should come to a stop when the catch is made and should not continue past the pitcher's mound. PU will communicate to BU whether the ball is caught, "**That's a catch**" or give a signal and communicate, "**No catch, no catch!**" if the ball is not caught. If the ball is caught, communication need only be loud enough for the BU to hear. If the ball was not caught, PU would be responsible for plays at home plate on the batter-runner.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will take a read step with his left foot forward opening up to the infield allowing BU to **pause, read, and react** to the play. If BU reads that the fly ball is routine in nature, he will immediately come in to the infield and pivot. He will take responsibility for the batter-runner at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base. BU must stay ahead of the batter-runner in case the fly ball is not caught.

SITUATION 2U-10

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE CENTER FIELDER OR TOWARDS THE RIGHT
FIELD LINE – ROUTINE BALL**



SITUATION 2U-11

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE CENTER FIELDER OR TOWARDS THE RIGHT
FIELD LINE – TROUBLE BALL**

PLATE UMPIRE

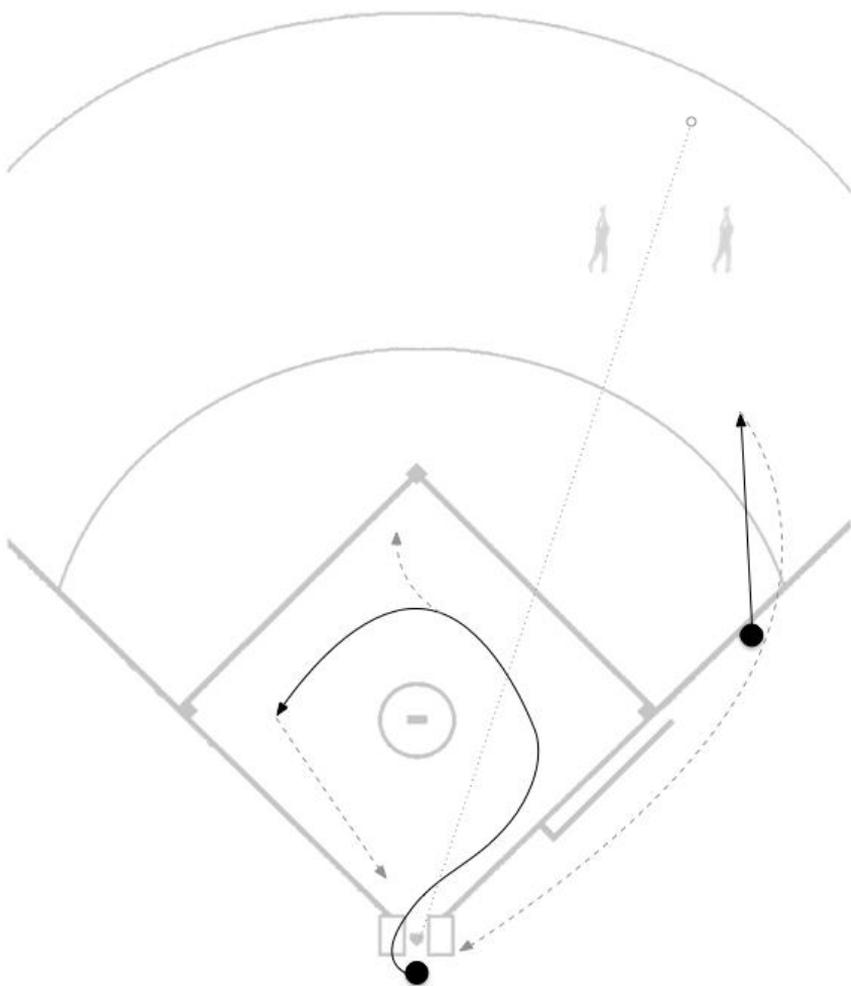
PU recognizing the fly ball will immediately exit the catcher left and move out in front of home plate. If PU **reads** (visually and verbally) that the BU will take responsibility for the fly ball, he will continue towards 1st base in the infield splitting the difference between the mound and the cut-out areas. PU would communicate to his partner, “**I’ve got the runner**”. PU would be responsible for all plays on the batter-runner at 1st, 2nd, or 3rd should the ball not be caught. PU would be responsible for any plays at home on the batter-runner if the BU does not return in time to take the responsibility. PU must look to see where BU is and if necessary would take the play at home from inside fair territory.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will take a read step with his left foot forward opening up to the infield allowing BU to **pause, read, and react** to the play. If BU reads “trouble”, (fair/foul, converging fielders, possible home-run or ground rule double, and fielder diving or trapping the ball) he will communicate to his partner, “**I’m going out!**”, and take responsibility for the fly ball. BU will get as much distance as possible while creating an angle and come to a stop to make the call on a **catch/no catch**. If the fly ball requires a **fair/foul** decision, BU will take a set position on the foul line. If the ball is not caught, BU must wait until the ball is fielded, before deciding whether or not he can cover home plate to help PU. Once the ball is fielded and BU sees the release of the ball, he will immediately head towards home plate in foul territory for any possible plays on the batter-runner. If BU covers home plate, he must communicate, “**I’ve got the plate!**”

SITUATION 2U-11

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE CENTER FIELDER OR TOWARDS THE RIGHT
FIELD LINE – TROUBLE BALL**



SITUATION 2U-12

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD SIDE OF CENTER FIELDER

PLATE UMPIRE

PU recognizing responsibility for the fly ball will immediately exit the catcher left and move out in front of home plate in the direction of the fly ball. PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** decision and if necessary will get distance towards the fly ball along the 3rd base line. PU should come to a stop when the catch is made and should not continue past the pitcher's mound. If the fly ball requires a **fair /foul** decision, PU would first point either fair or foul and then PU will communicate to BU whether the ball is caught, "**That's a catch**", or give a signal and communicate, "**No catch, no catch!**" if the ball is not caught. If the ball is caught, communication need only be loud enough for the BU to hear. If the ball was not caught, PU would be responsible for plays at home plate on the batter-runner.

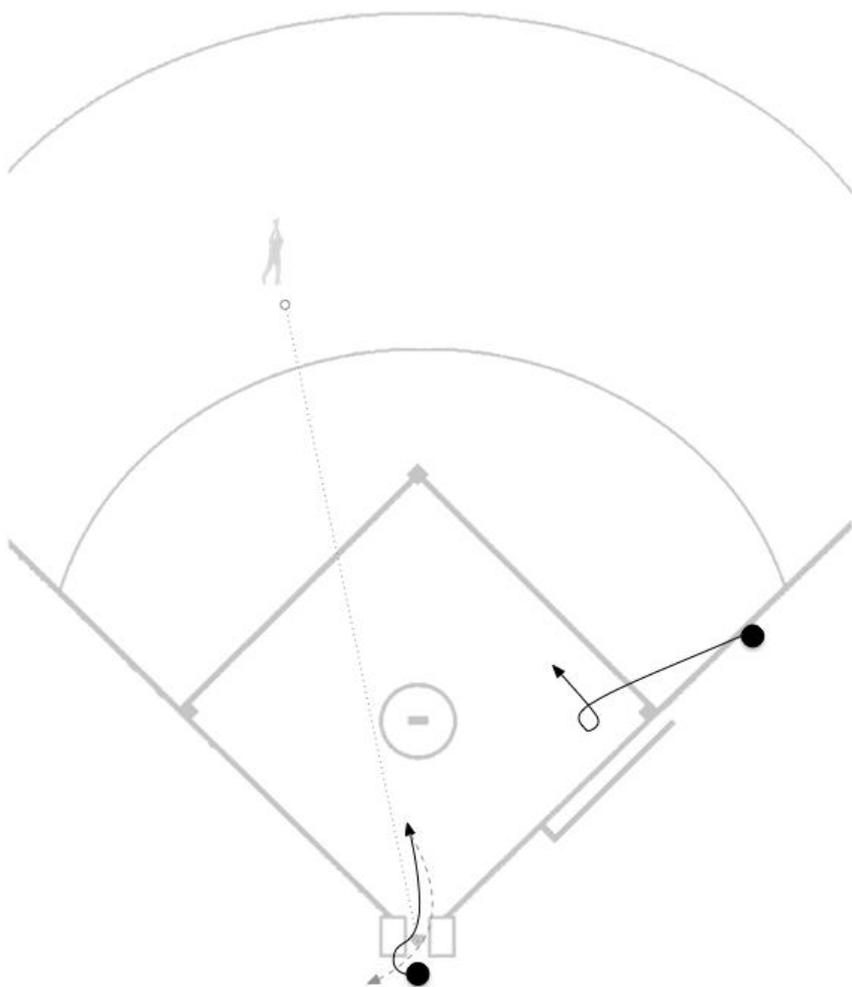
BASE UMPIRE

BU will take a read step with his left foot forward opening up to the infield allowing BU to **pause, read, and react** to the play. BU recognizing the PU is responsible for the fly ball will immediately come in to the infield and pivot. He will take responsibility for the batter-runner at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base. BU must stay ahead of the batter-runner in case the fly ball is not caught.

NO RUNNERS

SITUATION 2U-12

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD SIDE OF CENTER FIELDER



SITUATION 2U-13

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

On a base hit with no runners on base, which develops in to a run-down between 1st and 2nd, PU once recognizing this will immediately head down to 1st base along the 1st base line towards the cut-out area. It is very important that PU read the play from the cut-out area and must be aware that any plays at 1st base belong to BU until PU communicates responsibility. PU must be careful not to run off the BU, and once the batter-runner is *running away from the cut-out*, PU will then move in to the cut-out area. As PU moves in to the cut-out area to take responsibility, he will communicate, **“I’ve got this end! I’ve got this end!”** PU is responsible for plays on the batter-runner at the cut-out area only. PU is responsible for overthrows along the 1st base side, and on an overthrow to the outfield, PU would return home immediately.

BASE UMPIRE

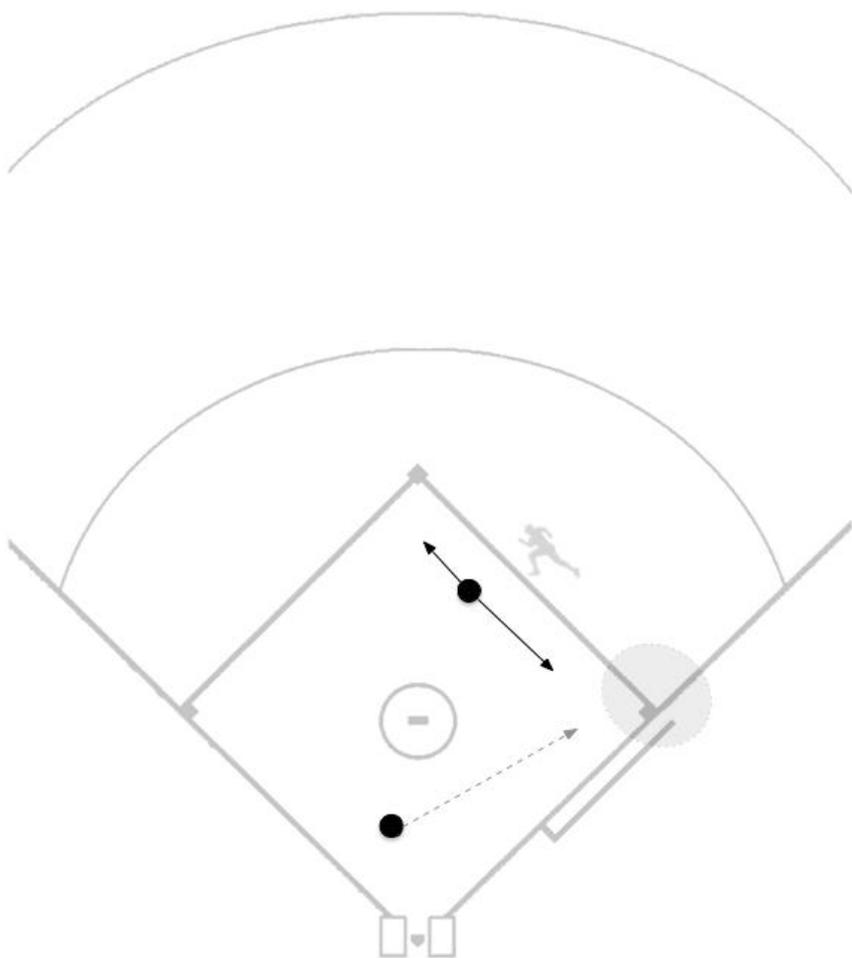
On a base hit with no runners on base which develops in to a run-down between 1st and 2nd, BU would have come in and pivoted. BU is responsible for all of the run-down until PU communicates responsibility for the cut-out area only. BU must try to stay ahead of the runner, moving parallel with the grass-dirt line while not getting too close to the play. BU must be listening for PU communicating responsibility for the cut-out area.

NOTES

It is important that umpires communicate with each other during a run-down situation. For any decisions in the area between the two umpire’s responsibilities, they must take time to look at each other and communicate as to avoid both making a call on the same play.

SITUATION 2U-13

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND BASE



SITUATION 2U-14

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

On an extra base hit with no runners on base, which develops in to a run-down between 2nd and 3rd, PU once recognizing this will immediately head down to 3rd base along the 3rd base line towards the cut-out area. It is very important that PU read the play from the cut-out area and must be aware that any plays at 3rd base belong to BU until PU communicates responsibility. PU must be careful not to run off the BU, and once the batter-runner is *running away from the cut-out*, PU will then move in to the cut-out area. As PU moves in to the cut-out area to take responsibility, he will communicate, **“I’ve got this end! I’ve got this end!”** PU is responsible for plays on the batter-runner at the cut-out area only. PU is responsible for overthrows along the 3rd base side, and on any overthrow, PU would return home immediately remaining on the infield side of the 3rd base line.

BASE UMPIRE

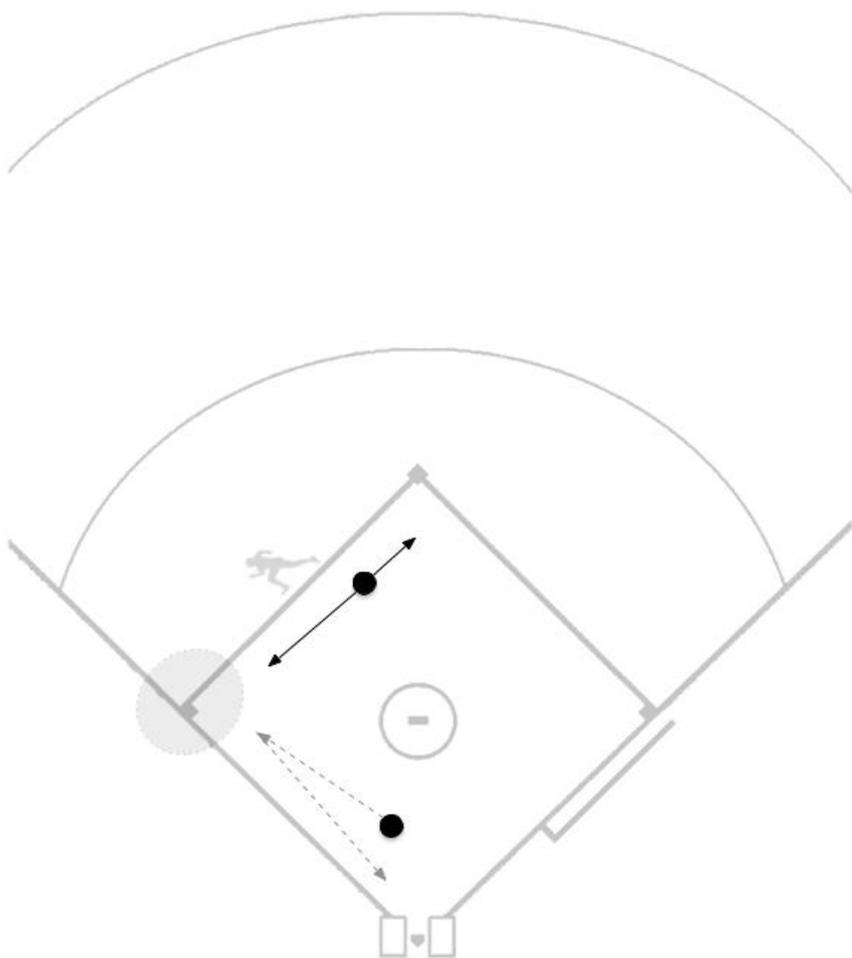
On a base hit with no runners on base which develops in to a run-down between 2nd and 3rd, BU would have come in and pivoted. BU is responsible for all of the run-down until PU communicates responsibility for the cut-out area only. BU must try to stay ahead of the runner, moving parallel with the grass-dirt line while not getting too close to the play. BU must be listening for PU communicating responsibility for the cut-out area.

NOTES

It is important that umpires communicate with each other during a run-down situation. For any decisions in the area between the two umpire’s responsibilities, they must take time to look at each other and communicate as to avoid both making a call on the same play.

SITUATION 2U-14

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD BASE



R1 ONLY

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SITUATION 2U-15
BASIC POSITIONS

PLATE UMPIRE

PU stands in the slot behind the catcher until the batter hits the ball. The **box** and the **scissors** stance are acceptable for calling balls and strikes. **This position is referred to as P1.**

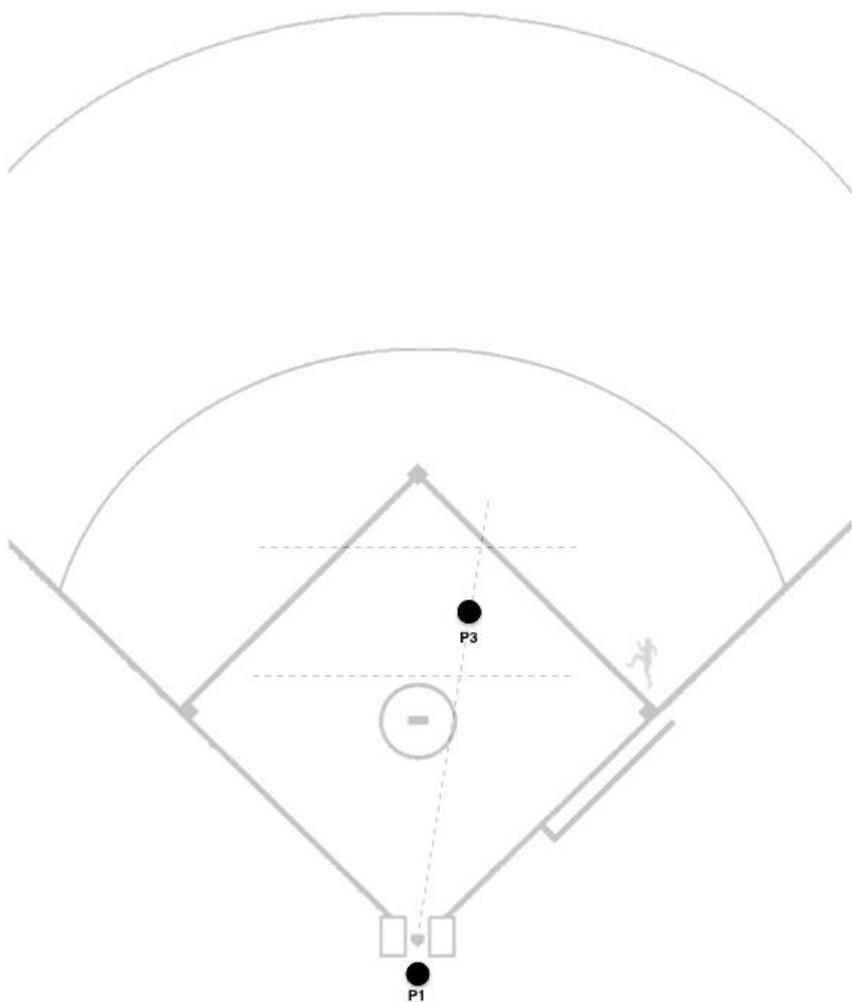
BASE UMPIRE

BU sets up on the 1st base side of the mound, using a guide line from the edge of home plate past the edge of the 18' pitching circle, and midway between the back edge of the 18' pitching circle and the 2nd base cut-out area. BU will assume a hands-on-knees **set position** as the pitcher is *touching the rubber* and remain there until the pitch is delivered, or the pitcher disengages the rubber. BU will be square to the batter in this starting position. **This position is referred to as P3.**

NOTES

There is **NO** option for a deep P3 starting position in the 2-umpire system.

SITUATION 2U-15
BASIC POSITIONS



SITUATION 2U-16

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls hit to the pitcher. PU is also responsible for all fly balls hit to the catcher. PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls, which cause the 1st or 3rd baseman to *move towards the foul line*. When a fly ball is hit, PU should swing out from home plate a few feet in to foul territory in the direction of the 3rd base to observe the play, unless it requires a **fair/foul** decision, in which case PU will take a set position on the appropriate foul line. For balls hit along the 3rd base line, PU should communicate, **“I’ve got the ball!”** For balls hit along the 1st base line, PU should communicate, **“I’m on the line!”**

BASE UMPIRE

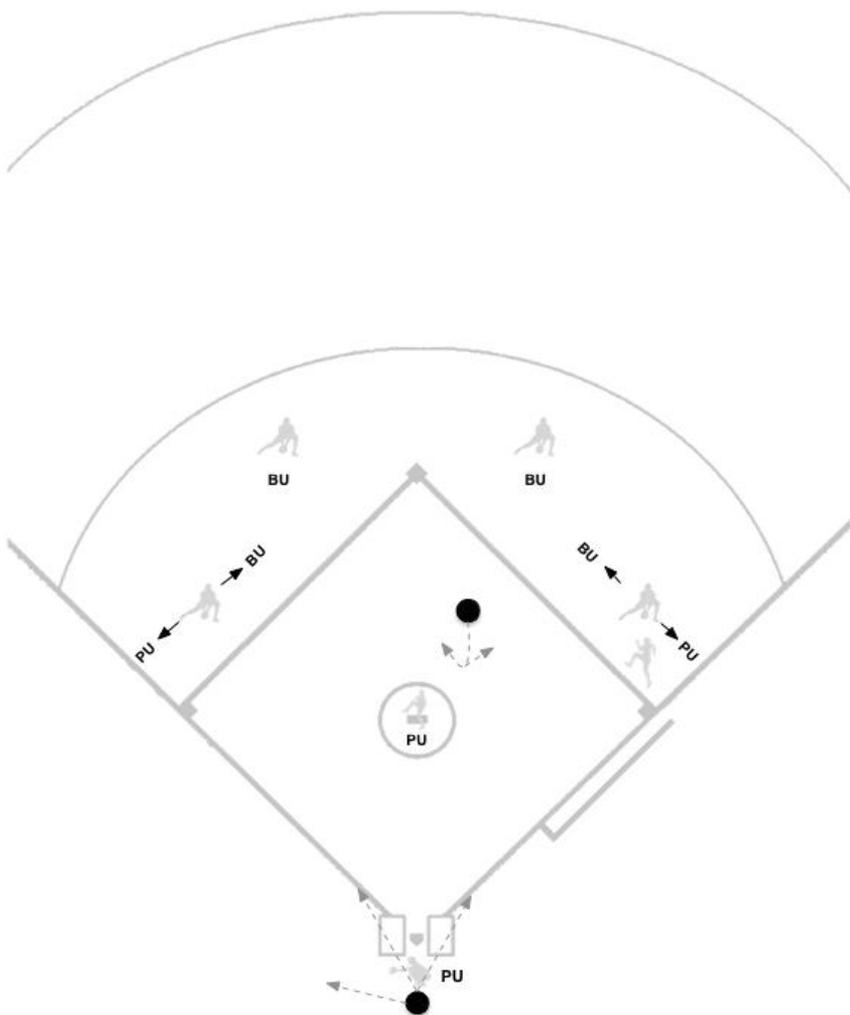
BU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls to all the infielders with the exception of those taking the 1st or 3rd baseman towards the foul line. BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest, glancing back over his shoulder to watch the batter-runner touch 1st base. BU may have to take a few steps back towards the mound to allow room for the fielder to catch the ball. BU should avoid back stepping and should use crossover steps.

NOTES

The different terminology used by PU is important in the 2-umpire system. The terminology, **“I’m on the line!”** tells BU that PU will **NOT** be at 3rd base for coverage with possible rotations.

SITUATION 2U-16

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD



SITUATION 2U-17

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head towards 3rd base in foul territory approximately 3-6' off the foul line to a spot $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to 3rd base. PU heads to 3rd in case the runner at 1st should attempt for 3rd. Should the ground ball develop in to a double-play situation, *as soon as R1 is declared out at 2nd*, PU will stop moving towards 3rd, and retreat to home plate. PU can retreat by either retreating ***straight back*** down the 3rd base line, or ***straight across*** the infield to the 1st base foul line. PU resumes his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base. If the lead runner is not retired at 2nd base, PU will continue to 3rd base for any potential plays back across the infield.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will hold his position splitting the difference between 2nd and 1st base and read the play. BU is responsible for all calls at 1st and 2nd on the runner and batter-runner. If the initial play is at 2nd base, BU will square up to the play in a standing set. BU would then take a drop step towards the start of the 45' lane creating an angle for the play at 1st base. If there is no play at 2nd base on the lead runner, BU will take a couple steps towards the start of the 45' lane to create an angle for the play. BU must check over his shoulder to see if PU has coverage at 3rd base.

SITUATION 2U-18

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD (1ST BASE LINE)

PLATE UMPIRE

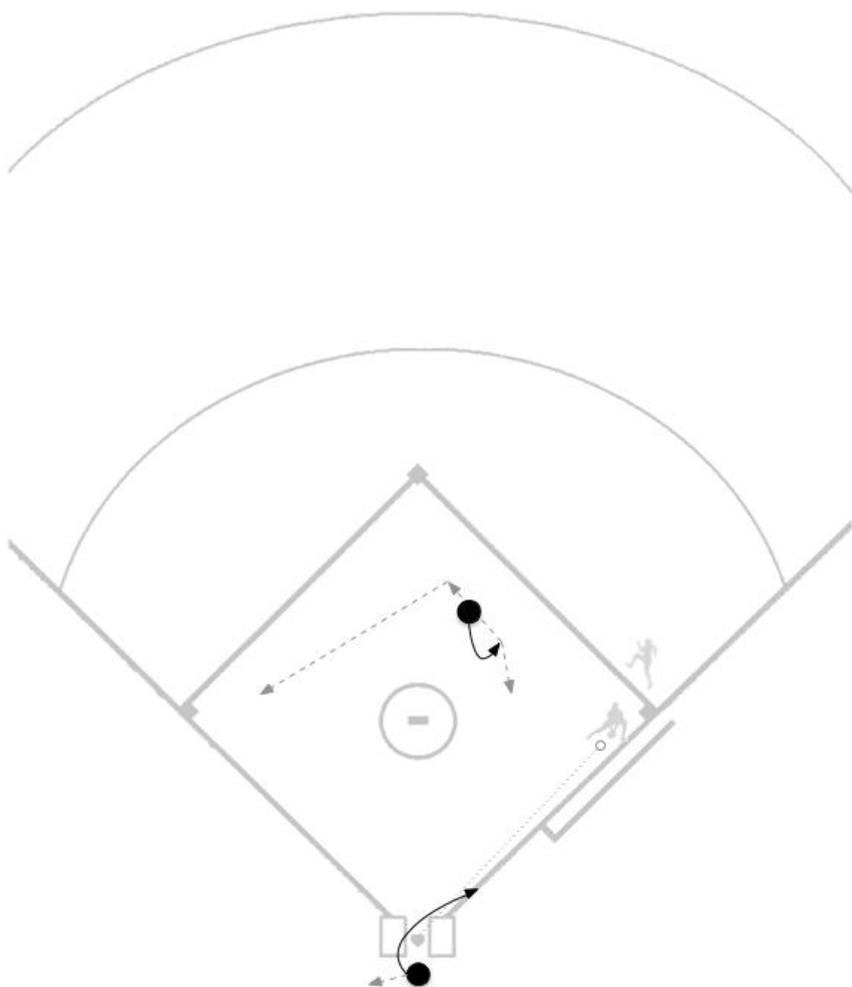
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately come up the 1st base line for the **fair/foul** decision, as well as taking responsibility of the **tag/no tag** on the batter-runner *up to* the 45' line. On a hard ground ball, it is acceptable for PU to make the **fair/foul** call from 1st base line extended. PU will stay on the line and NOT assume responsibility for the runner from 1st at 3rd if necessary. PU resumes his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base. If possible, PU should communicate, "**I'm on the line**" to the BU. This communication must be done with some care as to not confuse the infielders.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will hold his position splitting the difference between 2nd and 1st base and read the play. BU is responsible for all calls at 1st and 2nd on the runner and batter-runner. If the initial play is at 2nd base, BU must be aware of his position in the line of the throw and make any necessary adjustments. BU will square up to the play in a standing set. BU would then take a drop step towards the start of the 45' lane creating an angle for the play at 1st base. If the initial play is at 1st base, BU can take a step or two closer to 1st base and come set for the play. BU must then immediately pick-up the runner at 2nd base and is responsible for any developing plays at 2nd and 3rd base. BU should hustle towards the 3rd base side of the mound staying in the working area, splitting the difference between the two bases.

SITUATION 2U-18

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD (1ST BASE LINE)



SITUATION 2U-19

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD (3RD BASE LINE)

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately come up the 3rd base line for the **fair/foul** decision. On a hard ground ball, it is acceptable for PU to make the **fair/foul** call from 3rd base line extended. If PU points the ball fair, and the ball is then thrown to 1st base, PU will then continue up the 3rd base line towards 3rd base and assume responsibility of the runner going from 1st to 3rd. PU should communicate to BU that he will take responsibility of the runner at 3rd by verbalizing, **“I’ve got 3rd if he comes.”** If the ball is fielded and thrown to 2nd to retire the runner from 1st, PU would then retreat back to the 1st base line either **straight back** or **straight across** the infield. PU would then resume his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will hold his position splitting the difference between 2nd and 1st base and read the play. BU is responsible for all calls at 1st and 2nd on the runner and batter-runner. If the initial play is at 2nd base, BU will square up to the play in a standing set. BU would then take a drop step towards the start of the 45° lane creating an angle for the play at 1st base. If there is no play at 2nd base on the lead runner, BU will take a couple steps towards the start of the 45° lane to create an angle for the play. BU must check over his shoulder to see if PU has coverage at 3rd base.

SITUATION 2U-20
BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD

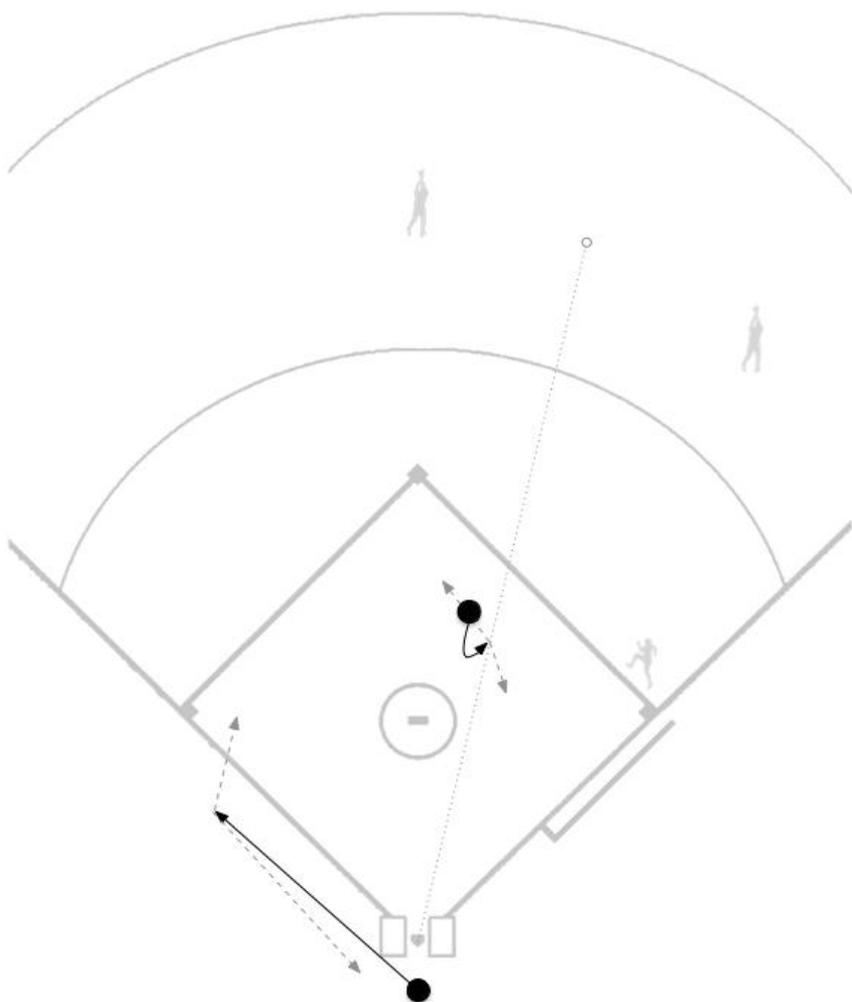
PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all **fair/foul** decisions on the 1st and 3rd base line; he must be in a set position on the line or on 1st or 3rd base line extended if needed. PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head towards 3rd base in foul territory approximately 3-6' off the foul line to a spot $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to 3rd base. PU will communicate, **"I've got 3rd if he comes"**. If PU reads there will be a play (ball and runner) he will head in to the cut-out area communicating **"I've got 3rd"**. PU would remain on the infield grass and is also responsible for plays at home plate. If PU reads the will NOT be a play, he will immediately return home in foul territory communicating to BU, **"I'm going home!"**

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU must hold his position within the working area and let the play determine where he needs to move. Once BU reads where a play will occur, he will get distance towards the play and come to a set position to make the call. If there is no play, he should be in a position splitting the difference between the runners. If there is no play at 3rd base, and PU returns home, BU must be aware that he is now responsible for plays at 3rd base on the runner from 1st. BU is responsible for all plays at 1st and 2nd base, as well as all plays at 3rd base on the batter-runner. Responsibility for a play at 3rd on the runner from 1st initially belongs to PU, but if he is not at 3rd base, BU is responsible for it. It is important that BU confirms that PU is at 3rd base and does NOT assume he is.

SITUATION 2U-20
BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-21

EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all **fair/foul** decisions on the 1st and 3rd base line; he must be in a set position on the line or on 1st or 3rd base line extended if needed. PU should start moving towards 3rd base until he determines it is an extra base hit and there will be no play at 3rd base, and potentially a play at home. PU will communicate immediately to the BU, **“I’m staying home!”** PU will aggressively move to a position in the vicinity of 1st base line extended, approximately 15’ from home plate and is responsible for the runner from 1st touching 3rd base, any possible obstructions rounding 3rd base, and all plays at home. If there is a play at home, PU will move to a position 10-12’ from home plate on 1st base line extended to read the play. From 1st base line extended, PU has the option of staying there or adjusting to 3rd base line extended for a possible swipe tag. PU should not be moving to make a call and must be in a set position.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU must hold his position within the working area and let the play determine where he needs to move. Once BU hears PU communicate he’s staying home, BU must be aware that he is now responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base, as well as the batter-runner touching 3rd base. Once BU reads where a play will occur, he will get distance towards the play and come to a set position to make the call. If there is no play, he should be in a position splitting the difference between the runners. If the runner from 1st attempts to score, BU should get distance towards the batter-runner as he is his only responsibility. BU is responsible for the batter-runner touching 3rd base.

SITUATION 2U-22

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all fly balls, which take either the left fielder or the right fielder *towards the foul lines*. PU must communicate when he is taking responsibility for the fly ball and any **fair/foul** and/or **catch/no catch** decisions.

BASE UMPIRE

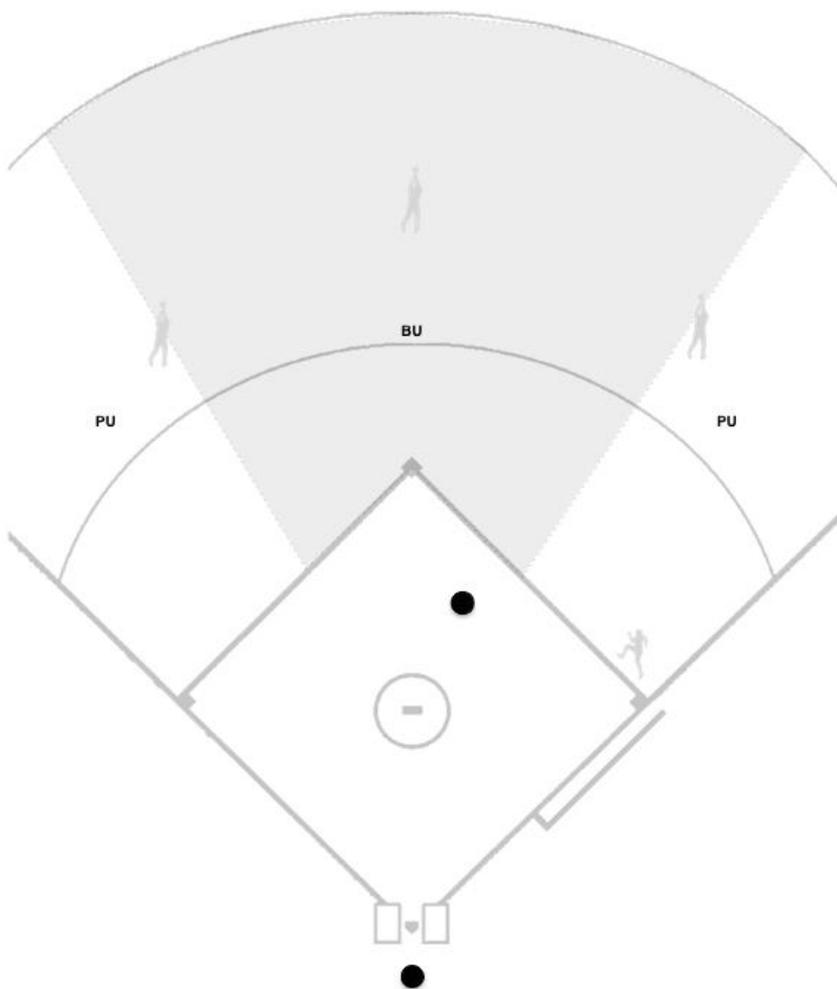
BU is responsible for all fly balls from the left fielder *straight in* all the way to the right fielder *straight in*.

NOTES

As a general rule of thumb, for balls hit in the vicinity of the right fielder or left fielder, the BU will be responsible for the **catch/no catch** unless PU communicates that he is taking responsibility. This will help avoid confusion as a crew.

SITUATION 2U-22

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-23

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT
FIELDER**

PLATE UMPIRE

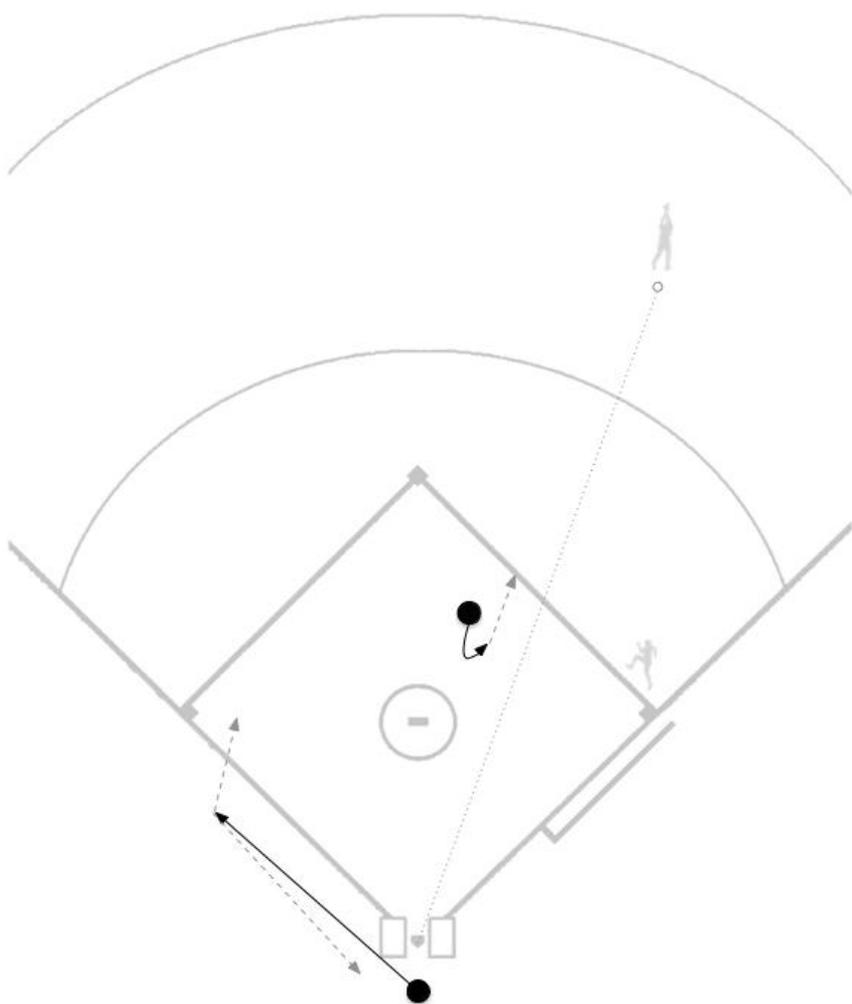
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 3rd base line. PU will get as much distance as possible towards the $\frac{3}{4}$ point to 3rd base and come to a stop. There is no communication required by PU in this situation, as BU is responsible for the fly ball. PU is heading to 3rd in case the ball is not caught and a play develops at 3rd base; see 2U-20. Once the ball is caught, PU will return home still keeping his eye on the play. PU is responsible for any overthrows.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play. It is important for BU to use the **pause, read, and react** technique in this situation. BU is responsible for the **catch/no catch** call. If BU reads the fly ball to be *trouble*, he will move to the edge of the grass dirt line in the infield and come to a set position to make the call. The priority is the **catch/no catch** call. Once the ball is caught, he will immediately check on the runner to determine where the next play may be and get to the appropriate position. He is responsible for R1 tagging up at 1st and any plays on the runner at 1st and 2nd. If the fly ball is routine, BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. He would then read the play to determine where he needs to be for the next play. If the ball is not caught, he would revert to the rotation 2U-20.

SITUATION 2U-23

FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT FIELDER



SITUATION 2U-24

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 1st base line. PU will communicate to the BU, **“I’m on the line!”** PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU will get as much distance as possible towards the play and come to a standing set position to make a call. PU must remember to only get as much distance as will allow him to return to home plate for any possible play should the ball not be caught. He is also responsible for the ball going out of play. Once the ball is fielded, PU will immediately return home. There may be times when PU will have to return to home while keeping his eye on the play in the outfield.

BASE UMPIRE

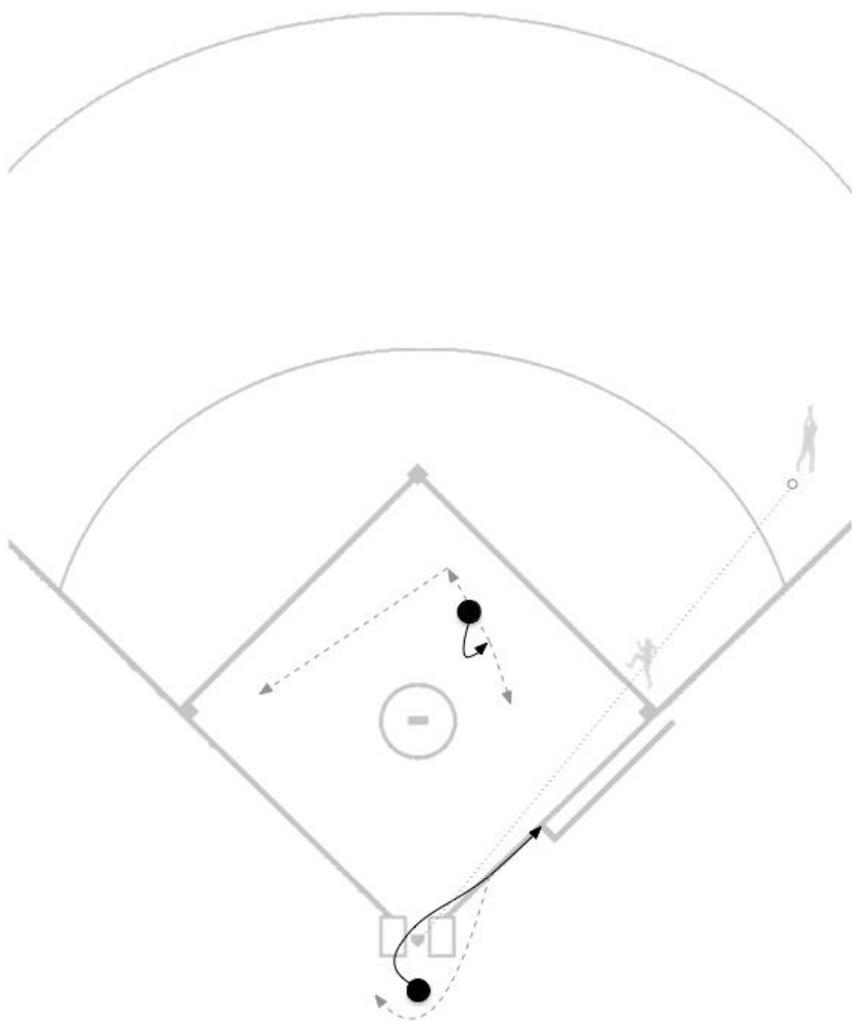
BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play. If the ball is caught, he is responsible for the runner at 1st tagging up, and any possible plays at 1st and 2nd base. If the ball is not caught, BU should take a couple steps towards the mound, still in the working area, but opening up the field. BU will then read the play and let the play dictate where he will go. BU will take a couple steps in the direction of the base where the play dictates coming to a set position, remembering that he is still responsible for all plays on all runners at 1st, 2nd and 3rd base.

NOTES

The different terminology used by PU is important in the 2-Umpire system. The terminology, **“I’m on the line!”** tells BU that PU will NOT be at 3rd base for coverage with possible rotations.

SITUATION 2U-24

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE



SITUATION 2U-25

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 3rd base line. PU will communicate to the BU, **“I’ve got the ball!”** PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU will get as much distance as possible towards the $\frac{3}{4}$ point to 3rd base and come to a standing set position to make a call. PU must remember to only get as much distance as will allow him to return to home plate for any possible play should the ball not be caught. Once the ball is caught, PU will watch the release of the ball and then immediately return home, communicating to his partner, **“I’m going home.”** If the ball is not caught, PU will remain in the vicinity of 3rd base and read the play; PU will revert to the rotation covered in 2U-20.

BASE UMPIRE

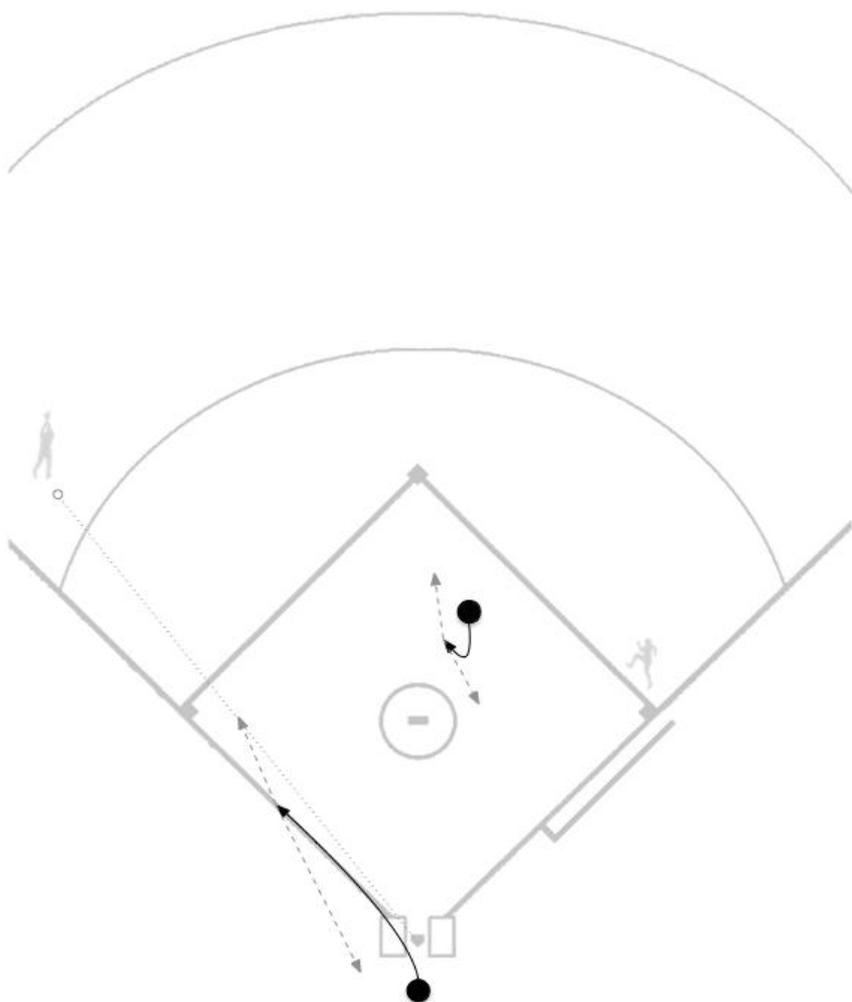
BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play. If the ball is caught, he is responsible for the runner at 1st tagging up, and any possible plays at 1st or 2nd base. If the ball is not caught, he would revert to the rotation 2U-20.

NOTES

The terminology, **“I’ve got the ball!”** is different than, **“I’ve got 3rd if he comes!”** The terminology, **“I’ve got the ball!”** tells the BU that PU is responsible for **both** the fly ball (fair/foul, catch/no catch), as well as any possible plays on the runner from 1st at 3rd if the ball is not caught.

SITUATION 2U-25

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE



SITUATION 2U-26
PICK-OFF AT 1ST BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will remain behind the catcher in P1 and watch the play at 1st base. PU is responsible for any over throws down the 1st base line. Should the pick-off result in a run-down, see 2U-28.

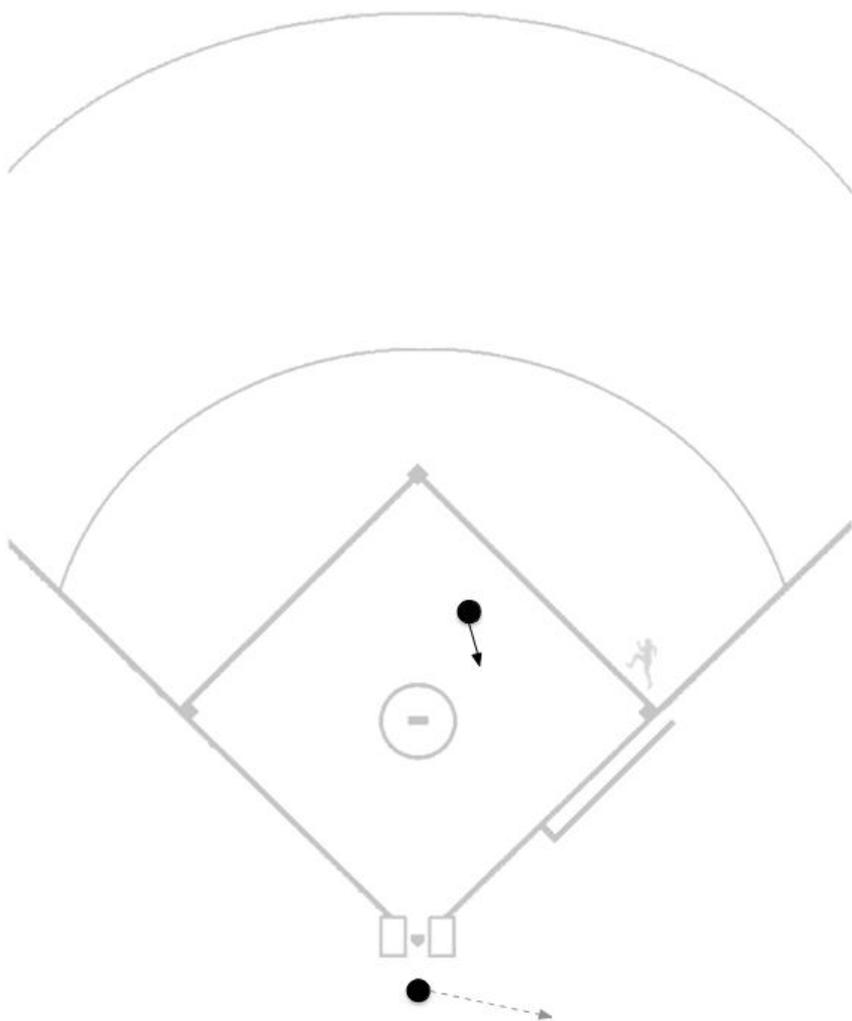
BASE UMPIRE

BU will take a quick step with his left foot in the direction of the start of the 45` running lane. BU will then turn, pivoting on his left foot creating an angle for the play at 1st base. It is acceptable for BU to take the pick-off play in a standing set position. It is essential for a pick-off that BU is in the correct starting position at P3. Should the pick-off result in a run-down, see 2U-28.

NOTES

In a situation where a catcher attempts a quick throw to 1st base after receiving the pitch, the movements would be the exact same.

SITUATION 2U-26
PICK-OFF AT 1ST BASE



SITUATION 2U-27
STEAL OF 2ND BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

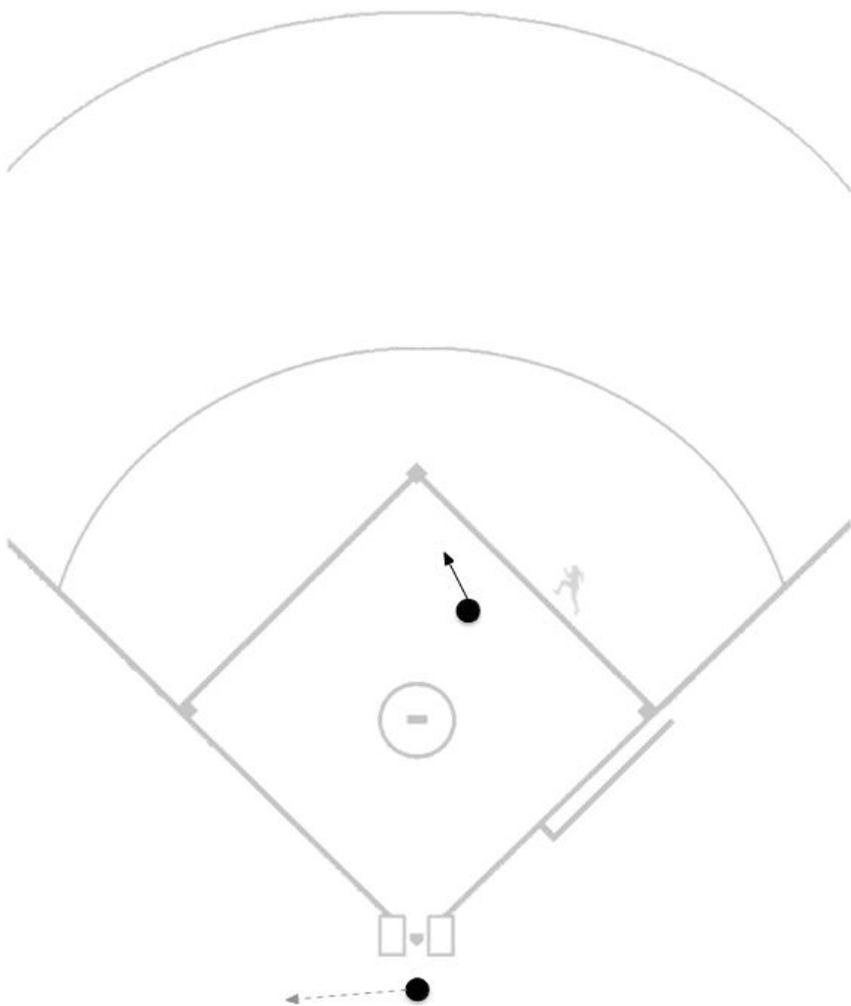
PU will remain behind the catcher in **P1** and watch the play at 2nd base. PU must watch carefully for the batter interfering with the catcher's throw to 2nd base. If it is questionable as to whether the batter interfered with the catcher's throw, PU may signal, "**That's nothing**", extending his arms in a safe mechanic, acknowledging that he observed the play and deemed there was no interference. PU will remain in the vicinity of home plate and observe the play. Should a play develop at 3rd base, PU would be responsible for any overthrows.

BASE UMPIRE

BU should recognize a steal play developing using his peripheral vision, as well as cues from the fielders and the catcher's reaction. BU must not begin to move too quickly as he also is responsible for any check swing appeals if necessary. BU will start by taking a drop step with his right foot towards 2nd base; BU must not turn his back on the ball and must keep an eye on the ball. BU will continue moving towards 2nd base essentially letting the ball turn him into the play as the throw passes by and reaches 2nd base. BU must be in a set position for the play at 2nd base, even if it means getting less distance towards 2nd base from his original starting position. If the throw gets by 2nd base, BU must be prepared to bounce ahead of the runner for any possible plays developing at 3rd base.

SITUATION 2U-27

STEAL OF 2ND BASE



SITUATION 2U-28

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

On a pick-off with a runner on 1st base, which develops in to a run-down between 1st and 2nd, PU once recognizing this will immediately head down to 1st base along the 1st base line towards the cut-out area. It is very important that PU read the play from the cut-out area and must be aware that any plays at 1st base belong to BU until PU communicates responsibility. PU must be careful not to run off the BU, and once the runner is *running away from the cut-out*, PU will then move in to the cut-out area. As PU moves in to the cut-out area to take responsibility, he will communicate, **“I’ve got this end! I’ve got this end!”** PU is responsible for plays on the runner at the cut-out area only. PU is responsible for overthrows along the 1st base side, and on an overthrow to the outfield, PU would return home immediately.

BASE UMPIRE

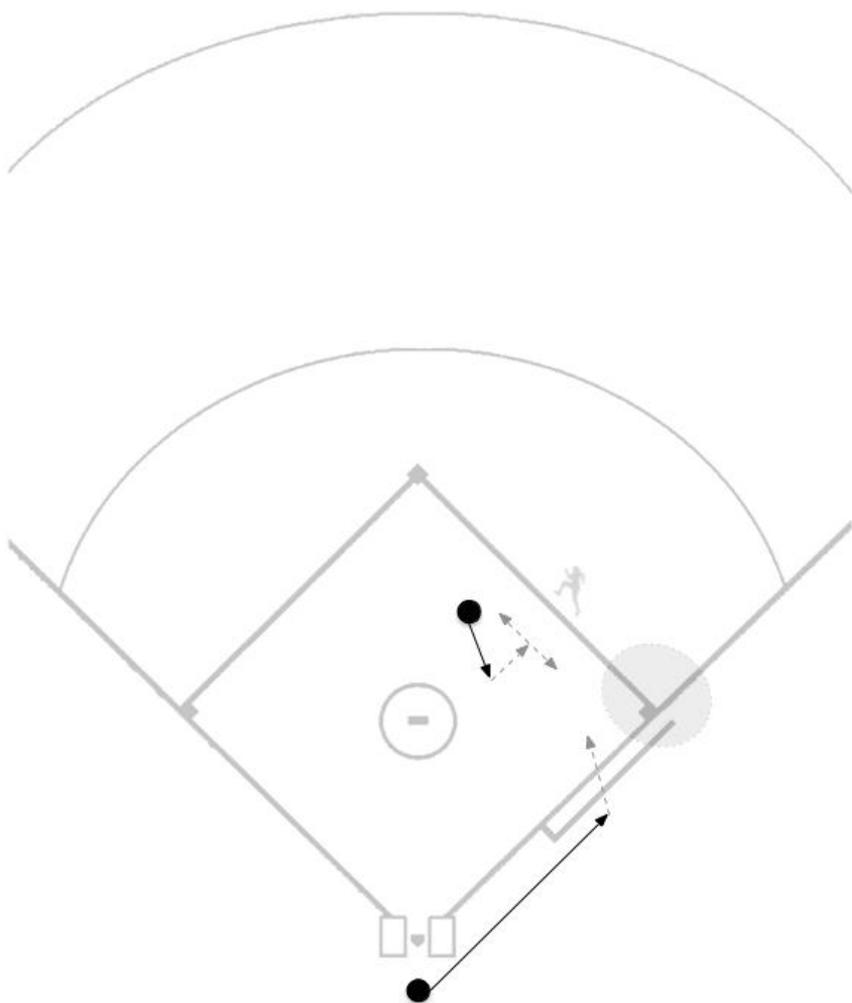
On a pick-off with a runner on 1st base that develops in to a run-down between 1st and 2nd BU is initially responsible for the pick-off play at 1st base. BU is then responsible for all of the run-down until PU communicates responsibility for the cut-out area only. BU must try to stay ahead of the runner, moving parallel with the grass-dirt line while not getting too close to the play. BU must be listening for PU communicating responsibility for the cut-out area.

NOTES

It is important that umpires communicate with each other during a run-down situation. For any decisions in the area between the two umpire’s responsibilities, they must take time to look at each other and communicate as to avoid both making a call on the same play.

SITUATION 2U-28

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND BASE



R1 & R3

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SITUATION 2U-29
BASIC POSITIONS

PLATE UMPIRE

PU stands in the slot behind the catcher until the batter hits the ball. The **box** and the **scissors** stance are acceptable for calling balls and strikes. **This position is referred to as P1.**

BASE UMPIRE

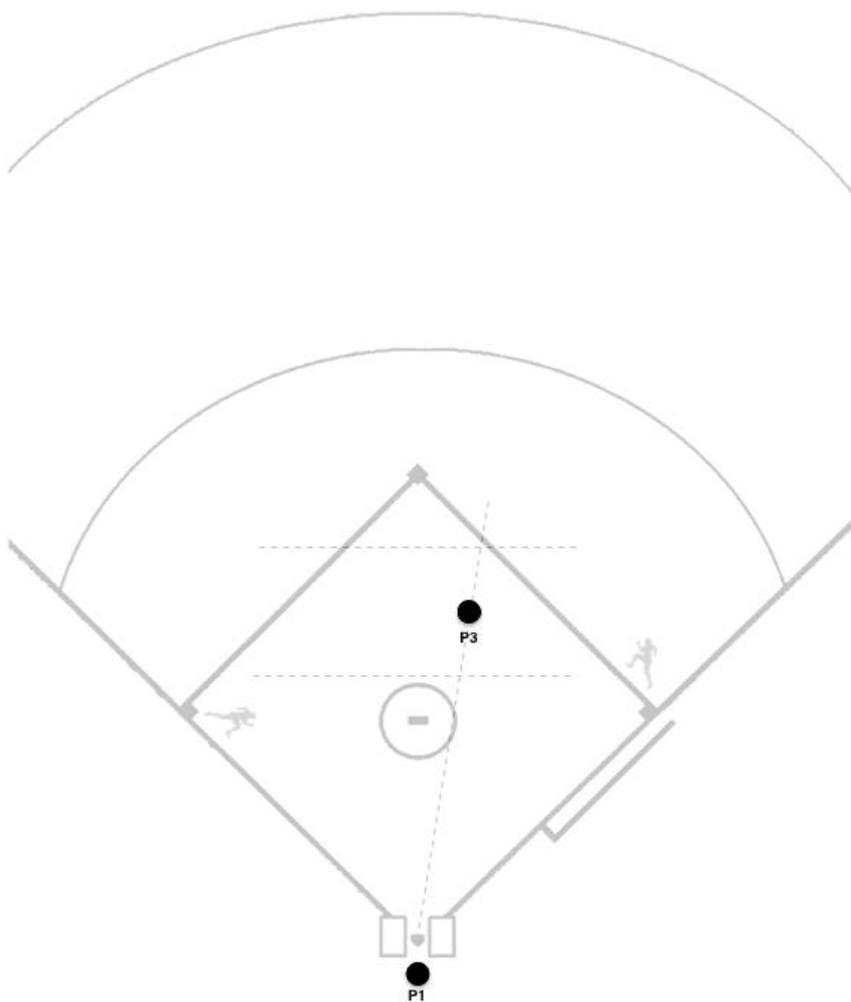
BU sets up on the 1st base side of the mound, using a guide line from the edge of home plate past the edge of the 18' pitching circle, and midway between the back edge of the 18' pitching circle and the 2nd base cut-out area. BU will assume a hands-on-knees **set position** as the pitcher is *touching the rubber* and remain there until the pitch is delivered, or the pitcher disengages the rubber. BU will be square to the batter in this starting position. **This position is referred to as P3.**

NOTES

This is the only situation, R1 and R3, where BU will set up on the P3 side for his starting position with a runner in scoring position.

If the infield is playing in, BU may have to adjust his starting position to avoid being in the way of the fielders. BU will remain in the infield and can move backwards towards the grass dirt line, inwards towards to centre of the field, or a combination of the two. BU will NOT move closer towards home plate however.

SITUATION 2U-29
BASIC POSITIONS



SITUATION 2U-30

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls hit to the pitcher. PU is also responsible for all fly balls hit to the catcher. PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls, which cause the 1st or 3rd baseman to *move towards the foul line*. When a fly ball is hit, PU should swing out from home plate a few feet in to foul territory in the direction of the 3rd base to observe the play, unless it requires a **fair/foul** decision, in which case PU will take a set position straddling the appropriate foul line. For balls hit along the 3rd base line with less than 2 outs, PU will take a couple steps up the line towards 3rd base; PU should communicate, **“I’ve got the ball!”** With 2 outs, PU would head towards 3rd base along the foul line glancing over his shoulder at the runner touching home in case the ball is not caught. For balls hit along the 1st base line, PU will take a position on 1st base line extended; PU should communicate, **“I’m on the line!”**

BASE UMPIRE

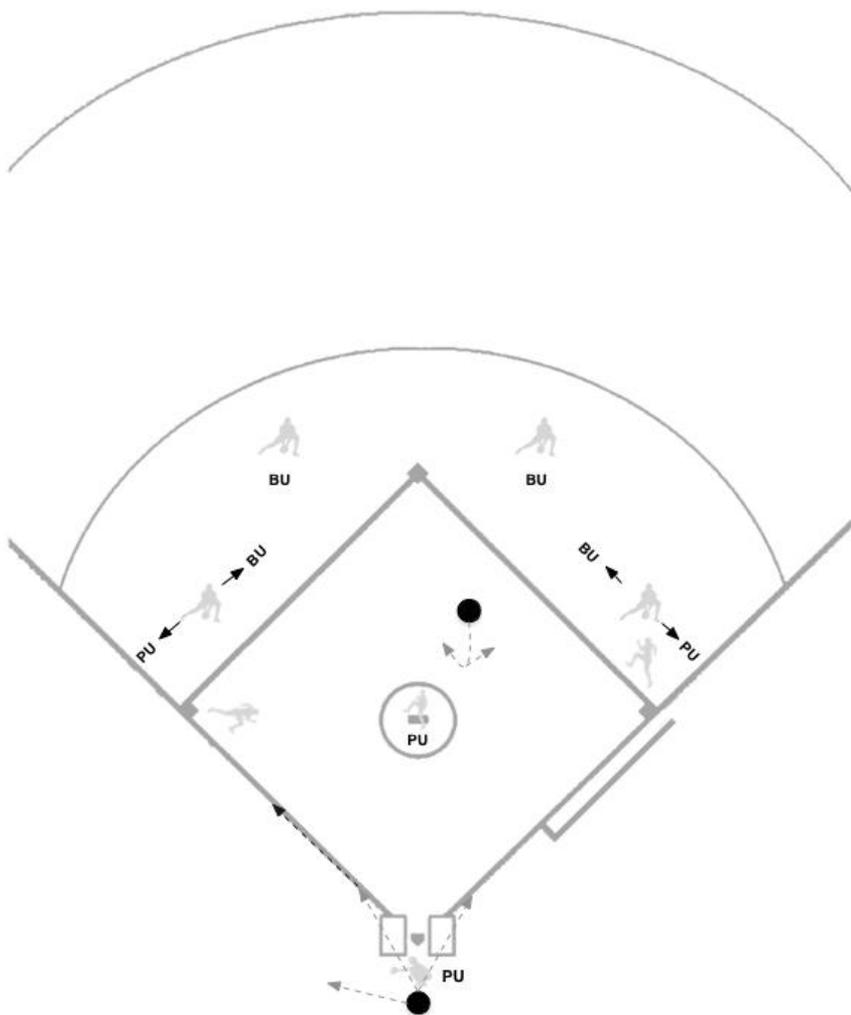
BU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls to all the infielders with the exception of those taking the 1st or 3rd baseman towards the foul line. BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest, glancing back over his shoulder to watch the batter-runner and R1, both in the vicinity of 1st base. BU may have to take a few steps back towards the mound to allow room for the fielder to catch the ball. BU should avoid back-stepping and should use cross-over steps.

NOTES

The different terminology used by PU is important in the 2-Umpire system. The terminology, **“I’m on the line!”** tells BU that PU will NOT be at 3rd base for coverage with possible rotations.

SITUATION 2U-30

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD



SITUATION 2U-31

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will swing out from behind the plate to a position on 1st base line extended for any plays at home plate on R3. If PU reads that R3 is *scoring without a play*, PU will head towards 3rd base, avoiding R3 and glancing for R3 touching home plate, to a spot $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to 3rd base. PU heads to 3rd in case the runner at 1st should attempt for 3rd. Should the ground ball develop in to a double-play situation, *as soon as R1 is declared out at 2nd*, PU will stop moving towards 3rd, and retreat to home plate ***straight back*** to the 1st base foul line. PU resumes his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base. If the lead runner is not retired at 2nd base, PU will continue to 3rd base for any potential plays back across the infield.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. There are several plays, which could occur in this situation. BU should take a couple aggressive steps towards the middle of the field within the working area. BU must not over commit to a base, and will allow the play to develop and react as required getting an angle and being set to make a call at any base. BU is responsible for all calls at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base unless PU communicates that he is taking responsibility for any plays at 3rd base on R1. If the initial play is at 2nd base, BU will square up to the play in a standing set. BU would then take a drop step towards the start of the 45' lane creating an angle for the play at 1st base. If there is no play at 2nd base on the lead runner, BU will take a couple steps towards the start of the 45' lane to create an angle for the play at 1st base. BU must check over his shoulder to see if PU has coverage at 3rd base. BU would then pick up whichever runner is remaining on the field and get ahead of that runner, or split the difference if there are multiple runners.

SITUATION 2U-32

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD (1ST BASE LINE)

PLATE UMPIRE

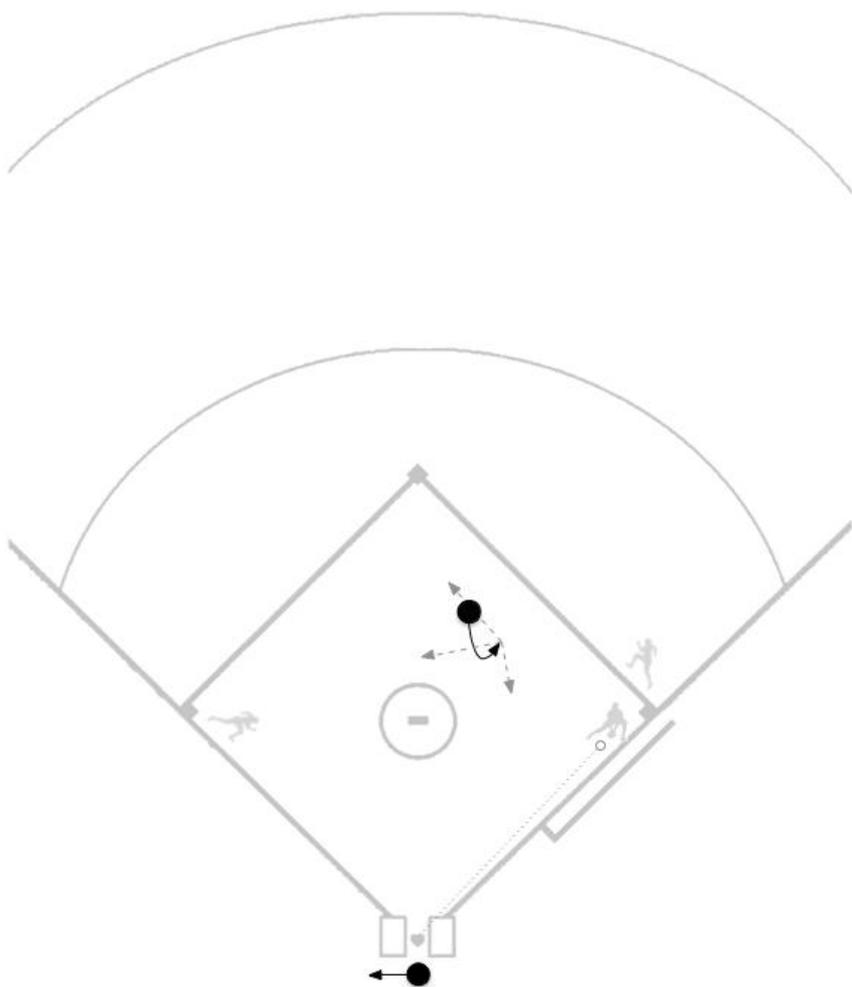
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately take a position straddling the 1st base line extended behind home plate for the **fair/foul** decision. PU is responsible for any plays at home plate on R3. PU will stay on the line and NOT assume responsibility for the runner from 1st at 3rd if necessary. PU resumes his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base. If possible, PU should communicate, “**I’m on the line**” to the BU. This communication must be done with some care as to not confuse the infielders.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. There are several plays, which could occur in this situation. BU should take a couple aggressive steps towards the middle of the field within the working area. BU must not over commit to a base, and will allow the play to develop and react as required getting an angle and being set to make a call at any base. BU is responsible for all calls at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base. If the initial play is at 2nd base, BU will square up to the play in a standing set. BU would then take a drop step towards the start of the 45’ lane creating an angle for the play at 1st base. If there is no play at 2nd base on the lead runner, BU will take a couple steps towards the start of the 45’ lane to create an angle for the play at 1st base. BU would then pick up whichever runner is remaining on the field and get ahead of that runner, or split the difference if there are multiple runners.

SITUATION 2U-32

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD (1ST BASE LINE)



SITUATION 2U-33

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD (3RD BASE LINE)

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately take a *step or two* up the 3rd base line for the **fair/foul** decision. There may be situations where PU is not able to take a *step or two* up the line and it is acceptable for PU to make the **fair/foul** call from 3rd base line extended. After signalling a fair ball, PU will move to a position on 1st base line extended for any possible plays at home plate on R3; if possible, PU should communicate to BU, “**I’m staying home!**” PU would resume his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base. If PU has taken a position a *step or two* towards 3rd base, and there is no play at home, he has the option of continuing to 3rd base for any plays on the runner from 1st at 3rd base, see 2U-31.

BASE UMPIRE

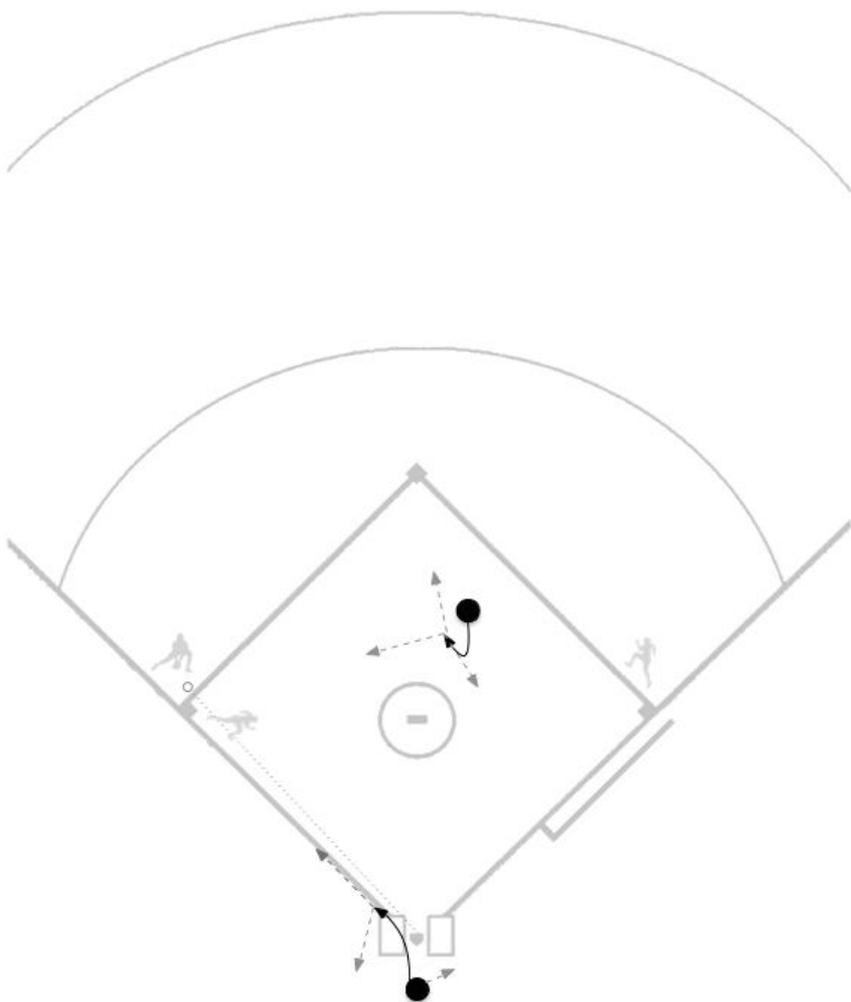
BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. There are several plays, which could occur in this situation. BU should take a couple aggressive steps towards the middle of the field within the working area. BU must not over commit to a base, and will allow the play to develop and react as required getting an angle and being set to make a call at any base. BU is responsible for all calls at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base unless PU communicates that he is taking responsibility for any plays at 3rd base on R1. If the initial play is at 2nd base, BU will square up to the play in a standing set. BU would then take a drop step towards the start of the 45° lane creating an angle for the play at 1st base. If there is no play at 2nd base on the lead runner, BU will take a couple steps towards 1st base creating an angle for the play; BU must be aware where the throw is originating. BU must check over his shoulder to see if PU has coverage at 3rd base. BU would then pick up whichever runner is remaining on the field and get ahead of that runner, or split the difference if there are multiple runners.

NOTES

Communication between the crew is essential in this situation. PU should try and communicate with BU where he is positioned and if he will be rotating to 3rd base. This is an advanced mechanic and should be discussed prior to the game by the crew.

SITUATION 2U-33

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD (3RD BASE LINE)



SITUATION 2U-34
BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD

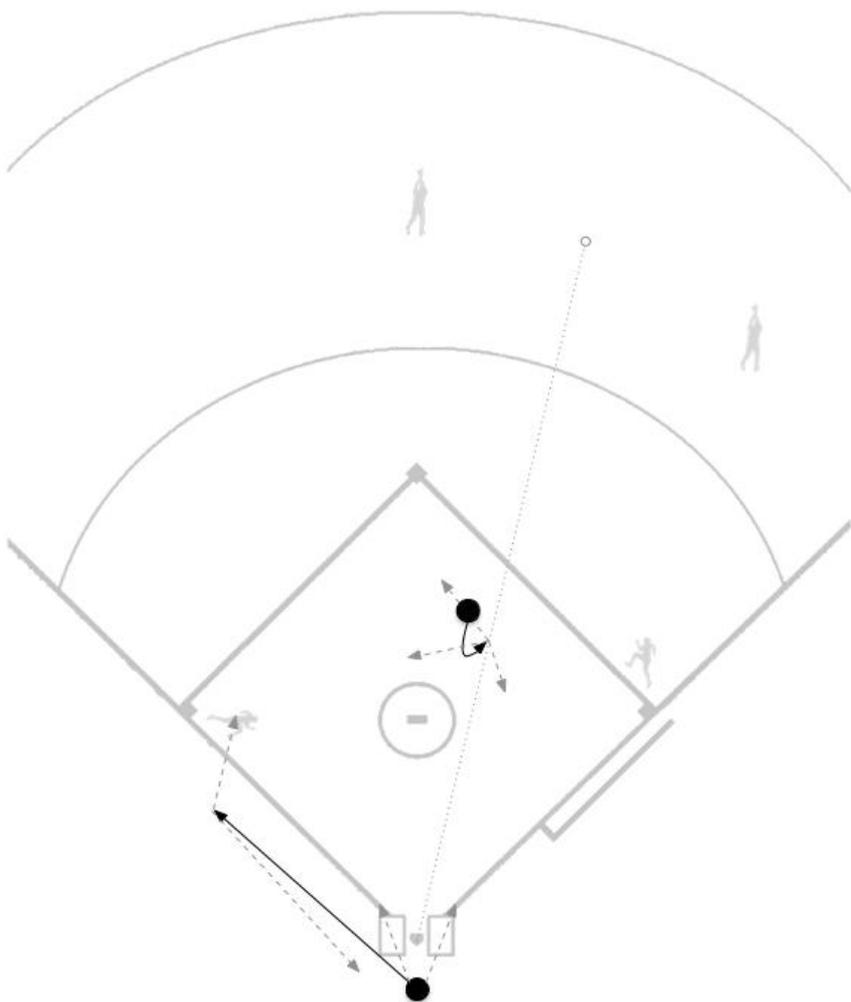
PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all **fair/foul** decisions on the 1st and 3rd base line; he must be in a set position on the line or on 1st or 3rd base line extended if needed. PU will head towards 3rd base, avoiding R3 and glancing for R3 touching home plate, to a spot $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to 3rd base; PU will communicate, **“I’ve got 3rd if he comes”**. If PU reads there will be a play (ball and runner) he will head in to the cut-out area communicating **“I’ve got 3rd”**. PU would remain on the infield grass and is also responsible for plays at home plate. If PU reads there will NOT be a play, he will immediately return home in foul territory communicating to BU, **“I’m going home!”**

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU must hold his position within the working area and let the play determine where he needs to move. Once BU reads where a play will occur, he will get distance towards the play and come to a set position to make the call. If there is no play, he should be in a position splitting the difference between the runners. If there is no play at 3rd base, and PU returns home, BU must be aware that he is now responsible for plays at 3rd base on the runner from 1st. BU is responsible for all plays at 1st and 2nd base, as well as all plays at 3rd base on the batter-runner. Responsibility for a play at 3rd on the runner from 1st initially belongs to BU; unless PU communicates he is taking responsibility for it on the rotation. It is important that BU confirms that PU is at 3rd base and does NOT assume he is.

SITUATION 2U-34
BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-35

EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

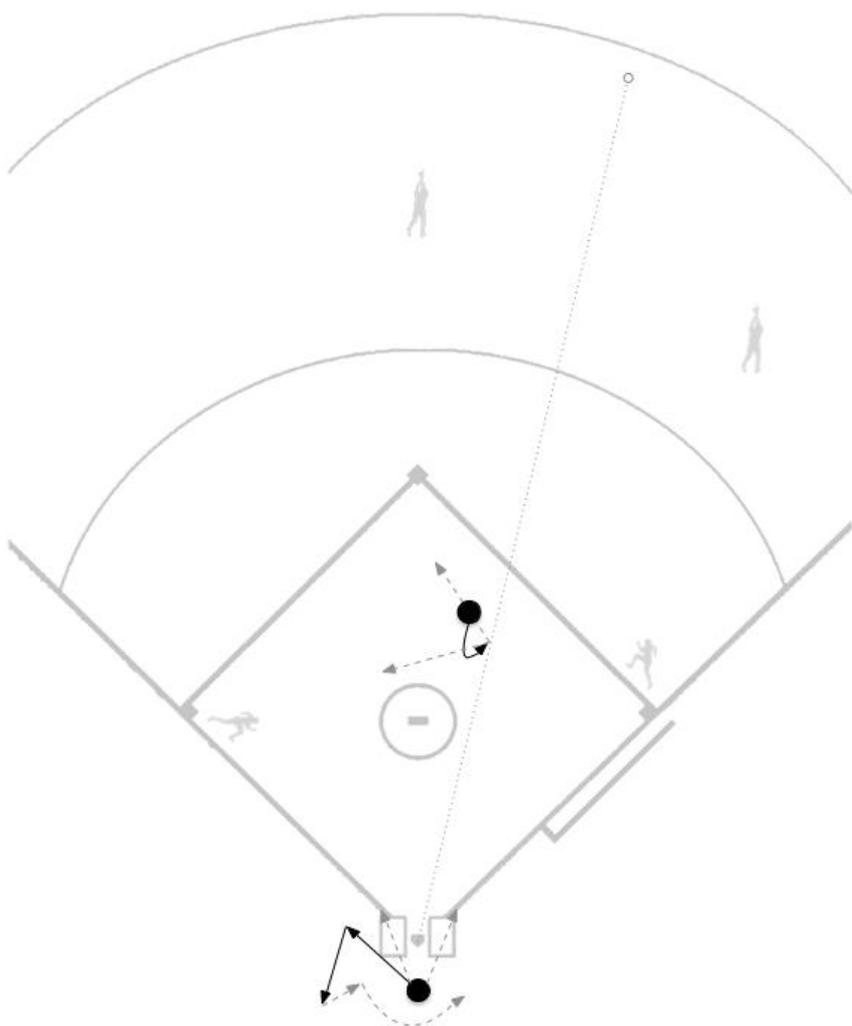
PU is responsible for all **fair/foul** decisions on the 1st and 3rd base line; he must be in a set position on the line or on 1st or 3rd base line extended if needed. PU should start moving towards 3rd base until he determines it is an extra base hit and there will be no play at 3rd base, and potentially a play at home. PU will communicate immediately to the BU, **“I’m staying home!”** PU will aggressively move to a position in the vicinity of 1st base line extended, approximately 15’ away from home plate and is responsible for R3 touching home, the runner from 1st touching 3rd base, and any obstructions rounding 3rd base. If there is a play at home, PU will move to a position 10-12’ from home plate on 1st base line extended to read the play. From 1st base line extended, PU has the option of staying there or adjusting to 3rd base line extended for a possible swipe tag. PU should not be moving to make a call and must be in a set position.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU must hold his position within the working area and let the play determine where he needs to move. Once BU hears PU communicate he’s staying home, BU must be aware that he is now responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base, as well as the batter-runner touching 3rd base. Once BU reads where a play will occur, he will get distance towards the play and come to a set position to make the call. If there is no play, he should be in a position splitting the difference between the runners. If the runner from 1st attempts to score, BU should get distance towards the batter-runner as he is his only responsibility.

SITUATION 2U-35

EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-36

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all fly balls, which take either the left fielder or the right fielder *towards the foul lines*. PU must communicate when he is taking responsibility for the fly ball and any **fair/foul** and/or **catch/no catch** decisions.

BASE UMPIRE

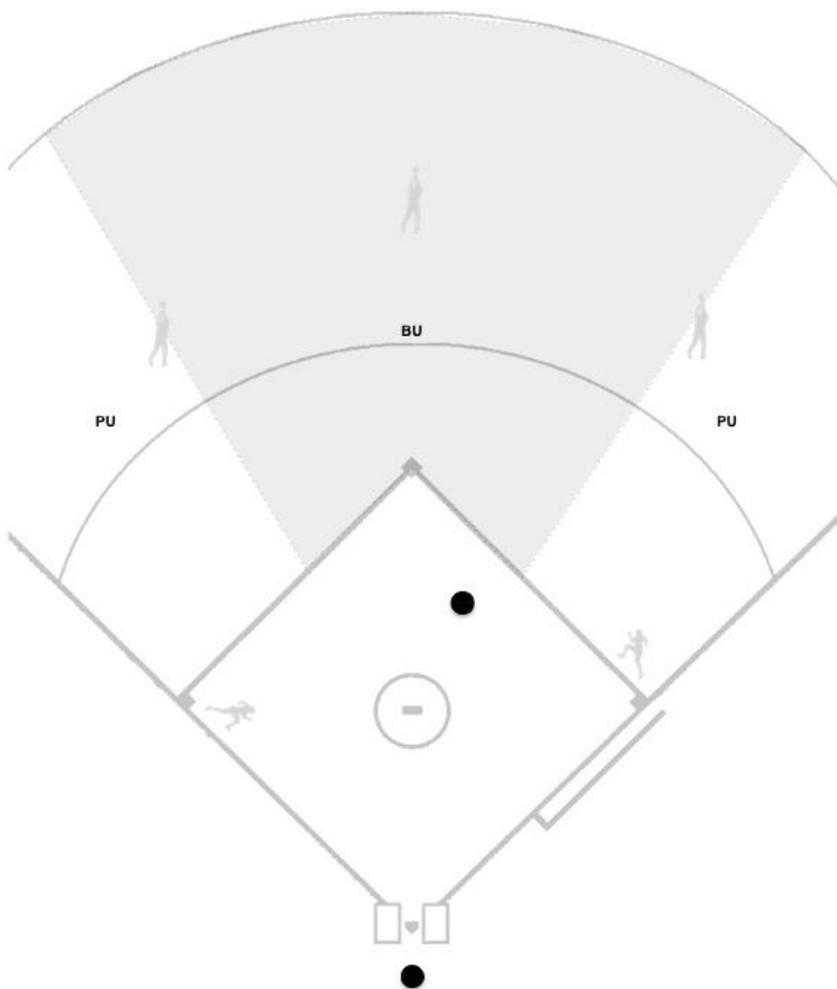
BU is responsible for all fly balls from the left fielder *straight in* all the way to the right fielder *straight in*.

NOTES

As a general rule of thumb, for balls hit in the vicinity of the right fielder or left fielder, the BU will be responsible for the **catch/no catch** unless PU communicates that he is taking responsibility. This will help avoid confusion as a crew.

SITUATION 2U-36

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-37

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT
FIELDER**

PLATE UMPIRE

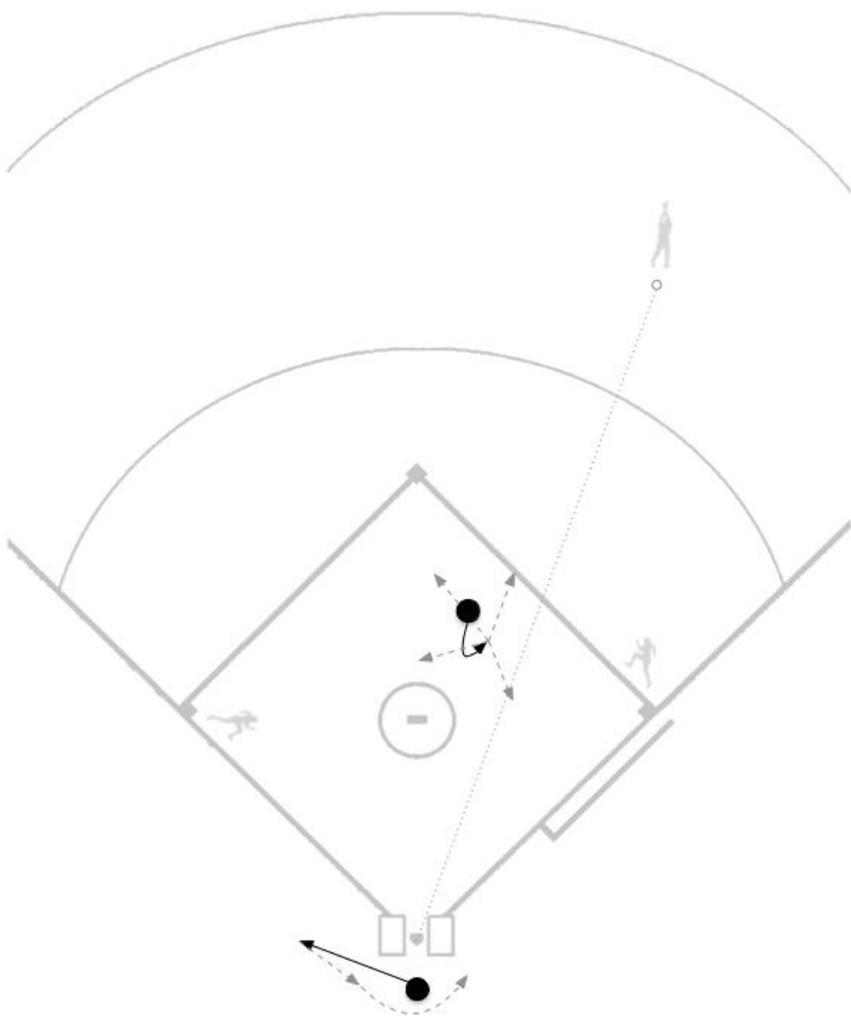
PU exits left and is responsible for R3 tagging up at 3rd. PU will get to a position, which allows him to see R3 tagging up at 3rd base and the catch in the outfield. PU is responsible for any play at home on R3. PU must remember to balance the distance he gets to line up the tag with being able to return to home plate and get to a position to make a call on R3. PU can take a position on either 1st base line extended or 3rd base line extended for any plays at the plate on R3. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-34.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will aggressively move in to the working area, without back-stepping. BU is responsible for the **catch/no catch** call. If BU reads the fly ball to be a trouble ball, he will move to the edge of the grass dirt line and take a standing set to make the call. BU must aggressively signal the catch/no catch with a mechanic and voice. If it is not a trouble ball, BU will remain in the working area, taking a position which keeps as much of the play as possible in front of him, including the catch / no catch and R1 possibly tagging up. BU would be responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base and must split the difference between the runners. If R3 tags up and advances, BU should get distance towards the only remaining runner at either 1st or 2nd base. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-34.

SITUATION 2U-37

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT
FIELDER**



SITUATION 2U-38

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 1st base line. PU will communicate to his partner, **“I’m on the line!”** PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU should get as much distance as possible towards the call keeping in mind he must be able to return to home plate in time for any possible plays on R3 tagging up. PU is responsible for R3 tagging up and must take a quick glance in that direction after the ball is touched; PU must remember that the **catch/no catch** is the first priority, and not R3 tagging up. It is recommended that PU take a position on 3rd base line extended for the play at the plate; the majority of throws from right field result in a swipe tag play at home, and 3rd base line extended is the best possible position to make the call. If the ball is not caught, PU will return to 1st base line extended for any possible plays at the plate.

BASE UMPIRE

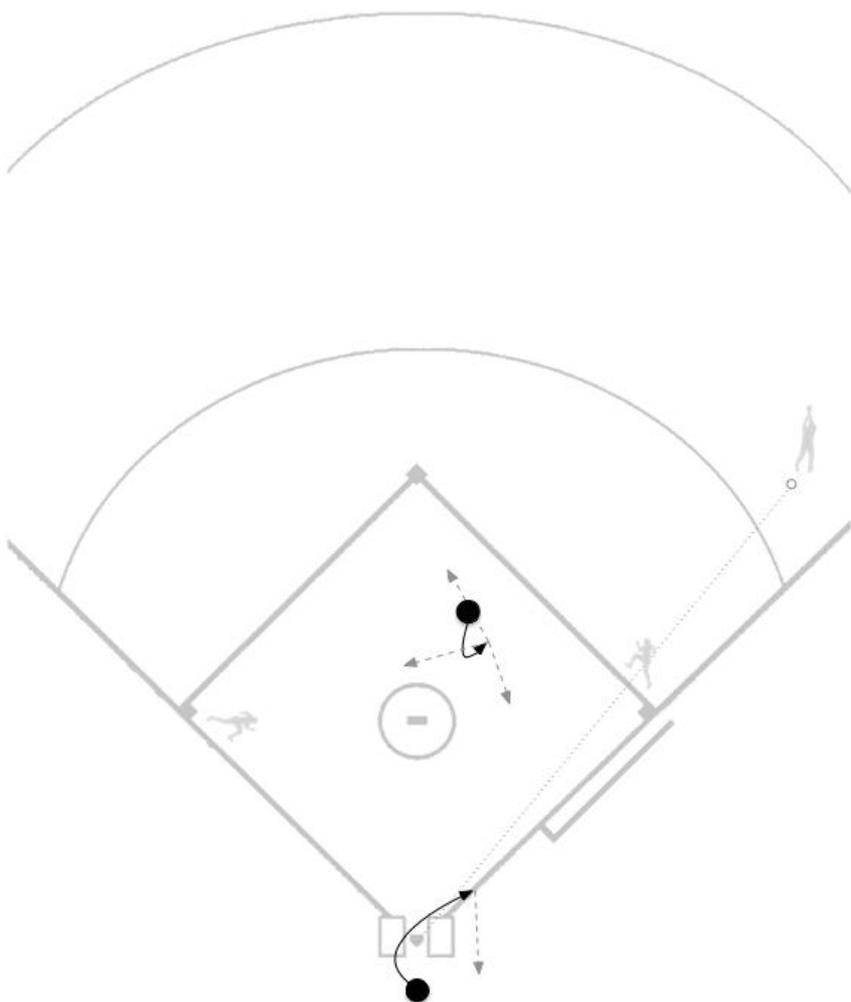
BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will aggressively move in to the working area, without back-stepping. BU will take a position, which allows him to see the catch/no catch and R1 tagging up at 1st base. BU is responsible for watching the batter-runner touch 1st base, R1 tagging up, and all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-34.

NOTES

The different terminology used by PU is important in the 2-Umpire system. The terminology, **“I’m on the line!”** tells BU that PU will NOT be at 3rd base for coverage with possible rotations.

SITUATION 2U-38

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE



SITUATION 2U-39

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 3rd base line. PU will communicate to the BU, **“I’ve got the ball!”** PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU should get as much distance as possible towards the call keeping in mind he must be able to return to home plate in time for any possible plays on R3 tagging up. PU is responsible for R3 tagging up and his position on the 3rd base line will allow him to keep the play in front of him while watching for R3 tagging up; PU must remember that the **catch/no catch** is the first priority, and not R3 tagging up. PU will immediately return to a position on 1st base line extended for the play at the plate; the majority of throws from left field result in a sliding play at home, and 1st base line extended is the best possible position to make the call. If the ball is not caught, PU will continue towards 3rd base for a 1st to 3rd rotation; refer to 2U-34.

BASE UMPIRE

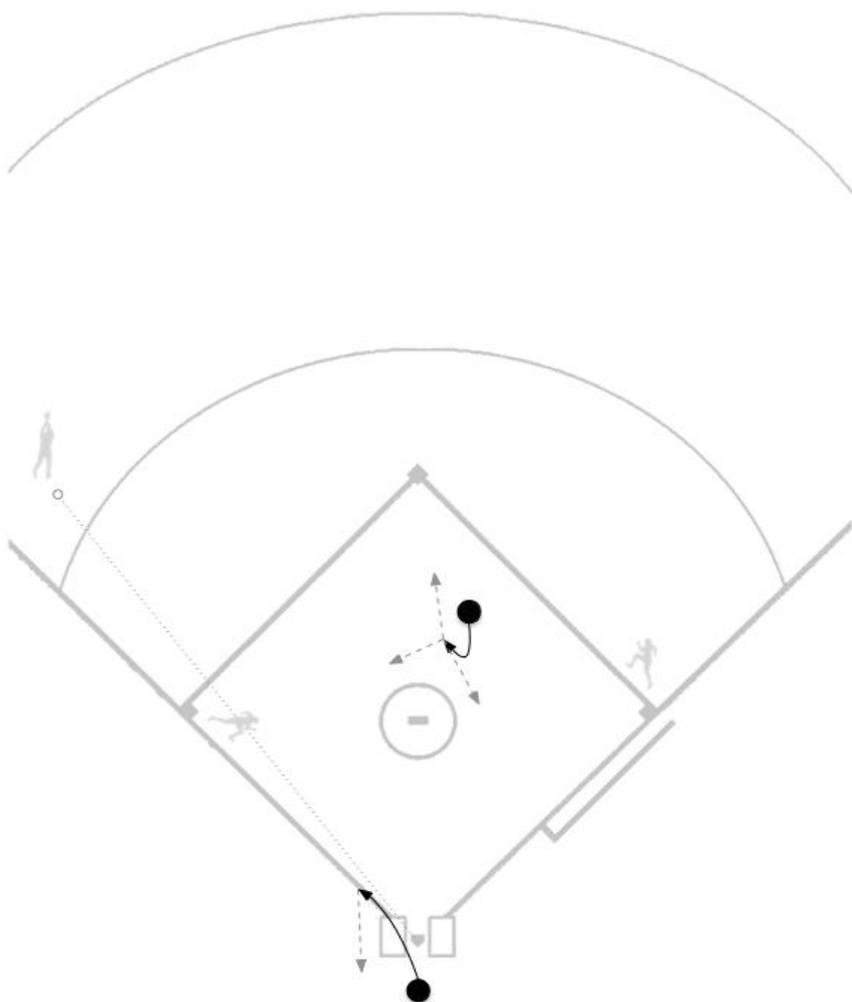
BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play. If the ball is caught, he is responsible for any plays back at 3rd base on R3, the runner at 1st tagging up, and any possible plays at 1st or 2nd base on R1. It is important that BU also watches the catch/no catch, and as soon as the ball is touched, glance at 1st base to see if R1 tagged up. If R3 attempts to score, BU should pick up the remaining runner and get distance toward the runner at either 1st or 2nd base. If R3 does not attempt to score, BU must split the difference within the working area between both runners. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-34.

NOTES

The terminology, **“I’ve got the ball!”** is different than, **“I’ve got 3rd if he comes!”** The terminology, **“I’ve got the ball!”** tells the BU that PU is responsible for **both** the fly ball (fair/foul, catch/no catch), as well as any possible plays on the runner from 1st at 3rd if the ball is not caught.

SITUATION 2U-39

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE



SITUATION 2U-40

STEAL OF 2ND BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

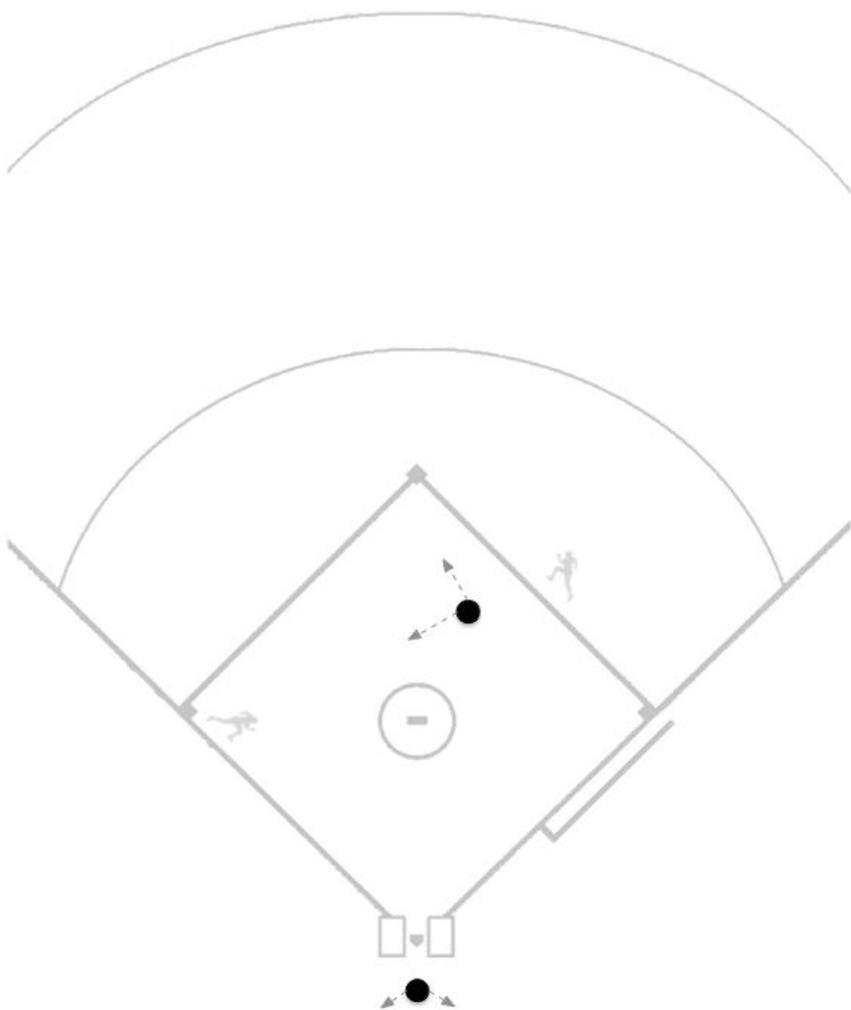
PU will remain behind the catcher in **P1** and watch the play at 2nd base. PU must watch carefully for the batter interfering with the catcher's throw to 2nd base. If it is questionable as to whether the batter interfered with the catcher's throw, PU may signal "**That's nothing**", extending his arms in a safe mechanic, acknowledging that he observed the play and deemed there was no interference. PU must be aware that R3 may attempt to score on a double steal or delayed steal. In that case, PU must read the play and take a position at either 1st or 3rd base line extended for the play on R3. Should a play develop at 3rd base, PU would be responsible for any overthrows.

BASE UMPIRE

BU should recognize a steal play developing using his peripheral vision, as well as cues from the fielders and the catcher's reaction. BU must be aware that in this situation, several possible plays could develop and must react instinctively. BU must be aware that the initial throw may be to 3rd base instead of 2nd base, or that the shortstop or 2nd baseman may come in and cut off the catcher's initial throw to 2nd base in an attempt to retire R3 trying to score. If the catcher attempts to retire R1 stealing, refer to 2U-27. If R1 is deemed safe, BU must immediately bounce ahead of the runner, or split the difference between the two runners. If the throw gets by 2nd base, BU must be prepared to bounce ahead of the runner for any possible plays developing at 3rd base.

SITUATION 2U-40

STEAL OF 2ND BASE



SITUATION 2U-41

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

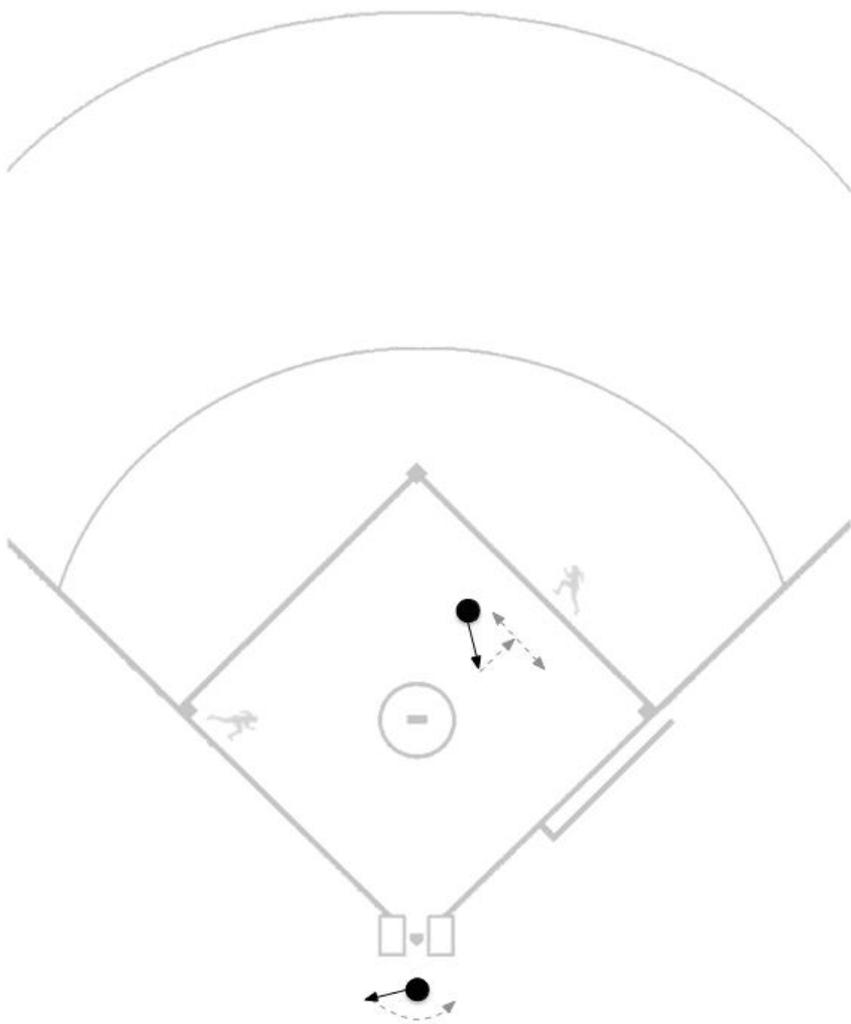
Once PU recognizes the run down develop between 1st and 2nd base, he should move to a position at 1st base line extended for any possible plays at the plate on R3 attempting to advance. He must also be aware that a run-down could develop between 3rd and home on R3, see 2U-42. PU is responsible for any overthrows at 1st base, which may occur during the run-down. It is acceptable, should a play develop at home on R3, for PU to take a position on 3rd base line extended as a swipe tag play is likely with the throw originating from the right side of the infield.

BASE UMPIRE

If the run-down originates as a result of a pick-off at 1st base, BU should start by following 2U-26. Once the run-down develops, BU is responsible for the entire run-down by himself. BU must try to stay ahead of the runner, moving parallel with the grass-dirt line while not getting too close to the play. BU must be aware that the run-down could end abruptly and would also be responsible for any plays back in to 3rd base on R3, and must be able to react quickly. If R1 is safe at 1st or 2nd after the run-down, BU would move to a position splitting the difference between the remaining runners. If R1 is retired in the run-down, BU would then get distance towards his only remaining runner at 3rd base.

SITUATION 2U-41

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND BASE



SITUATION 2U-42

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 3RD AND HOME

PLATE UMPIRE

As soon as PU recognizes the run-down on R3 between 3rd and home, he will immediately move in foul territory to a position to assume responsibility for the *entire* run-down. PU will then communicate to BU, “**I’ve got it all!**” assuming responsibility for the run-down. PU must try to stay ahead of the runner, moving parallel with the foul line while not getting too close to the play. In the unlikely event that R1 makes it all the way to 3rd base during the run-down, PU must listen for BU communicating that he is assuming responsibility for half of the run-down.

BASE UMPIRE

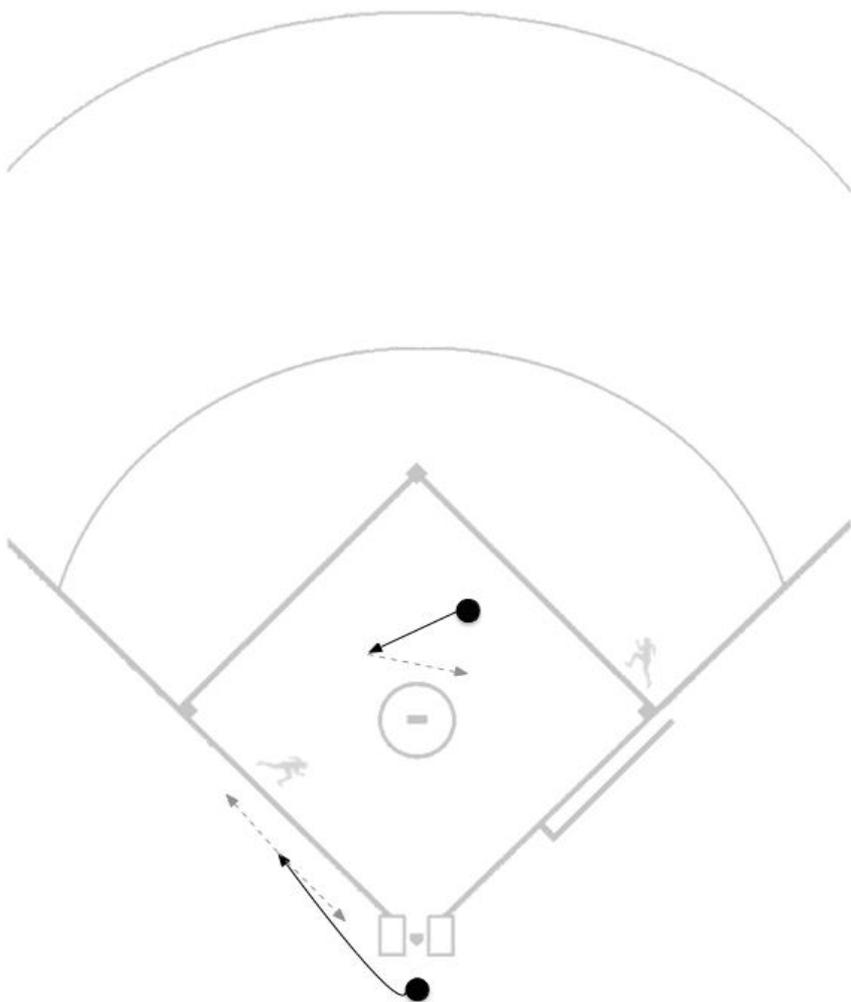
BU is responsible for the initial pick-off play at 3rd base on R3. Once the run-down develops, BU would initially be responsible for all subsequent throws at the 3rd base end of the run-down *only until* PU is able to get in to position to assume responsibility for the *entire* run-down. Once PU assumes responsibility, BU will immediately locate R1 and get distance back in the direction of R1, assuming responsibility for that runner. In the unlikely event that R1 makes it all the way to 3rd base during the run-down of R3, BU would then communicate to PU that he is taking responsibility for half of the run-down and all plays at 3rd base; he would communicate, “**I’ve got this half!**”

NOTES

It is important that umpires communicate with each other during a run-down situation. For any decisions in the area between the two umpires’ responsibilities, they must take time to look at each other and communicate as to avoid both making a call on the same play.

SITUATION 2U-42

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 3RD AND HOME



R1 & R2

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SITUATION 2U-46	BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD
SITUATION 2U-47	RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD
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SITUATION 2U-43
BASIC POSITIONS

PLATE UMPIRE

PU stands in the slot behind the catcher until the batter hits the ball. The **box** and the **scissors** stance are acceptable for calling balls and strikes. **This position is referred to as P1.**

BASE UMPIRE

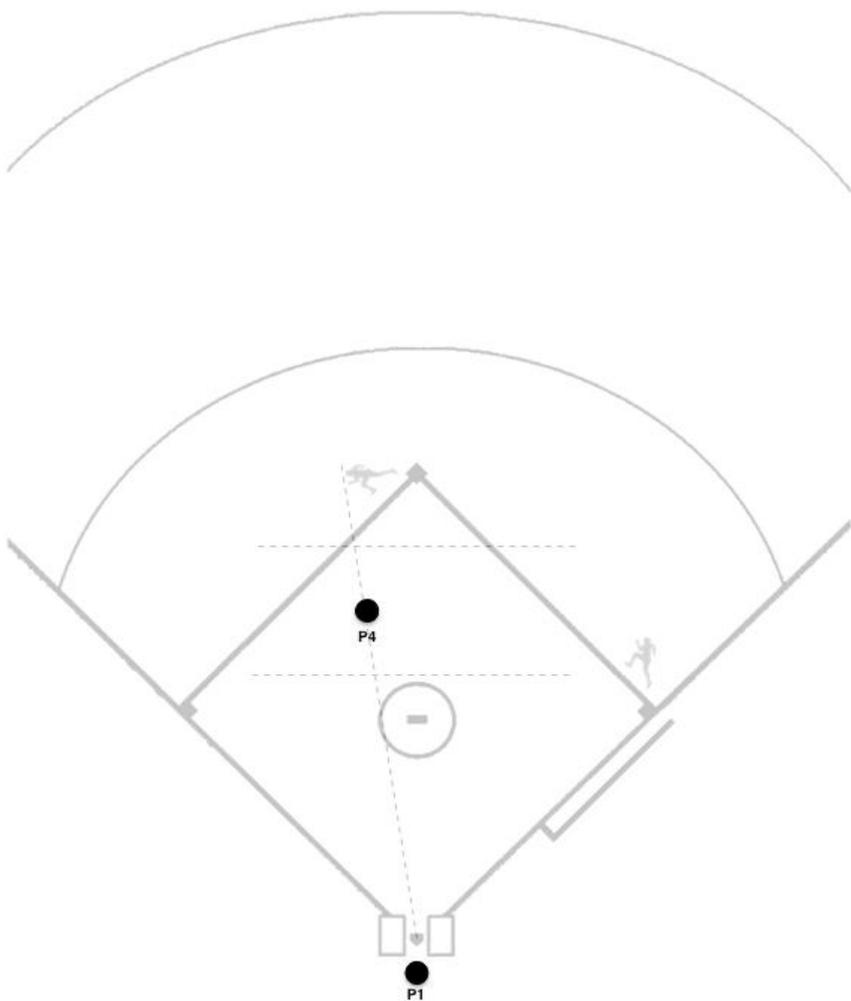
BU sets up on the 3rd base side of the mound, using a guide line from the edge of home plate past the edge of the 18' pitching circle, and midway between the back edge of the 18' pitching circle and the 2nd base **cut-out** area. BU will assume a hands-on-knees **set position** as the pitcher is *touching the rubber* and remain there until the pitch is delivered, or the pitcher disengages the rubber. BU will be square to the batter in this starting position. **This position is referred to as P4.**

NOTES

Prior to each pitch being delivered in this situation, BU must give a quick ***shoulder check*** over his right shoulder to help anticipate what the runner at 2nd is doing on each pitch; this helps BU anticipate and react quicker to developing plays.

SITUATION 2U-43

BASIC POSITIONS



SITUATION 2U-44

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls hit to the pitcher. PU is also responsible for all fly balls hit to the catcher. PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls, which cause the 1st or 3rd baseman to *move towards the foul line*. When a fly ball is hit, PU should swing out from home plate a few feet in to foul territory in the direction of the 3rd base to observe the play, unless it requires a **fair/foul** decision, in which case PU will take a set position on the appropriate foul line.

BASE UMPIRE

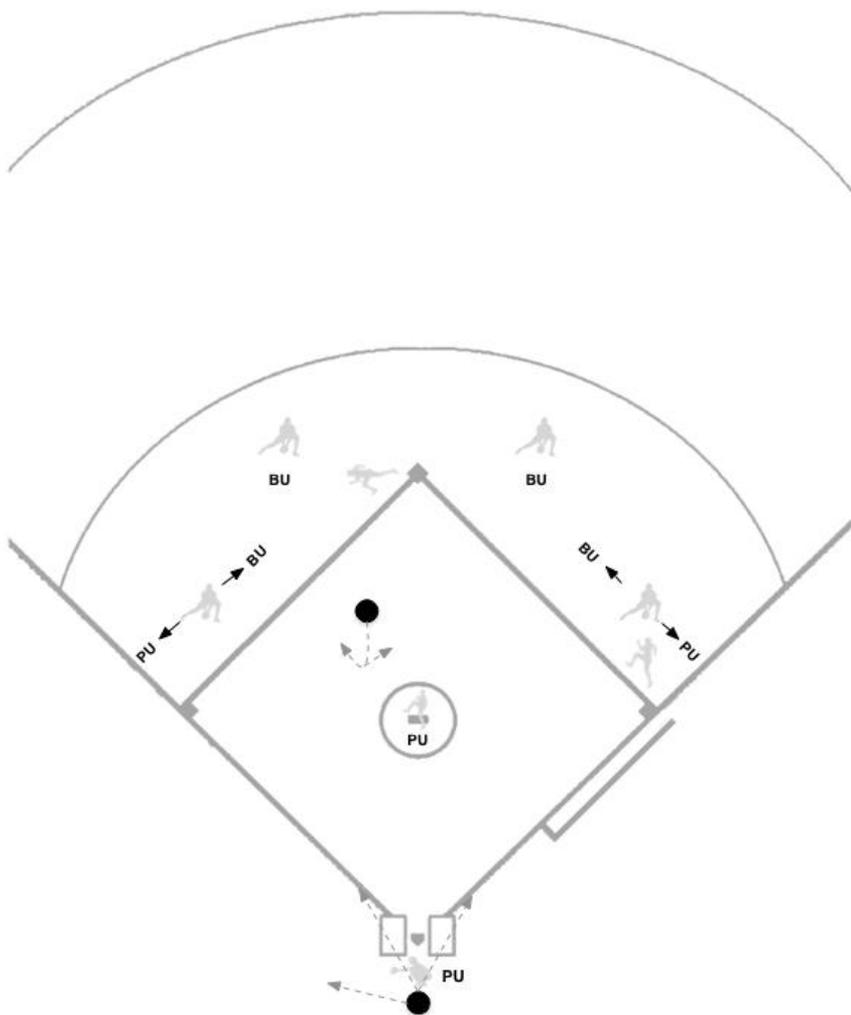
BU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls to all the infielders with the exception of those taking the 1st or 3rd baseman towards the foul line. BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest, glancing back over his shoulder to watch the batter-runner touch 1st base. BU may have to take a few steps back towards the mound to allow room for the fielder to catch the ball. BU should avoid back-stepping and should use cross-over steps.

NOTES

Infield Fly can be called by either umpire and should be echoed by the other umpire. Primary responsibility still belongs to the umpire responsible for the fly ball. It is important that crews work together and use visual signals prior to the at-bat to remind each other of the potential infield fly situation.

SITUATION 2U-44

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD



SITUATION 2U-45
GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately move to a position on 1st base line extended remaining in the vicinity of home plate. PU would be responsible for watching R2 touching 3rd base and any possible plays at home. If the ground ball or bunt requires a **fair/foul** decision, PU will take a position straddling the foul line, either down the line towards a base, or on a foul line extended. PU would then return quickly to a position at home plate for any possible plays. PU resumes his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base.

BASE UMPIRE

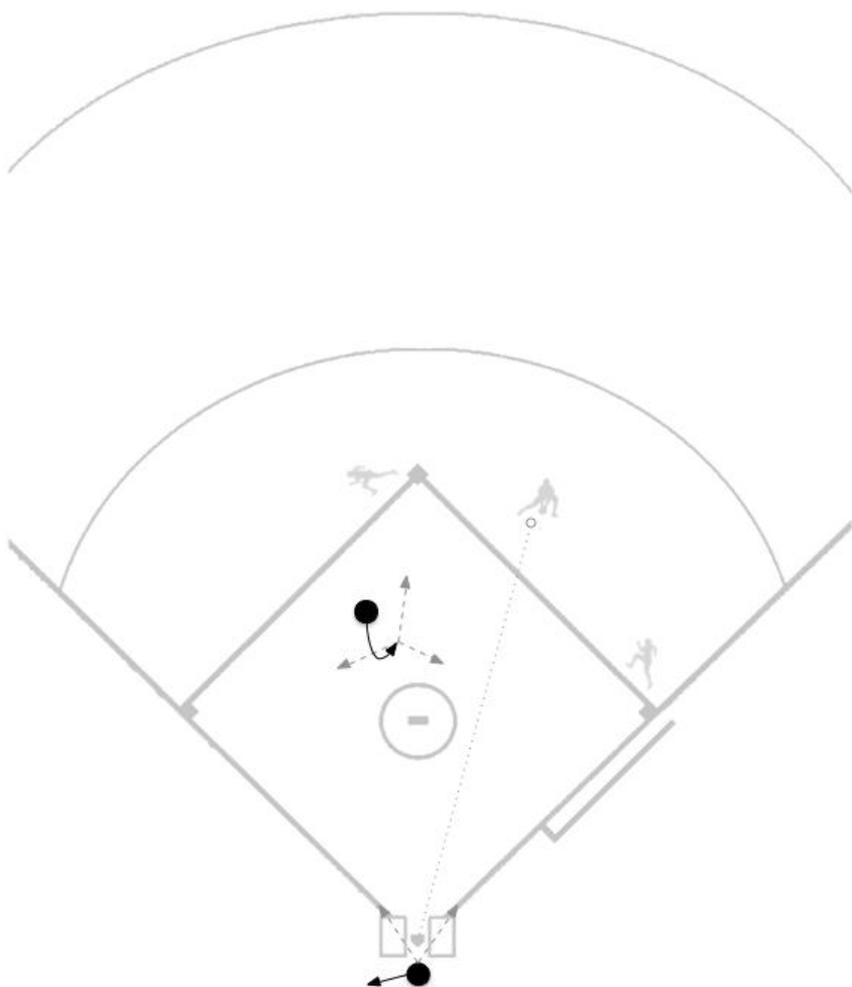
BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. There are several plays, which could occur in this situation. BU should take a couple aggressive steps towards the middle of the field within the working area. BU must not over commit to a base, and will allow the play to develop and react as required getting an angle and distance and being set to make a call at any base. BU is responsible for all calls at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base. If BU reads that the initial play will be at 1st base, he must immediately get distance towards 1st base through the working area behind the mound. Once the initial play is complete, BU must immediately look to see where the runners are and get to a position splitting the difference between the remaining runners.

NOTES

BU must show good situational awareness, especially when the possibility of a sacrifice bunt exists. The following could be considered by BU – conversation between fielders and the dugout, starting positions of the defence, awareness as to who is batting including position in the line-up and speed of the batter, and speed of the runners on base. All these factors will assist BU in reacting to the play as it develops.

SITUATION 2U-45

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD



SITUATION 2U-46

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

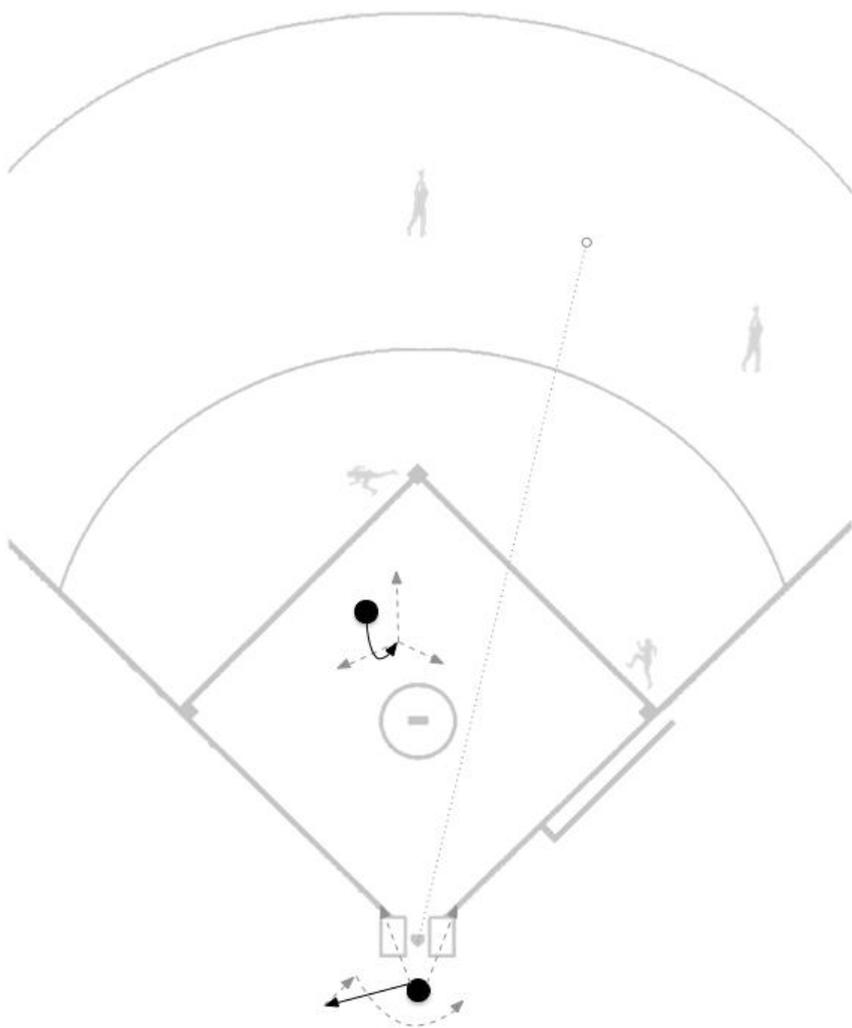
PU is responsible for all **fair/foul** decisions on the 1st and 3rd base line; he must be in a set position on the line or on 1st or 3rd base line extended if needed. PU will aggressively move to a position in the vicinity of 1st base line extended, approximately 15' away from home plate and is responsible for watching all runners, except the batter-runner, touch 3rd base, and any obstructions rounding 3rd base. If there is a play at home, PU will move to a position 10-12' from home plate on 1st base line extended to read the play. From 1st base line extended, PU has the option of staying there or adjusting to 3rd base line extended for a possible swipe tag. PU should not be moving to make a call and must be in a set position. Soon as PU reads the base hit, or extra base hit, he could communicate to BU; **"I'm staying home!"** which acts as a good reminder to BU that he is responsible for all plays on the bases.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU must hold his position within the working area and let the play determine where he needs to move. BU is responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base, as well as the batter-runner touching 3rd base. Once BU reads where a play will occur, he will get distance towards the play and come to a set position to make the call. If there is no play, he should be in a position splitting the difference between the runners, and if there is only one remaining runner, he should get to a position close to that runner for any possible plays.

SITUATION 2U-46

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-47
RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all fly balls, which take either the left fielder or the right fielder *towards the foul lines*. PU must communicate when he is taking responsibility for the fly ball and any **fair/foul** and/or **catch/no catch** decisions.

BASE UMPIRE

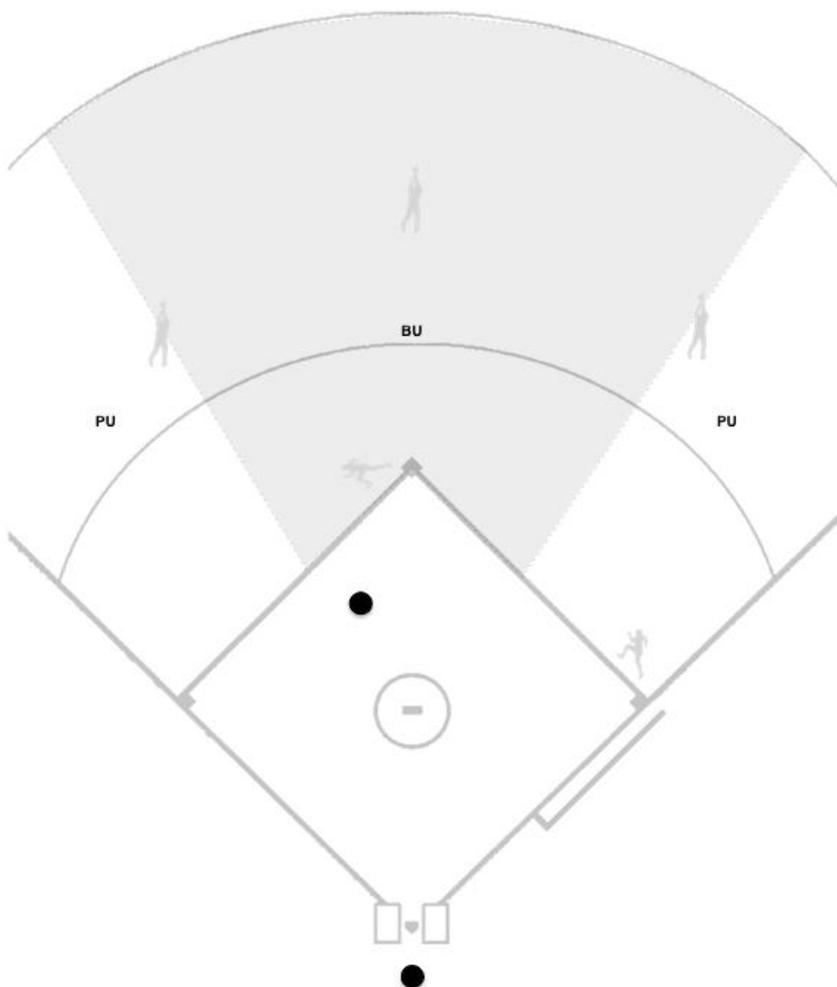
BU is responsible for all fly balls from the left fielder *straight in* all the way to the right fielder *straight in*.

NOTES

As a general rule of thumb, for balls hit in the vicinity of the right fielder or left fielder, the BU will be responsible for the **catch/no catch** unless PU communicates that he is taking responsibility. This will help avoid confusion as a crew.

SITUATION 2U-47

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-48

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT
FIELDER**

PLATE UMPIRE

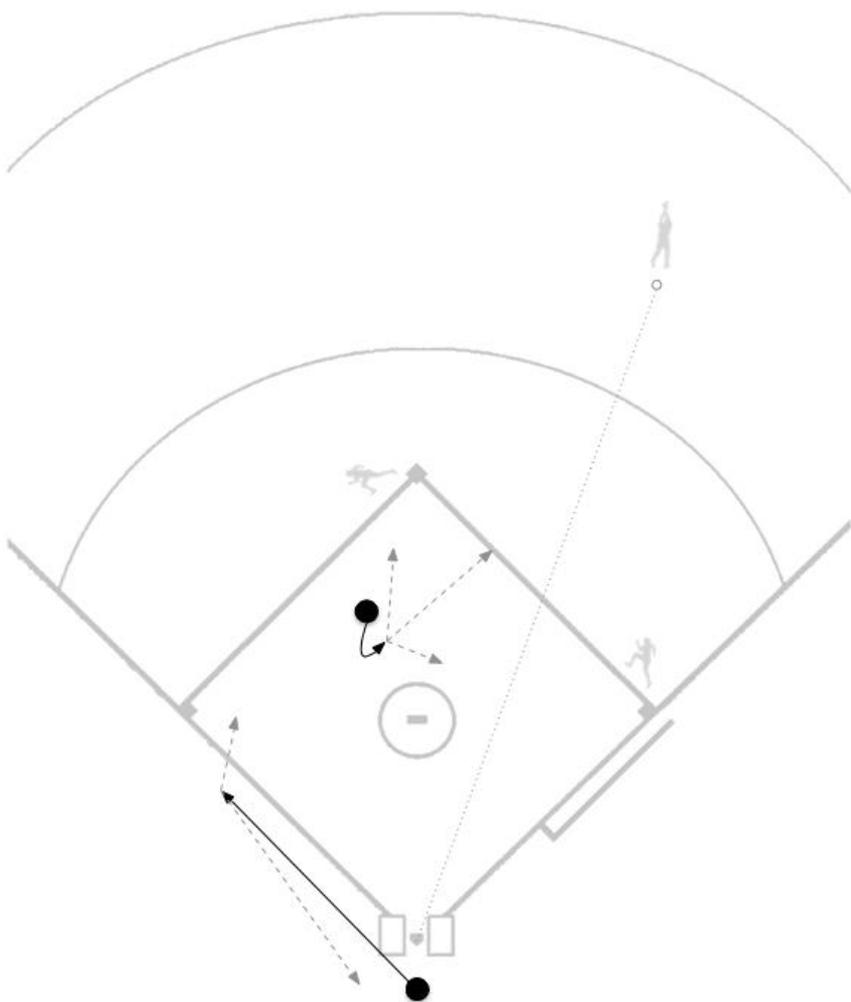
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head towards 3rd base in foul territory approximately 3-6' off the foul line to a spot $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to 3rd base. PU will communicate, **"I've got 3rd if he tags"**. PU would be responsible for plays at 3rd on R2 tagging up. If the ball is caught and PU reads there will be a play (ball and runner), he will head in to the cut-out area communicating, **"I've got 3rd"**. PU would remain on the infield grass and is also responsible for plays at home plate. If PU reads there will NOT be a play, he will immediately return home in foul territory communicating to BU, **"I'm going home!"** If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-46.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play. It is important for BU to use the **pause, read, and react** technique in this situation. BU is responsible for the **catch/no catch** call. If BU reads the fly ball to be *trouble*, he will move to the edge of the grass dirt line in the infield and come to a set position to make the call. The priority is the **catch/no catch** call. If the fly ball is routine, BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU is responsible for R2 tagging up at 2nd, R1 tagging up at 1st, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. BU must check over his shoulder to see if PU has coverage at 3rd base on R2 attempting to advance. If there is a play at 3rd base on R2, BU would pick up R1 and should get distance towards whichever base R1 is at; if there is no play at 3rd base and PU returns home, BU must split the difference between the two runners and let the ball determine where the next play will result. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-46.

SITUATION 2U-48

FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT FIELDER



SITUATION 2U-49

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 1st base line. PU will communicate to the BU, **“I’m on the line!”** PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU will get as much distance as possible towards the play and come to a standing set position to make a call. PU must remember to only get as much distance as will allow him to return to home plate for any possible play should the ball not be caught. He is also responsible for the ball going out of play. Once the ball is fielded, PU will immediately return home. There may be times when PU will have to return to home while keeping his eye on the play in the outfield. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-46.

BASE UMPIRE

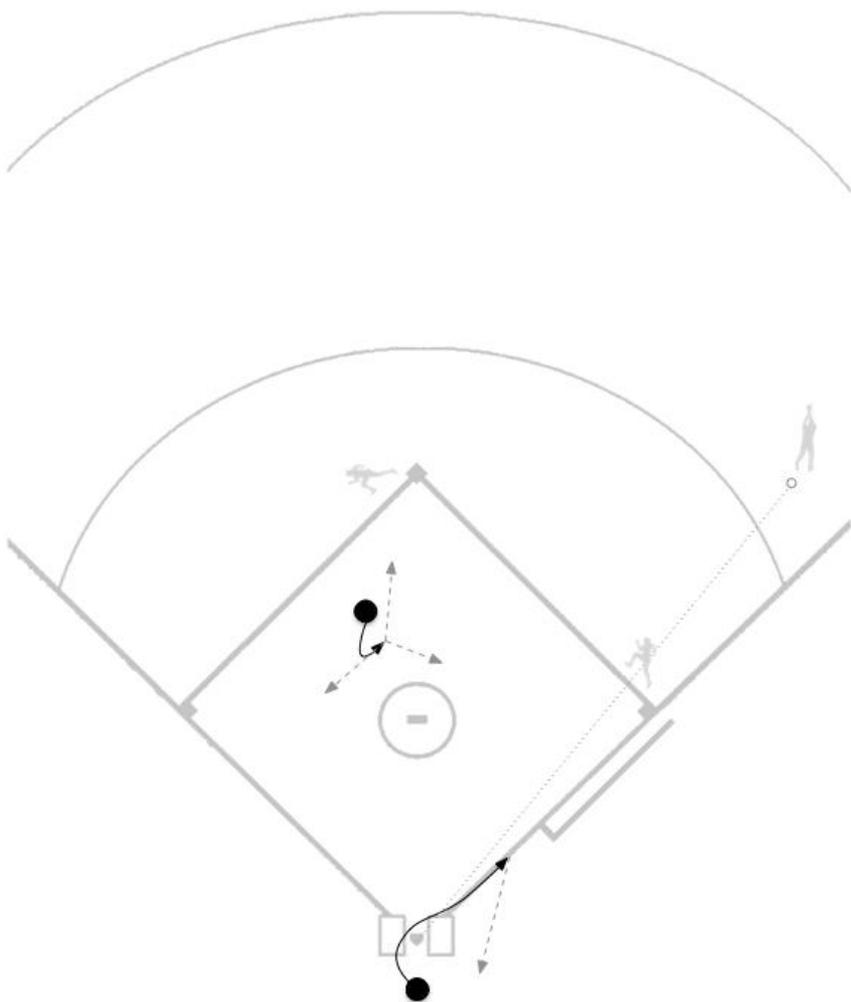
BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play. He is responsible for the runner at 2nd tagging up, the runner at 1st tagging up, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. BU is responsible for all plays on all runners at 1st, 2nd, or 3rd base; it is important for BU to not over commit to any base and let the play determine where he should move. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-46.

NOTES

The different terminology used by PU is important in the 2-Umpire system. The terminology, **“I’m on the line!”** tells BU that PU will NOT be at 3rd base for coverage with possible rotations.

SITUATION 2U-49

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE



SITUATION 2U-50

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 3rd base line. PU will communicate to the BU, **“I’ve got the ball!”** PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU will get as much distance as possible towards the $\frac{3}{4}$ point to 3rd base and come to a standing set position to make a call. PU would be responsible for plays at 3rd on R2 tagging up. If the ball is caught and PU reads there will be a play (ball and runner), he will head in to the cut-out area communicating, **“I’ve got 3rd”**. PU would remain on the infield grass and is also responsible for plays at home plate. If PU reads there will NOT be a play, he will immediately return home in foul territory communicating to BU, **“I’m going home!”** If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-46.

BASE UMPIRE

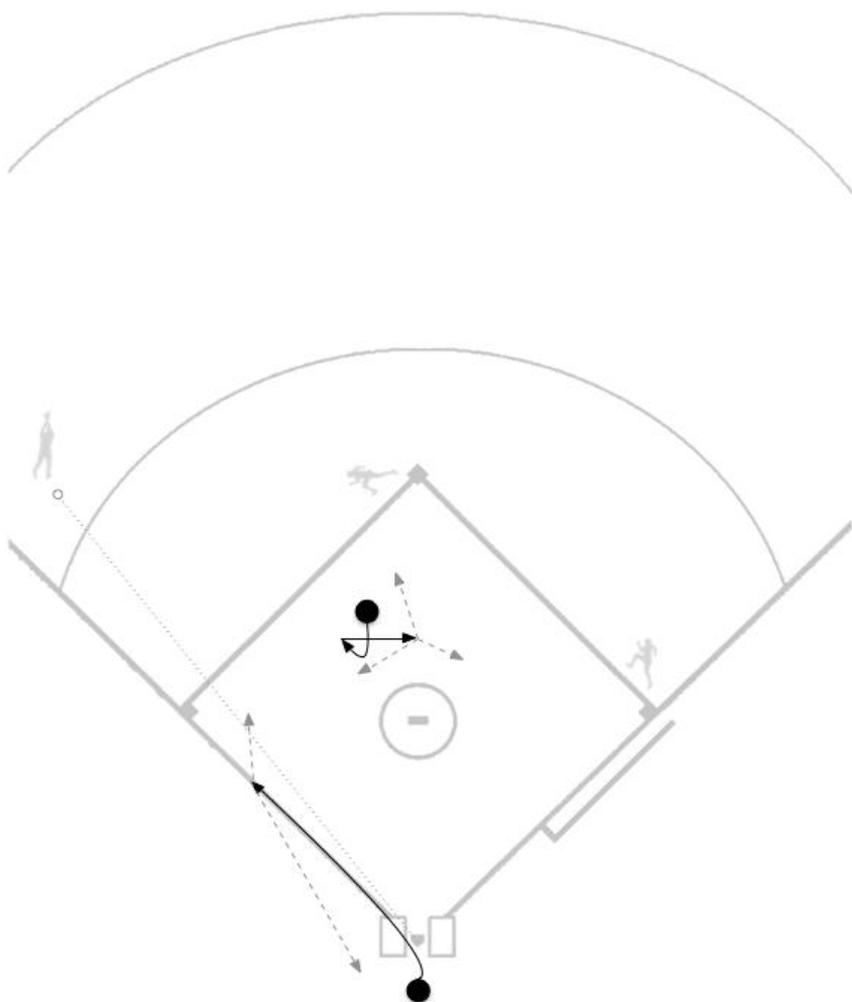
BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play. If the ball is caught, he is responsible for the runner at 2nd tagging up and the runner at 1st tagging up. BU must check over his shoulder to see if PU has coverage at 3rd base on R2 attempting to advance. If there is a play at 3rd base on R2, BU would pick up R1 and should get distance towards whichever base R1 is at; if there is no play at 3rd base and PU returns home, BU must split the difference between the two runners and let the ball determine where the next play will result. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-46.

NOTES

The terminology, **“I’ve got the ball!”** is different than, **“I’ve got 3rd if he comes!”** The terminology, **“I’ve got the ball!”** tells the BU that PU is responsible for **both** the fly ball (fair/foul, catch/no catch), as well as any possible plays on the runner tagging up from 2nd at 3rd.

SITUATION 2U-50

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE



SITUATION 2U-51
STEAL OF 2ND OR 3RD BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

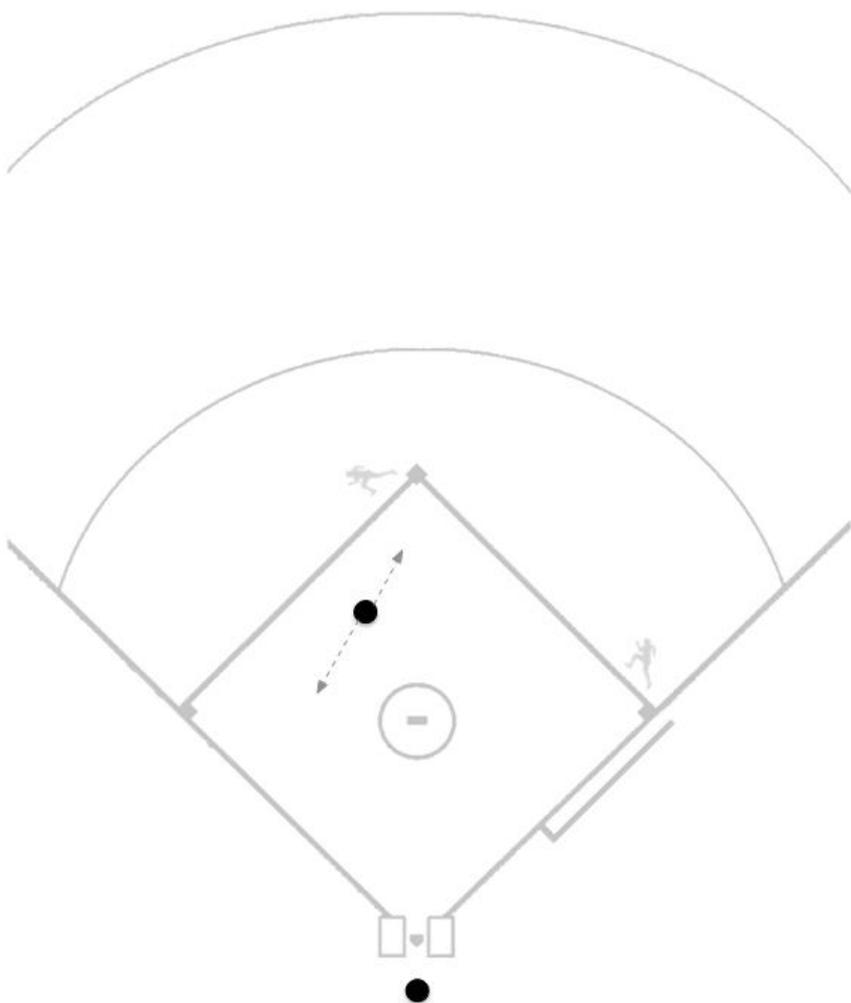
PU will remain behind the catcher in **P1** and watch the play at 2nd or 3rd base. PU must watch carefully for the batter interfering with the catcher's throw to either base. If it is questionable as to whether the batter interfered with the catcher's throw, PU may signal, "**That's nothing**", extending his arms in a safe mechanic, acknowledging that he observed the play and deemed there was no interference. PU will remain in the vicinity of home plate and observe the play. PU would be responsible for any overthrows and any resulting plays at home.

BASE UMPIRE

With runners on 1st and 2nd, there are two possibilities: a double steal and a steal of 3rd base only. BU must be alert to the two possibilities and react accordingly. A shoulder check prior to the pitch being delivered will help BU anticipate the developing play. BU will allow the catcher's throw to determine which base the play will occur at, and will get a step or two in that direction and get to a set position to make the call. If the runner is declared out, BU must immediately get distance towards the remaining runner for any further potential plays.

SITUATION 2U-51

STEAL OF 2ND OR 3RD BASE



SITUATION 2U-52

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

With a run-down developing between 1st and 2nd, PU once recognizing this will immediately head down to 3rd base along the 3rd base line towards the cut-out area. Once PU gets to the cut-out area, he would communicate to BU, “**I’m at 3rd!**” taking responsibility for any play at 3rd base should R2 attempt to advance during the run-down. PU must be aware of the where the ball is to avoid getting in the way of a throw to 3rd base should he be moving in to the cut-out area. Once in fair territory, he would remain in fair territory for any plays at home. If the runner attempts to advance to 3rd before PU can get to the cut-out area, *PU must immediately stop advancing* so that there are not two umpires in the vicinity of 3rd base and BU would be responsible for the play at 3rd should a run-down develop between 2nd and 3rd base as a result, refer to 2U-53.

BASE UMPIRE

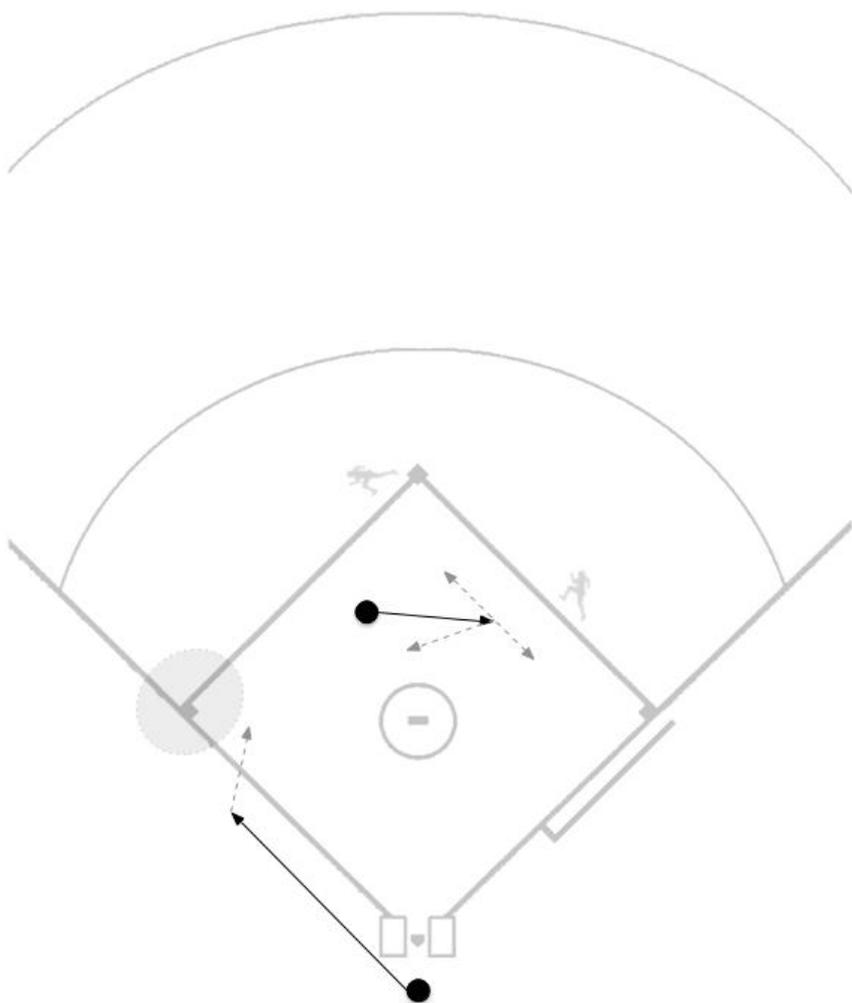
With a run-down developing between 1st and 2nd, BU is responsible for the entire run-down by himself. BU would move to a position on the 1st base side in the working area to observe the run-down. BU will be limited with his movement during the run-down as he is also responsible for all plays at 2nd base on both runners. BU must be aware that PU may take responsibility for plays at 3rd base on R2, but must not assume PU is there. BU is responsible for all plays at 3rd base unless PU takes responsibility for the play. Should a run-down develop between 2nd and 3rd base as a result, refer to 2U-53.

NOTES

It is important that umpires communicate with each other during a run-down situation. For any decisions in the area between the two umpires’ responsibilities, they must take time to look at each other and communicate as to avoid both making a call on the same play.

SITUATION 2U-52

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND BASE



SITUATION 2U-53

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

With a run-down developing between 2nd and 3rd, PU once recognizing this will immediately head down to 3rd base along the 3rd base line towards the cut-out area. It is very important that PU read the play from the cut-out area and must be aware that any plays at 3rd base belong to BU until PU communicates responsibility. PU must be careful not to run off the BU, and once the runner is *running away from the cut-out*, PU will then move in to the cut-out area. As PU moves in to the cut-out area to take responsibility, he will communicate, **“I’ve got this end! I’ve got this end!”** PU is responsible for plays on the runner at the cut-out area only. PU is responsible for overthrows along the 3rd base side, and on any overthrow PU would return home immediately remaining on the infield side of the 3rd base line.

BASE UMPIRE

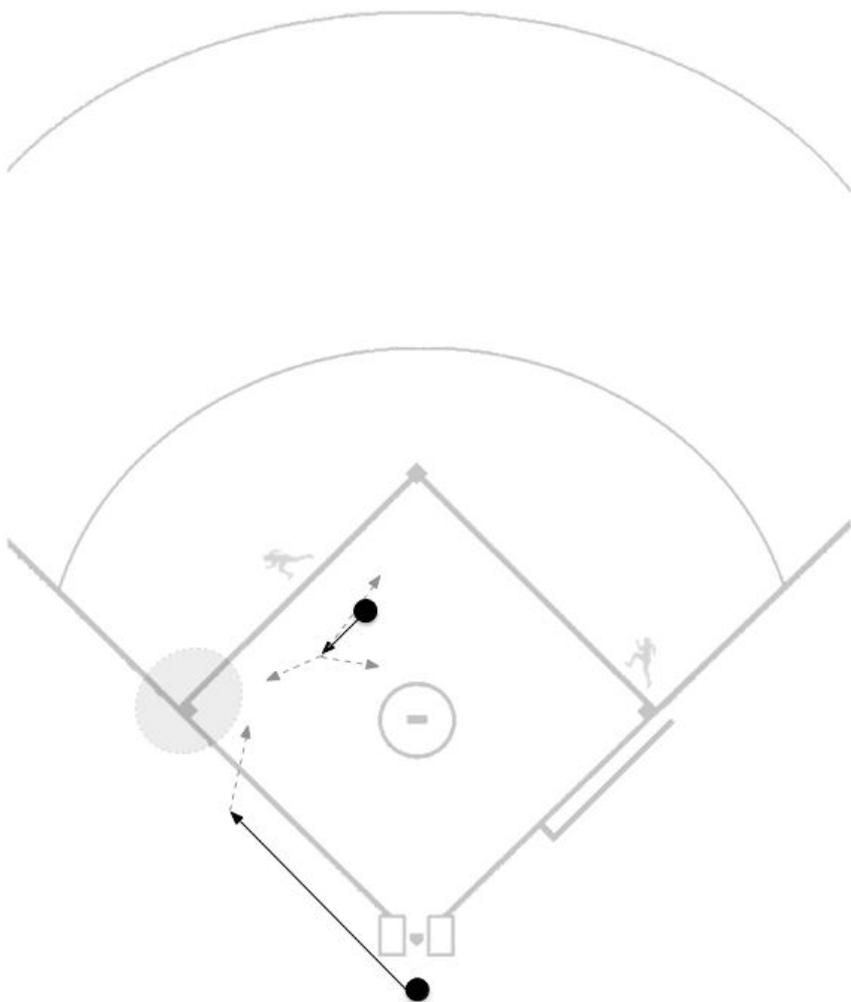
With a run-down developing between 2nd and 3rd, BU is responsible for all of the run-down until PU communicates responsibility for the cut-out area only. BU must try to stay ahead of the runner, moving parallel with the grass-dirt line while not getting too close to the play. BU must be listening for PU communicating responsibility for the cut-out area. BU must be aware of the runner on 1st base and is also responsible for all plays at 1st or 2nd base.

NOTES

It is important that umpires communicate with each other during a run-down situation. For any decisions in the area between the two umpires’ responsibilities, they must take time to look at each other and communicate as to avoid both making a call on the same play.

SITUATION 2U-53

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD BASE



BASES LOADED

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SITUATION 2U-63	RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD BASE
SITUATION 2U-64	RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 3RD AND HOME

BASES LOADED

SITUATION 2U-54

BASIC POSITIONS

PLATE UMPIRE

PU stands in the slot behind the catcher until the batter hits the ball. The **box** and the **scissors** stance are acceptable for calling balls and strikes. **This position is referred to as P1.**

BASE UMPIRE

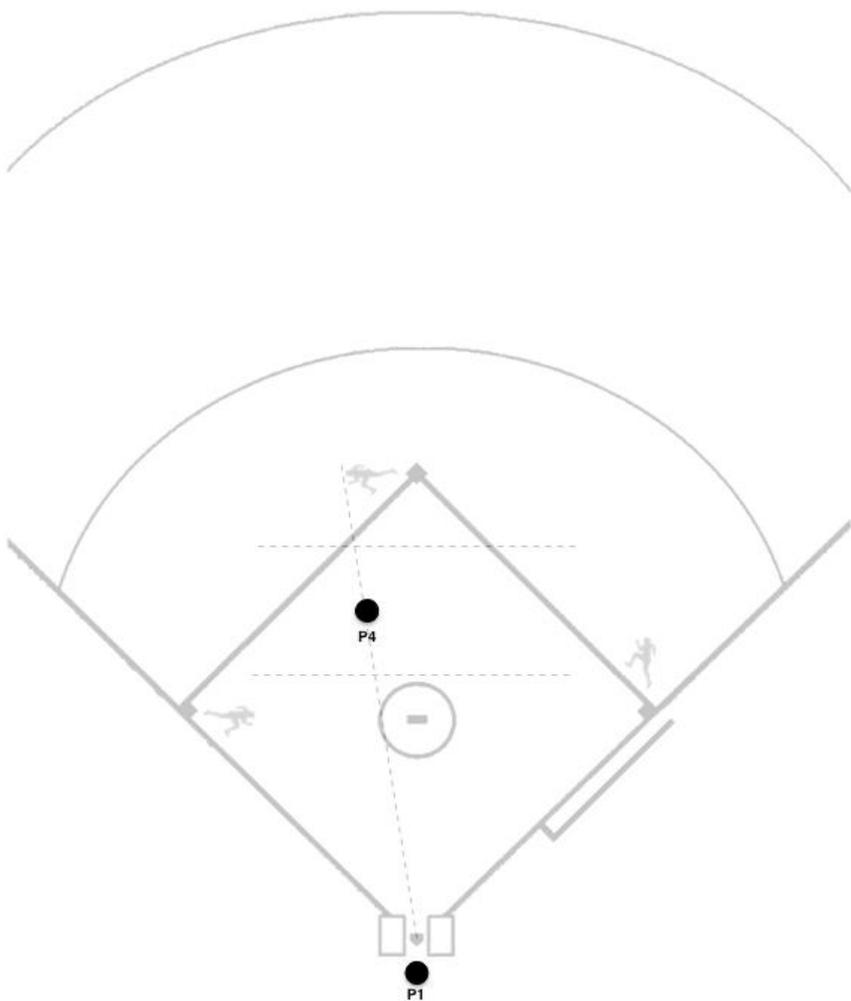
BU sets up on the 3rd base side of the mound, using a guide line from the edge of home plate past the edge of the 18' pitching circle, and midway between the back edge of the 18' pitching circle and the 2nd base **cut-out** area. BU will assume a hands-on-knees **set position** as the pitcher is *touching the rubber* and remain there until the pitch is delivered, or the pitcher disengages the rubber. BU will be square to the batter in this starting position. **This position is referred to as P4.**

NOTES

If the infield is playing in, BU may have to adjust his starting position to avoid being in the way of the fielders. BU will remain in the infield and can move backwards towards the grass dirt line, inwards towards to centre of the field, or a combination of the two. BU will NOT move closer towards home plate however.

SITUATION 2U-54

BASIC POSITIONS



BASES LOADED

SITUATION 2U-55

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls hit to the pitcher. PU is also responsible for all fly balls hit to the catcher. PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls, which cause the 1st or 3rd baseman to *move towards the foul line*. When a fly ball is hit, PU should swing out from home plate a few feet in to foul territory in the direction of the 3rd base to observe the play, unless it requires a **fair/foul** decision, in which case PU will take a set position straddling the appropriate foul line. For balls hit along the 3rd base line with less than 2 outs, PU will take a couple steps up the line towards 3rd base. For balls hit along the 3rd base line with 2 outs, PU will move to 3rd base line extended.

BASE UMPIRE

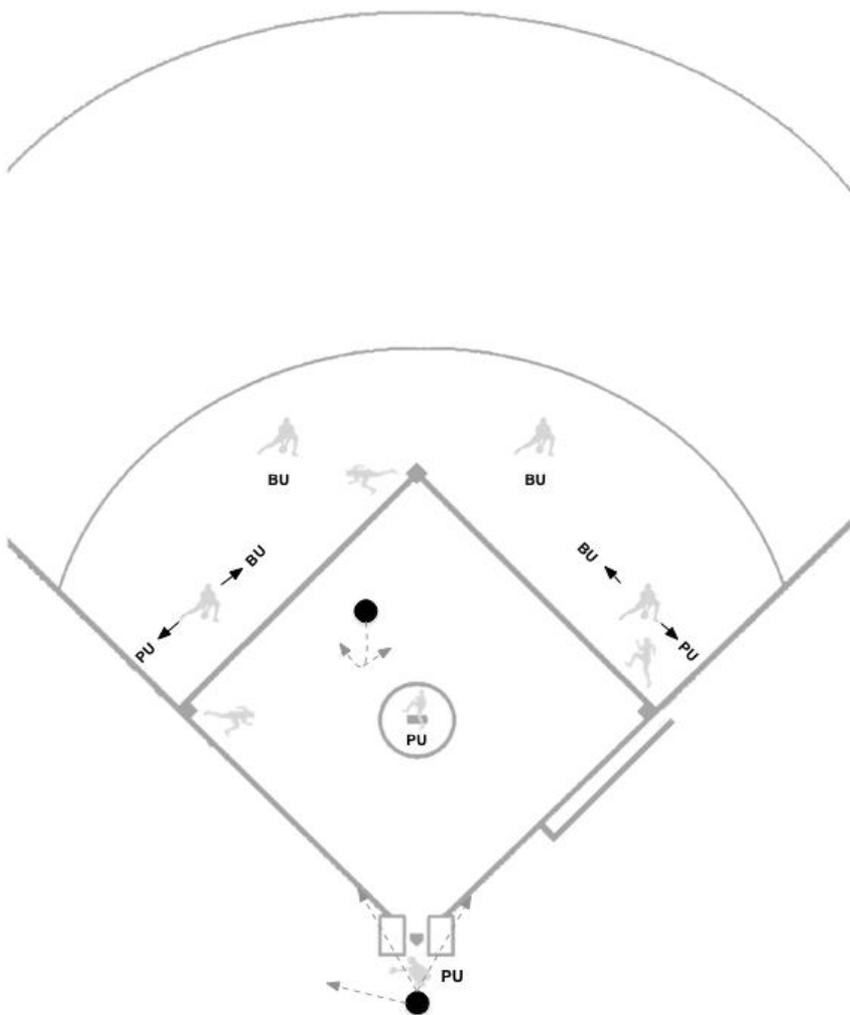
BU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls to all the infielders with the exception of those taking the 1st or 3rd baseman towards the foul line. BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest, glancing back over his shoulder to watch the batter-runner touch 1st base. BU may have to take a few steps back towards the mound to allow room for the fielder to catch the ball. BU should avoid back-stepping and should use cross-over steps.

NOTES

Infield Fly can be called by either umpire and should be echoed by the other umpire. Primary responsibility still belongs to the umpire responsible for the fly ball. It is important that crews work together and use visual signals prior to the at-bat to remind each other of the potential infield fly situation.

SITUATION 2U-55

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD



BASES LOADED

SITUATION 2U-56

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

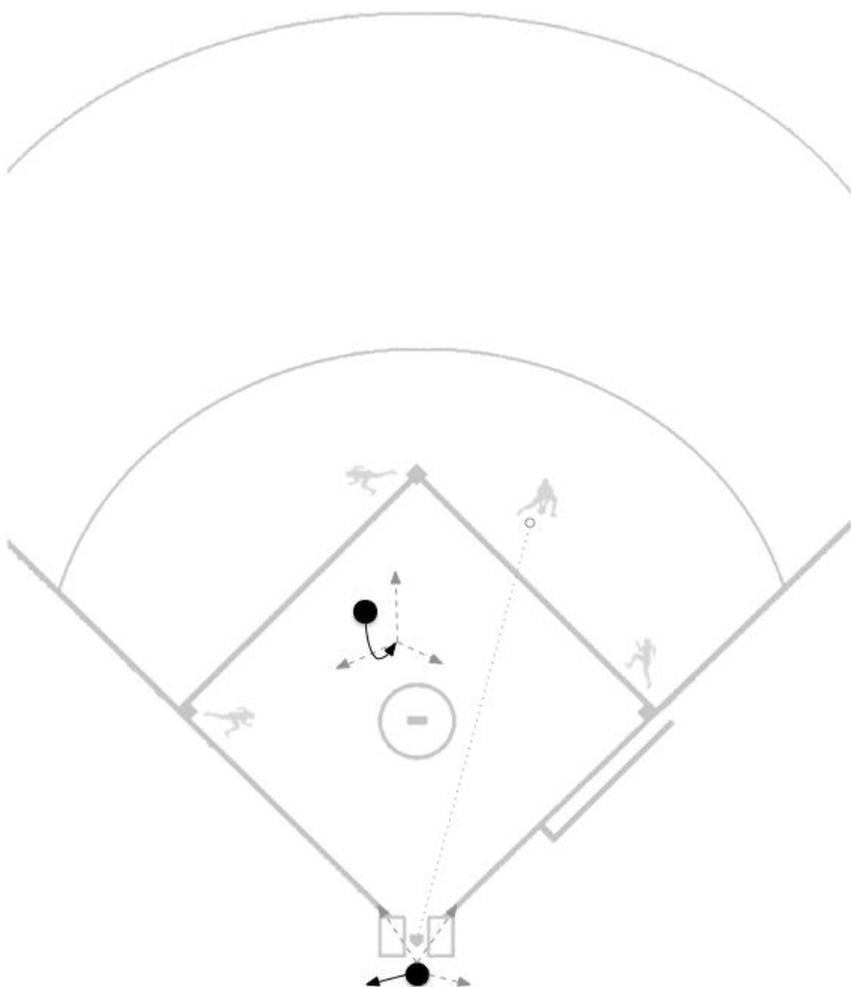
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately move to a position on 1st base line extended remaining in the vicinity of home plate. If the ground ball or bunt requires a **fair/foul** decision, PU will take a position straddling the foul line extended. PU would then move quickly to a position for any possible play, either a potential force or tag play. If the initial throw is to 1st base, PU resumes his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base. With the infield playing in, if PU reads that there will be a play at home on R3 trying to score, it is acceptable for PU to immediately take a position on 3rd base line extended for the play at home.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. There are several plays, which could occur in this situation. BU should take a couple aggressive steps towards the middle of the field within the working area. BU must not over commit to a base, and will allow the play to develop and react as required getting an angle and distance and being set to make a call at any base. BU is responsible for all calls at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base. If BU reads that the initial play will be at 1st base, he must immediately get distance towards 1st base through the working area behind the mound. Once the initial play is complete, BU must immediately look to see where the runners are and get to a position splitting the difference between the remaining runners.

SITUATION 2U-56

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD



BASES LOADED

SITUATION 2U-57

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

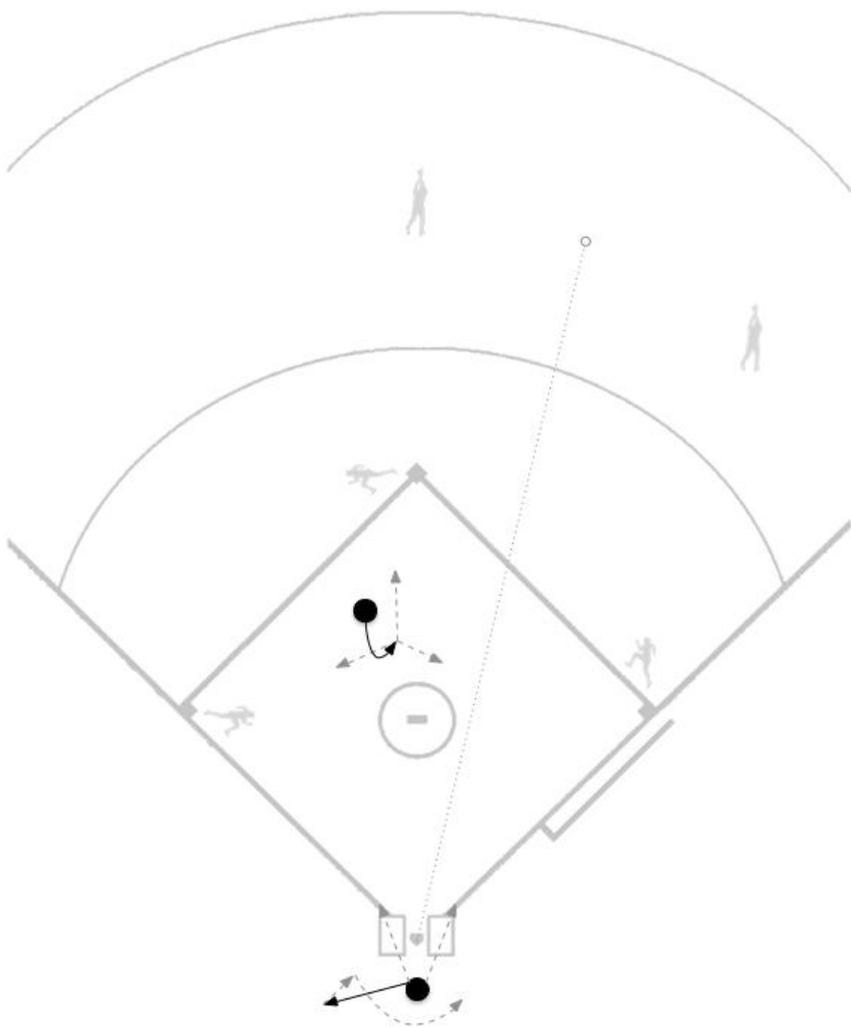
PU is responsible for all **fair/foul** decisions on the 1st and 3rd base line; he must be in a set position on the line or on 1st or 3rd base line extended if needed. PU will aggressively move to a position in the vicinity of 1st base line extended, approximately 15' away from home plate and is responsible for watching all runners, except the batter-runner, touch 3rd base, and any obstructions rounding 3rd base. If there is a play at home, PU will move to a position 10-12' from home plate on 1st base line extended to read the play. From 1st base line extended, PU has the option of staying there or adjusting to 3rd base line extended for a possible swipe tag. PU should not be moving to make a call and must be in a set position.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU must hold his position within the working area and let the play determine where he needs to move. BU is responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base, as well as the batter-runner touching 3rd base. Once BU reads where a play will occur, he will get distance towards the play and come to a set position to make the call. If there is no play, he should be in a position splitting the difference between the runners, and if there is only one remaining runner, he should get to a position close to that runner for any possible plays.

SITUATION 2U-57

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-58
RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all fly balls, which take either the left fielder or the right fielder *towards the foul lines*. PU must communicate when he is taking responsibility for the fly ball and any **fair/foul** and/or **catch/no catch** decisions.

BASE UMPIRE

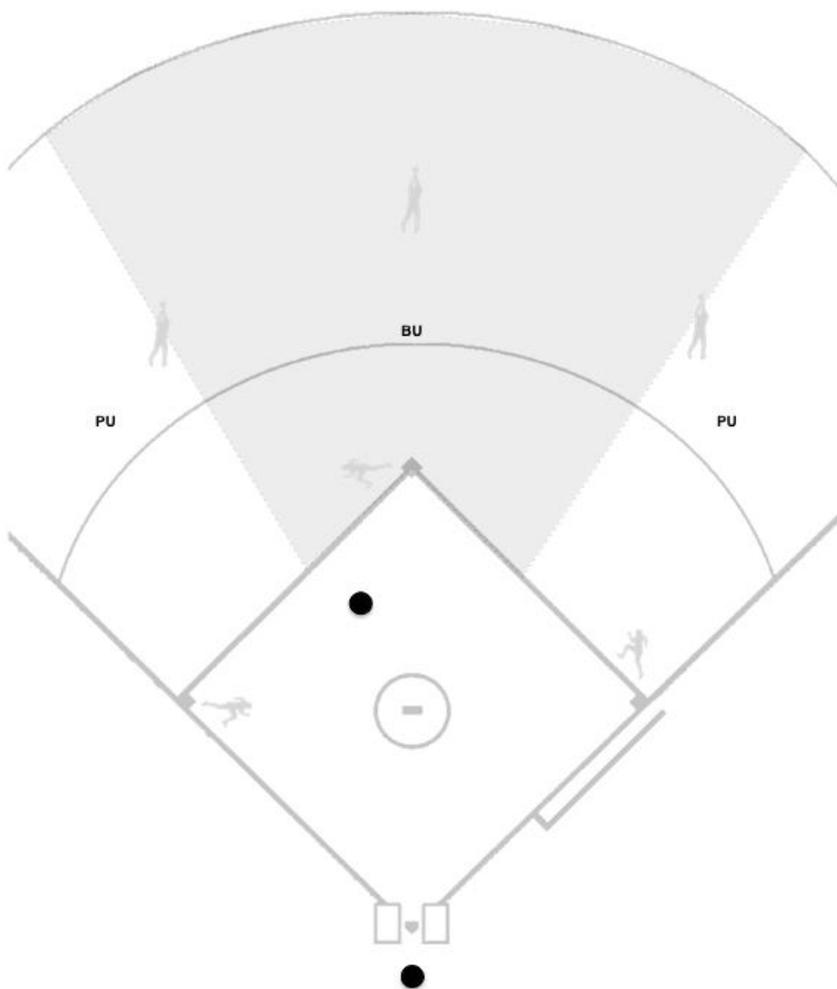
BU is responsible for all fly balls from the left fielder *straight in* all the way to the right fielder *straight in*.

NOTES

As a general rule of thumb, for balls hit in the vicinity of the right fielder or left fielder, the BU will be responsible for the **catch/no catch** unless PU communicates that he is taking responsibility. This will help avoid confusion as a crew.

SITUATION 2U-58

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-59

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT
FIELDER**

PLATE UMPIRE

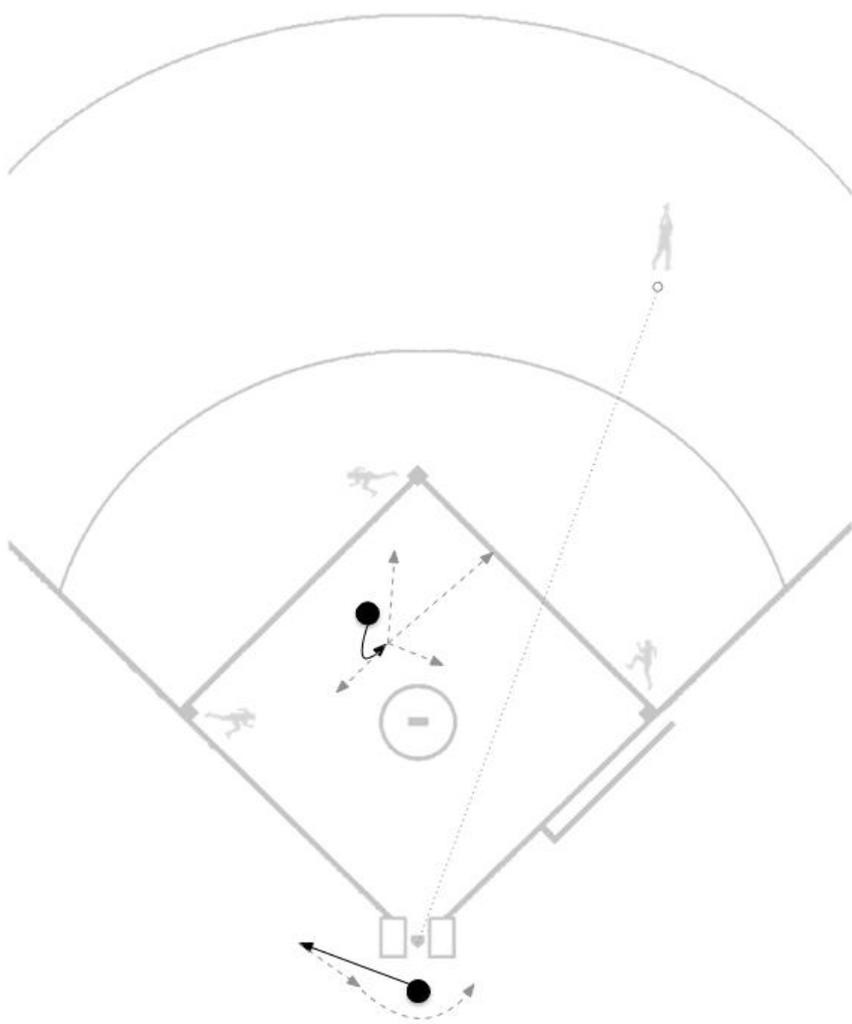
PU exits left and is responsible for R3 tagging up at 3rd. PU will get to a position, which allows him to see R3 tagging up at 3rd base and the catch in the outfield. PU is responsible for any play at home on R3. PU must remember to balance the distance he gets to line up the tag with being able to return to home plate and get to a position to make a call on R3. PU can take a position on either 1st base line extended or 3rd base line extended for any plays at the plate on R3. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-57.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will aggressively move in to the working area, without back-stepping. BU is responsible for the **catch/no catch** call. It is important for BU to use the **pause, read, and react** technique in this situation. If BU reads the fly ball to be a *trouble* ball, he will move to the edge of the grass dirt line and take a standing set to make the call. BU must aggressively signal the catch/no catch with a mechanic and voice. The priority is the **catch/no catch** call. If it is a routine fly ball, BU will remain in the working area, taking a position, which keeps as much of the play as possible in front of him, including the **catch/no catch**. BU is responsible for R2 tagging up at 2nd, R1 tagging up at 1st, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. BU would be responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd and 3rd base and must split the difference between the runners, letting the ball determine where the next potential play will occur, at which point he will get distance towards the base and be set to make a call. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-57.

SITUATION 2U-59

FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT FIELDER



SITUATION 2U-60

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 1st base line. PU will communicate to his partner, “**I’m on the line!**” PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU should get as much distance as possible towards the call keeping in mind he must be able to return to home plate in time for any possible plays on R3 tagging up. PU is responsible for R3 tagging up and must take a quick glance in that direction after the ball is touched; PU must remember that the **catch/no catch** is the first priority, and not R3 tagging up. It is recommended that PU take a position on 3rd base line extended for the play at the plate; the majority of throws from right field result in a swipe tag play at home, and 3rd base line extended is the best possible position to make the call. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-57.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in the working area, taking a position, which keeps as much of the play as possible in front of him, including the catch/no catch. BU is responsible for R2 tagging up at 2nd, R1 tagging up at 1st, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. BU would be responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd and 3rd base and must split the difference between the runners, letting the ball determine where the next potential play will occur, at which point he will get distance towards the base and be set to make a call. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-57.

SITUATION 2U-61

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 3rd base line. PU will communicate to the BU, “**I’ve got the ball!**” PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU should get as much distance as possible towards the call keeping in mind he must be able to return to home plate in time for any possible plays on R3 tagging up. PU is responsible for R3 tagging up and his position on the 3rd base line will allow him to keep the play in front of him while watching for R3 tagging up; PU must remember that the **catch/no catch** is the first priority, and not R3 tagging up. PU will immediately return to a position on 1st base line extended for the play at the plate; the majority of throws from left field result in a sliding play at home, and 1st base line extended is the best possible position to make the call. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-57.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in the working area, taking a position, which keeps as much of the play as possible in front of him, including the catch/no catch. BU is responsible for R2 tagging up at 2nd, R1 tagging up at 1st, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. BU would be responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd and 3rd base and must split the difference between the runners, letting the ball determine where the next potential play will occur, at which point he will get distance towards the base and be set to make a call. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-57.

BASES LOADED

SITUATION 2U-62

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

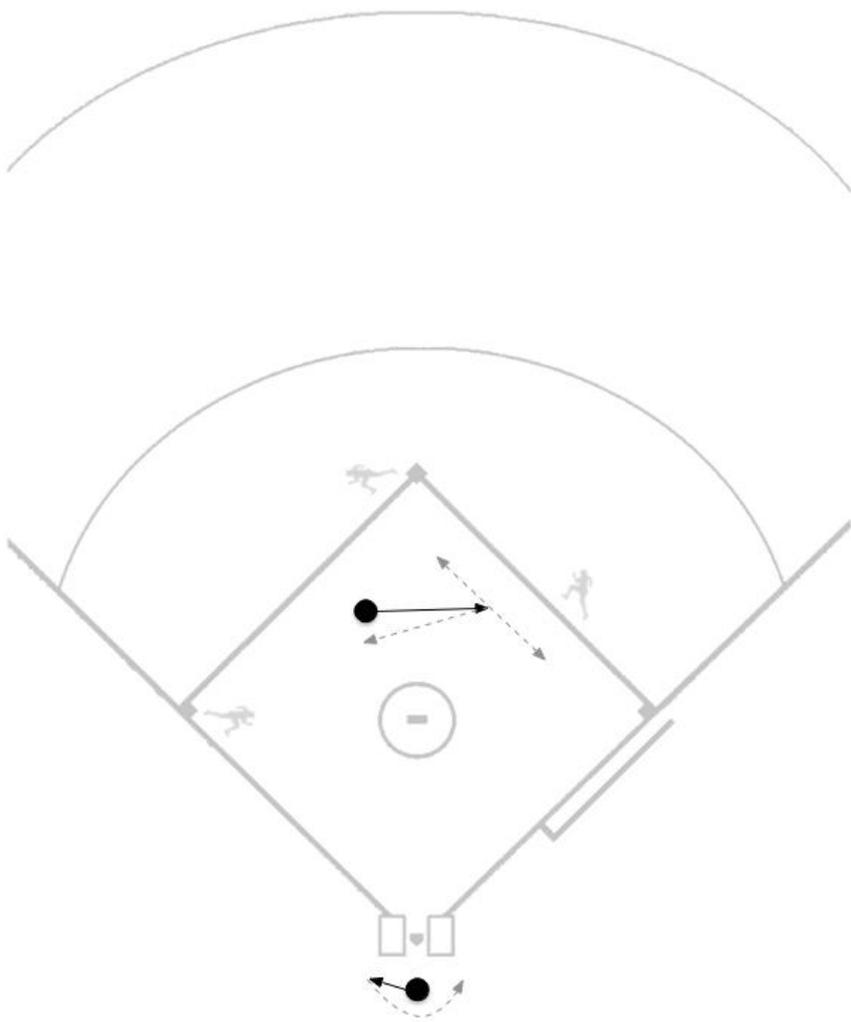
Once PU recognizes the run-down develop between 1st and 2nd base, he should move to a position at 1st base line extended for any possible plays at the plate on R3 attempting to advance. He must also be aware that a run-down could develop between 3rd and home on R3, see 2U-64. PU is responsible for any overthrows at 1st base, which may occur during the run-down. It is acceptable, should a play develop at home on R3, for PU to take a position on 3rd base line extended as a swipe tag play is likely with the throw originating from the right side of the infield. It is acceptable for PU to communicate with BU, **“I’m staying home!”** reminding BU that he is responsible for the entire run-down.

BASE UMPIRE

With a run-down developing between 1st and 2nd base, BU is responsible for the entire run-down by himself. BU would move to a position on the 1st base side within the working area to observe the run-down. BU will be limited with his movement during the run-down as he is also responsible for all plays at all the bases. Should the play result in an out, BU must then get to a position splitting the difference between the remaining runners.

SITUATION 2U-62

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND BASE



SITUATION 2U-63

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

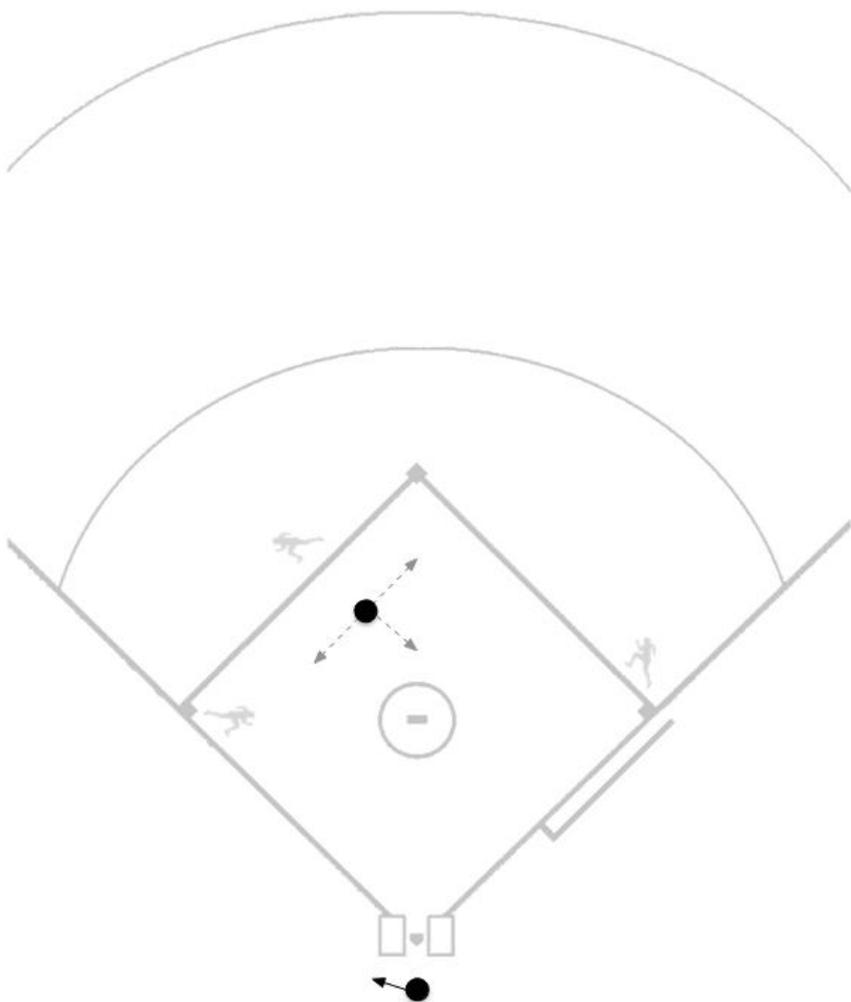
Once PU recognizes the run-down develop between 2nd and 3rd base, he should move to a position at 1st base line extended for any possible plays at the plate on R3 attempting to advance. He must also be aware that a run-down could develop between 3rd and home on R3, see 2U-64. PU is responsible for any overthrows at 3rd base, which may occur during the run-down. Should a play develop at home on R3, the majority of throws from left side of the field result in a sliding play at home, and 1st base line extended is the best possible position to make the call. It is acceptable for PU to communicate with BU, **“I’m staying home!”** reminding BU that he is responsible for the entire run-down.

BASE UMPIRE

With a run-down developing between 2nd and 3rd base, BU is responsible for the entire run-down by himself. BU would remain in a position on the 3rd base side within the working area to observe the run-down. BU will be limited with his movement during the run-down as he is also responsible for all plays at all the bases. Should the play result in an out, BU must then get to a position splitting the difference between the remaining runners.

SITUATION 2U-63

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD BASE



BASES LOADED

SITUATION 2U-64

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 3RD AND HOME

PLATE UMPIRE

As soon as PU recognizes the run-down on R3 between 3rd and home, he will immediately move in foul territory to a position to assume responsibility for the *entire* run-down. PU will then communicate to BU, “**I’ve got it all!**” assuming responsibility for the run-down. PU must try to stay ahead of the runner, moving parallel with the foul line while not getting too close to the play. If the run-down finished with R3 and R2 both standing on 3rd base, PU would be responsible for the call at 3rd base.

BASE UMPIRE

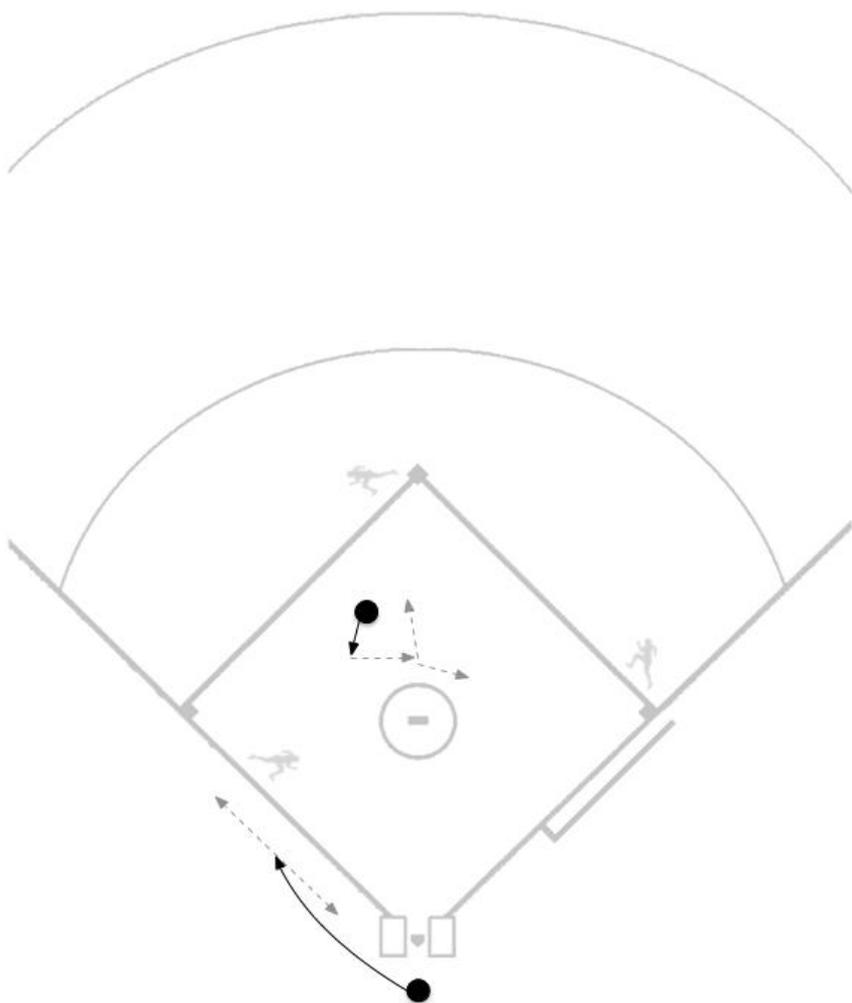
BU is responsible for the initial pick-off play at 3rd base on R3. Once the run-down develops, BU would initially be responsible for all subsequent throws at the 3rd base end of the run-down *only until* PU is able to get in to position to assume responsibility for the *entire* run-down. Once PU assumes responsibility, BU will immediately drift back in the direction of the two remaining runners, splitting the difference and assuming responsibility for those runners. In the event that both R2 and R3 end up on 3rd base, PU would be responsible for the call at 3rd base; otherwise BU would be responsible for all calls on R1 and R2 at any base.

NOTES

It is important that umpires communicate with each other during a run-down situation. For any decisions in the area between the two umpires’ responsibilities, they must take time to look at each other and communicate as to avoid both making a call on the same play.

SITUATION 2U-64

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 3RD AND HOME



R2 ONLY

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SITUATION 2U-69	BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD
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SITUATION 2U-65
BASIC POSITIONS

PLATE UMPIRE

PU stands in the slot behind the catcher until the batter hits the ball. The **box** and the **scissors** stance are acceptable for calling balls and strikes. **This position is referred to as P1.**

BASE UMPIRE

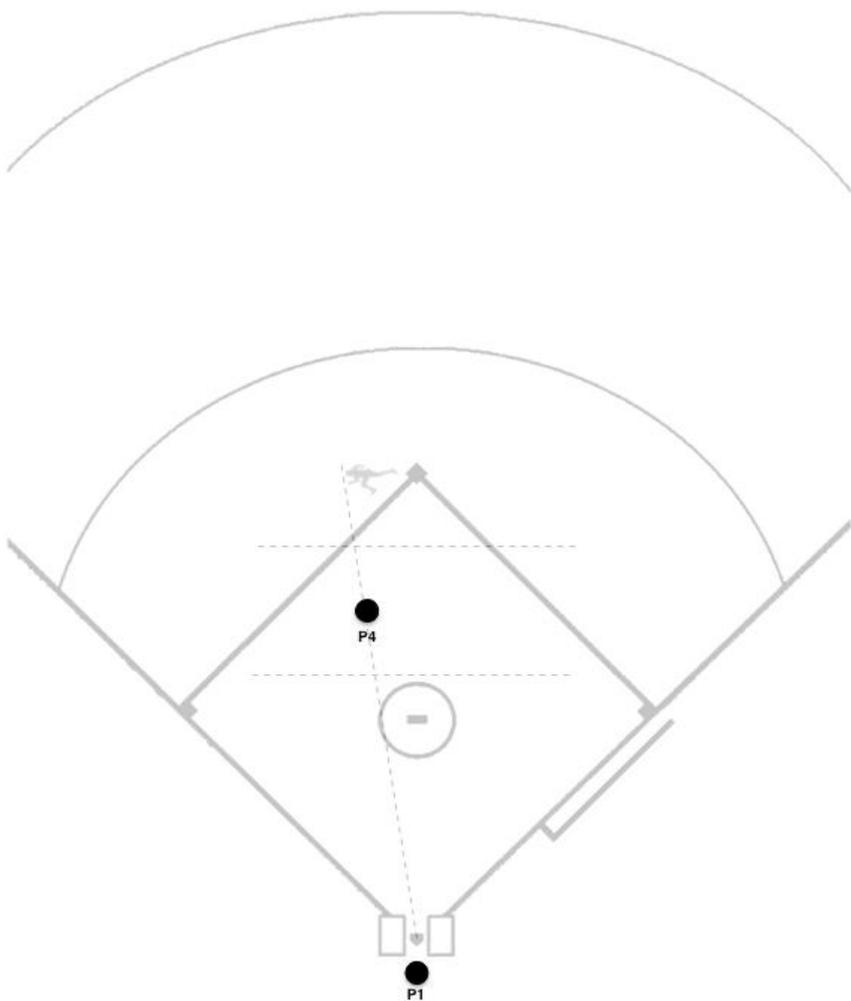
BU sets up on the 3rd base side of the mound, using a guide line from the edge of home plate past the edge of the 18' pitching circle, and midway between the back edge of the 18' pitching circle and the 2nd base **cut-out** area. BU will assume a hands-on-knees **set position** as the pitcher is *touching the rubber* and remain there until the pitch is delivered, or the pitcher disengages the rubber. BU will be square to the batter in this starting position. **This position is referred to as P4.**

NOTES

Prior to each pitch being delivered in this situation, BU must give a quick ***shoulder check*** over his right shoulder to help anticipate what the runner at 2nd is doing on each pitch; this helps BU anticipate and react quicker to developing plays.

SITUATION 2U-65

BASIC POSITIONS



SITUATION 2U-66

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

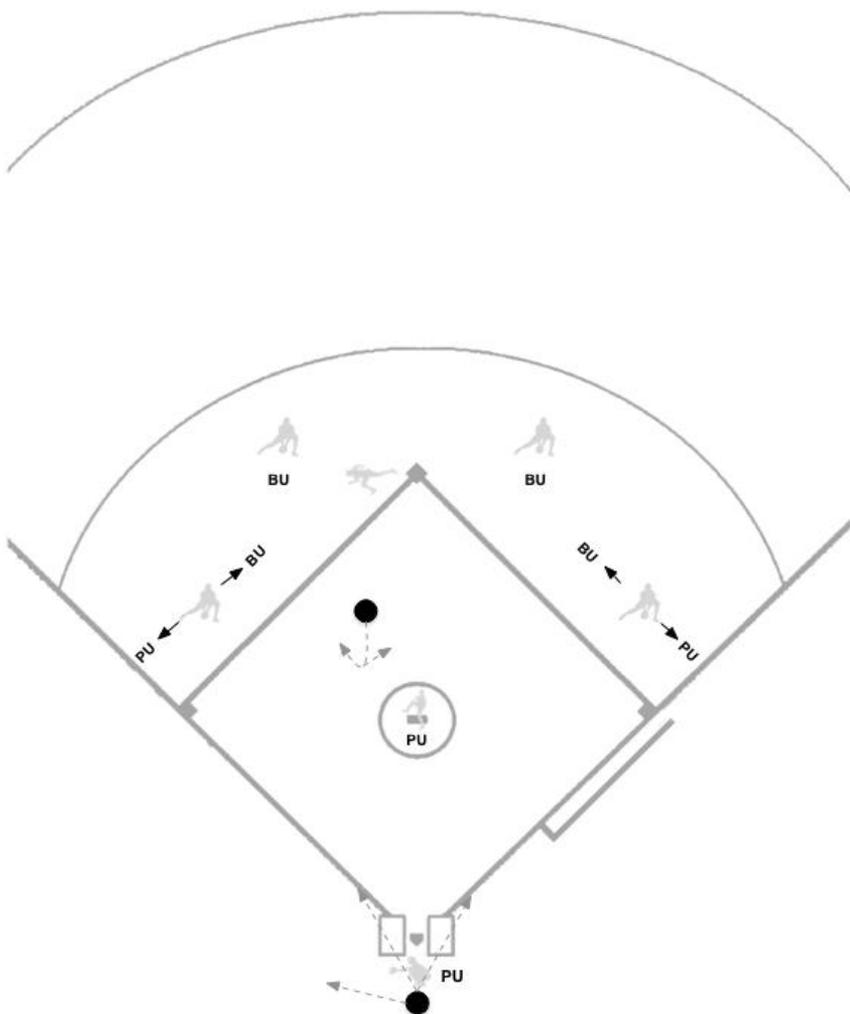
PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls hit to the pitcher. PU is also responsible for all fly balls hit to the catcher. PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls, which cause the 1st or 3rd baseman to *move towards the foul line*. When a fly ball is hit, PU should swing out from home plate a few feet in to foul territory in the direction of the 3rd base to observe the play, unless it requires a **fair/foul** decision, in which case PU will take a set position on the appropriate foul line.

BASE UMPIRE

BU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls to all the infielders with the exception of those taking the 1st or 3rd baseman towards the foul line. BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest, glancing back over his shoulder to watch the batter-runner touch 1st base. BU may have to take a few steps back towards the mound to allow room for the fielder to catch the ball. BU should avoid back-stepping and should use cross-over steps.

SITUATION 2U-66

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD



SITUATION 2U-67

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD (1ST BASE SIDE)

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately move to a position on 1st base line extended remaining in the vicinity of home plate. PU would be responsible for watching R2 touching 3rd base and any possible plays at home on R2. If the ground ball or bunt requires a **fair/foul** decision, PU will take a position straddling the foul line, either down the line towards a base, or on a foul line extended. PU would then return quickly to a position at home plate for any possible plays. PU resumes his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. With a ground ball hit to the 1st base side of the infield, if BU reads that the play will be at 1st base, BU will move aggressively through the working area getting distance towards 1st base for the possible play on the batter-runner. BU must get to a complete set for the play at 1st base on the batter-runner. BU is also responsible for all plays at 2nd and 3rd base on the runner at 2nd base. If the batter-runner is safe at 1st base, BU will remain in the working area splitting the difference between the two runners. If the batter-runner is out at 1st base, BU will pick up the remaining runner at 2nd or 3rd base and get distance towards that base. It is important for BU to immediately read where the play will occur. With a bunt, BU must not over commit to any base and must read the play. On a ground ball to the 1st base side, the majority of plays will result at 1st base on the batter-runner.

NOTES

BU must show good situational awareness, especially when the possibility of a sacrifice bunt exists. The following could be considered by BU: conversation between fielders and the dugout, starting positions of the defence, awareness as to who is batting including position in the line-up and speed of the batter, and speed of the runners on base. All these factors will assist BU in reacting to the play as it develops.

SITUATION 2U-68

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD (3RD BASE SIDE)

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all **fair/foul** decisions on the 3rd base line; he must be in a set position on the line or 3rd base line extended if needed. On a bunt, PU would remain in the vicinity of home plate and once the ball is released by the fielder, return to home plate. He would be responsible for R2 touching 3rd as well as his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base. On a ground ball to the 3rd base side of the infield and the runner from 2nd does not immediately attempt to advance towards 3rd, PU has the option of heading towards 3rd base to help BU. PU will head to a spot $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to 3rd base communicating, **“I’ve got 3rd if he comes!”** If the runner from 2nd attempts to advance to 3rd base after the infielder releases the ball, and PU reads that the 1st baseman will throw to 3rd to make a play on the runner from 2nd, PU will move in to the cut-out area communicating, **“I’ve got 3rd!”** PU would remain on the infield grass and is also responsible for plays at home plate. If PU reads there will NOT be a play, he will immediately return home in foul territory communicating to BU, **“I’m going home!”**

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. With a ground ball hit to the 3rd base side of the infield, BU must not over-commit to one particular base; BU is originally responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base. BU must anticipate a potential play at 3rd base for any ground balls hit to the left side of the short stop. If the play develops at 1st base, BU will get as much distance as possible through the working area and come to a set position. BU must also be listening for PU communicating that he is taking responsibility for any plays made back across the infield on the runner from 2nd base; BU must visually confirm that PU is at 3rd base prior to releasing that responsibility. BU is responsible for all plays at all bases unless PU takes responsibility for the play on the runner from 2nd base at 3rd base. Once BU makes a decision on the initial play, he would then move to a position either splitting the difference between the remaining runners or getting distance towards the only remaining runner as PU returns home.

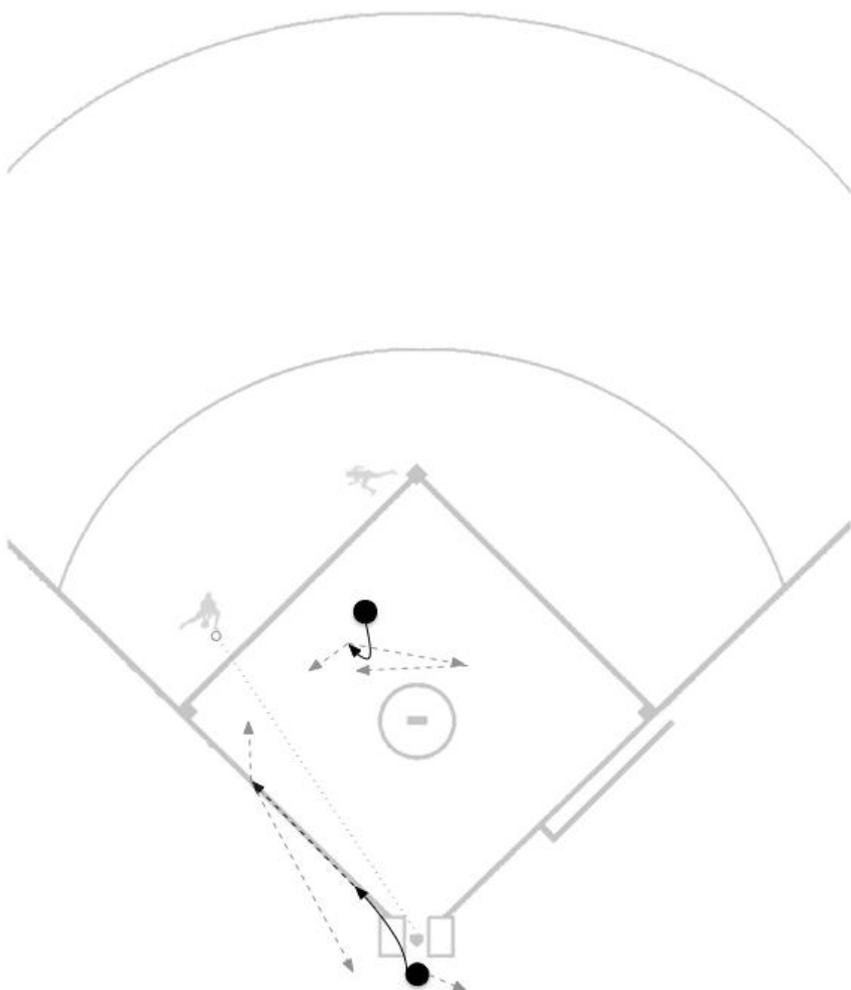
NOTES

R2 ONLY

This is an advanced mechanic and should be discussed prior to the game by the crew. It is acceptable for PU to simply remain at home as in 2U-67; either mechanic requires communication between the crew as well as visually confirming where your partner is.

SITUATION 2U-68

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD (3RD BASE SIDE)



SITUATION 2U-69

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

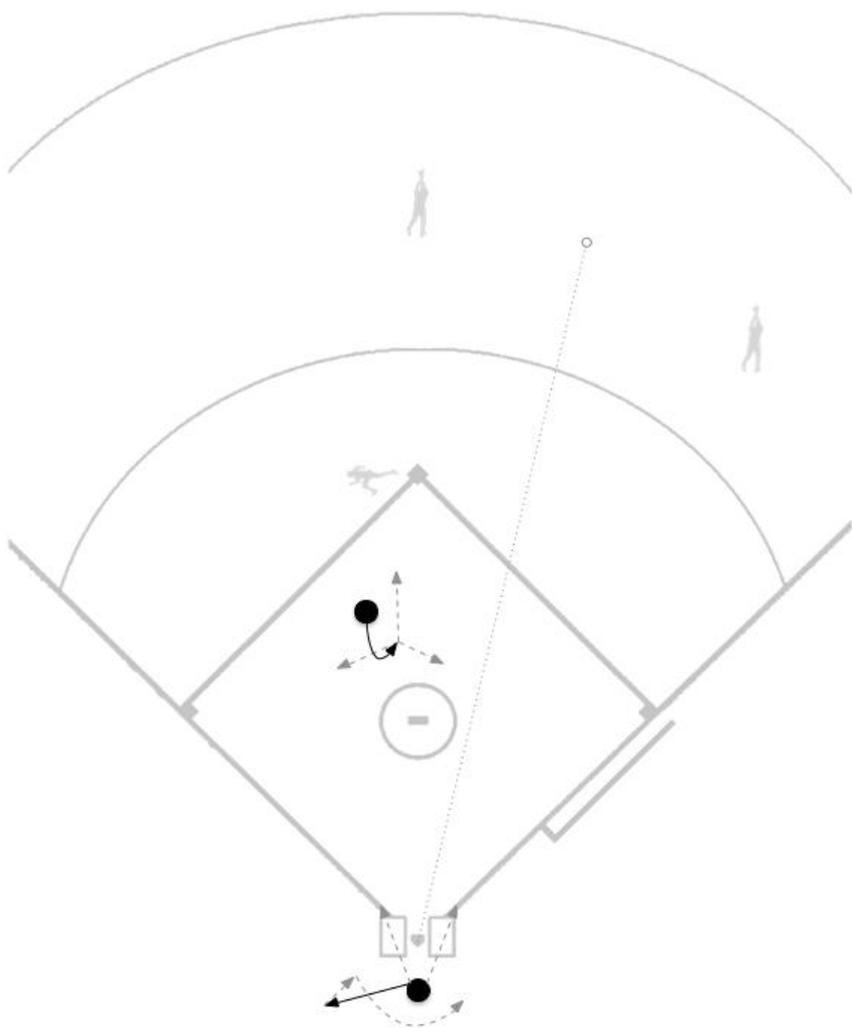
PU is responsible for all **fair/foul** decisions on the 1st and 3rd base line; he must be in a set position on the line or on 1st or 3rd base line extended if needed. PU will aggressively move to a position in the vicinity of 1st base line extended, approximately 15' away from home plate and is responsible for watching the runner from 2nd base touch 3rd base, and any obstructions rounding 3rd base. If there is a play at home, PU will move to a position 10-12' from home plate on 1st base line extended to read the play. From 1st base line extended, PU has the option of staying there or adjusting to 3rd base line extended for a possible swipe tag. PU should not be moving to make a call and must be in a set position. Soon as PU reads the base hit, or extra base hit, he could communicate to BU; **“I’m staying home!”** which acts as a good reminder to BU that he is responsible for all plays on the bases.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU must hold his position within the working area and let the play determine where he needs to move. BU is responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base, as well as the batter-runner touching 3rd base. Once BU reads where a play will occur, he will get distance towards the play and come to a set position to make the call. If there is no play, he should be in a position splitting the difference between the runners, and if there is only one remaining runner, he should get to a position close to that runner for any possible plays.

SITUATION 2U-69

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-70
RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all fly balls, which take either the left fielder or the right fielder *towards the foul lines*. PU must communicate when he is taking responsibility for the fly ball and any **fair/foul** and/or **catch/no catch** decisions.

BASE UMPIRE

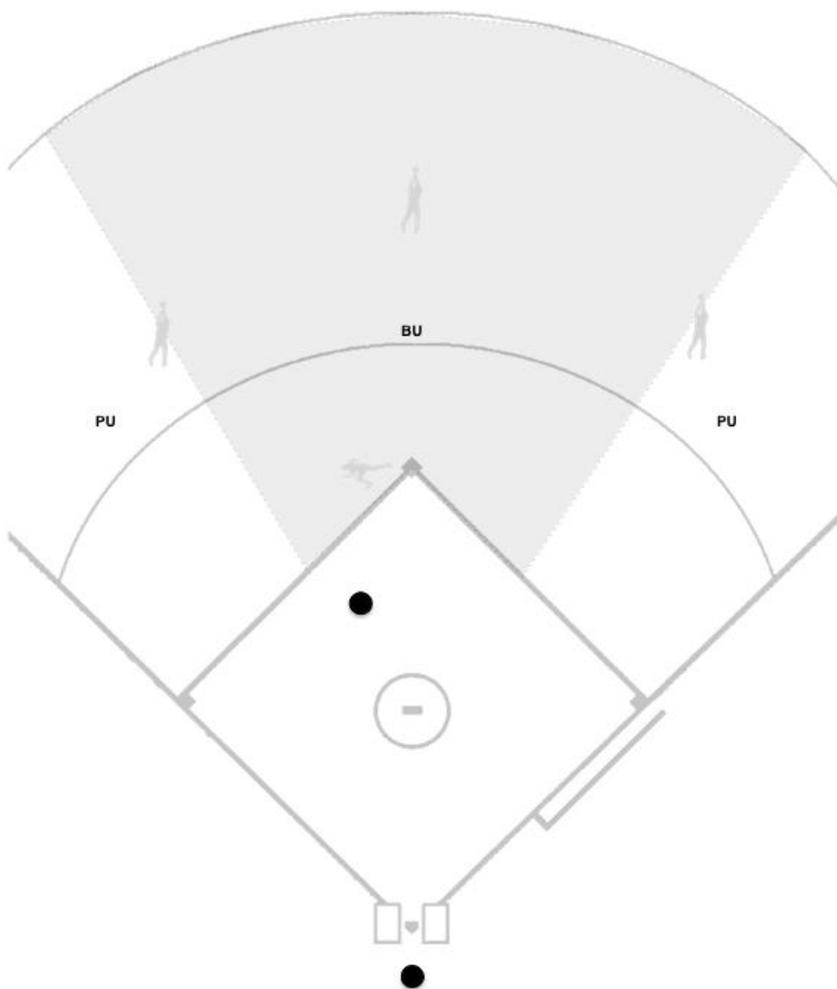
BU is responsible for all fly balls from the left fielder *straight in* all the way to the right fielder *straight in*.

NOTES

As a general rule of thumb, for balls hit in the vicinity of the right fielder or left fielder, the BU will be responsible for the **catch/no catch** unless PU communicates that he is taking responsibility. This will help avoid confusion as a crew.

SITUATION 2U-70

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-71

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT
FIELDER**

PLATE UMPIRE

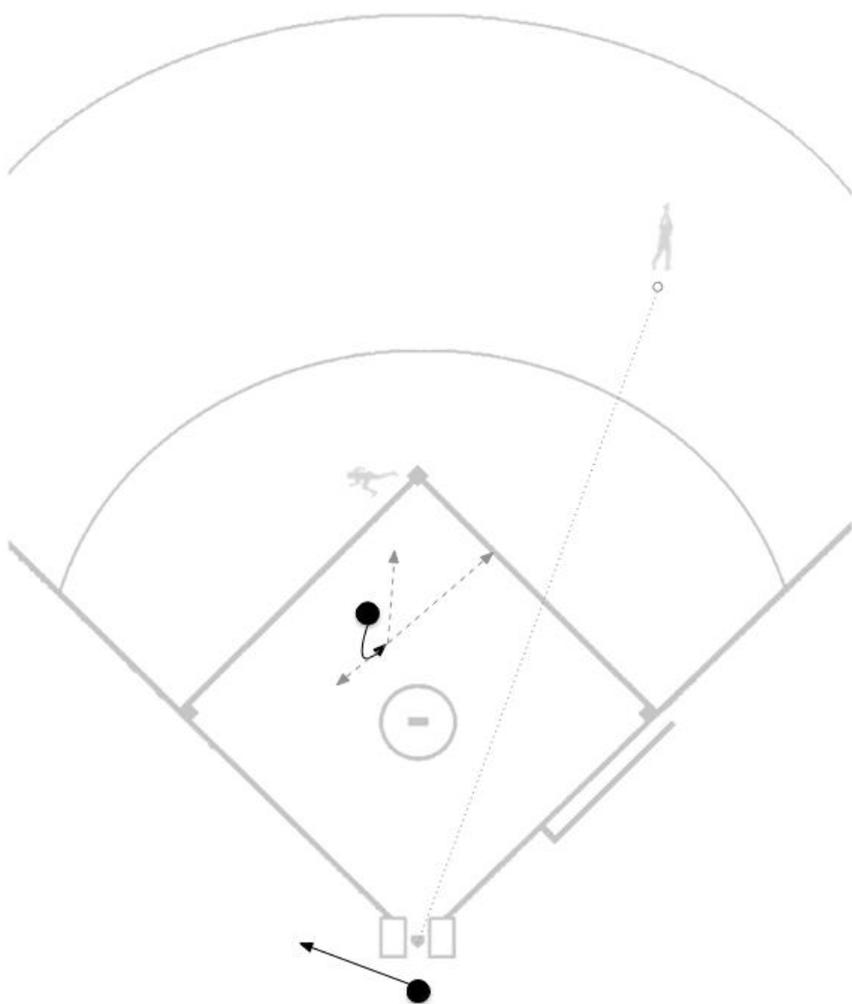
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately move aggressively to a position in the vicinity of 1st base line extended, approximately 15' away from home plate. PU has no responsibilities in this situation but will watch the entire play from this location. PU would be responsible for any overthrows, which may occur as a result of the play. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-69.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will aggressively move in to the working area, without back-stepping. BU is responsible for the **catch/no catch** call. It is important for BU to use the **pause, read, and react** technique in this situation. If BU reads the fly ball to be a *trouble* ball, he will move to the edge of the grass dirt line and take a standing set to make the call. BU must aggressively signal the catch/no catch with a mechanic and voice. The priority is the **catch/no catch** call. If the fly ball is routine, BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU is responsible for R2 tagging up at 2nd, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. If there is a play at 3rd base on R2 attempting to tag up, BU will get as much distance as possible towards 3rd base coming to a set position to make a call. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-69.

SITUATION 2U-71

FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT FIELDER



SITUATION 2U-72

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

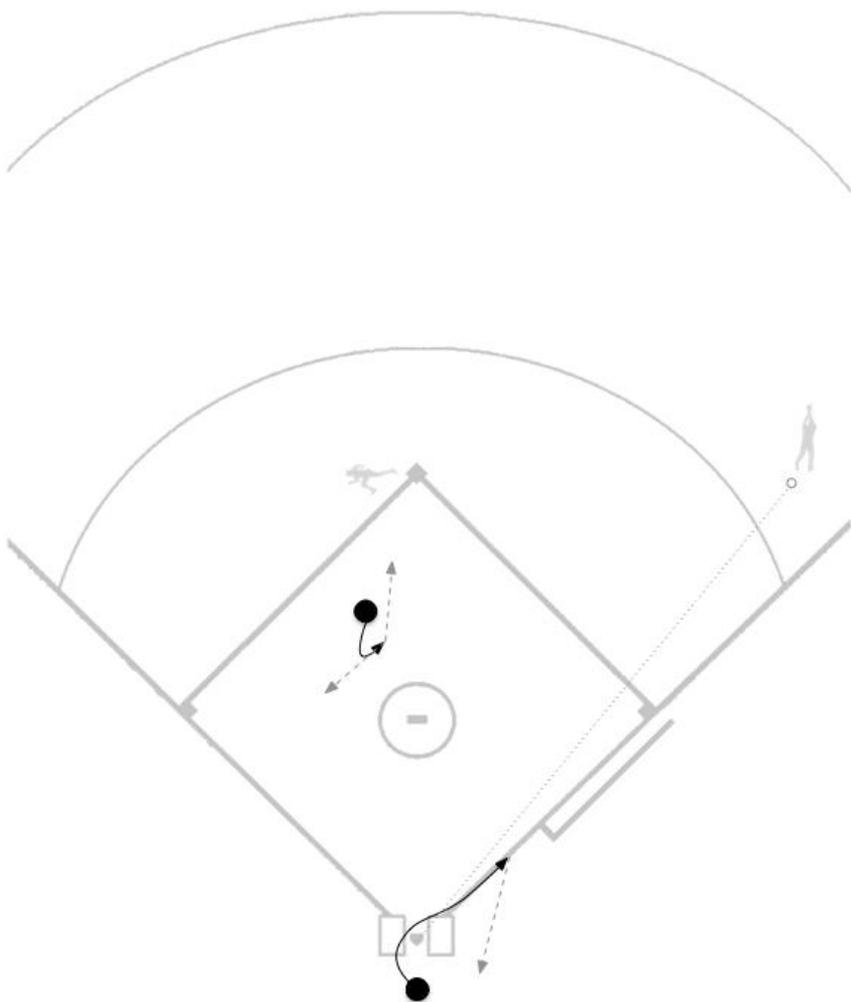
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 1st base line. PU will communicate to the BU, **“I’m on the line!”** PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU will get as much distance as possible towards the play and come to a standing set position to make a call. PU must remember to only get as much distance as will allow him to return to home plate for any possible play should the ball not be caught. He is also responsible for the ball going out of play. Once the ball is fielded, PU will immediately return home. There may be times when PU will have to return to home while keeping his eye on the play in the outfield. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-69.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play, lining up the catch in the outfield with the runner from 2nd tagging up. He is responsible for the runner at 2nd tagging up, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. BU is responsible for all plays on all runners at 1st, 2nd, or 3rd base; it is important for BU to not over commit to any base and let the play determine where he should move. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-69.

SITUATION 2U-72

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE



SITUATION 2U-73

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

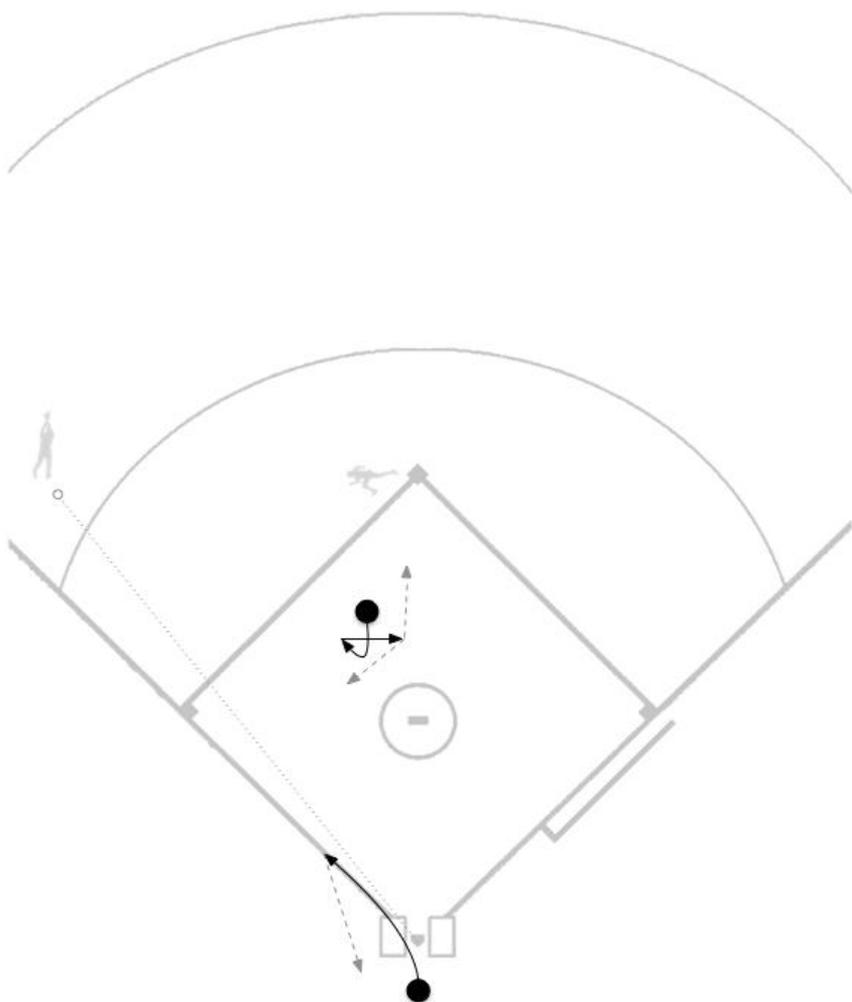
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 3rd base line. PU will communicate to the BU, “**I’ve got the ball!**” PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU will get as much distance as possible towards the **catch/no catch** and come to a standing set position to make a call. PU is NOT responsible for plays at 3rd base on the runner from 2nd and should the runner attempt to advance, PU must move away from 3rd base returning towards home plate once the ball is released to avoid having the appearance of two umpires at one base. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-69.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play, opening up the catch in the outfield with the runner from 2nd tagging up. He is responsible for the runner at 2nd tagging up, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. BU is responsible for all plays on all runners at 1st, 2nd, or 3rd base; it is important for BU to not over commit to any base and let the play determine where he should move. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-69.

SITUATION 2U-73

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE



SITUATION 2U-74
PICK-OFF AT 2ND BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

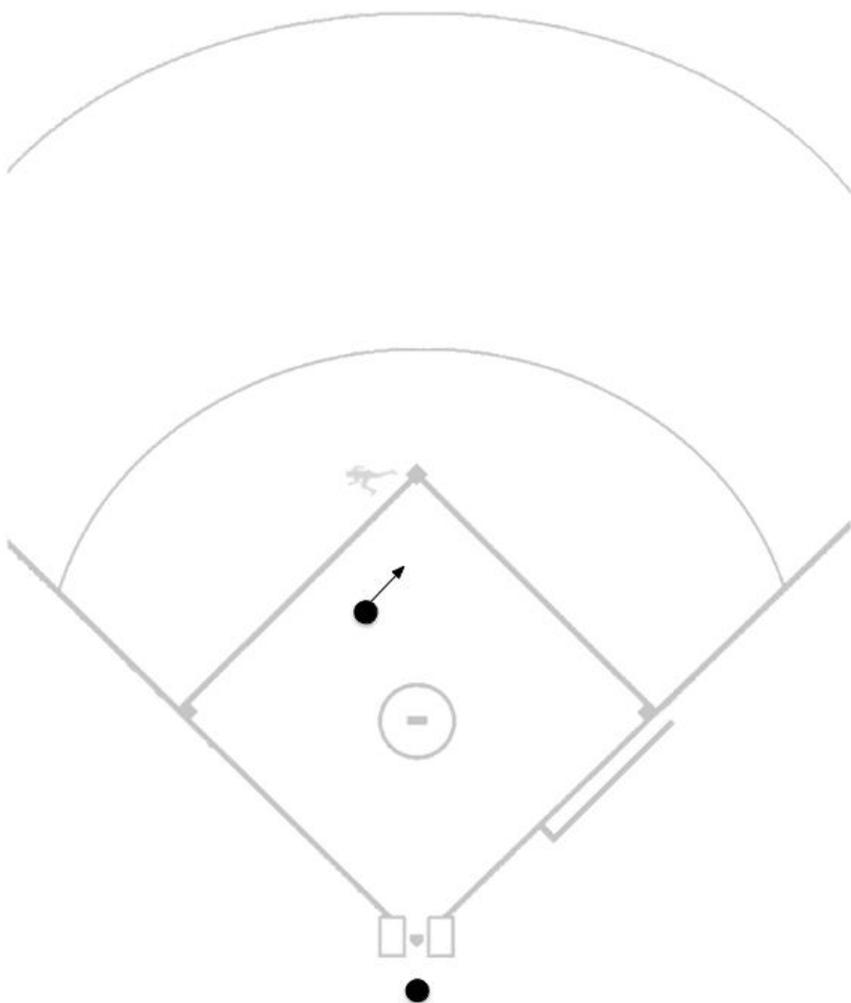
PU will remain behind the catcher in P1 and watch the play at 2nd base. If the pick-off is the result of a throw made by the catcher after a pitch is delivered, PU must watch carefully for the batter interfering with the catcher's throw to 2nd base. If it is questionable as to whether the batter interfered with the catcher's throw, PU may signal, "**That's nothing**", extending his arms in a safe mechanic, acknowledging that he observed the play and deemed there was no interference. PU will remain in the vicinity of home plate and observe the play. Should a play develop at 3rd base, PU would be responsible for any overthrows. If a run-down should develop, refer to 2U-76.

BASE UMPIRE

There are two possible pick-off plays at 2nd base; the first where the pitcher makes a throw to 2nd base, and the second where the catcher makes a throw to 2nd base after a pitch. BU should recognize a pick-off play developing using his peripheral vision and a shoulder check prior to the pitch being delivered, as well as cues from the fielders and the catcher's reaction. In either situation, the mechanics would be the same with the only difference being the distance BU will get towards 2nd base. BU must not begin to move too quickly as he also is responsible for any check swing appeals if necessary. BU will start by taking a drop step with his left foot towards 2nd base; BU must not turn his back on the ball and must keep an eye on the ball. BU will continue moving towards 2nd base essentially letting the ball turn him into the play as the throw passes by and reaches 2nd base. BU must be in a set position for the play at 2nd base, even if it means getting less distance towards 2nd base from his original starting position. If the throw gets by 2nd base, BU must be prepared to bounce ahead of the runner for any possible plays developing at 3rd base.

SITUATION 2U-74

PICK-OFF AT 2ND BASE



SITUATION 2U-75

STEAL OF 3RD BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

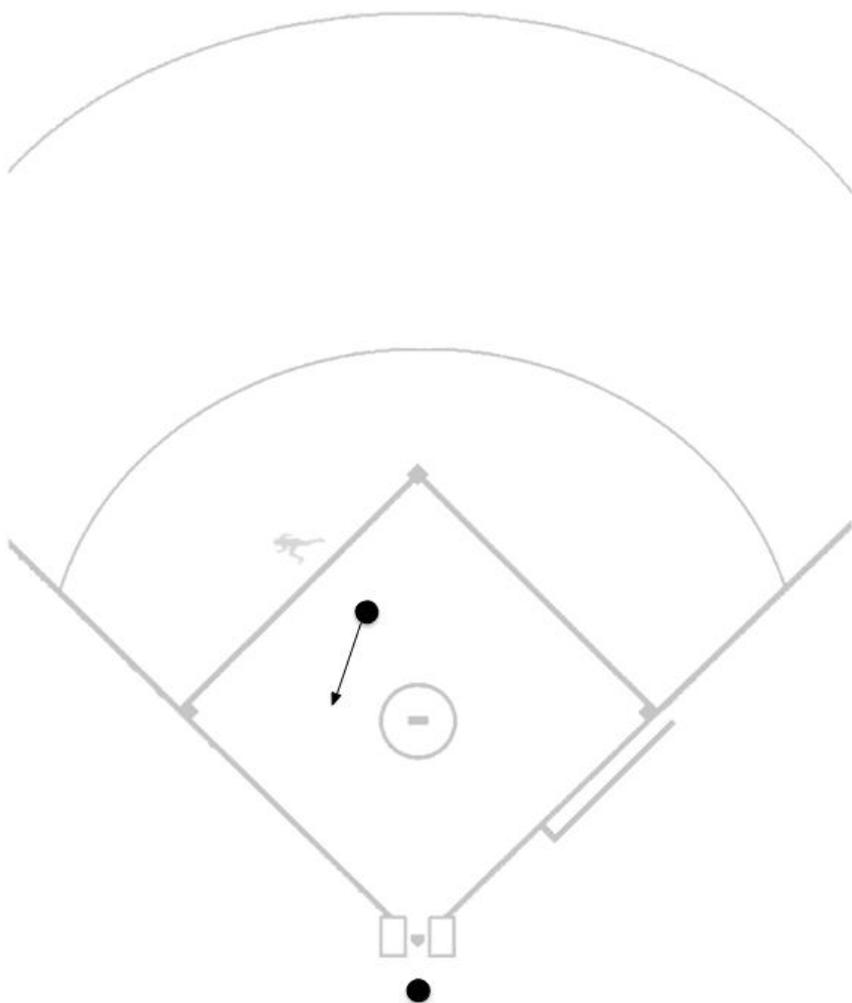
PU will remain behind the catcher in **P1** and watch the play at 3rd base. PU must watch carefully for the batter interfering with the catcher's throw to 3rd base. If it is questionable as to whether the batter interfered with the catcher's throw, PU may signal, "**That's nothing**", extending his arms in a safe mechanic, acknowledging that he observed the play and deemed there was no interference. PU will remain in the vicinity of home plate and observe the play. PU would be responsible for any overthrows along the 3rd base line.

BASE UMPIRE

BU should recognize a steal play developing using his peripheral vision with a shoulder check, as well as cues from the fielders and the catcher's reaction. BU must not begin to move too quickly as he also is responsible for any check swing appeals if necessary. BU will immediately move towards an imaginary 45' line along the 3rd base line to get in to position to make a call at 3rd base; moving directly towards 3rd base does not allow BU to create a good angle to see the play. BU will get as much distance as possible and still be in a set position to watch the play. A correct **P4** starting position will help BU create a good angle to see the play at 3rd base.

SITUATION 2U-75

STEAL OF 3RD BASE



SITUATION 2U-76

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

With a run-down developing between 2nd and 3rd, PU once recognizing this will immediately head down to 3rd base along the 3rd base line towards the cut-out area. It is very important that PU read the play from the cut-out area and must be aware that any plays at 3rd base belong to BU until PU communicates responsibility. PU must be careful not to run off the BU, and once the runner is *running away from the cut-out*, PU will then move in to the cut-out area. As PU moves in to the cut-out area to take responsibility, he will communicate, **“I’ve got this end! I’ve got this end!”** PU is responsible for plays on the runner at the cut-out area only. PU is responsible for overthrows along the 3rd base side, and on any overthrow PU would return home immediately remaining on the infield side of the 3rd base line.

BASE UMPIRE

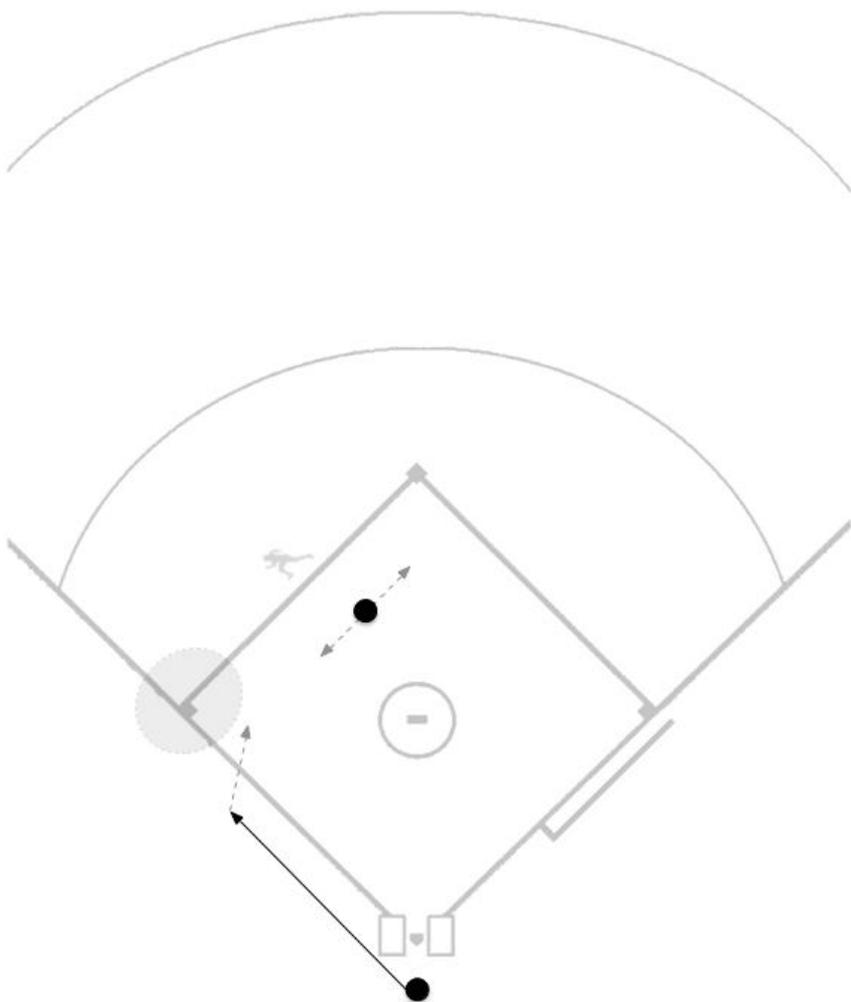
With a run-down developing between 2nd and 3rd, BU is responsible for all of the run-down until PU communicates responsibility for the cut-out area only. BU must try to stay ahead of the runner, moving parallel with the grass-dirt line while not getting too close to the play. BU must be listening for PU communicating responsibility for the cut-out area.

NOTES

It is important that umpires communicate with each other during a run-down situation. For any decisions in the area between the two umpires’ responsibilities, they must take time to look at each other and communicate as to avoid both making a call on the same play.

SITUATION 2U-76

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD BASE



R2 & R3

CONTENTS

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SITUATION 2U-80	BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD
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SITUATION 2U-77

BASIC POSITIONS

PLATE UMPIRE

PU stands in the slot behind the catcher until the batter hits the ball. The **box** and the **scissors** stance are acceptable for calling balls and strikes. **This position is referred to as P1.**

BASE UMPIRE

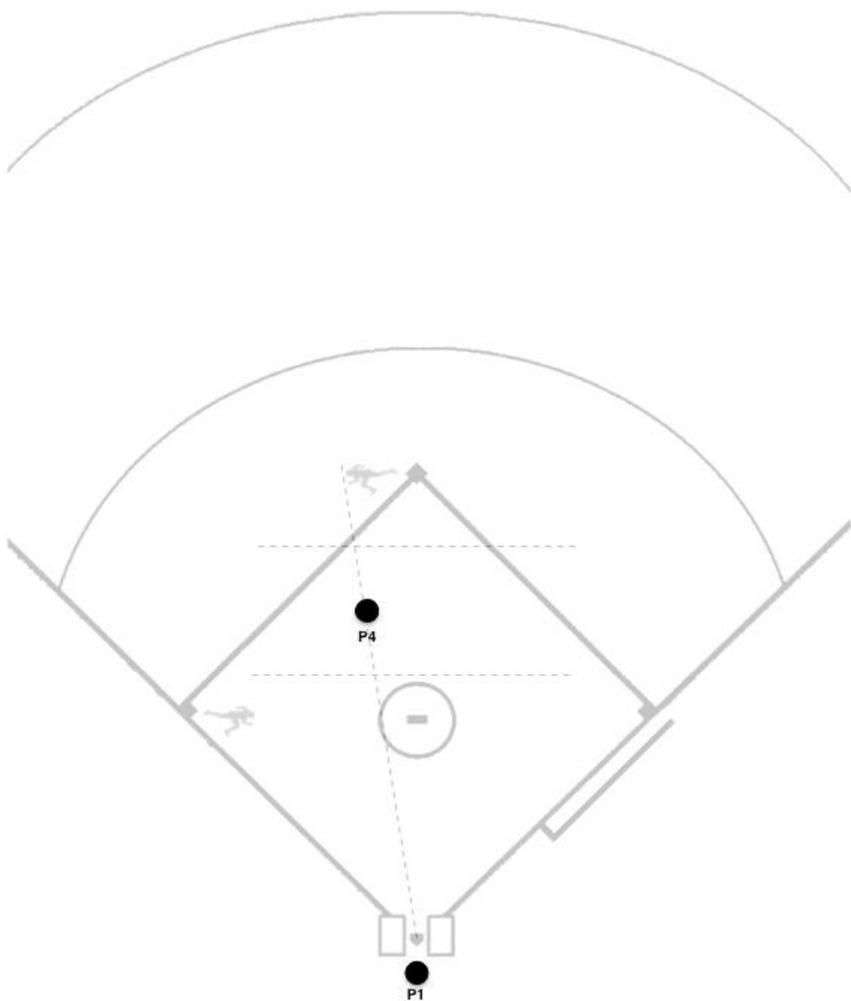
BU sets up on the 3rd base side of the mound, using a guide line from the edge of home plate past the edge of the 18' pitching circle, and midway between the back edge of the 18' pitching circle and the 2nd base **cut-out** area. BU will assume a hands-on-knees **set position** as the pitcher is *touching the rubber* and remain there until the pitch is delivered, or the pitcher disengages the rubber. BU will be square to the batter in this starting position. **This position is referred to as P4.**

NOTES

If the infield is playing in, BU may have to adjust his starting position to avoid being in the way of the fielders. BU will remain in the infield and can move backwards towards the grass dirt line, inwards towards to centre of the field, or a combination of the two. BU will NOT move closer towards home plate however.

SITUATION 2U-77

BASIC POSITIONS



SITUATION 2U-78

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

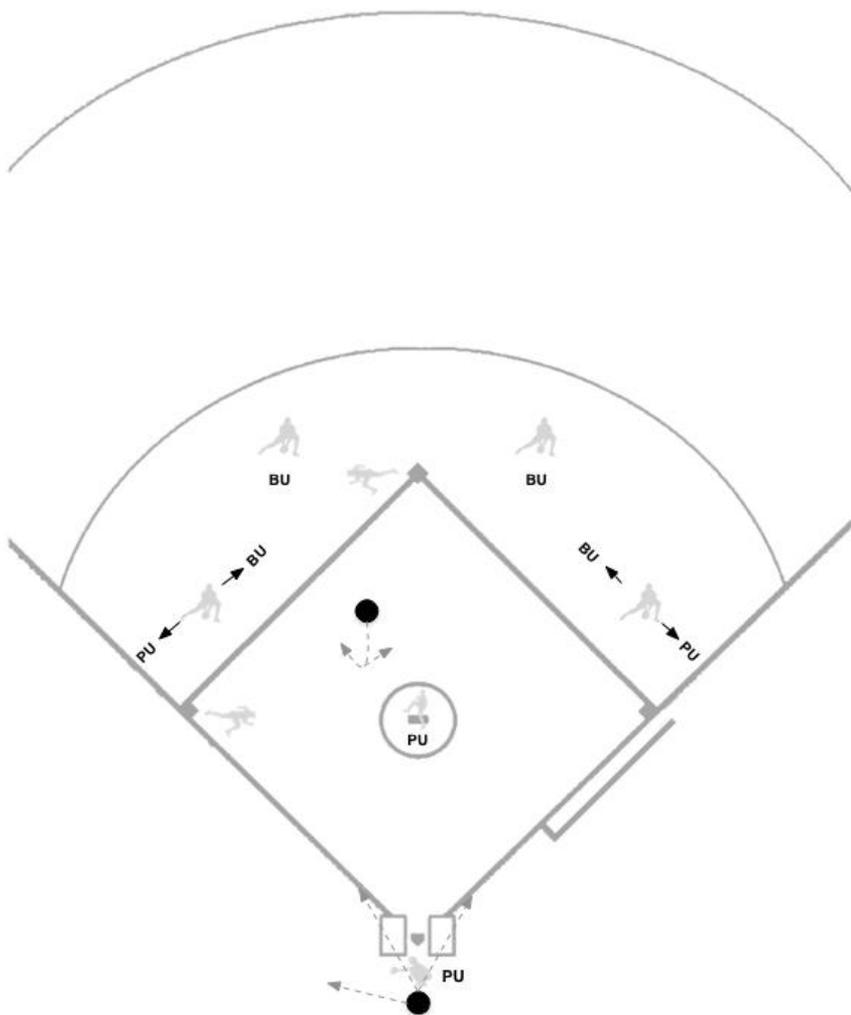
PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls hit to the pitcher. PU is also responsible for all fly balls hit to the catcher. PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls, which cause the 1st or 3rd baseman to *move towards the foul line*. When a fly ball is hit, PU should swing out from home plate a few feet in to foul territory in the direction of the 3rd base to observe the play, unless it requires a **fair/foul** decision, in which case PU will take a set position on the appropriate foul line.

BASE UMPIRE

BU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls to all the infielders with the exception of those taking the 1st or 3rd baseman towards the foul line. BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest, glancing back over his shoulder to watch the batter-runner touch 1st base. BU may have to take a few steps back towards the mound to allow room for the fielder to catch the ball. BU should avoid back-stepping and should use cross-over steps.

SITUATION 2U-78

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD



SITUATION 2U-79

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

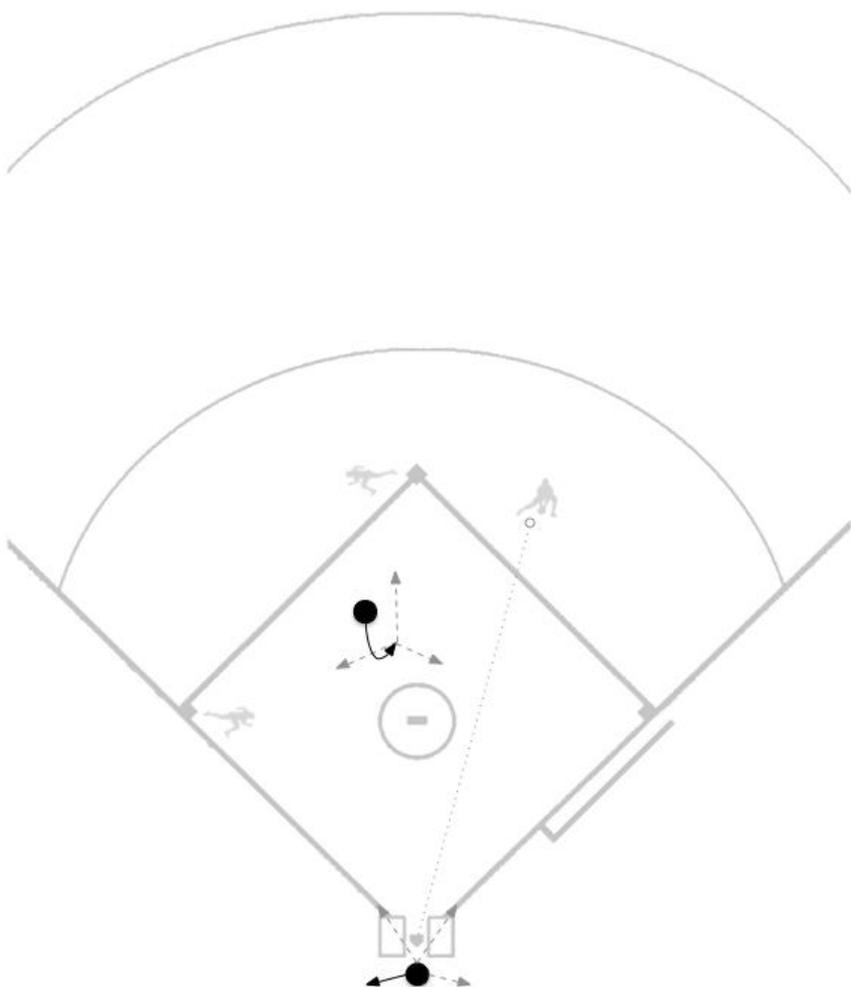
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately move to a position on 1st base line extended remaining in the vicinity of home plate. If the ground ball or bunt requires a **fair/foul** decision, PU will take a position straddling the foul line extended. PU would then move quickly to a position for any possible play at home on R3 attempting to score. If the initial throw is to 1st base, PU resumes his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base. With the infield playing in, if PU reads that there will be a play at home on R3 trying to score, it is acceptable for PU to immediately take a position on 3rd base line extended for the play at home.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. There are several plays, which could occur in this situation. BU should take a couple aggressive steps towards the middle of the field within the working area. BU must not over commit to a base, and will allow the play to develop and react as required getting an angle and distance and being set to make a call at any base. BU is responsible for all calls at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base. If BU reads that the initial play will be at 1st base, he must immediately get distance towards 1st base through the working area behind the mound. Once the initial play is complete, BU must immediately look to see where the runners are and get to a position splitting the difference between the remaining runners.

SITUATION 2U-79

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD



SITUATION 2U-80

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

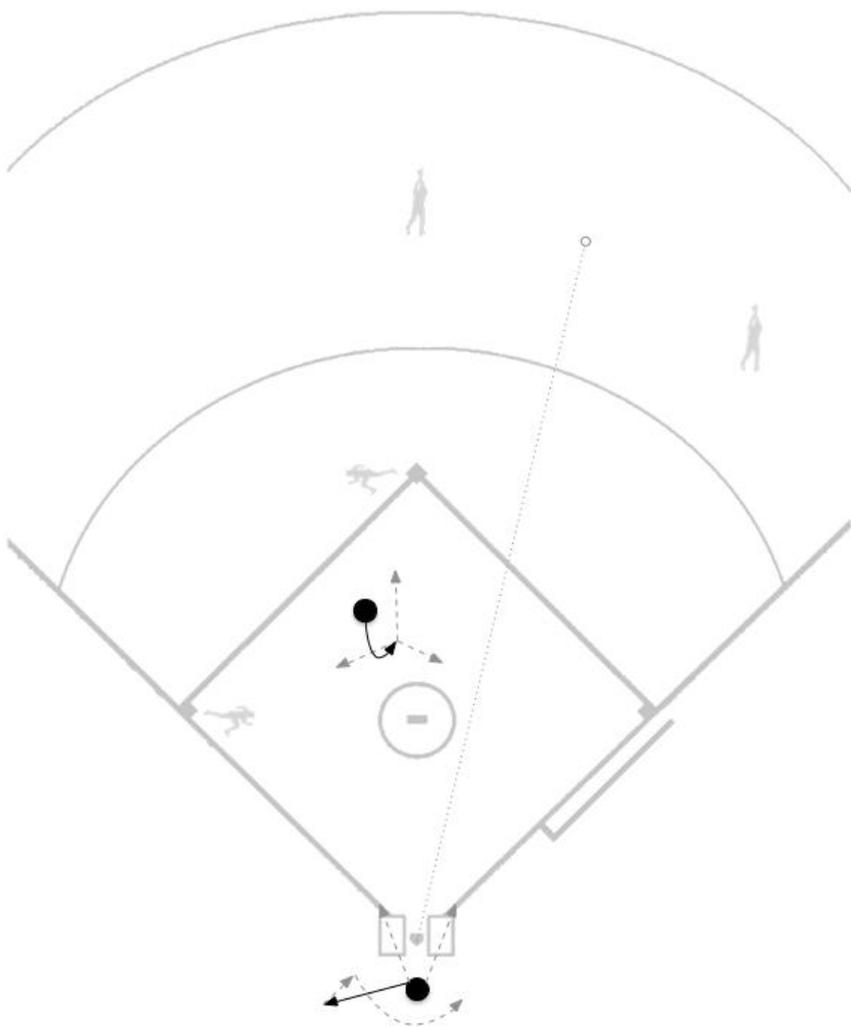
PU is responsible for all **fair/foul** decisions on the 1st and 3rd base line; he must be in a set position on the line or on 1st or 3rd base line extended if needed. PU will aggressively move to a position in the vicinity of 1st base line extended, approximately 15' away from home plate and is responsible for watching all runners, except the batter-runner, touch 3rd base, and any obstructions rounding 3rd base. If there is a play at home, PU will move to a position 10-12' from home plate on 1st base line extended to read the play. From 1st base line extended, PU has the option of staying there or adjusting to 3rd base line extended for a possible swipe tag. PU should not be moving to make a call and must be in a set position.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU must hold his position within the working area and let the play determine where he needs to move. BU is responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base, as well as the batter-runner touching 3rd base. Once BU reads where a play will occur, he will get distance towards the play and come to a set position to make the call. If there is no play, he should be in a position splitting the difference between the runners, and if there is only one remaining runner, he should get to a position close to that runner for any possible plays.

SITUATION 2U-80

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-81

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all fly balls, which take either the left fielder or the right fielder *towards the foul lines*. PU must communicate when he is taking responsibility for the fly ball and any **fair/foul** and/or **catch/no catch** decisions.

BASE UMPIRE

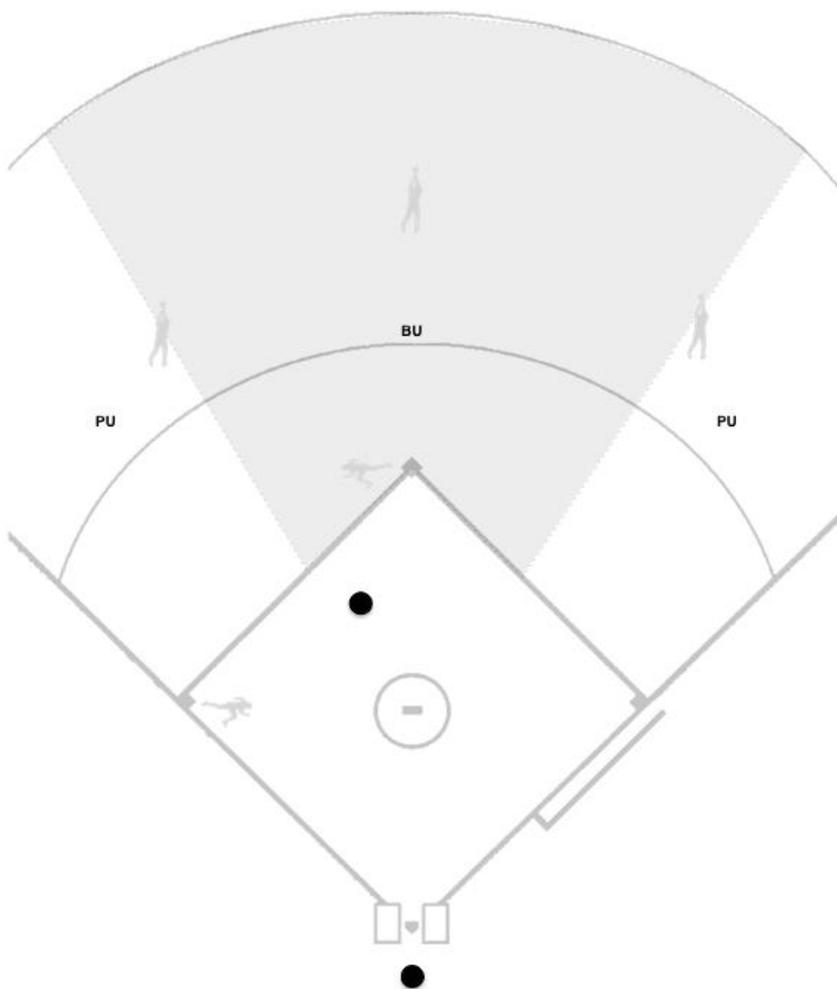
BU is responsible for all fly balls from the left fielder *straight in* all the way to the right fielder *straight in*.

NOTES

As a general rule of thumb, for balls hit in the vicinity of the right fielder or left fielder, the BU will be responsible for the **catch/no catch** unless PU communicates that he is taking responsibility. This will help avoid confusion as a crew.

SITUATION 2U-81

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-82

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT
FIELDER**

PLATE UMPIRE

PU exits left and is responsible for R3 tagging up at 3rd. PU will get to a position, which allows him to see R3 tagging up at 3rd base and the catch in the outfield. PU is responsible for any play at home on R3. PU must remember to balance the distance he gets to line up the tag with being able to return to home plate and get to a position to make a call on R3. PU can take a position on either 1st base line extended or 3rd base line extended for any plays at the plate on R3. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-80.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will aggressively move in to the working area, without back-stepping. BU is responsible for the **catch/no catch** call. It is important for BU to use the **pause, read, and react** technique in this situation. If BU reads the fly ball to be a *trouble* ball, he will move to the edge of the grass dirt line and take a standing set to make the call. BU must aggressively signal the catch/no catch with a mechanic and voice. The priority is the **catch/no catch** call. If the fly ball is routine, BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU is responsible for R2 tagging up at 2nd, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. If there is a play at 3rd base on R2 attempting to tag up, BU will get as much distance as possible towards 3rd base coming to a set position to make a call. BU would also be responsible for any plays back in to 3rd base on R3. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-80.

SITUATION 2U-83

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

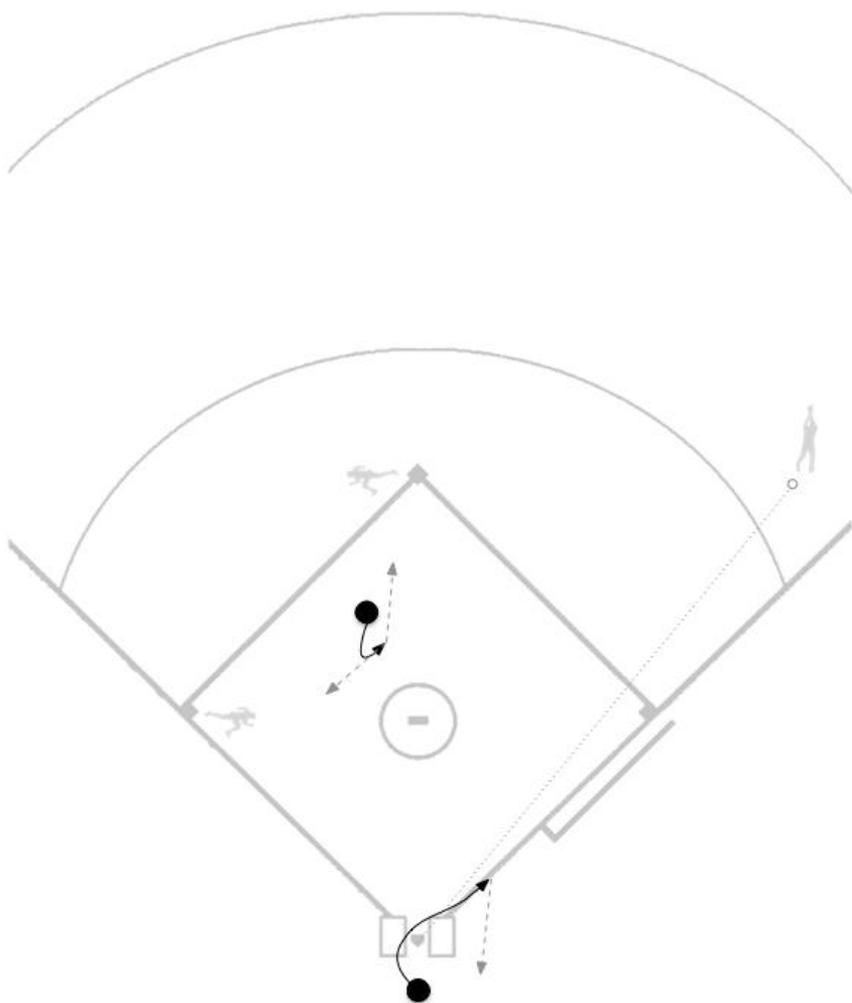
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 1st base line. PU will communicate to his partner, “**I’m on the line!**” PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU should get as much distance as possible towards the call keeping in mind he must be able to return to home plate in time for any possible plays on R3 tagging up. PU is responsible for R3 tagging up and must take a quick glance in that direction after the ball is touched; PU must remember that the **catch/no catch** is the first priority, and not R3 tagging up. It is acceptable for PU to take a position on 3rd base line extended for the play at the plate; the majority of throws from right field result in a swipe tag play at home, and 3rd base line extended is the best possible position to make the call. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-80.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play, lining up the catch in the outfield with the runner from 2nd tagging up. He is responsible for the runner at 2nd tagging up, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. BU is responsible for all plays on all runners at 1st, 2nd, or 3rd base; it is important for BU to not over commit to any base and let the play determine where he should move. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-80.

SITUATION 2U-83

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE



SITUATION 2U-84

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

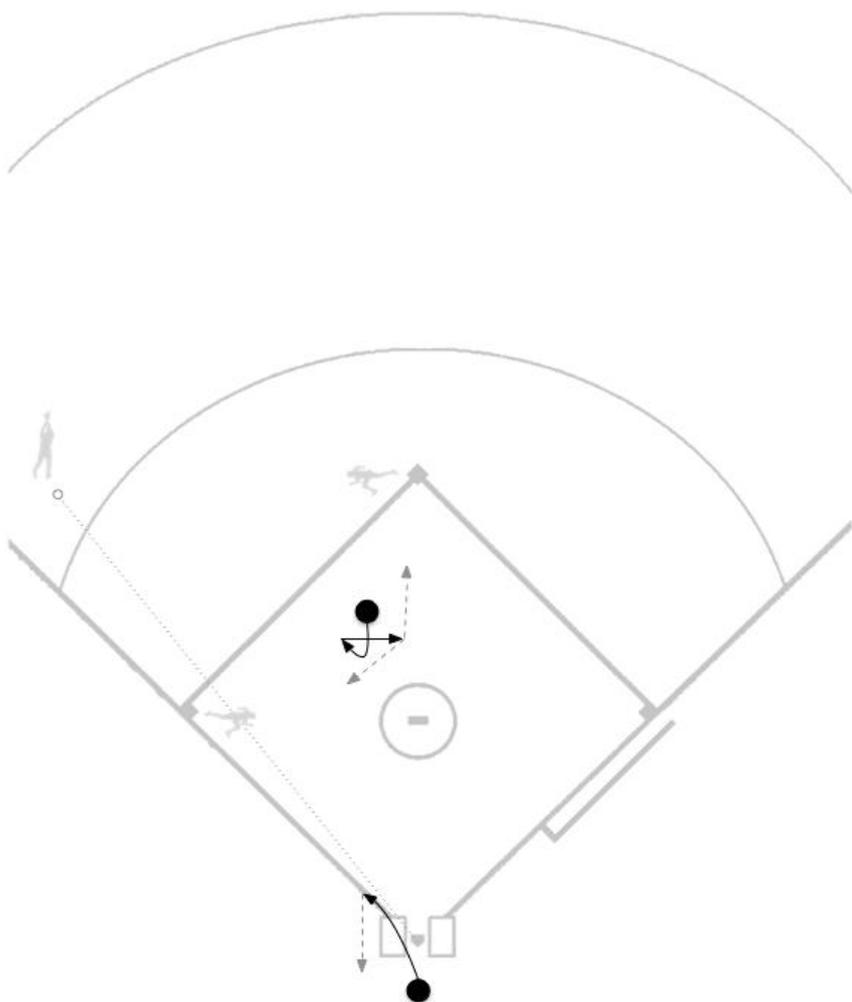
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 3rd base line. PU will communicate to the BU, “**I’ve got the ball!**” PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU should get as much distance as possible towards the call keeping in mind he must be able to return to home plate in time for any possible plays on R3 tagging up. PU is responsible for R3 tagging up and his position on the 3rd base line will allow him to keep the play in front of him while watching for R3 tagging up; PU must remember that the **catch/no catch** is the first priority, and not R3 tagging up. PU will immediately return to a position on 1st base line extended for the play at the plate; the majority of throws from left field result in a sliding play at home, and 1st base line extended is the best possible position to make the call. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-80.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play, lining up the catch in the outfield with the runner from 2nd tagging up. He is responsible for the runner at 2nd tagging up, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. BU is responsible for all plays on all runners at 1st, 2nd, or 3rd base; it is important for BU to not over commit to any base and let the play determine where he should move. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-80.

SITUATION 2U-84

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE



SITUATION 2U-85

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

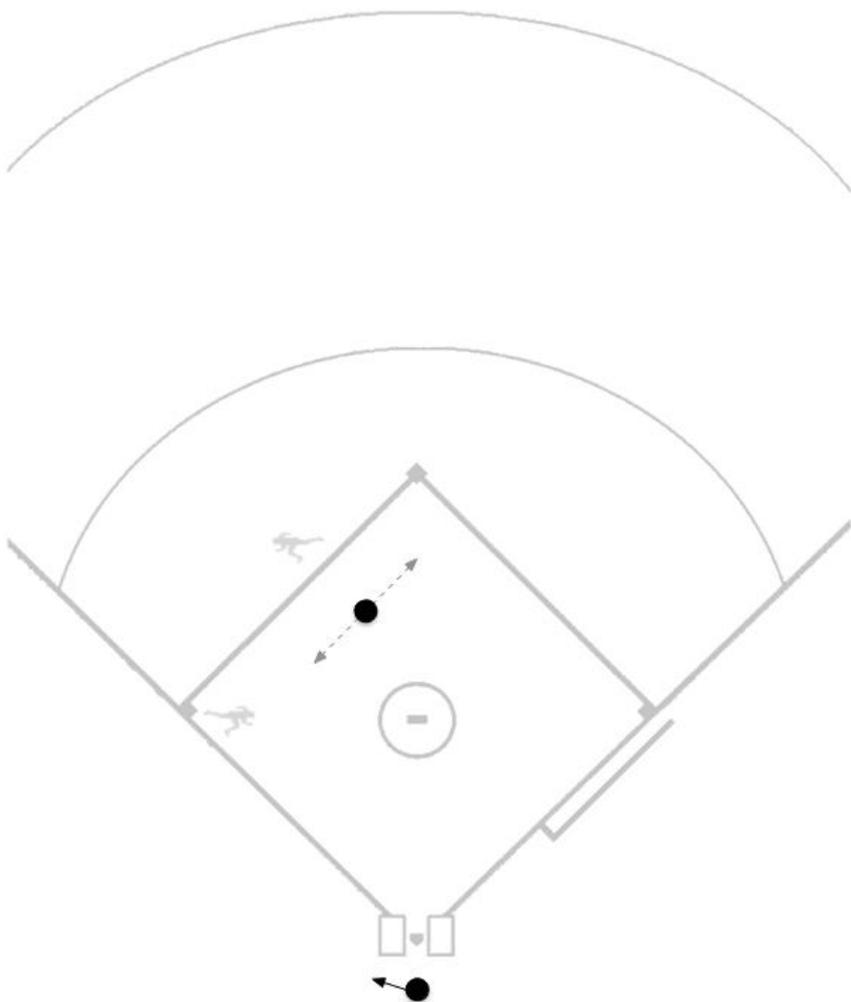
Once PU recognizes the run-down develop between 2nd and 3rd base, he should move to a position at 1st base line extended for any possible plays at the plate on R3 attempting to advance. He must also be aware that a run-down could develop between 3rd and home on R3, see 2U-86. PU is responsible for any overthrows at 3rd base, which may occur during the run-down. Should a play develop at home on R3, the majority of throws from left side of the field result in a sliding play at home, and 1st base line extended is the best possible position to make the call. It is acceptable for PU to communicate with BU, **“I’m staying home!”** reminding BU that he is responsible for the entire run-down.

BASE UMPIRE

With a run-down developing between 2nd and 3rd base, BU is responsible for the entire run-down by himself. BU would remain in a position on the 3rd base side within the working area to observe the run-down. BU must try to stay ahead of the runner, moving parallel with the grass-dirt line while not getting too close to the play. The BU must be aware that should the run-down end abruptly with a play being made at 3rd base on R3 that BU is also responsible for all plays at 3rd base. Should the play result in an out, BU must then get to a position close to the remaining runner at 3rd base.

SITUATION 2U-85

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD BASE



SITUATION 2U-86
RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 3RD AND HOME

PLATE UMPIRE

As soon as PU recognizes the run-down on R3 between 3rd and home, he will immediately move in foul territory to a position to assume responsibility for the *entire* run-down. PU will then communicate to BU, “**I’ve got it all!**” assuming responsibility for the run-down. PU must try to stay ahead of the runner, moving parallel with the foul line while not getting too close to the play. If the run-down finished with R3 and R2 both standing on 3rd base, PU would be responsible for the call at 3rd base.

BASE UMPIRE

BU is responsible for the initial pick-off play at 3rd base on R3. Once the run-down develops, BU would initially be responsible for all subsequent throws at the 3rd base end of the run-down *only until* PU is able to get in to position to assume responsibility for the *entire* run-down. Once PU assumes responsibility, BU will immediately drift back in the direction of the remaining runner at 2nd base and take responsibility for that runner. In the event that both R2 and R3 end up on 3rd base, PU would be responsible for the call at 3rd base.

NOTES

It is important that umpires communicate with each other during a run-down situation. For any decisions in the area between the two umpires’ responsibilities, they must take time to look at each other and communicate as to avoid both making a call on the same play.

R3 ONLY

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SITUATION 2U-87
BASIC POSITIONS

PLATE UMPIRE

PU stands in the slot behind the catcher until the batter hits the ball. The **box** and the **scissors** stance are acceptable for calling balls and strikes. **This position is referred to as P1.**

BASE UMPIRE

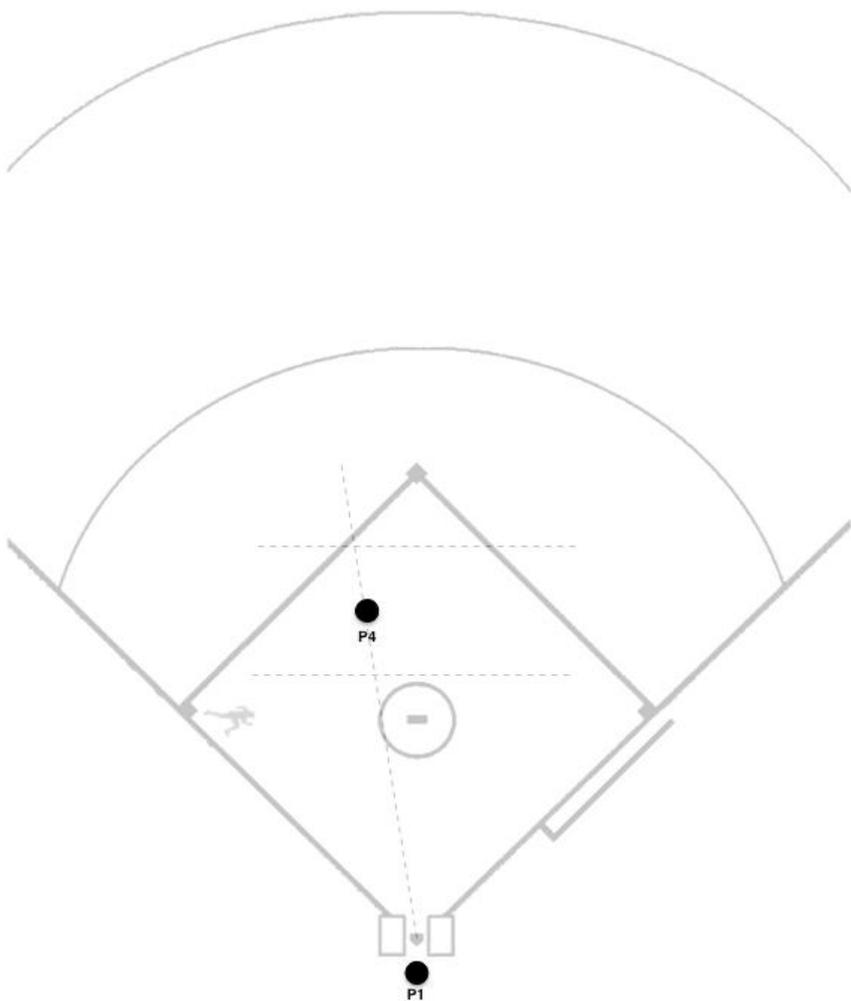
BU sets up on the 3rd base side of the mound, using a guide line from the edge of home plate past the edge of the 18' pitching circle, and midway between the back edge of the 18' pitching circle and the 2nd base **cut-out** area. BU will assume a hands-on-knees **set position** as the pitcher is *touching the rubber* and remain there until the pitch is delivered, or the pitcher disengages the rubber. BU will be square to the batter in this starting position. **This position is referred to as P4.**

NOTES

If the infield is playing in, BU may have to adjust his starting position to avoid being in the way of the fielders. BU will remain in the infield and can move backwards towards the grass dirt line, inwards towards to centre of the field, or a combination of the two. BU will NOT move closer towards home plate however.

SITUATION 2U-87

BASIC POSITIONS



SITUATION 2U-88

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

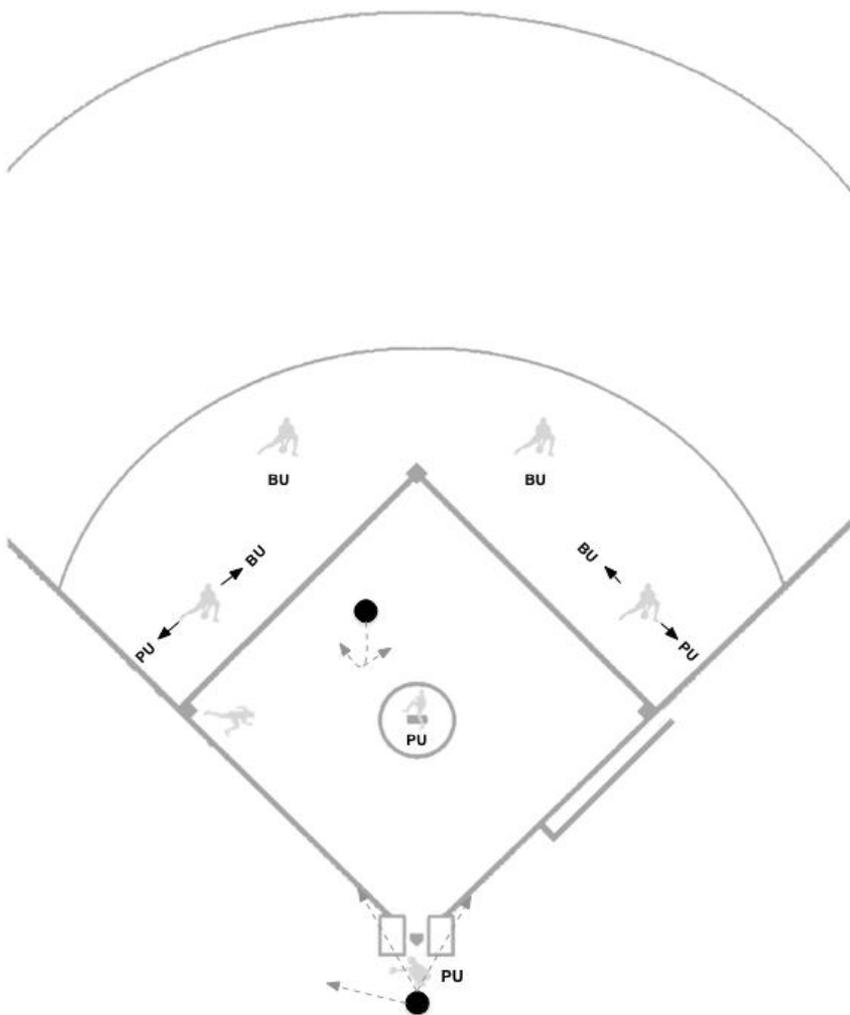
PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls hit to the pitcher. PU is also responsible for all fly balls hit to the catcher. PU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls, which cause the 1st or 3rd baseman to *move towards the foul line*. When a fly ball is hit, PU should swing out from home plate a few feet in to foul territory in the direction of the 3rd base to observe the play, unless it requires a **fair/foul** decision, in which case PU will take a set position on the appropriate foul line.

BASE UMPIRE

BU is responsible for all line drives and fly balls to all the infielders with the exception of those taking the 1st or 3rd baseman towards the foul line. BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest, glancing back over his shoulder to watch the batter-runner touch 1st base. BU may have to take a few steps back towards the mound to allow room for the fielder to catch the ball. BU should avoid back-stepping and should use cross-over steps.

SITUATION 2U-88

RESPONSIBILITIES ON LINE DRIVES OR FLY BALLS TO THE INFIELD



SITUATION 2U-89
GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

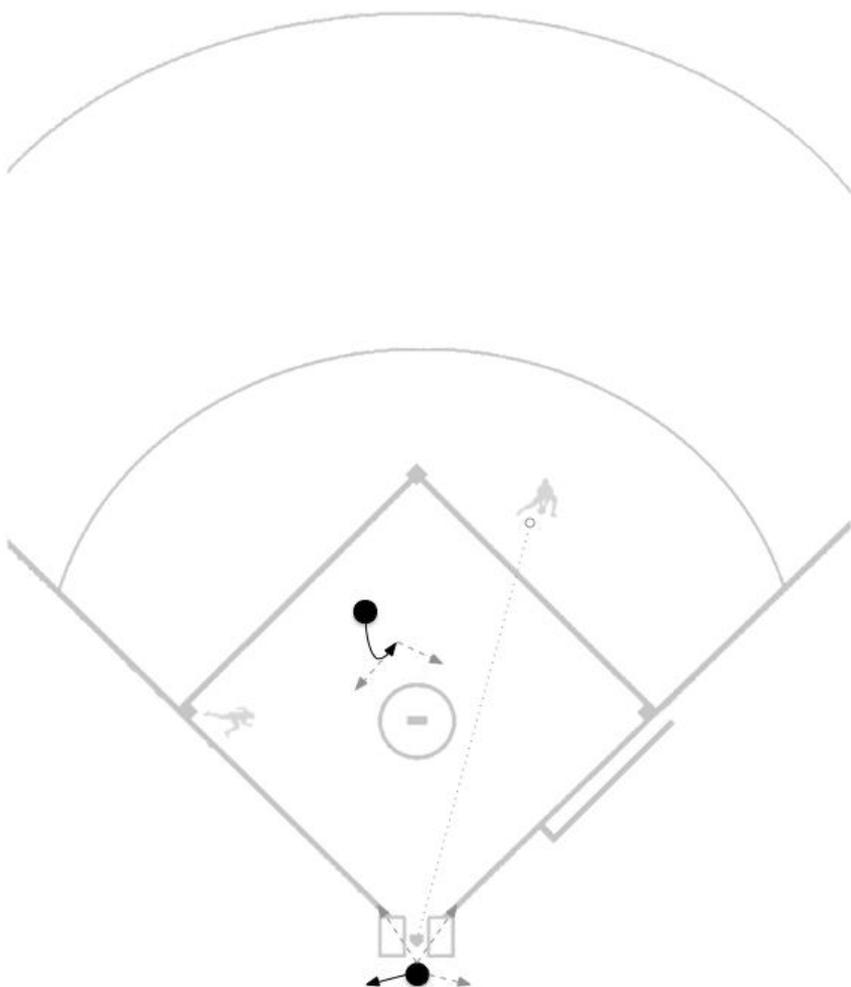
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately move to a position on 1st base line extended remaining in the vicinity of home plate. If the ground ball or bunt requires a **fair/foul** decision, PU will take a position straddling the foul line extended. PU would then move quickly to a position for any possible play at home on R3 attempting to score. If the initial throw is to 1st base, PU resumes his responsibilities as he would with no runners on base. With the infield playing in, if PU reads that there will be a play at home on R3 trying to score, it is acceptable for PU to immediately take a position on 3rd base line extended for the play at home.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU must not over commit to a base, and will allow the play to develop and react as required getting an angle and distance and being set to make a call at any base. BU is responsible for all calls at 1st and 3rd base. If BU reads that the initial play will be at 1st base, he must immediately get distance towards 1st base through the working area behind the mound. Once the initial play is complete, BU must immediately look to see where the remaining runners are, if any, and get to a position splitting the difference between the remaining runners or get distance towards the only remaining runner.

SITUATION 2U-89

GROUND BALL OR BUNT TO THE INFIELD



SITUATION 2U-90

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

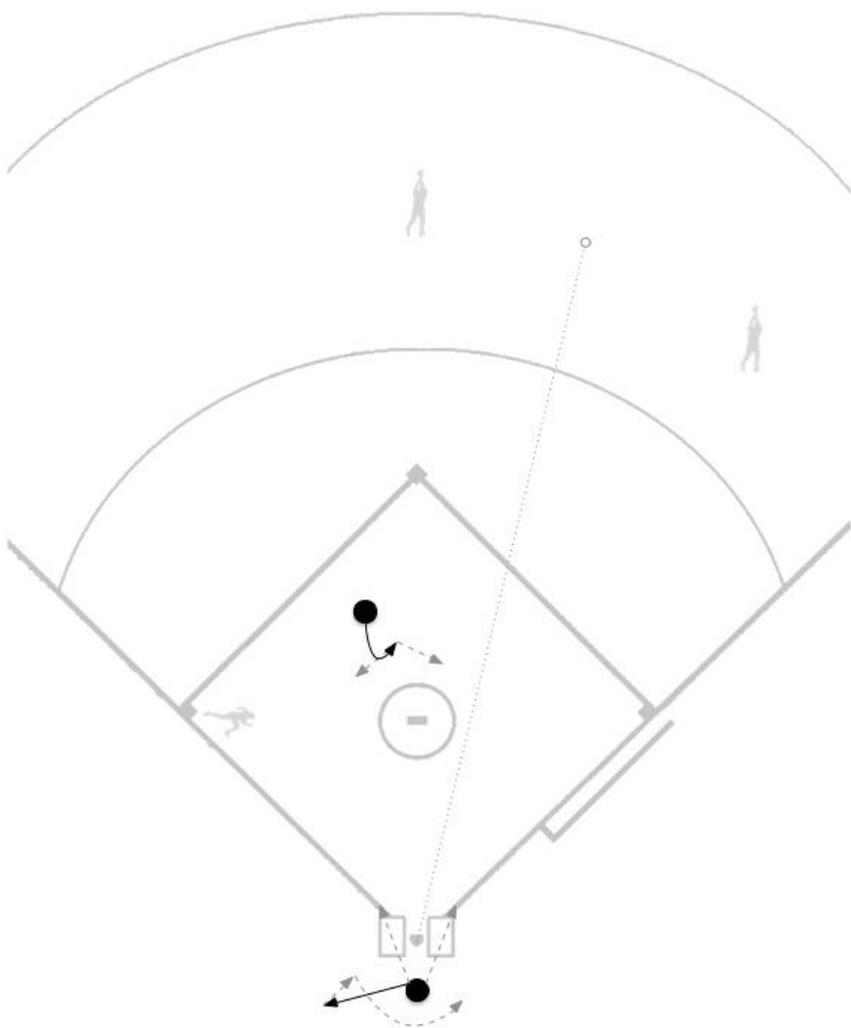
PU is responsible for all **fair/foul** decisions on the 1st and 3rd base line; he must be in a set position on the line or on 1st or 3rd base line extended if needed. PU will aggressively move to a position in the vicinity of 1st base line extended, approximately 15' from home plate and is responsible for watching R3 touch home and all other plays at home. If there is a play at home on the batter-runner, PU will move to a position 10-12' from home plate on 1st base line extended to read the play. From 1st base line extended, PU has the option of staying there or adjusting to 3rd base line extended for a possible swipe tag. PU should not be moving to make a call and must be in a set position.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field and immediately pick up the batter-runner. BU is responsible for all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base, as well as the batter-runner touching 3rd base. On a clean base hit where the runner from 3rd scores, BU will start to drift towards the batter-runner. Once BU reads where a play will occur, he will get distance towards the play and come to a set position to make the call. If there is no play, he should get to a position staying ahead of the batter-runner for any future plays.

SITUATION 2U-90

BASE HIT OR EXTRA BASE HIT TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-91
RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD

PLATE UMPIRE

PU is responsible for all fly balls, which take either the left fielder or the right fielder *towards the foul lines*. PU must communicate when he is taking responsibility for the fly ball and any **fair/foul** and/or **catch/no catch** decisions.

BASE UMPIRE

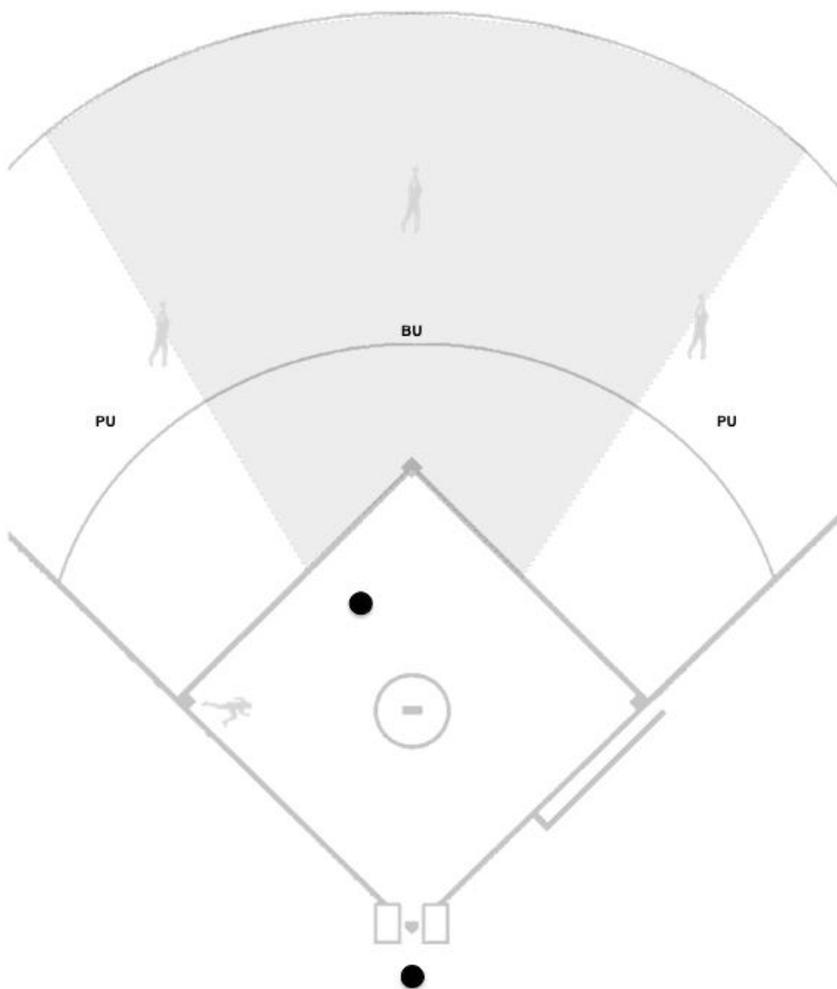
BU is responsible for all fly balls from the left fielder *straight in* all the way to the right fielder *straight in*.

NOTES

As a general rule of thumb, for balls hit in the vicinity of the right fielder or left fielder, the BU will be responsible for the **catch/no catch** unless PU communicates that he is taking responsibility. This will help avoid confusion as a crew.

SITUATION 2U-91

RESPONSIBILITIES ON A FLY BALL TO THE OUTFIELD



SITUATION 2U-92

**FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT
FIELDER**

PLATE UMPIRE

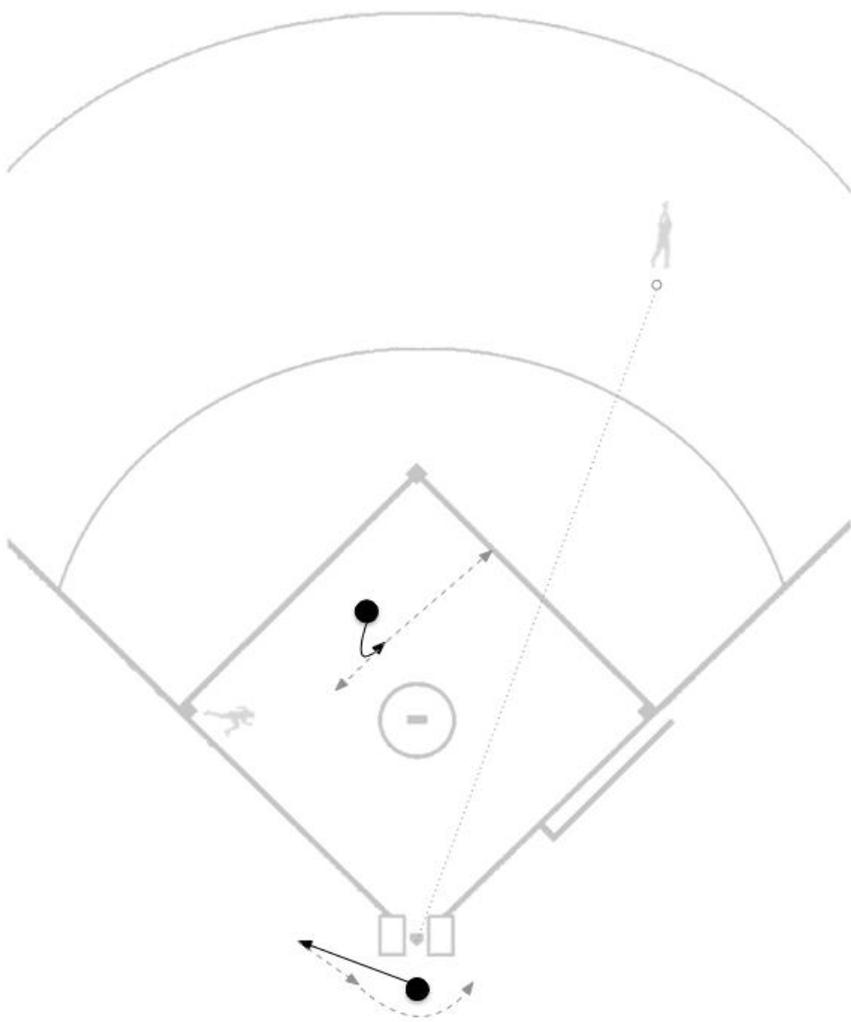
PU exits left and is responsible for R3 tagging up at 3rd. PU will get to a position, which allows him to see R3 tagging up at 3rd base and the catch in the outfield. PU is responsible for any play at home on R3. PU must remember to balance the distance he gets to line up the tag with being able to return to home plate and get to a position to make a call on R3. PU can take a position on either 1st base line extended or 3rd base line extended for any plays at the plate on R3. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-90.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn, and face the ball with his chest. BU will aggressively move in to the working area, without back-stepping. BU is responsible for the **catch/no catch** call. It is important for BU to use the **pause, read, and react** technique in this situation. If BU reads the fly ball to be a *trouble* ball, he will move to the edge of the grass dirt line and take a standing set to make the call. BU must aggressively signal the catch/no catch with a mechanic and voice. The priority is the **catch/no catch** call. If the fly ball is routine, BU will take a couple cross-steps moving in to the working area opening up the field. BU is responsible for any plays back in to 3rd base on R3, and the batter-runner touching 1st base. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-90.

SITUATION 2U-92

FLY BALL DIRECTLY AT THE LEFT FIELDER TO DIRECTLY AT THE RIGHT FIELDER



SITUATION 2U-93

FLY BALL TAKING THE RIGHT FIELDER TOWARD THE RIGHT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 1st base line. PU will communicate to his partner, “**I’m on the line!**” PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU should get as much distance as possible towards the call keeping in mind he must be able to return to home plate in time for any possible plays on R3 tagging up. PU is responsible for R3 tagging up and must take a quick glance in that direction after the ball is touched; PU must remember that the **catch/no catch** is the first priority, and not R3 tagging up. It is acceptable for PU to take a position on 3rd base line extended for the play at the plate; the majority of throws from right field result in a swipe tag play at home, and 3rd base line extended is the best possible position to make the call. If the ball is not caught, PU will return to 1st base line extended for any possible plays at the plate. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-90.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play. He is responsible for the batter-runner touching 1st base and any plays on R3 back in to 3rd base. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-90.

SITUATION 2U-94

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE

PLATE UMPIRE

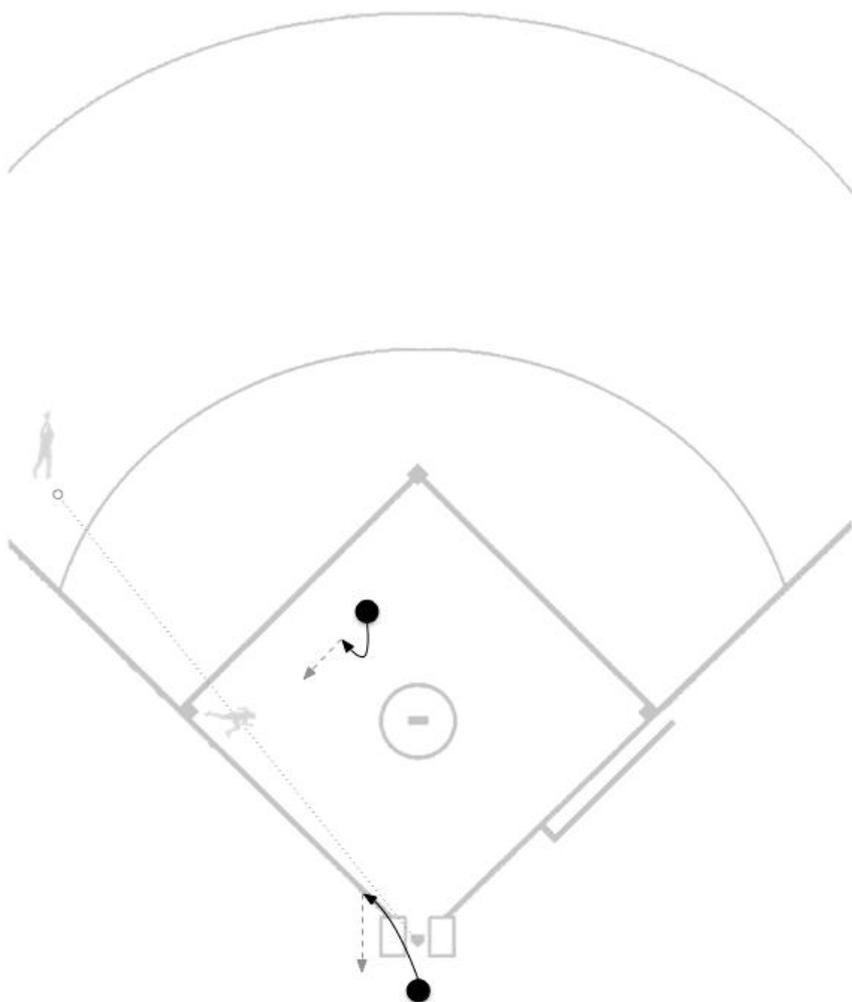
PU will exit the catcher left and immediately head down the 3rd base line. PU will communicate to the BU, “**I’ve got the ball!**” PU is responsible for the **fair/foul** and **catch/no catch** call. PU should get as much distance as possible towards the call keeping in mind he must be able to return to home plate in time for any possible plays on R3 tagging up. PU is responsible for R3 tagging up and his position on the 3rd base line will allow him to keep the play in front of him while watching for R3 tagging up; PU must remember that the **catch/no catch** is the first priority, and not R3 tagging up. PU will immediately return to a position on 1st base line extended for the play at the plate; the majority of throws from left field result in a sliding play at home, and 1st base line extended is the best possible position to make the call. If the ball is not caught, PU will return to 1st base line extended for any possible plays at the plate. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-90.

BASE UMPIRE

BU will step up, turn and face the ball with his chest. BU will remain in his position still in the working area and read the play. He is responsible for the batter-runner touching 1st base and any plays on R3 back in to 3rd base. If the ball is not caught, refer to 2U-90.

SITUATION 2U-94

FLY BALL TAKING THE LEFT FIELDER TOWARD THE LEFT FIELD LINE



SITUATION 2U-95
PICK-OFF AT 3RD BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

PU will remain behind the catcher in P1 and watch the play at 3rd base. PU is responsible for any over throws down the 3rd base line. Should the pick-off result in a run-down, see 2U-96.

BASE UMPIRE

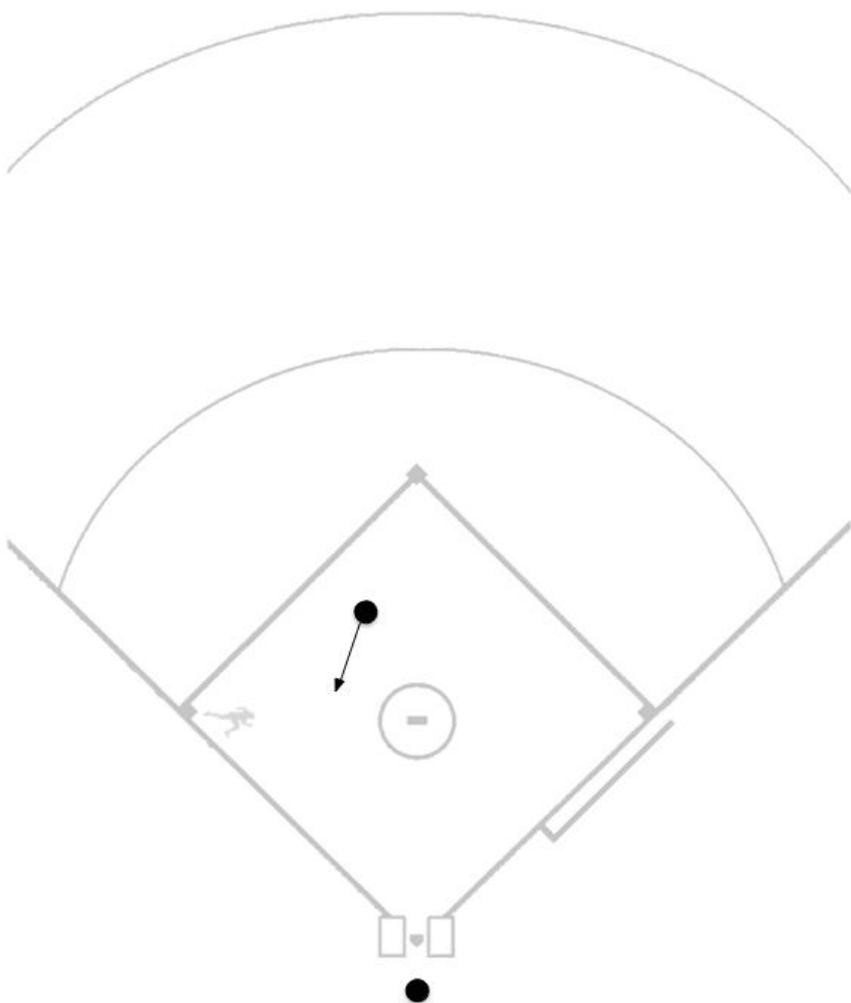
BU will take a quick step with his right foot in the direction of the start of an imaginary 45' running lane, similar as he would at 1st base. BU will then turn, pivoting on his right foot creating an angle for the play at 3rd base. It is acceptable for BU to take the pick-off play in a standing set position. It is essential for a pick-off that BU is in the correct starting position at P4. Should the pick-off result in a run-down, see 2U-96.

NOTES

In a situation where a catcher attempts a quick throw to 3rd base after receiving the pitch, the movements would be the exact same.

SITUATION 2U-95

PICK-OFF AT 3RD BASE



SITUATION 2U-96
RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 3RD AND HOME

PLATE UMPIRE

As soon as PU recognizes the run-down on R3 between 3rd and home, he will immediately move in foul territory to a position approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way towards 3rd base, the midpoint of his half of the run-down, and assume responsibility for his half of the run-down. PU will communicate **“I’ve got this half!”** to BU. PU is also responsible for any over throws during the run-down.

BASE UMPIRE

On a pick-off with a runner on 3rd base, which develops in to a run-down between 3rd and home, BU is initially responsible for the pick-off play at 3rd base. BU will move to a position approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way towards home plate, the midpoint of his half of the run-down, and assume responsibility for his half of the run-down. BU will communicate, **“I’ve got this half!”** to PU.

NOTES

It is important that umpires communicate with each other during a run-down situation. For any decisions in the area between the two umpires’ responsibilities, they must take time to look at each other and communicate as to avoid both making a call on the same play.

SITUATION 2U-96

RUN-DOWN BETWEEN 3RD AND HOME

