

MASSACHUSETTS BASEBALL UMPIRES



ASSOCIATION

***THREE MAN UMPIRING MECHANICS
MANUAL***

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THE STRAIGHT GOODS

Here are several points to ponder concerning **facts about the three umpire fundamentals**. An understanding of these facts will enable you to do your job with confidence.

- ✓ **Authority**...all umpires have equal authority on the field (except in the event of a forfeit)..
- ✓ **Responsibilities**...each umpire has singular responsibilities in each situation. There should never be a double call in any situation.
- ✓ Plate umpire stays home with 2 outs and a runner on 2nd base.
- ✓ **Base umpires set up on the foul lines**... and are responsible for fair / foul calls at the bag and beyond.
- ✓ **The 1st base umpire moves into the infield**... when there is a runner on 2nd only, or 2nd and 3rd, or any time there are 2 outs..
- ✓ **When a base umpire is in the infield**... he will never go out to make a catch / no catch call. Remember: **angle is primary to distance**. Go to the edge of the infield grass on a trouble ball to get the best angle but do not cross the baseline.
- ✓ **First to third situation**...with no runner on 2nd base and a runner on 1st, the plate umpire will signal that a **normal rotation** is on and will be responsible for the play at 3rd.
- ✓ **When a base umpire goes out to make a call, he will stay out until the play is complete.**
- ✓ **Being professional at all times as an individual will serve to give the umpiring fraternity as a group respect.**
- ✓ **Teamwork and communication is essential in getting the call right!**

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The situations on pages 4 - 7 are starting with less than two outs.

With two outs, U3 would be in the D position and U1 would be in the B position.

NO RUNNERS ON BASE

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage:

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U1 has the center fielder moving toward the right field line and all balls to the right fielder.

U3 is in the "D" position. U3 dictates coverage and has center fielder straight in and straight back. Plus any ball hit to left field line. Communicate.

UIC has no fly ball coverage with no runners on base.

Fair/Foul Coverage:

- A. UIC has responsibility for balls up to first and third base bag.
- B. U1 has responsibility for balls that hit first base and/or go beyond.
- C. U3 has responsibility for balls that hit third base and/or go beyond.

Clean Hit to the outfield

Umpire Responsibilities: U3 enters the infield and has all plays on the batter-runner at second base. U1 observes the batter-runner touching first base and begins to move towards home if the batter-runner commits to third base. *Walk the line here. There is no need to come inside and buttonhook.* UIC reads the ball and has any play on the batter-runner at third base.

Ground Ball to infield

Umpire Responsibilities: U3 start to enter the infield. Be careful not to interfere with any plays being made. Start to move towards second in case there is an overthrow where the batter-runner advances to second base. Be prepared to take the batter-runner to third as the UIC may have to stay with the ball in anticipation it might go into dead ball territory. UIC should be heading up the line to help U1 with swipe tag.

RUNNER ON FIRST BASE ONLY

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage:

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U3 is in the "Deep C" position.

UIC has left fielder moving toward the left field foul line. *Must communicate that you have the ball.*

U3 has the left fielder moving toward center and the center fielder moving towards left. U1 has the center fielder straight in and straight back and all balls hit towards right field foul line. *U1 and U2 must read and work together on these fly balls.*

Fair/ Foul Coverage

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC has coverage for all balls on the third base line and up to first base. U1 has coverage for all balls that hit first base or go beyond first base. U3 has no foul line responsibilities.

Clean hit to outfield

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC starts to rotate to third and reads R1 and the ball and moves into a position for any plays at third base on R1. *Remember do not move into the infield until both the ball and runner are coming to third.*

U1 observes the batter-runner touching first base and begins to move towards home plate if R1 commits to third base. *Walk the line here. Do not come inside and buttonhook.*

U3 observes the base touch at second base and begins to move towards first base if R1 commits to third base and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

Fly ball to left field

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC rules on catch, and moves towards third base for any play on R1.

U3 observes the action and has any play on R1 at second base. If R1 commits to third you assume the action on the batter-runner.

U1 observes the action and base touch at first of the batter-runner. Then rotate to cover home if R1 commits to third base. *Walk the line here.*

Note: If the ball is caught, UIC rules on catch and returns to home plate. U3 moves to position for any advance of R1 to second base. U1 stays at first base to observe R1 tag up. Get in best position to line up fielder and runner.

Fly ball to left-center field

Umpire Responsibilities: U3 rules on the catch, observes the action and has any play at second base on R1.

UIC observes the action

U1 observes R1's action

Fly ball to right-center or right field

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 in the "A" position has any ball that is hit from the Center Fielder towards right field foul line. You should go out on this ball. Once you go out stay out. The UIC and U3 revert back to two person mechanics. *Communicate to U3 that you are going out.*

Groundball to the infield

Umpire Responsibilities: U3 be prepared for start of the double play. You have the interference call. UIC should be heading up the first base line to assist U1 with a possible swipe tag or pulled foot of first baseman.

RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECONDInitial Position and Outfield Coverage

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U3 is in the "C" position. UIC has left fielder moving toward the left field foul line. U3 has the left fielder moving straight in, straight back, and moving toward center field, plus the center fielder moving toward left field. U1 has the center fielder straight in and straight back, plus all balls hit to right field.

Fair/Foul Coverage

Coverage is the same as with a runner on first only. Field umpires in "A" and "C"

Clean hit to the outfield

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC stays home, observes R2 touching third base and observes the touch of home. UIC moves to a position to rule on all plays at home. U3 observes the base touches of R1 at second, and has all plays on R1 at second and third, plus R2 at third base. U1 comes into the infield with a buttonhook and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

Fly ball to left field: Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC moves to the best position possible to view the catch. Read the runner at 2nd and move to cover any play on R2 advancing to third. *Remember when the ball and the runner are coming to third come inside to the cutout.*

U3 retreats and observes R2's tag up at second. Then move into position for any play at first or second on R1.

U1 moves into a position behind first base to get best possible angle of the tag up of the runner at first. Then read if R2 commits to third base. If so you will rotate to cover home plate.

Note: If the ball is not caught, UIC observes R2's base touch at third and returns to home plate for all plays there. U3 observes the base touches of R1 at second and has all plays on R1 at second and all plays at third. U1 moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

Fly ball to left-center field: Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC reads the runner and the ball and moves to a position for any play on R2 advancing to third base.

U3 moves into the best position possible to view the catch /no catch then moves to for any play at second on R1.

U1 moves to a position behind first base to line up the catch and R1 tagging. Then if R2 commits to third base rotates home for any play there.

Note: If the ball is not caught, UIC observes R2's base touch at third and returns to home plate for all plays there. U3 observes the base touches of R1 at second and has all plays on R1 at second and all plays at third. U1 moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

Fly ball to right-center or right field

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 in the "A" position has any ball that is hit from the Center Fielder towards right field foul line. You should go out on this ball. Once you go out stay out. The UIC and U3 revert back to two person mechanics. *Communicate to U3 that you are going out.*

RUNNERS ON FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRDInitial Position and Outfield Coverage

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U3 is in the "C" position. UIC has the left fielder moving toward the left field foul line. U3 has the left fielder moving straight in, straight back, and moving toward center field, plus the center fielder moving toward left field. U1 has the center fielder straight in and straight back, plus all balls hit to right field.

Fair/Foul Coverage

Umpire Responsibilities: Coverage is the same as with runners on first and second with the U3 in the "C" position. UIC has responsibility for all balls on the third base line and up to first base. U1 has all balls that hit first base or go beyond first base. U3 has no fair/foul responsibilities.

Clean Hit to Outfield

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC stays home and observes the base touch of R2 at third and all touches of home plate. Move to position to cover any play at home.

U3 observes the base touches at second and third and has all plays on R1 at second and third, plus R2 and the batter-runner at third.

U1 comes inside the diamond and buttonhooks and observes the batter-runner touch first base, and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

Fly Ball to Left Field : Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC moves to best position to view the catch. UIC must also try to line up the tag of R3 at third, and then return home for any play on R3.

U3 retreats and observes R2's potential tag up. U3 moves into position for any initial plays at second or all plays at third base.

U1 comes into the infield and buttonhooks and gets into best position possible to observe R1's potential tag up at first base. Look for the touch and then at runner. U1 has any secondary play at second base.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: U3 moves to the best position possible to view the catch and the tag up of R2. U3 moves for any plays at second or third base.

UIC moves to a position to view R3's tag up at third base. UIC returns home for any play on R3.

U1 comes inside and buttonhooks and observes R1's potential tag up and has any secondary play on R1 at second base.

Fly ball to right-center or right field

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 in the "A" position has any ball that is hit from the Center Fielder towards right field foul line. You should go out on this ball. Once you go out stay out. The UIC and U3 revert back to two person mechanics. *Communicate to U3 that you are going out.*

RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRDInitial Positions and Outfield Coverage

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U3 is in the "C" position.

UIC has the left fielder moving toward the left field line. U3 has the left fielder moving straight in, straight back and moving toward the center field, plus the center fielder moving toward left field. U1 has the center fielder straight in and straight back, plus all balls hit to right field.

Fair/Foul Coverage

Umpire Responsibilities: The coverage is the same as with runners on first, second, and third base with U3 in the “C” position.

UIC has responsibility for all balls on the third base line and up to first base. U1 has responsibility for all balls that hit first base or go beyond first base. U3 has no fair/foul responsibilities.

Clean hit to Outfield

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC reads the runner and the ball and starts to rotate to third. You will need to look back and observe the touch of home plate. When the ball and the runner are coming to third come inside to the cutout to rule on R1 going to third.

Remember to communicate.

U1 observes the batter-runner’s base touch of first and then begin to rotate towards home plate as R1 commits to third base. *Remember to walk the line here. Do not come inside and buttonhook.*

U3 observes the base touch at second base and begins to move toward first base as R1 commits to third base and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

Fly Ball to Left Field: Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC moves to best position possible to view the catch, and line up the potential tag up of R3 at third base. UIC then returns home for any play on R3 there. U3 has any plays at second base on R1 and any plays at third on R3. U1 walks the line and lines up R1 as you have any potential tag up of the runner at first. If the ball is not caught the coverage is the same as above.

Fly Ball to Left –Center Field: Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: U3 moves to best position to view the catch. UIC moves to position to observe the tag up of R3, and then return home for any play there. U1 observes R1 and the batter-runner near first.

Fly ball to right-center or right field

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 in the “A” position has any ball that is hit from the Center Fielder towards right field foul line. You should go out on this ball. Once you go out stay out. The UIC and U3 revert back to two person mechanics. *Communicate to U3 that you are going out.*

RUNNER ON SECOND BASE ONLY

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 in the “deep B” position. U3 in the “D” position.

UIC has the right fielder moving toward the right field line.

U1 has the right fielder moving straight in, straight back and toward center field, plus the center fielder moving toward right field.

U3 has the center fielder straight in, straight back, and all balls hit to left field.

Fair/Foul Coverage

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC has responsibility for all balls along the first base line and up to the third base bag.

U3 has responsibility for all balls that hit third base or that go beyond third base.

U1 has no fair/foul line responsibilities.

Clean Hit to the Outfield

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC stays home and observes the plate touch of all runners and moves to a position to rule on all plays at home plate.

U3 observes the base touches at third base and has all plays at third base. *No need to come inside the diamond here. You can walk the line.*

U1 observes the batter-runner’s base touch at first and has all plays at first and second base.

Fly Ball to Right Field: Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC moves to the best possible position to view the catch. UIC then returns back to home plate area.

U3 moves to position for any play at third base. *Make the call from outside. Do not come inside the diamond.*

U1 retreats to line up the catch and the tag up R2.

Note: If the ball is not caught the coverage would be the same as a clean hit to the outfield.

Fly Ball to Right-Center Field: Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 moves to a position to rule on catch, and observes the tag up of R2.

U3 moves to a position to rule on any play at third base on R2. *Make the call from the outside. Do not come inside the diamond.*

UIC remains at home plate.

Note: If the ball is not caught, U1 rules on the no catch, observes base touches at first and second base and has all plays at those bases. U3 observes the base touches at third base and moves to position for all plays there. UIC remains at home plate and has all plays there.

RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD BASE

Initial Position and Outfield Coverage

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 is in the “deep B” position. U3 in the “D” position.
 UIC has the right fielder moving toward the right field foul line.
 U1 has the right fielder moving straight in, straight back and towards center field,
 plus the center fielder moving toward right field.
 U3 has the center fielder straight in, straight back, plus all balls hit to left field.

Fair/Foul Coverage

Umpire Responsibilities: Coverage is the same as with a runner on second, with U1 in the “B” position.
 UIC has responsibility for all balls along the first base line and up to third base.
 U3 has responsibility for all balls that hit third base or that go beyond third base.
 U1 has no fair/foul responsibilities.

Clean Hit to the Outfield

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC stays home and observes the plate touches of all runners and moves to a position to rule on all plays at home plate.
 U3 observes the base touches at third base and has all plays at third base. *Get your best angle from the outside. Do not come inside the diamond.*
 U1 observes base touches at first and second base and has all plays at first and second base.

Fly Ball to Right Field: Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: UIC moves to best position possible to view the catch. Then returns into position to rule on all plays at home plate.
 U3 lines up R3 and the ball the best he can to rule on the tag up of R3. Then moves into position to rule on any play at third base.
 U1 moves to observe the tag up of R2, and then moves to position to rule on any play at second base.
 Note: If ball is not caught, UIC moves into position to rule on all plays at home. U3 observes base touches at third base and moves into position for all plays at third base. U1 observes base touches at first and second base and has all plays at those bases.

Fly ball to Right-Center Field: Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 moves to best position possible to view the catch, and line up the potential tag up of runner R2. U3 moves to position to rule on potential tag up of runner R3, and then has all plays at third base. UIC remains at home for all plays there.

RUNNER ON THIRD BASE ONLYInitial Positions and Outfield Coverage

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U1 has the center fielder moving toward right field line and all balls hit to the right fielder.

U3 is in the "D" position. U3 dictates coverage and has center fielder straight in and straight back plus everything to left field.

UIC has no outfield responsibility.

Fair/Foul Coverage

UIC has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.

U1 has responsibility for balls that hit first base and or go beyond .

U3 has responsibility for balls that hit third base and or go beyond.

Clean Hit to the Outfield

Umpire Responsibilities: U3 enters the diamond and has all plays on the batter-runner at second base.

U1 observes base touch at first base. If the batter-runner advances toward third base, U1 moves toward home plate and has any play there on the batter-runner. *Walk the line here. Do not come inside and buttonhook.*

UIC observes R3's touch of home plate. After the touch of home move toward third base. If the batter-runner advances toward third base then come inside the diamond to rule on the play.

Fly Ball to Right Field: Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: U1 goes out and rules on the catch. *Reverts back to two man system.*

U3 moves into the infield to rule on all touches and plays on all bases.

UIC moves into the best possible position to observe the tag up of R3, and then return home for any play there.

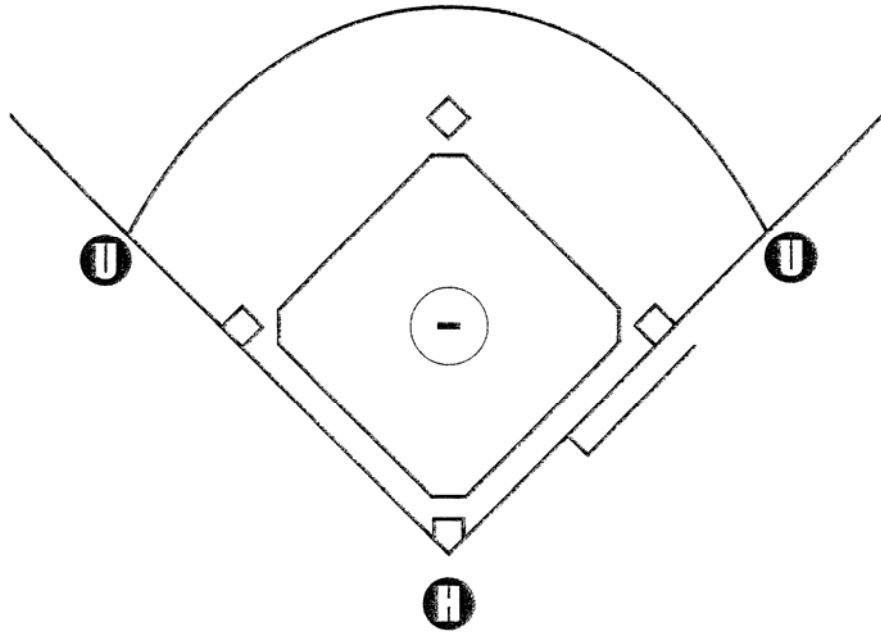
Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: Catch

Umpire Responsibilities: U3 goes out and rules on the catch.

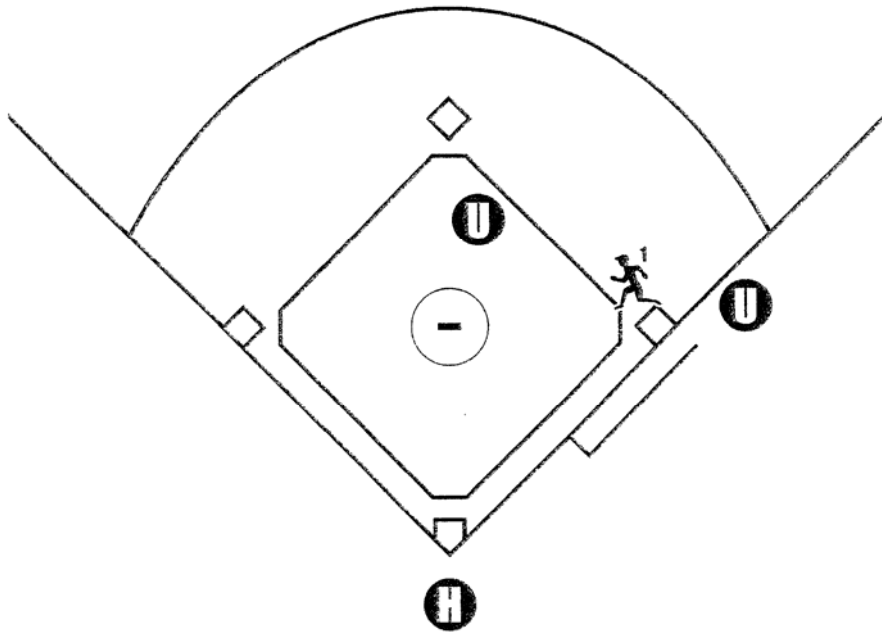
U1 moves into a position directly behind the pitcher's mound. U1 continues across the infield for any play at third base on R3.

UIC moves into the best possible position to observe R3's tag up at third base.

No Runner on Base

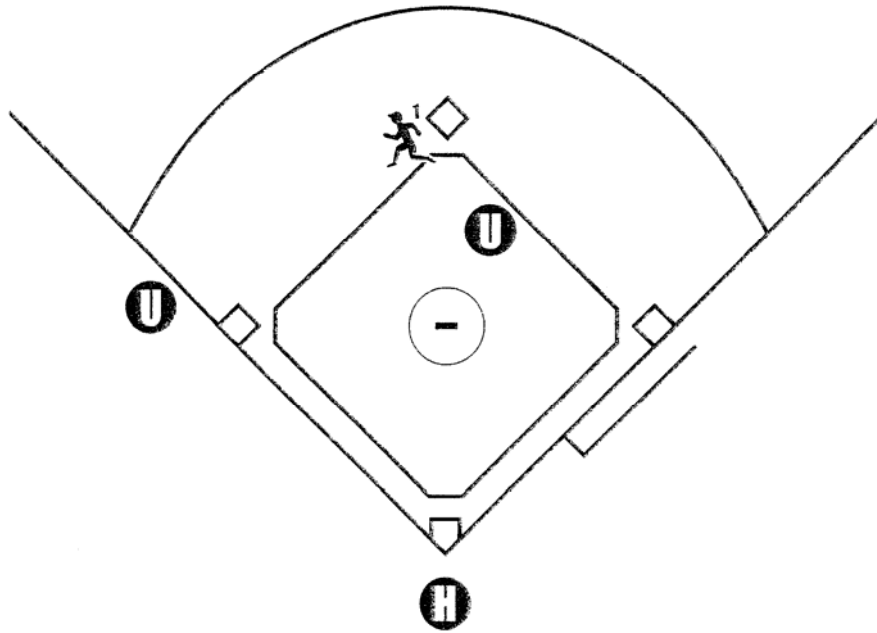


Runner on First Base

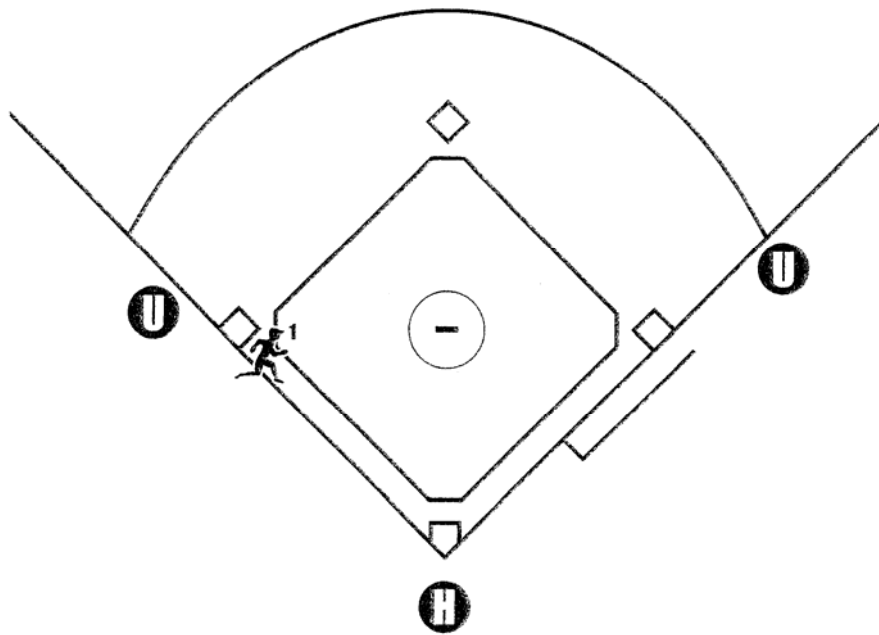


Three-Man Umpire Crew
3U-2

Runner on Second Base

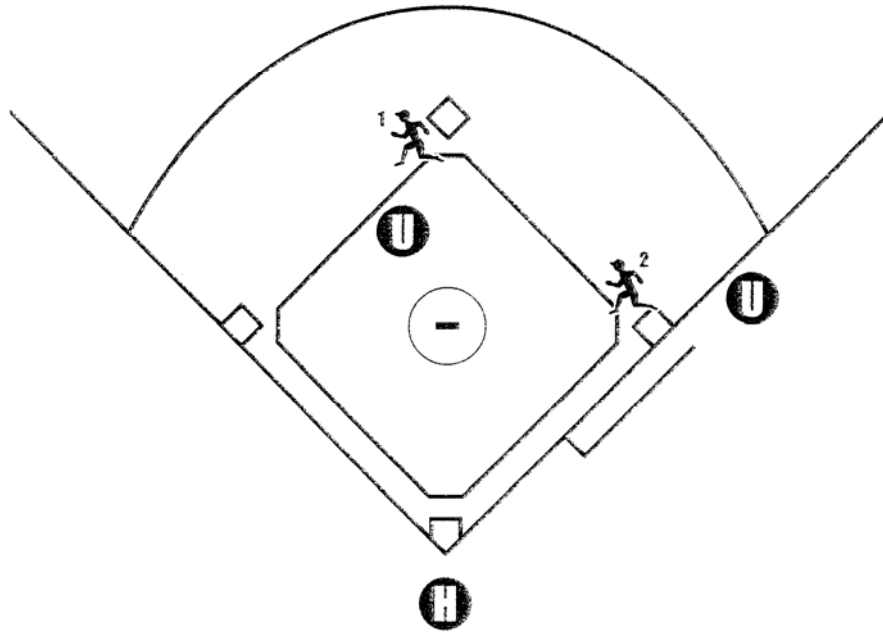


Runner on Third Base

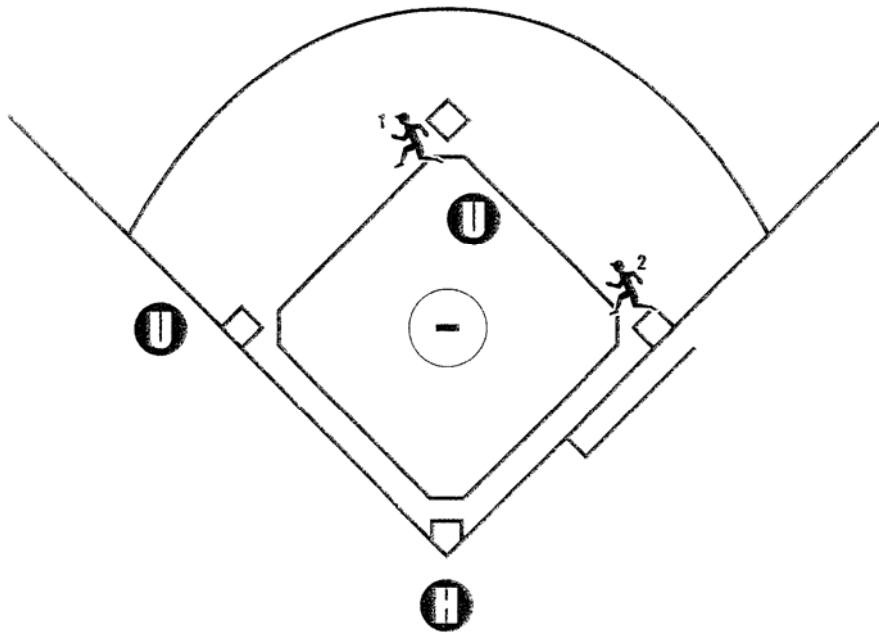


Three-Man Umpire Crew
3U-4

**Runners on First and Second
with *less than two* outs**

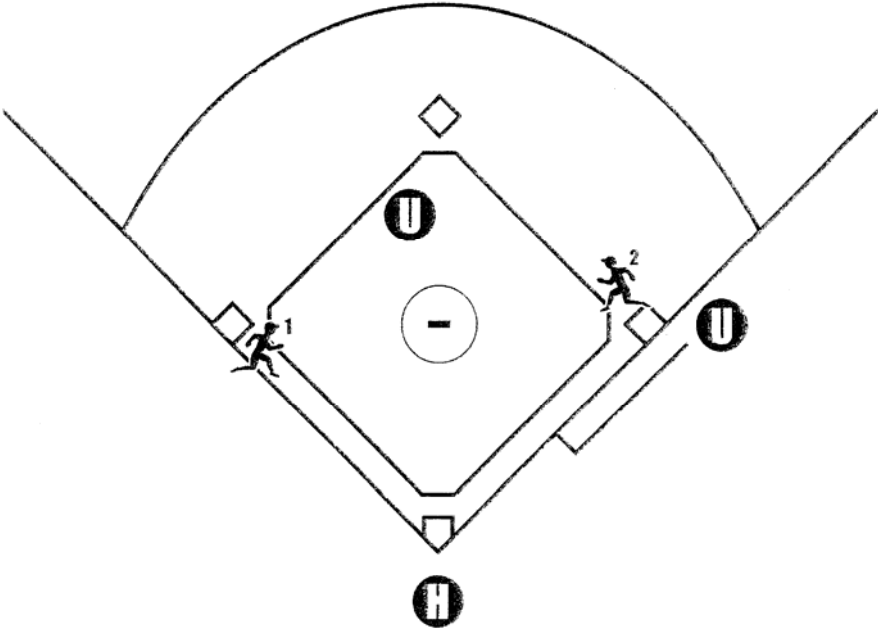


Runners on First and Second with two outs

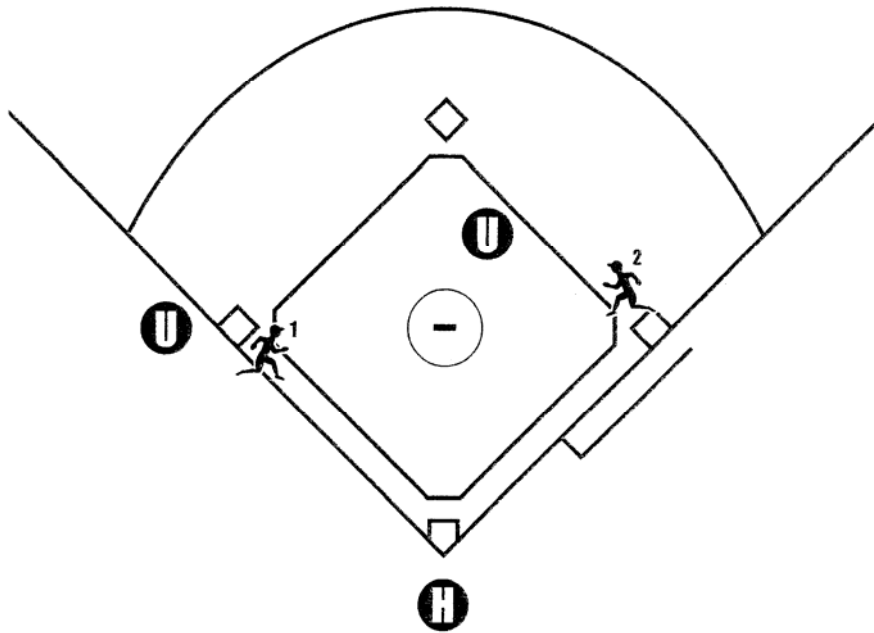


Three-Man Umpire Crew
3U-6

**Runners on First and Third
with *less than* two outs**

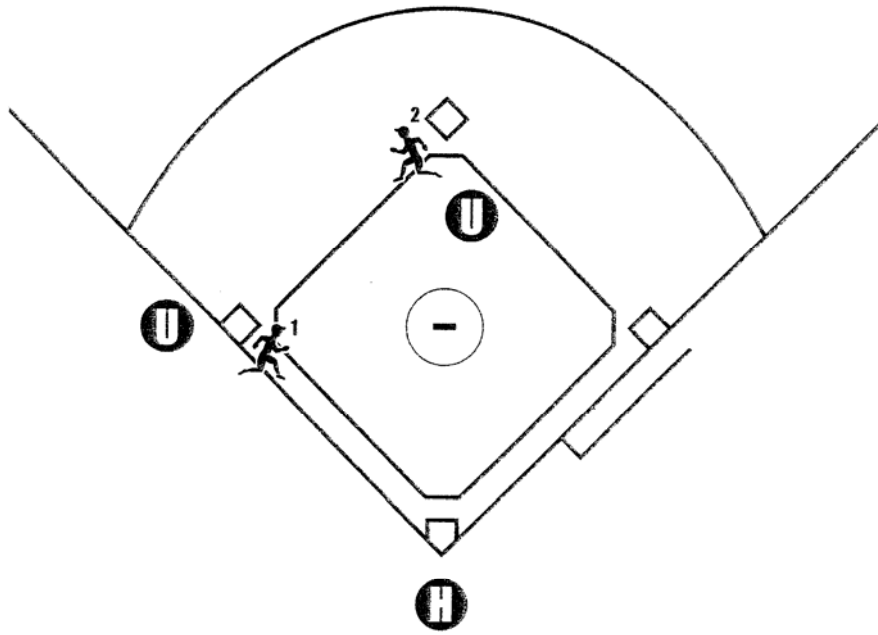


Runners on First and Third with two outs



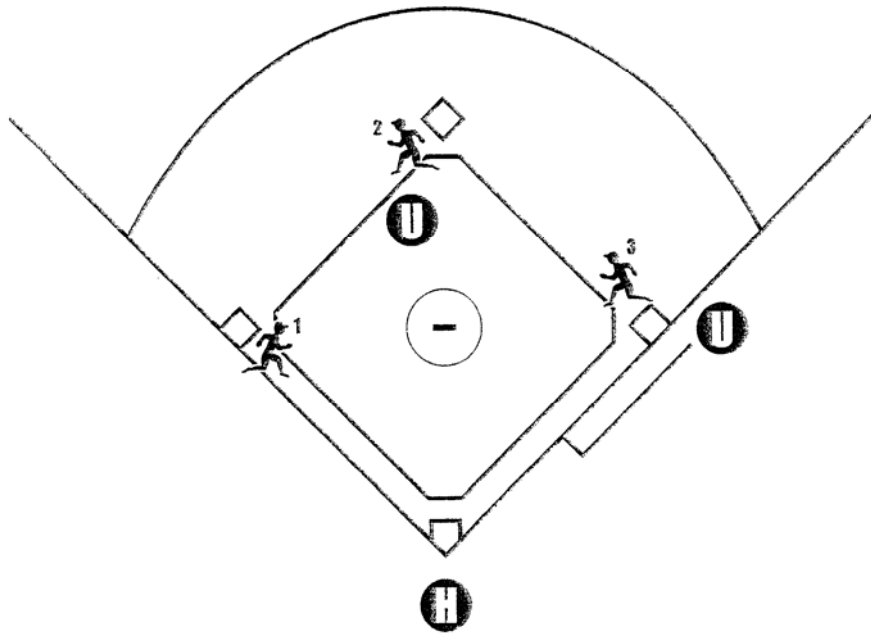
Three-Man Umpire Crew
3U-8

Runners on Second and Third



Three-Man Umpire Crew
3U-9

**Bases are Loaded
with *less than two outs***



**WITH TWO OUTS- REFER TO POSITIONS
SAME AS SECOND AND THIRD (3U-9)**