

**OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
**2025 & 2026 Approved Baseball Officiating**  
**Mechanics, Regulations & Standards**

**“The Blue Book”**



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## Introduction

First, I want to thank each of you for taking on the challenge of officiating baseball for Ohio High School Athletic Association. If you are brand new or a seasoned veteran, your commitment to high school and middle school athletics is crucial for the future of the sport. I challenge each of you to continue to work towards improvement. We all have things to work on in the upcoming seasons. Based on my observations over the past season (2024), we need to focus on slowing down and having good timing on balls and strikes as well as plays on the bases. We also need to focus on the mechanics in this manual, communication through signaling, and proper positioning in the A, B, and C positions!

Additionally, I ask each of you to be involved in recruitment, mentoring, and advancing new umpires. We continue to face challenges in having enough umpires to cover every game. My hope is that every game that is played in Ohio at the high school and middle school level is played with at least two umpires.

Very few issues that arise during a baseball game are rules related. (This not to say that a thorough understanding of the rules is not necessary, it's required!) Most however, can be linked to umpire mechanics. There are holes in 2-umpire mechanics no matter how good you are or how long you have been officiating.

Prior to each season, it is always a good idea to refresh yourself on the two-person mechanics. Even though not much has changed we can fall into bad habits during the summer months when its 90 plus degrees!

Three and four-umpire mechanics help reduce the holes in officiating but at a cost. The mechanics in this manual help minimize those gaps but in no way will be able to eliminate them. Experience, training and general baseball knowledge help us overcome those hurdles that arise during the game.

The two-umpire mechanics has not changed from 2023-2024 issue. I only received a few suggestions on mechanics revision from the 2024 season and after reviewing those suggestions with others from around the state, I didn't feel there was anything I was ready to change at this time. If you do have suggestions for future mechanics changes, please email me with a justification for the change.

This manual will only have the two-umpire system included. The sheer size of the three and four-umpire mechanics makes it impossible to print and mail out. All three mechanic illustrations will be available at <https://www.ohsaa.org/Officiating/DOD> under the sport of baseball.

A very special thanks goes to Dan McGinnis for spearheading the efforts to develop the original version of the Blue Book. Dan, along with myself, Jon Sapphire, Mark Kuhn, Mike Dame, Anthony Sheets and Daniel McGinnis spent countless hours writing, organizing, editing this manual. The mechanics we use are written so that any umpire at all levels should be able to perform the mechanics prescribed. We are not college or professional umpires. We need to use the OHSAA mechanics in our games to ensure we have consistency between partners and can cover the plays we need to cover effectively and efficiently.

## General Umpire Mechanics

We have several unwritten umpiring mechanics and tasks that veteran umpires take for granted that we all should know. Often, new or newer umpires are not taught and expected to know these things. Taking from the previous DOD, we are putting the unwritten in writing!

- Have a clean, wrinkle free uniform and clean shoes for each game.
- Once you enter the confines of the field, never lay your mask down, hang it on a fence or put it on the bench.
- When there is a pop up that the catcher is fielding, the plate umpire should keep his mask on until the catcher throws his.
- The plate umpire should clean the plate off with the brush before each half inning with his butt toward the pitching mound.
- Plate protective gear (chest protector, shin guards) is to be worn under your uniform
- Always take the mask off with your left hand.
- Carry your indicator in your left hand
- Appeal check swings as the plate umpire with your left hand. Point to your partner and say, "Did he go?"
- The umpire's hat is only to be worn with the bill facing forward (never wear the bill backward)
- Base umpires do not carry plate brushes or wear ball bags.
- During defensive conferences, the base umpire should move away from the mound into the basepath dirt or in the outfield grass.
- During pitching changes, the base umpire should count the pitches and tell the plate umpire (non-verbally) when they have had 5 warmups.
- Partners should meet during a game only if it is important and never right after a controversial call.
- Always walk on and off the field with your partner. When the game is over, leave the field together and with a purpose. Do not seek out coaches or players.
- Always put the ball in play after it has been declared dead.
- Keep track of both defensive and offensive conferences.
- Do not point to first base with right hand to award a base
- Signal with your partner(s) before the pitch as the situation dictates. Never assume you and your partner(s) are on the same page. Communicate, communicate, communicate!
- Hustle to your position anytime you are moving in between plays or innings

This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list, but the basics newer umpires should learn, and veteran umpires should know.

## Officiating Code of Ethics (from the OHSSAA Officials Handbook)

Schools have entrusted the OHSAA and sports officials to assist them in the education and development of their youth through athletics. The proper operation of such a process requires that officials be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people they serve. In recognition of these expectations there is hereby established a Code of Ethics for all officials. The purpose of the code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all officials.

- **An Official** must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and creditable service in a fair and unbiased manner.
- **An Official** must work with fellow officials and the state association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation despite differences of opinion that may arise during debate of issues.
- **An Official** must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.
- **An Official** must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the officiating industry in all personal conduct and relations with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public, to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.
- **An Official** will be prepared both physically and mentally, dress according to expectations of sport standards, and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the game.
- **An Official** shall avoid the use of tobacco and tobacco products at the contest site.
- **An Official** shall not consume alcohol (or any illegal/illicit drug or controlled substance) prior to or during the contest.
- **An Official** must remember and recognize that it is important to honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss. Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official.
- **An Official** shall not delay the process of completing and returning paperwork provided by a site needed to process the game payments and will provide a W-9 when requested.

## Required Uniform

The required uniform for baseball remains relatively unchanged for 2025-2026 seasons. OHSAA will continue to use the OHSAA officiating logo on all officiating apparel.

- Charcoal gray or heather gray pants for regular season, sectional and district tournament (heather gray is still acceptable, but will be phased out in coming years). For regional and state games, Charcoal Gray pants are required. All umpires on a crew for any regular or post season games are to be dressed alike.
- A navy shirt (long or short-sleeved) with the OHSAA embroidered or sublimated logo. **It is not permissible to wear a long sleeve garment under a short sleeve shirt.**
- In lieu of a shirt, a jacket (long or short-sleeved) shall be the “red shoulder stripe” model. Navy with red/white trim on the shoulder. The OHSAA logo shall be properly placed on the jacket. A plate coat is acceptable for the plate umpire.
- Undershirts or t-shirts shall be red. **A long-sleeved undershirt is not permitted under a short-sleeved shirt or jacket.**
- Black socks are to be worn.
- Predominately black plate or base shoes with black laces.
- Black leather belt 1 ½ to 2 inches wide with plain buckle.
- Navy cap with the OHSAA logo embroidered on the crown. (In cold weather, a navy blue “beanie” style cap with the OHSAA logo may be worn in place of standard billed cap)
- No other logos, patches, emblems, or numbers are permitted on the official uniform. An American Flag patch/emblem is optional and if worn it is to be on the left sleeve with the star field facing to the front.
- No Jewelry except wedding band or medical alert necklaces or bracelets. A religious medallion which is not visible is permitted.
- All umpires on a crew are to dress alike. It is permissible for a plate umpire to wear a shirt and the base umpire(s) to wear a jacket.
- The plate umpire shall wear all protective equipment as specified by rule (plate shoes are required).
- Dark blue (preferred) or gray ball bag(s) shall be used by the plate umpire only. If two ball bags are worn, they must be the same color.

## General Reminders

- Each year go over the rule and casebook and note any changes for that year.
- Make note of any mechanics changes.
- You get one chance at first impressions. Make sure that your uniform is in good order and that you have cleaned or polished your shoes before each game. Hats do wear out and need to be replaced from time to time.
- At least one month prior to the season, inspect your uniform and gear. Ensure uniforms fit and equipment is in good order. This will allow you time to have either new gear purchased, or alterations made.
- Chest protectors need to be snug up under your chin. The collar bone needs to always be covered and this adjustment should be made prior to the first pitch. During the game, the protector should not be shifting, if it is, tighten it up.
- The shoes we wear are crucial. For the plate we are required to have hard-toed shoes with metatarsal protection. Both plate and base shoes need to have adequate traction for a variety of surfaces.

- One or both umpires should carry an indicator.
- Do not carry a plate brush when doing the bases.

## **Game Day Procedures**

- Verify with the home school the start time, location, and any accommodations they may have (locker room, designated parking spots).
- Coordinate with your partner where to meet. If dressing in the parking lot, try to do so away from other cars and remember there are laws we must follow.
- Arrive a minimum of 30 minutes prior to start time. Notify game management that you have arrived.
- Determine which umpire is working which position(s), go through a pre-game so that you are on the same page. Make note of any special issues that this field might present.
- Walk up to the field together and arrive at the plate approximately 10 minutes prior to the start time.
- Examine the playing field closely, making sure that it is properly marked, the pitcher's plate is legal and familiarize yourself with the boundaries.

### **Pregame**

- Five minutes prior to the start of the game meet with both head coaches at the plate.
- The plate umpire is standing at the point of the plate facing the pitching mound.
- The base umpire is standing directly across from the plate umpire facing the back stop.
- Both umpires are to introduce themselves to the coaches and any captains.
- Plate umpire is to check the home team lineup first followed by the visiting team. Make note of any DH on the card and verify that is what they're using.
- Ask both coaches if all players are legally and properly equipped and that all equipment is legal. Both coaches must answer "yes". If they don't know then they need to verify and respond "yes".
- Share your expectations about exhibiting good sportsmanship. During the game, if they have a question, you are more than willing to answer them. Not long distance!
- Ask the home team coach to take you around the diamond starting at the back stop. They need to explain the boundaries and any local rules that need to apply. If you don't agree or don't understand, now is the time to get it straightened out.
- Once conference is over, if there is a national anthem, the base umpire should stand at the right of the plate umpire (two man) behind the plate.
- At the conclusion of the meeting, the base umpire is to jog down the baseline into the outfield.
- Now is a good time to get ready for the game, the plate umpire should take 6 or so pitches behind the catcher and the base umpire should watch the throws from the infield to first base.

### **During the game**

- The plate umpire is designated as the umpire-in-chief and is responsible for announcing "Play" and giving the hand signal to start the game or resume play.
- The umpire-in-chief shall determine if lights are to be turned on and this should be done prior to the start of an inning.

- With no runners on base, the base umpire shall position himself 10-12 feet behind the first baseman with both feet in foul territory. (Right foot next to the foul line)
- If a fly ball is hit to an area in the outfield that the base umpire is responsible for and is deemed a trouble ball, he will go out to rule on fair/foul and catch/no catch.
  - A trouble ball is
    - Fair/foul decision down the right field line.
    - Home runs.
    - Balls off the wall.
    - Diving catches by the outfielder.
    - Catches with the fielder running to the wall.
    - Catches below the waist.
    - Players converging on a fly ball.
- The base umpire will communicate with his partner “I’m going out” and the plate umpire now has the batter-runner. **NOTE: Pause, Read, and React – then BE DECISIVE! Decide to go out or come in and stick to it. Indecision puts both umpires at a disadvantage. Suddenly nobody gets a good look at a ball/play that can require the most attention.**
- The base umpire will get the best angle and be completely stopped when there is a play made or fair/foul decision.
- The plate has all bounding balls up to third and first base. If the base umpire is stationed at that base, then he will have the ruling on fair/foul once it passes the front edge of that base.
- Any umpire may call a balk and/or signal a delayed dead ball or call time.
- Be completely stopped prior to any play being made. Your head is like a camera if the head moves so does the lenses.
- Always strive to get the best angle when making a call. Too close and everything blends together and distorts your vision. Too far and you don’t seem credible.
- If you have the proper angle and distance, then your eyes will lead to proper timing and judgement.
- **There are no rotations if the batted ball does not leave the infield. Base umpire has all bases.**
- **Get the call right:** A call needs to be made on every play. When a coach asks if the calling umpire can get help, you need to get together (no coaches or players around) and discuss what you have. The emphasis is put on getting together and discussing. It is still up to the calling umpire to make the final decision on the call and can use the information from the other umpire in making the final decision. Once you have the decision the calling umpire makes the call and if a coach wants to discuss, politely tell him what you have, and the discussion is over.

### Plate Umpire

- The important parts of the job are your stance, tracking the pitch, calling it a ball or strike, using the indicator and finally plays at the plate.
- The three plate stances are, The Box, the Scissors, and the Knee. You need to find the one that works best for you, but we recommend the Box and will discuss this stance.
  - Feet are spread slightly more than shoulder width apart and placed in a heel-toe configuration, with the slot foot (left foot for a right-handed batter) slightly ahead of your back foot and your weight evenly distributed on the balls of your feet. Your hands for a right-handed batter, your right hand is on your right knee helping you feel locked in, your



left hand can be behind your thigh or tucked so that your left elbow is on your thigh and your hand is between your legs.

- No matter which plate stance you use your head height should be the same. Your chin should be at the top of the catcher's head.
- Positioning behind the catcher should also be the same. The ideal location is the "slot". The slot is the area between the batter and the catcher. By being in this area you have a good view of the entire plate and if your head height is correct, you have a good view of the down and out pitch. A good starting point for getting into the slot is (for a right-handed batter) to place your right foot in the middle of the catcher's body, swing your left foot toward the catcher about shoulder width and slightly ahead of the right foot. Adjust your height by spreading your feet.
- Tracking the pitch
  - From the moment the pitcher releases a pitch until the ball arrives in the catcher's mitt, your head should remain still.
  - Track the pitch with your eyes only, all the way into the mitt. You might hear someone say you have tunnel vision or you're not tracking the ball all the way in. We tend to track the ball until about 3 feet in front of the plate and with breaking balls this will cause you to miss a lot of good pitches.
  - Visualize the strike zone on each batter. A good rule of thumb is if a pitch comes across the plate below the front elbow of the batter, then it is at the top of the strike zone.
- Calling the pitch
  - Timing is critical on the pitched ball. Watch the ball with your eyes all the way into the mitt and watch the catcher catch the ball. Quickly replay the pitch in your mind to make sure that you saw what you saw and then make the call.
  - If the pitch did not cross through any part of the strike zone and the batter did not swing, it is a ball. To **call a ball**, remain in your stance and call, "Ball". The call should be loud enough for the pitcher, catcher, and batter to hear. After you made the call, you should come out of your stance.
  - If the pitch did cross through any part of the strike zone and the batter did not swing, it is a called strike. To call a strike, stand straight up out of your stance and call "Strike". With the calling of strike an arm movement is required. It can be the hammer (like you are calling an out) or pointing out to the side. If you go out to the side, make sure that your eyes stay on the playing field and not follow your finger. **Tip: If you're a "pointer" and struggle keeping your eyes forward, try pointing towards the dugout. This will help keep your head and eyes forward.**
  - It is a good habit to give the count on a regular basis. One idea is to give the count after the 3, 5, 7...pitch. Your left hand is the balls, and the right hand is the strikes. Make sure that you are using your indicator (in your left hand) to keep tabs on the count. Do not rely in the scoreboard to be correct!
  - If a batter swings at a pitch, there is no need to call a strike. Do not call the obvious. Foul balls going directly over the backstop, to the backstop or dugout do not need to be called foul. Everyone knows it.
  - If a batted ball hits the batter who is in the batter's box, call time and rule it a foul ball.

- Call ‘em, don’t explain ‘em. Your pitch calling is not to be routinely explained, such as, “Ball Low,” “Ball Inside” or “strike caught the corner”.
- The mask is to be removed by the left hand and kept there during the play. The mask should be snug but also adjusted in order to remove the mask without having your hat come off. With your left hand (which also has the indicator in it) grab the bottom of the mask, pull down and out and then up. This takes a bit of practice and a plate hat that is snugly fit.
- Clean the plate off with your plate brush, your butt facing the pitching mound and your mask in your left hand. Whenever the plate gets dirty, call time, and clean it off. Always clean the plate before the start of a half inning. If the coach asks for time to talk to his pitcher, here is another good time to clean the plate off after noting the conference on your line-up card.

## GAME DAY MEETING

### I. ARRIVAL AT THE GAME SITE:

- a. Arrive at least 30 minutes prior to game time
- b. Upon arrival notify game management and confirm starting time.
- c. Ask who is the “Official” site administrator and where they’ll be located. If no “official” site administrator, the Head Coach is considered the administrator.

### II. PREGAME WITH PARTNER: DISCUSSION TOPICS (2-MAN MECHANICS)

- a. Fair / Foul
  - i. Bases empty – PU has left field line, and all bounding ball between home and first base (up to bag)
  - ii. w/runner – PU has all fair / foul calls
- b. Outfield Fly Balls
  - i. Bases empty – PU takes all routine fly balls: talk about ball to right
  - ii. w/runner – PU has the lines and left/right fielder moving towards the foul lines: base umpire has all the fly balls in the “V”.
- c. Infield Flies / Line Drives – discuss with partner
  - i. Bases empty – split the field in half
  - ii. w/runner – BU takes all except down the lines
- d. Tag-Ups / Base Touches – keep it simple
  - i. PU take home and third (help @ first)
  - ii. BU take first and second
  - iii. Communicate if there is going to be an appeal
- e. Calls at Third Base – **BIGGEST POTENTIAL FOR SCREW UPS** – discuss all potentials
  - i. Bases empty-Batter/Runner goes for triple
  - ii. Runner on second tries for third after throw to first on Batter/Runner
  - iii. Runner tags at second
  - iv. Runner from first goes to third on a base hit
  - v. Pitcher’s pick-off throw at second goes into center field.
- f. Check Swing – discuss with partner
  - i. PU ump asks- “Did he go?” and point at BU with open left hand.
  - ii. BU answer- “YES he did!” with the OUT signal or “NO he didn’t!” with the SAFE signal

- iii. Potential check swing/dropped third strike
  - g. Dropped Third Strike – discuss with partner on signal used
    - i. BU Fist clenched – catch
    - ii. BU Open hand – no catch (trap)
  - h. Batted Ball Hits Batter
    - i. First thing is to kill the play – “DEAD BALL!”
    - ii. Second thing to determine if batter was hit in the box (foul ball) or out of the box (out)
  - i. Getting Help
    - i. On what plays – check swing, possible pulled foot/swipe tag
    - ii. When? Ask after you make the call
  - j. Signals
    - i. Infield Fly
    - ii. Time play
    - iii. Outs/count
    - iv. Rotations
    - v. Umpire going out
  - k. Positioning
    - i. During anthem, between innings
    - ii. PU help insure proper positioning of BU prior to pitch
  - l. Arguments
    - i. When to get involved as a partner
    - ii. Keep it one-on-one
  - m. Rundowns
    - i. Who is going to be, where
    - ii. Need both ends of the play covered
  - n. Interference/Obstruction – how to handle
  - o. General
    - i. After dead ball – verbally put the ball back in play and point to the pitcher.
    - ii. **COMMUNICATE! COMMUNICATE! COMMUNICATE!** – “I’ve got the ball”, “I’m at third” etc...
    - iii. Mirror your partner on infield fly, time, balk

### **III. ARRIVAL AT THE FIELD (DIAMOND) – 10 MINUTES BEFORE THE GAME**

- a. Umpire jurisdiction begins
- b. Examine playing field as a crew for potential dead ball obstacles, safety concerns, etc...

### **IV. PREGAME W/COACHES AND/OR CAPTAINS – 5 MINUTES BEFORE THE GAME**

- a. Meet at home plate to check line-ups (home team first); permit inspection by coach/captain before line-ups become official (when PU receives)
- b. Home team coach will decide whether the grounds and other conditions are suitable for starting the game: discuss ground rules; (home team); if visiting team agrees these shall be in force. If teams cannot agree, umpires shall formulate ground rules.
- c. Discuss any other matters pertinent to the game: i.e. DH’s, time limit, run-rule, speed-up rules, etc...
- d. Ask coaches whether all their players are legally and properly equipped.

- e. Provide copies of the official line-ups to the official scorer
- f. Briefly discuss w/official scorer such matters as the proper batting order, appearance of pinch runners/hitters and substitutes.
- g. **Ask the home team coach, “who is game management”? if he says there is no one, then he is it.**

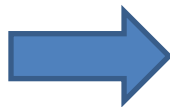
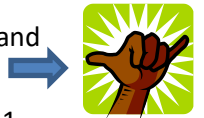
#### **V. GAME TIME**

- a. PU check to make sure BU ready
- b. Game begins when PU calls **“PLAY!”**

## Hand Signals

<u>Base Runners</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Number of Outs</u>	<u>Hand Signals</u>
None	A	0,1,2	NONE
First	B	0,1,2	Number of Outs & Normal Rotation
First and Third	B	0,1,2	Number of Outs & Normal Rotation
First and Second	C	0,1	Number of Outs, Infield Fly, <b>Caught fly ball to OF- Plate Umpire has play at third</b> (unless fly ball is down RF foul line)
First and Second	C	2	Number of Outs, Timing Play, Plate Umpire Staying home
Second and Third	C	0,1	Number of Outs, Plate Umpire Staying home
Second and Third	C	2	Number of Outs, Timing Play, Plate Umpire Staying home
First, Second, Third	C	0,1	Number of Outs, Infield Fly, Plate Umpire Staying home
First, Second, Third	C	2	Number of Outs, Timing Play, Plate Umpire Staying home
Second Only	C	0,1	Number of Outs, Plate Umpire Staying home
Second Only	C	2	Number of Outs, Timing Play, Plate Umpire Staying home
Third Only	C	0,1,2	Number of Outs, Plate stays home (S16)

- Number of outs- Given with either right or left hand out to the side for partner to see
- Normal Rotation- Hang Ten/Hang Loose sign, thumb and pinkie extended, move wrist back and forth
- Infield Fly- Give the number of outs at the front of bill of cap, fist for 0 outs, index finger for 1 out
- Timing Play- Index finger of right-hand point and touch left wrist (where a wristwatch would be worn)
- Plate Umpire Staying home- point with both hands straight down
- Caught Fly Ball to OF- **Baseman Signal**- Make a fist with right hand, tap the top of the fist with the palm of left hand, move up and down once or twice. Then point with index finger of left hand to third base, tapping the top of your right hand that's still in a fist.
- Caught Fly Ball to OF- **Plate Umpire Signal**- Make a fist with left hand, tap the top of the fist with the palm of right hand, move up and down once or twice. Then point with index finger of right hand to third base, tapping the top of your left hand that's still in a fist.



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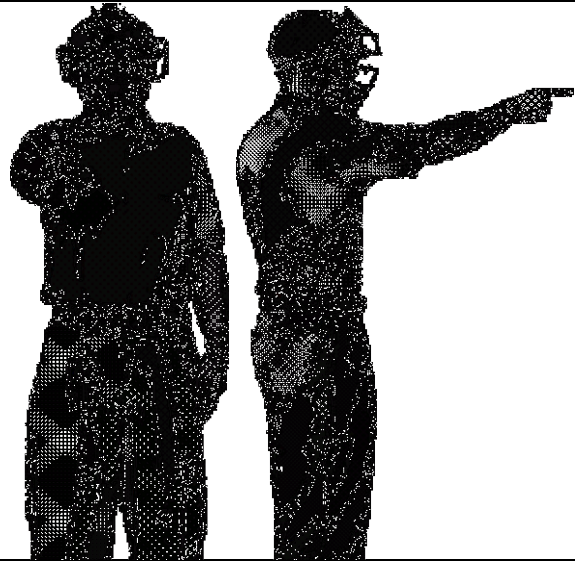
## Approved OHSAA Baseball Signal Chart

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### **Play (S1)**

**Description:**

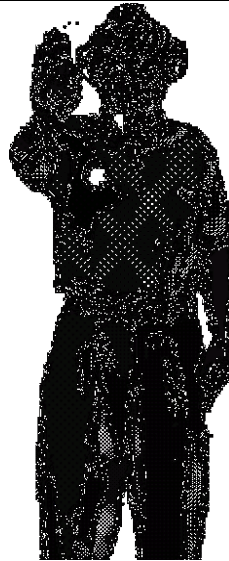
Pointing with right hand toward the pitcher and say "Play." Ball is now live.



### **Do Not Pitch (S2)**

**Description:**

Hold right hand in front of our body with palm facing out. Ball is dead and must be put back in play(S13).



### **Foul ball, Time Out, Dead Ball (S3)**

**Description:**

Both hands open above the head. Ball is dead immediately.

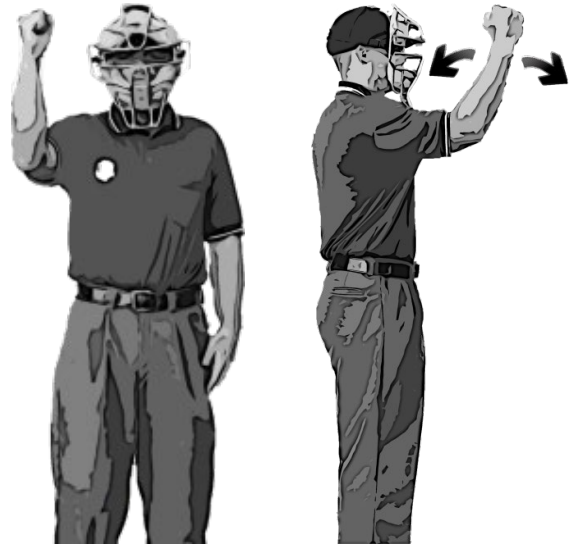


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### **Strike (S4)**

**Description:**

Stand straight up, bring your right hand up in front of your body, make a fist and say "strike"



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### **Foul Tip (S5)**

**Description:**

Stand upright and pass right hand over the left hand signifying foul tip. Ball is still live.



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### **Count (S6)**

**Description:**

Left hand is balls, right hand strikes. Hold both hand up in front of your body slightly above the shoulders. Signal should be forward towards pitcher and verbalized loud enough for Catcher, Batter & Pitcher.



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### **Safe/Uncaught 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike (S7)**

**Description:**

Start with your arms extended directly in front of your body and swing them open at shoulder height.



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### **Appeal on Check Swing ( 8 )**

**Description:**

Step out from behind the catcher, extend your left arm, palm up and ask the base umpire "Did He Go?"



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### **Safe /Did Not Go(S9)**

**Description:**

Start with your arms extended directly in front of your body and swing them open at shoulder height. Used to signal that batter did not go when plate umpire asks "Did he go".





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### **Out (S10)**

**Description:**

Bring your right arm up, make a 90 degree angle, make a fist and with hammering action call, "He's out"



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### **Infield Fly (S11)**

**Description:**

Once the ball has reached its Apex and you determine it is an infield fly, point your right hand toward ball and say "Infield Fly, batter is out". If it is close to the foul line say "Infield Fly if Fair."



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### **Non-verbal communication (Pre-pitch)**

### **Infield Fly (S12)**

**Description:**

Right hand to the bill of the cap, number of outs may be given with this signal.



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### **Timing Play (S13)**

**Description:**

Place two fingers of the right hand on the left wrist. This signal will only be used in two-out situations where a time play involving a potential run is likely.



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### **Standard Rotation (S14)**

**Description:**

Thumb and pinkie fingers extended, arms down at side, rotate hands forward and backward.



---

### **Plate covers 3<sup>rd</sup> on caught fly ball to outfield (S15)**

**Description:**

Used with infield fly (S12) and runners on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> only. Make fist with right hand, cover fist with left had fingers pointing to 3<sup>rd</sup> (S15).



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## **Stay Home (S16)**

### **Description:**

Point both arms straight down. Used when plate umpire should stay home.

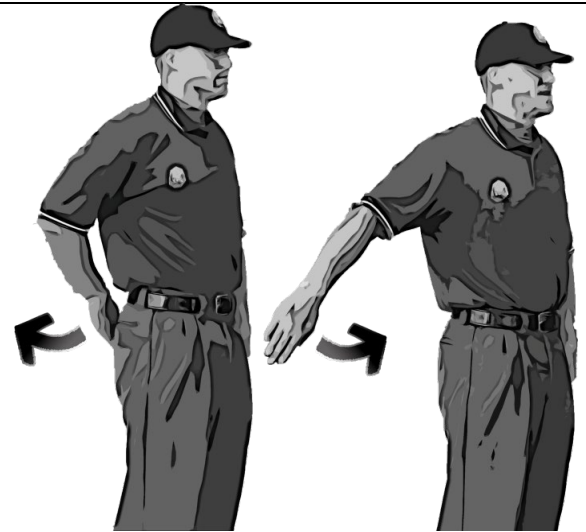


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## **Push (S17)**

### **Description:**

Used in 3 and 4 person mechanics. Move right hand behind the back letting other base umpire that this is a push situation. Umpire in C position should use left hand so umpire in A can see his signal.



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

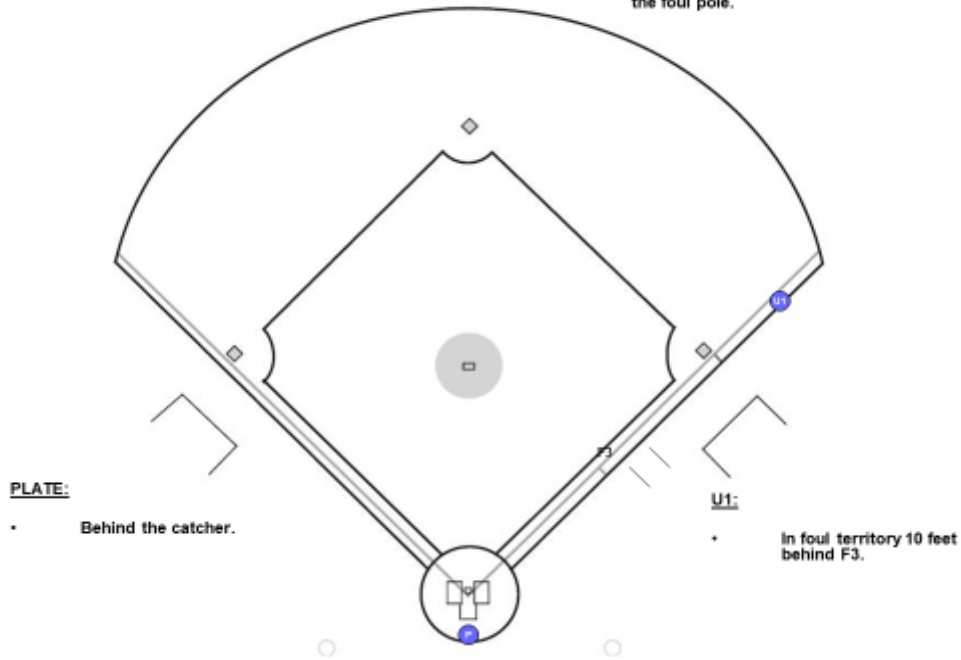
## 2 Umpire Mechanics



## U1 IN POSITION A

### Fair/Foul Responsibilities

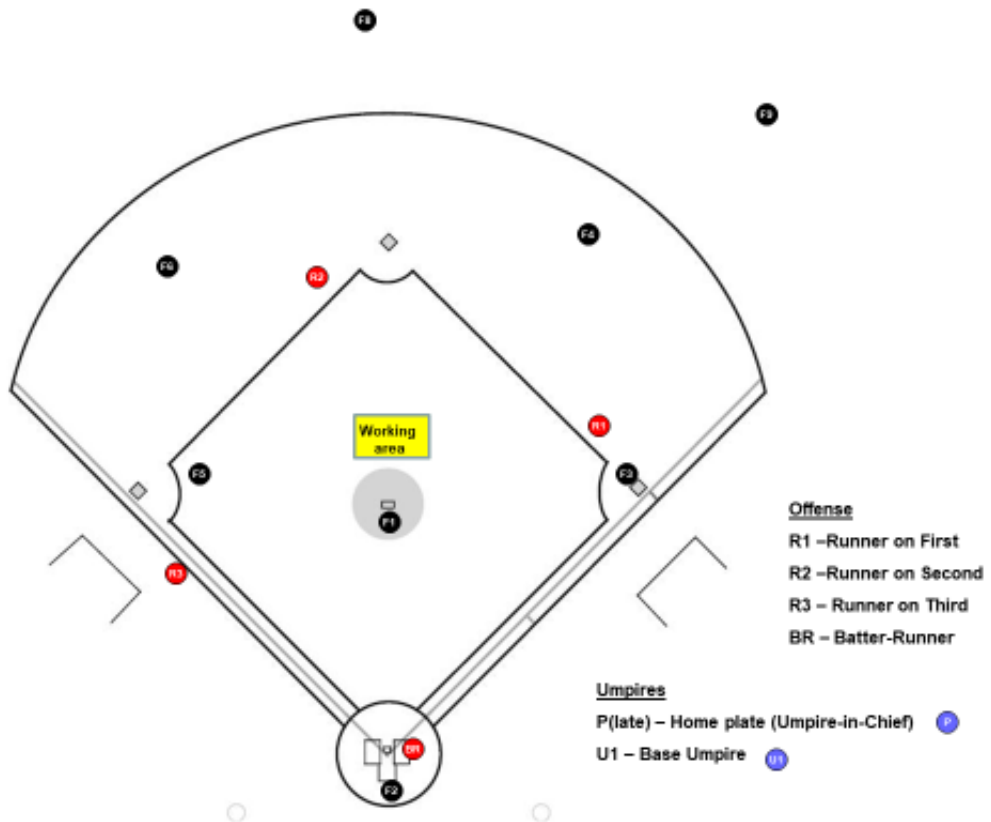
- **Plate** – Up to the front edge of 1<sup>st</sup> base bag, and all the way to the foul pole up the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseline.
- **U1** – Passed the front edge of 1<sup>st</sup> base bag to the foul pole.



## ABBREVIATIONS

### Defense

- F1 – Pitcher
- F2 – Catcher
- F3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Baseman
- F4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Baseman
- F5 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Baseman
- F6 – Shortstop
- F7 – Left Fielder
- F8 – Center Fielder
- F9 – Right Fielder



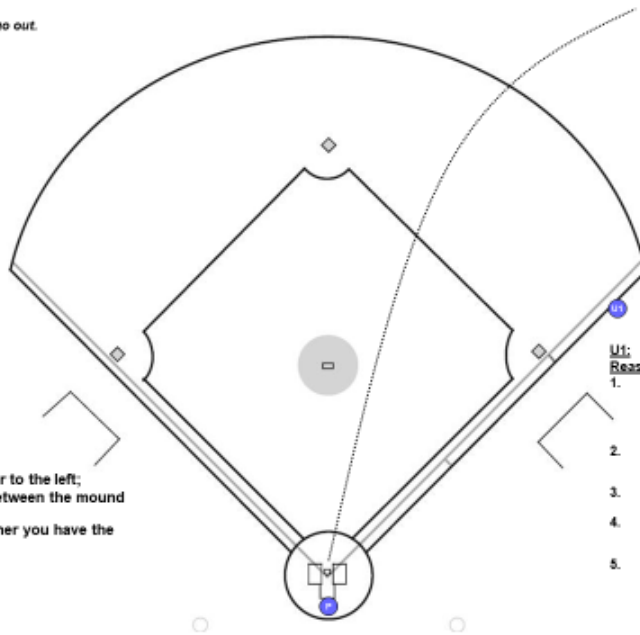


### FLY BALL OR LINE DRIVE TO RIGHT FIELD

Pause Read React

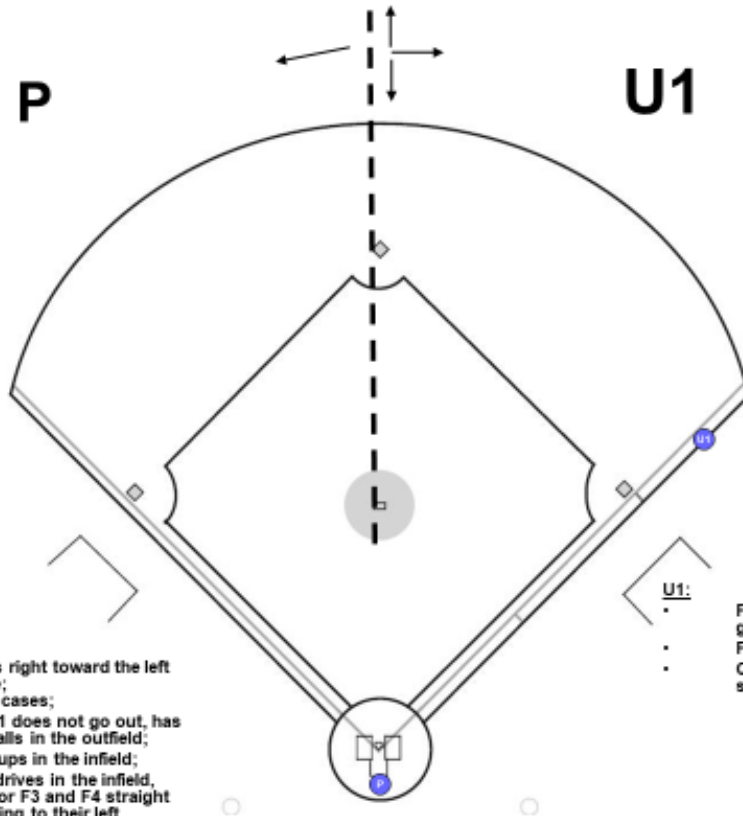
- Pause, Read, React**
- *Pause*- open up toward the ball
  - *Read*- focus on fielder(s)
  - *React*- if you see trouble, go out.

- Plate:**
- Always clear catcher to the left;
  - Move in direction between the mound and first base;
  - Read U1 as to whether you have the ball or the runner.



- U1:**  
**Reasons to go out:**
1. F8 or F9 are running hard in towards the infield as if to make the catch on the dead run or dive to make the catch;
  2. F8 or F9 turn their back to the infield and move towards the outfield wall;
  3. F8, F9, and a infielder are converging on the ball;
  4. F9 is running toward the foul line and a fair/foul decision may be needed;
  5. Infielders are going back on the ball and it could possibly be a diving catch.

### FLY BALL/LINE DRIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

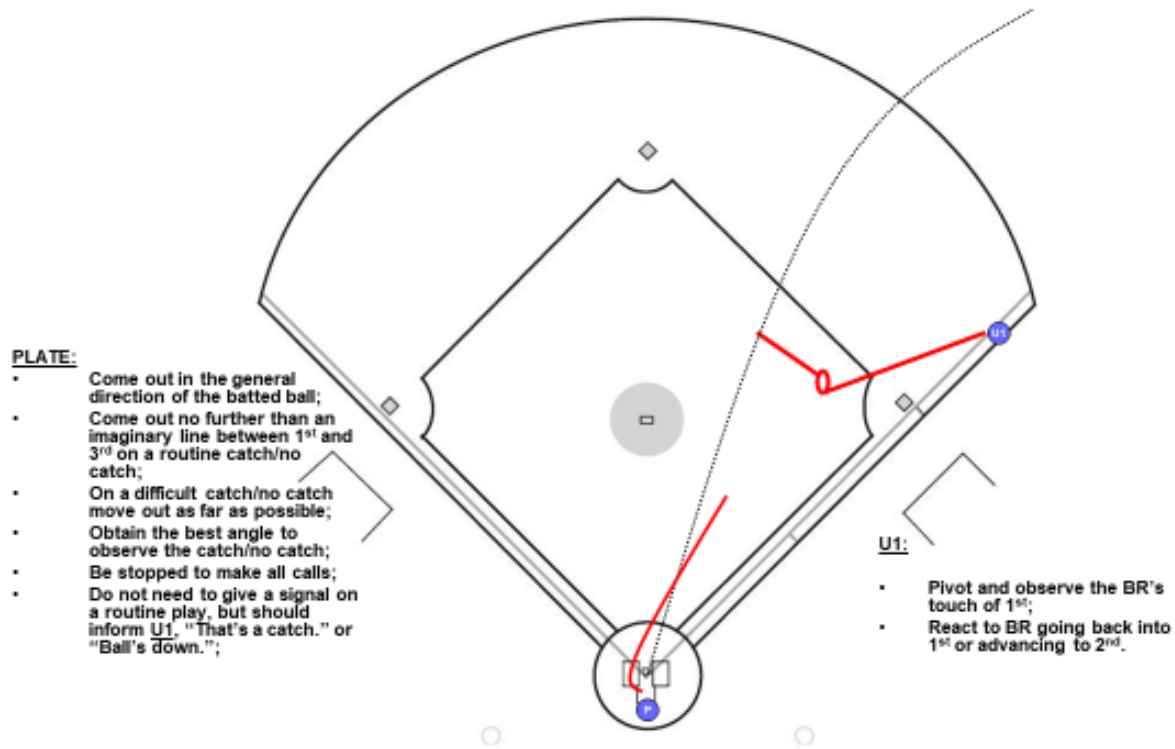


- PLATE:**
- F8 to his right toward the left field line;
  - F7 in all cases;
  - When U1 does not go out, has all the calls in the outfield;
  - All pop-ups in the infield;
  - All line-drives in the infield, except for F3 and F4 straight in or diving to their left.

- U1:**
- F8 coming in, going back, and going toward the right field line;
  - F9 in all cases;
  - Quick line drives to F3 and F4 straight in or diving to their left.

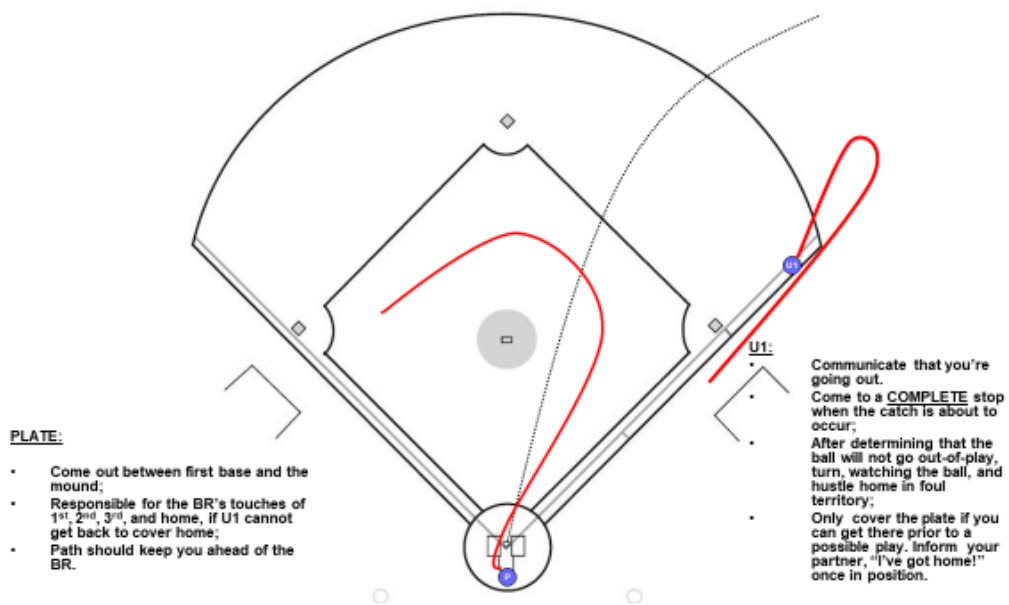
——— INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 - - - - - SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

### FLY BALL OR LINE DRIVE TO RIGHT FIELD U1 DOES NOT GO OUT



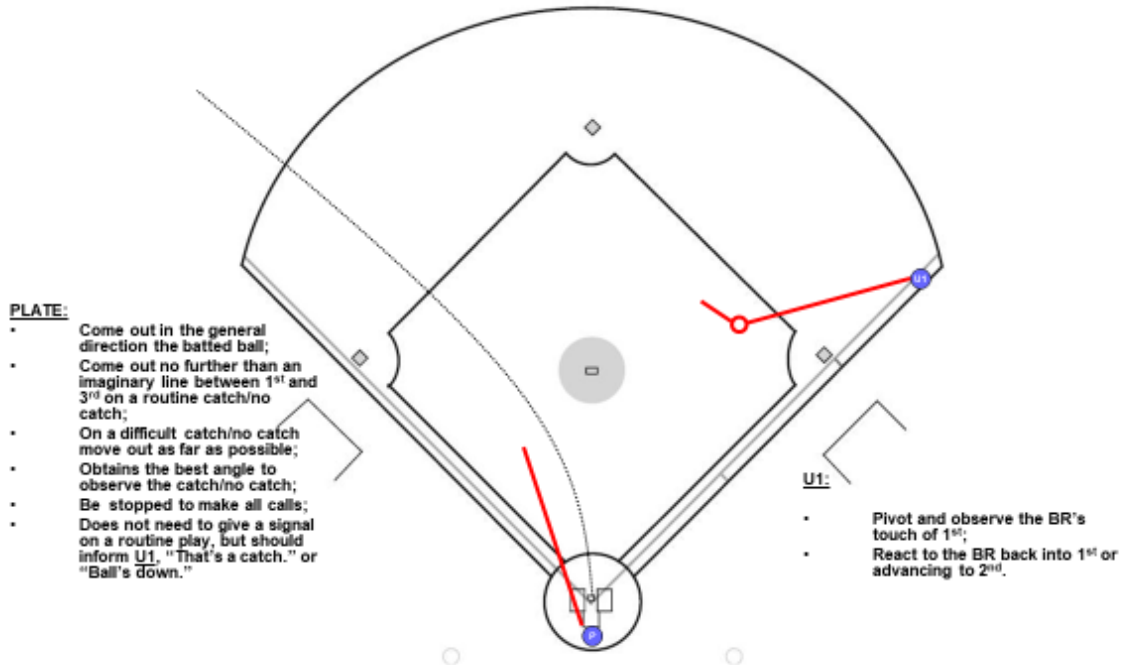
——— INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 - - - - - SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

### FLY BALL OR LINE DRIVE TO RIGHT FIELD U1 GOES OUT



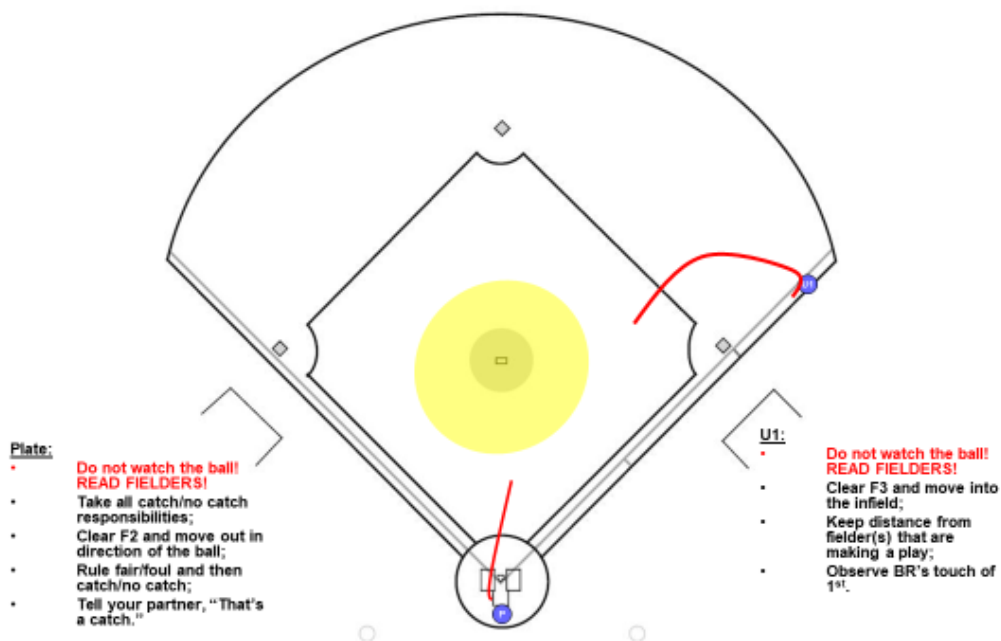
INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

### FLY BALL OR LINE DRIVE TO LEFT FIELD



INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

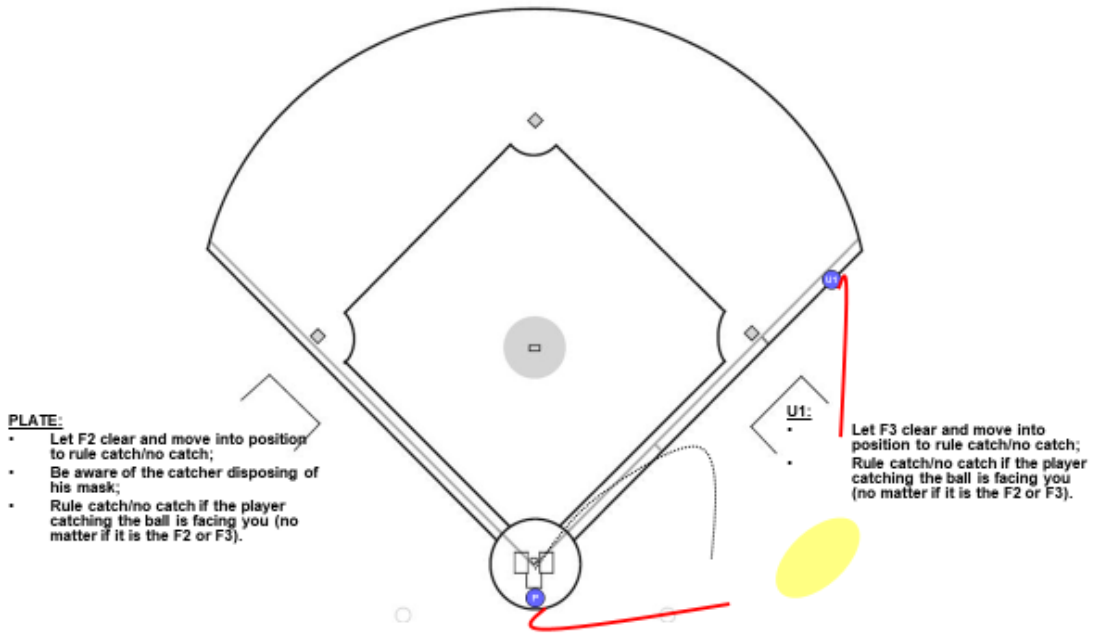
### POPOP ON THE INFIELD





——— INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 - - - - - SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 ○ BALL FLIGHT

**FOUL POP-UP BETWEEN HOME AND 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
 BOTH F2 AND F3 GO FOR THE BALL



**PLATE:**

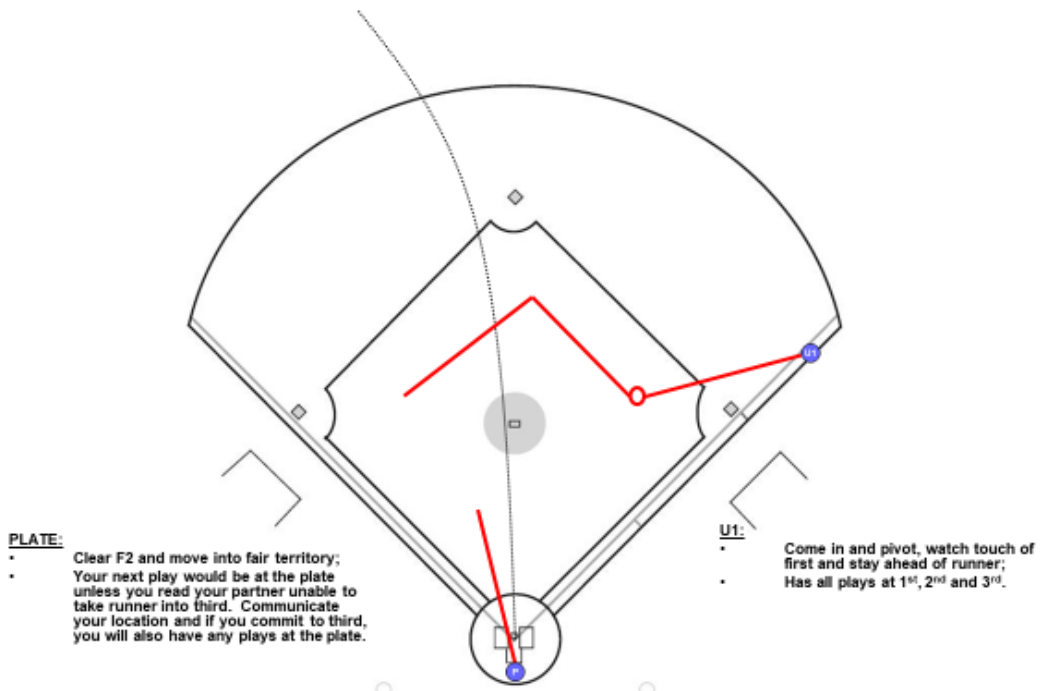
- Let F2 clear and move into position to rule catch/no catch;
- Be aware of the catcher disposing of his mask;
- Rule catch/no catch if the player catching the ball is facing you (no matter if it is the F2 or F3).

**U1:**

- Let F3 clear and move into position to rule catch/no catch;
- Rule catch/no catch if the player catching the ball is facing you (no matter if it is the F2 or F3).

——— INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 - - - - - SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 ○ BALL FLIGHT

**BASE HIT**  
 POSSIBLE TRIPLE



**PLATE:**

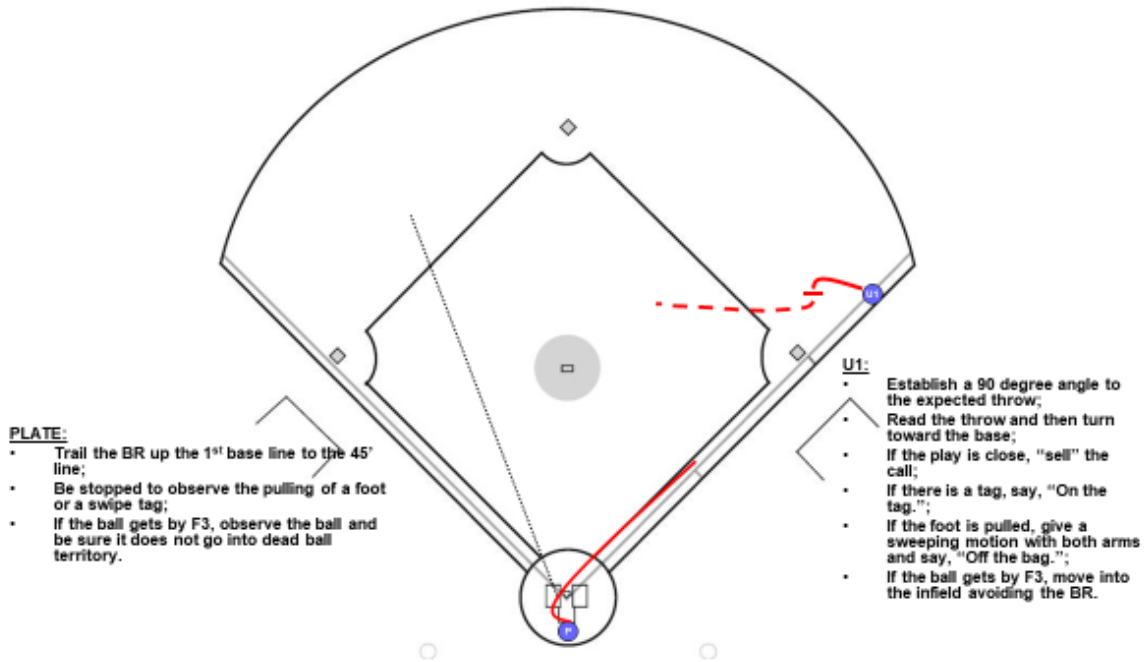
- Clear F2 and move into fair territory;
- Your next play would be at the plate unless you read your partner unable to take runner into third. Communicate your location and if you commit to third, you will also have any plays at the plate.

**U1:**

- Come in and pivot, watch touch of first and stay ahead of runner;
- Has all plays at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

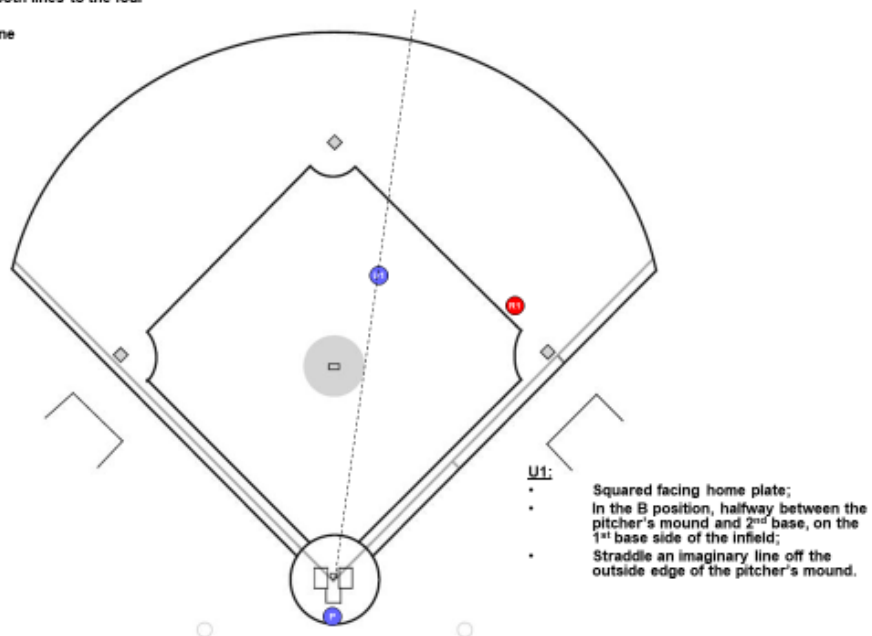
### GROUND BALL



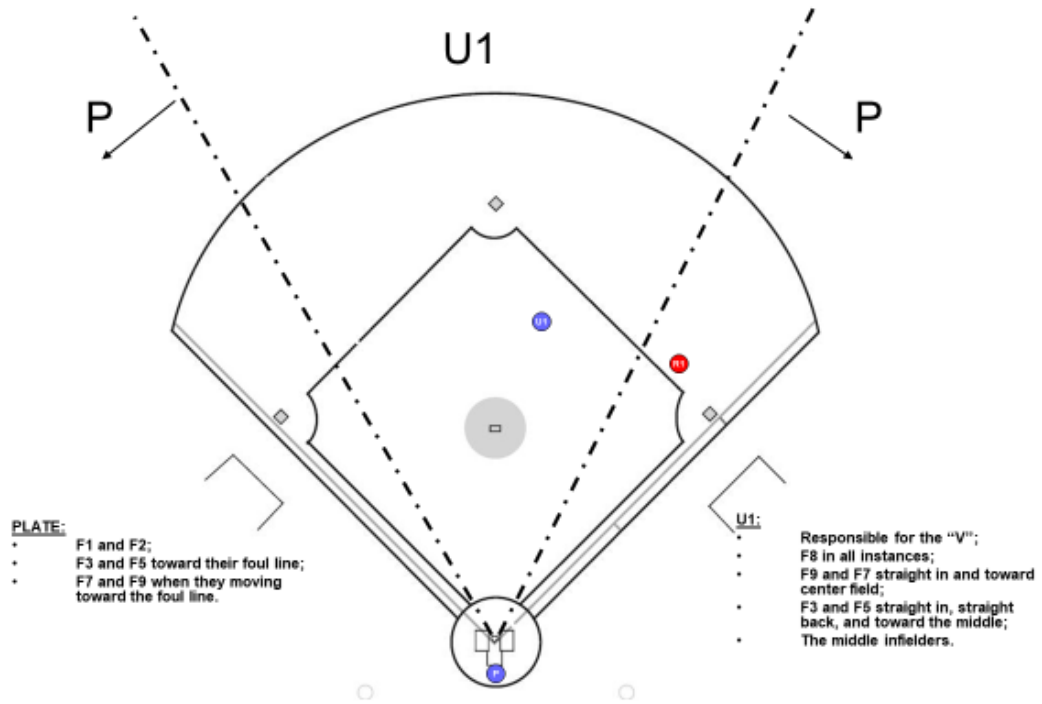
### RUNNER ON FIRST

- Fair/Foul Responsibilities**
- Plate** – both lines to the foul poles.
  - U1** – None

**Communication:**  
 Standard Rotation (S14)

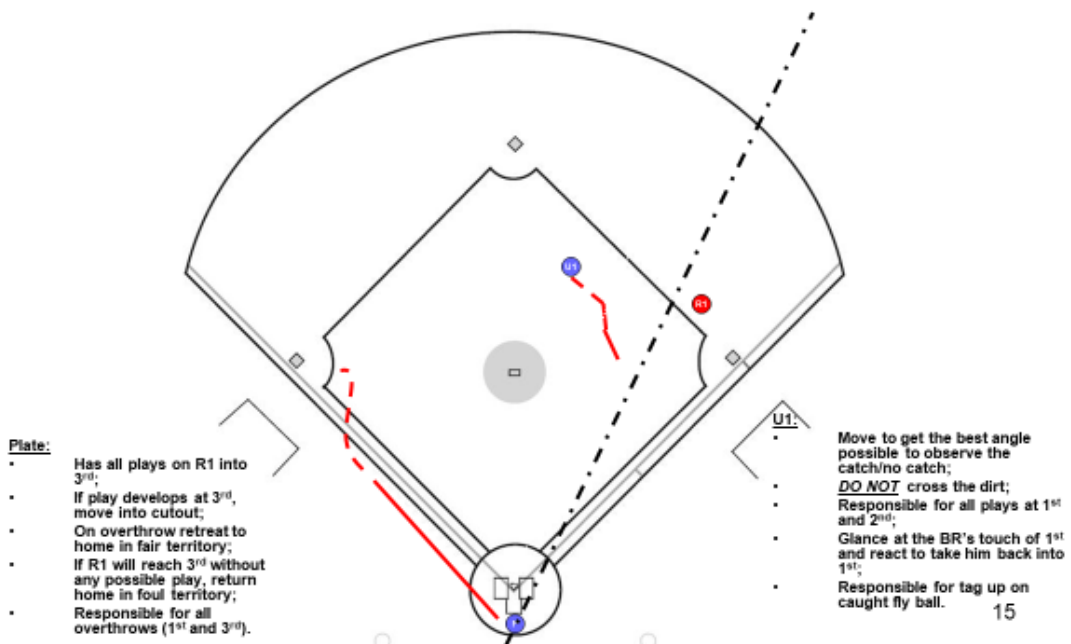


**FLY BALL/LINE DRIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**  
(Same for all situations with U1 inside)



**FLY BALL TO RF**  
U1 HAS THE CATCH/NO CATCH

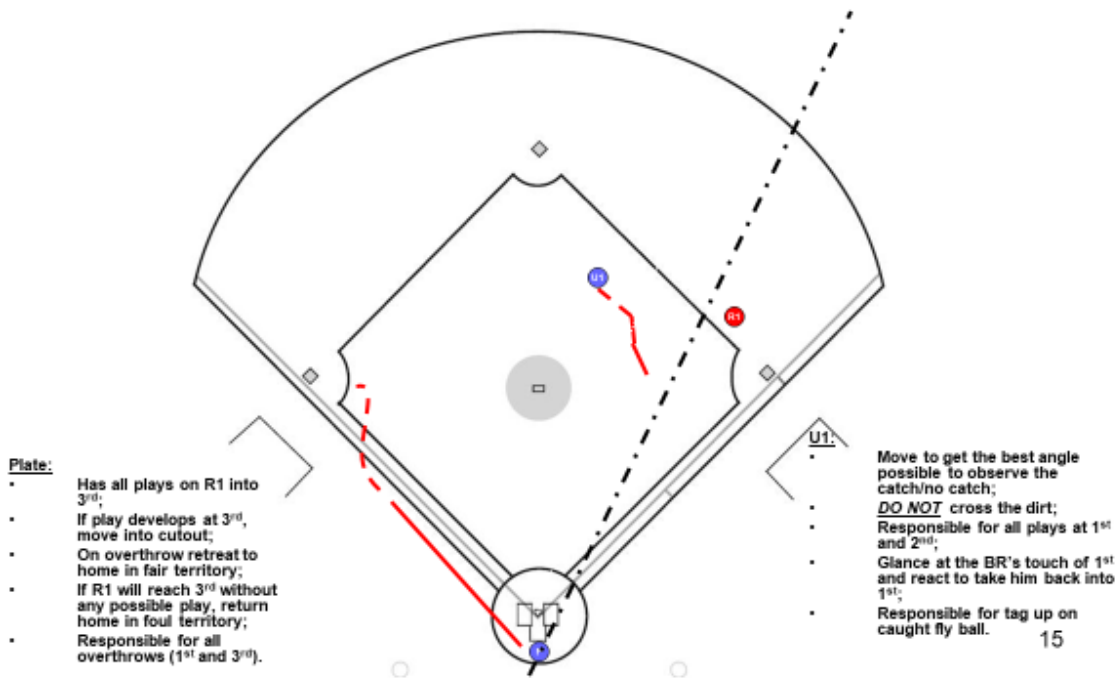
**Communication:**  
Plate, tell partner you're at 3<sup>rd</sup> if he comes



INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

### FLY BALL TO RF U1 HAS THE CATCH/NO CATCH

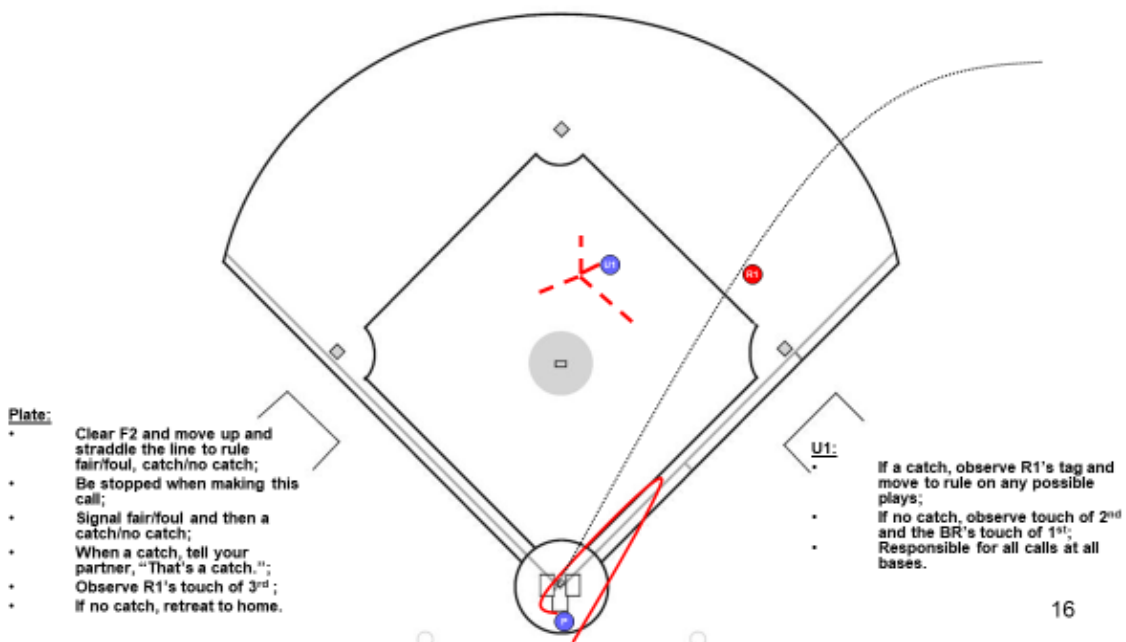
**Communication:**  
 Plate, tell partner you're at 3<sup>rd</sup> if he comes



INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

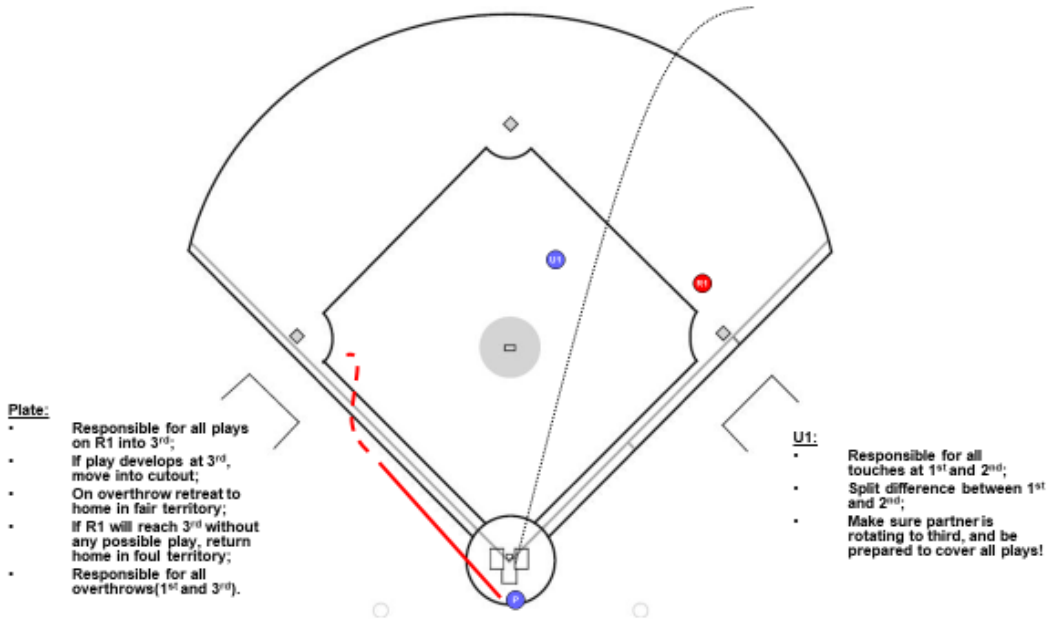
### FLY BALL DOWN THE RF LINE PLATE HAS THE FAIR/FOUL AND CATCH/NO CATCH

**Communication:**  
 Plate, tell partner you're on the ball, he has all bases.

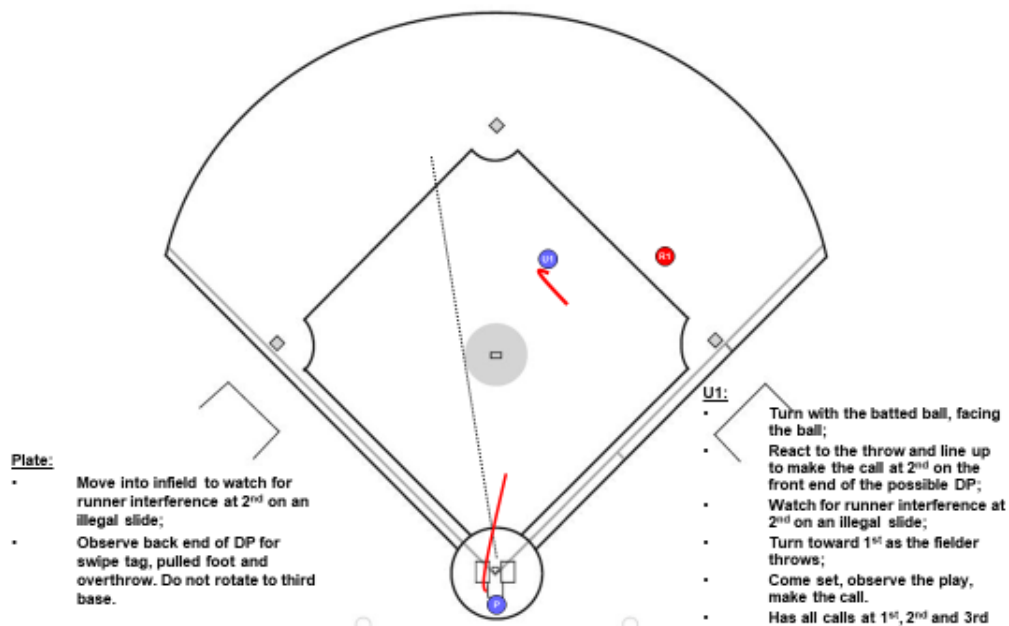




### BASE HIT

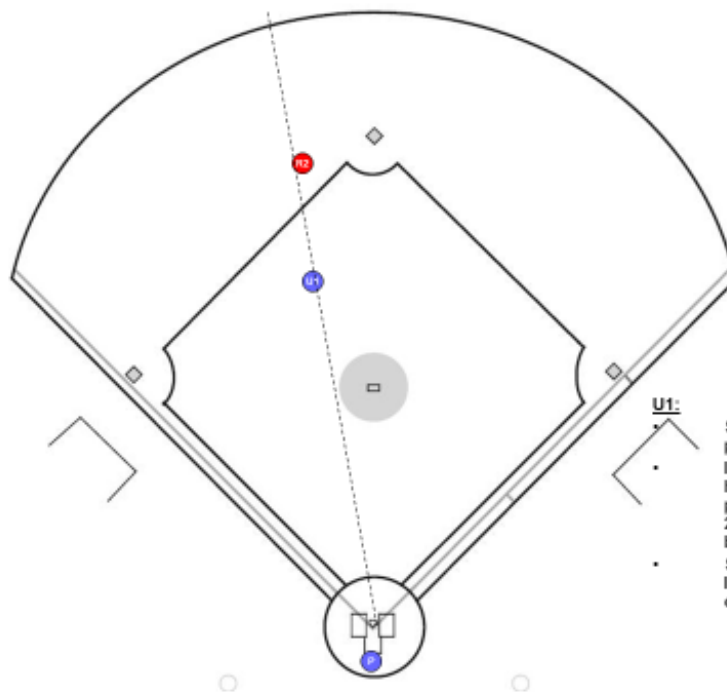


### GROUND BALL



## RUNNER ON SECOND

**Communication:**  
 Staying Home (S16)  
 If two out also add Timing Play (S13)

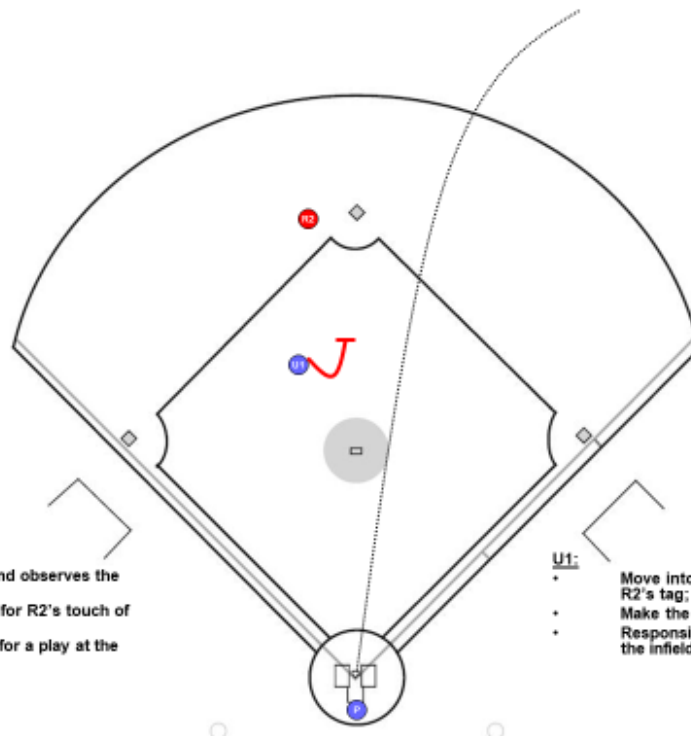


**U1:**

- Squared facing home plate;
- In the C position, halfway between the pitcher's mound and 2nd base, on the 3rd base side of the infield;
- Straddle an imaginary line off the outside edge of the pitcher's mound.

——— INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 - - - - - SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 ○ ○ ○ BALL FLIGHT

## FLY BALL TO OUTFIELD R1 TAGS



**Plate:**

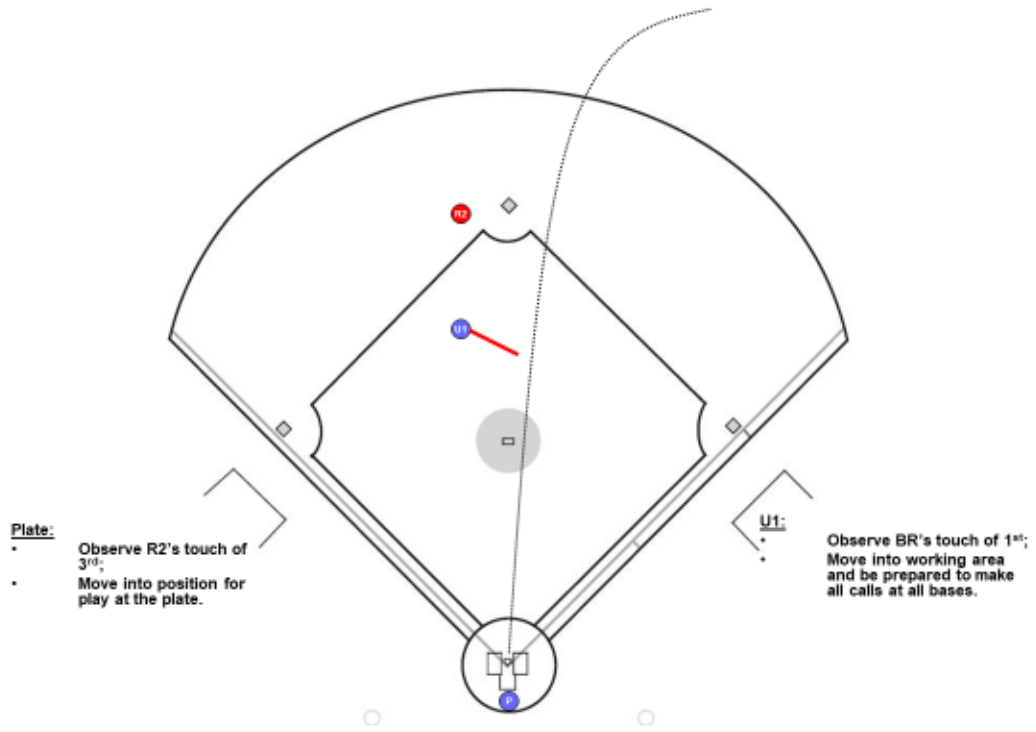
- Stay home and observes the action;
- Responsible for R2's touch of 3<sup>rd</sup>;
- Be prepared for a play at the plate.

**U1:**

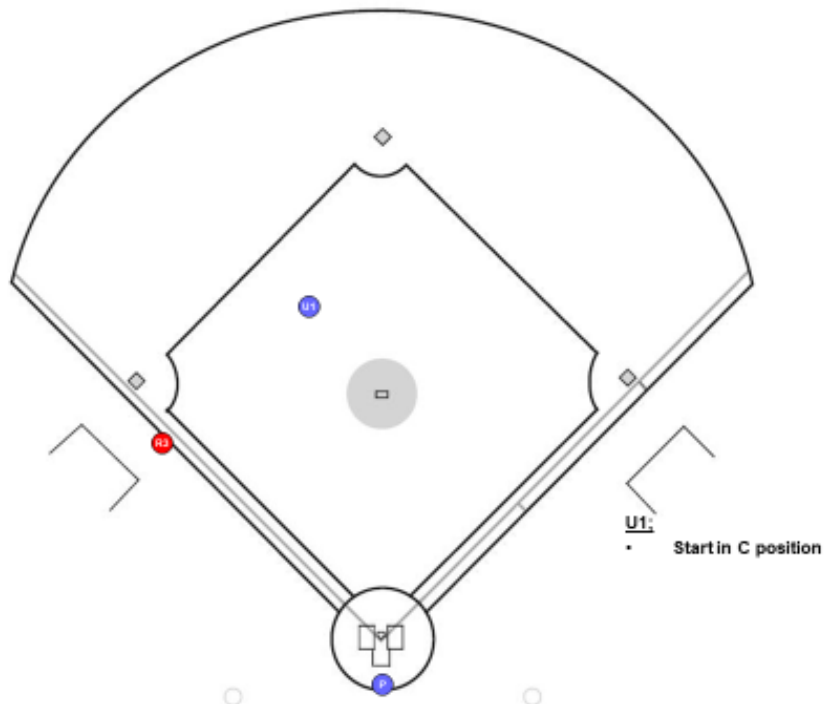
- Move into position to observe R2's tag;
- Make the catch/no catch call;
- Responsible for all plays in the infield.

INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

### BASE HIT



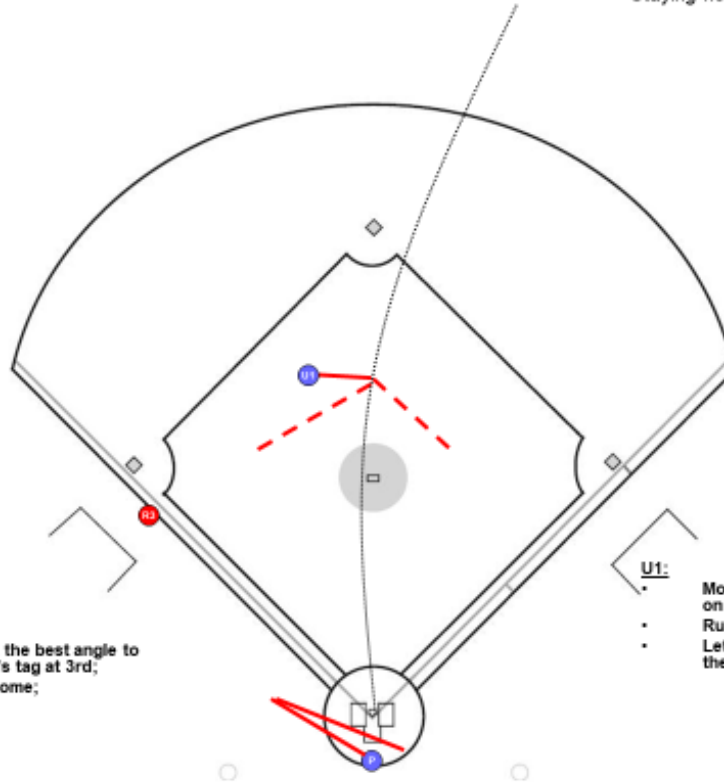
### RUNNER AT THIRD



\_\_\_\_\_ INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 - - - - - SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

### FLY BALL TO OUTFIELD U1 HAS THE CATCH/NO CATCH

**Communication:**  
 Staying home (16)

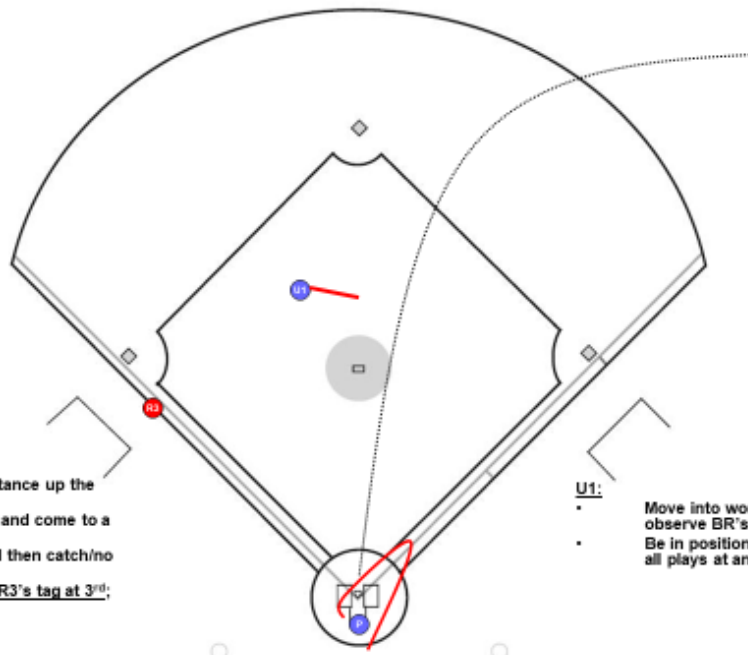


**Plate:**  
 • Move to get the best angle to observe R3's tag at 3rd;  
 • Retreat to home;

**U1:**  
 • Move into position to rule on the catch/no catch;  
 • Rule catch/no catch;  
 • Let the throw take you to the play.

\_\_\_\_\_ INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 - - - - - SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

### FLY BALL DOWN THE RF LINE PLATE HAS THE FAIR/FOUL AND CATCH/NO CATCH RUNNER TAGS



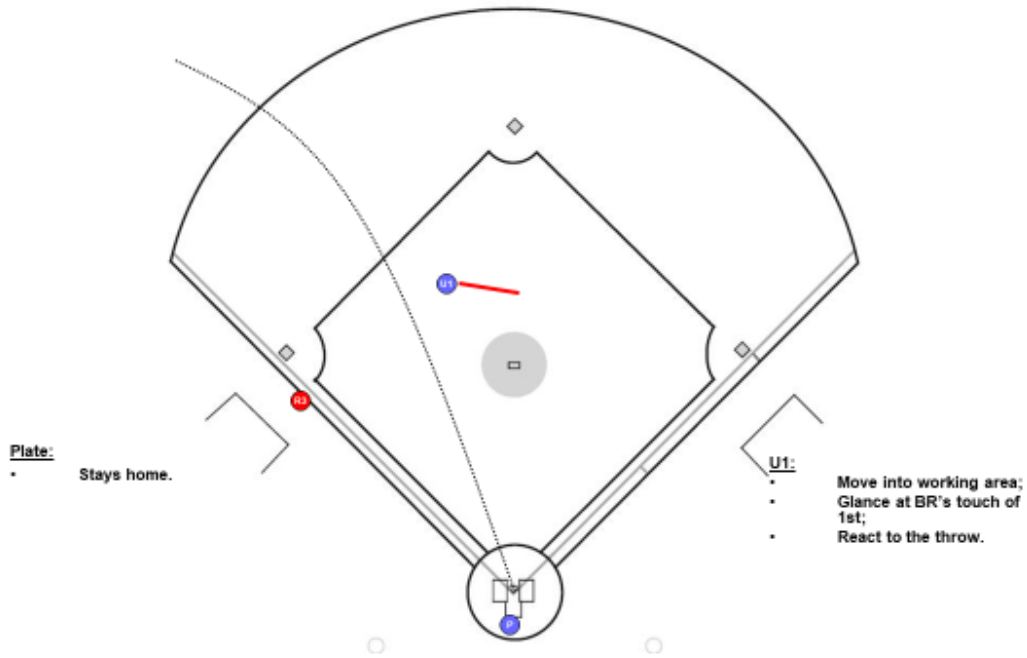
**Plate:**  
 • Move a short distance up the baseline;  
 • Straddle the line and come to a complete stop;  
 • Rule fair/foul and then catch/no catch;  
 • Responsible for R3's tag at 3<sup>rd</sup>;  
 • Retreat to home.

**U1:**  
 • Move into working area to observe BR's touch at 1st;  
 • Be in position to react to all plays at any bases.



INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

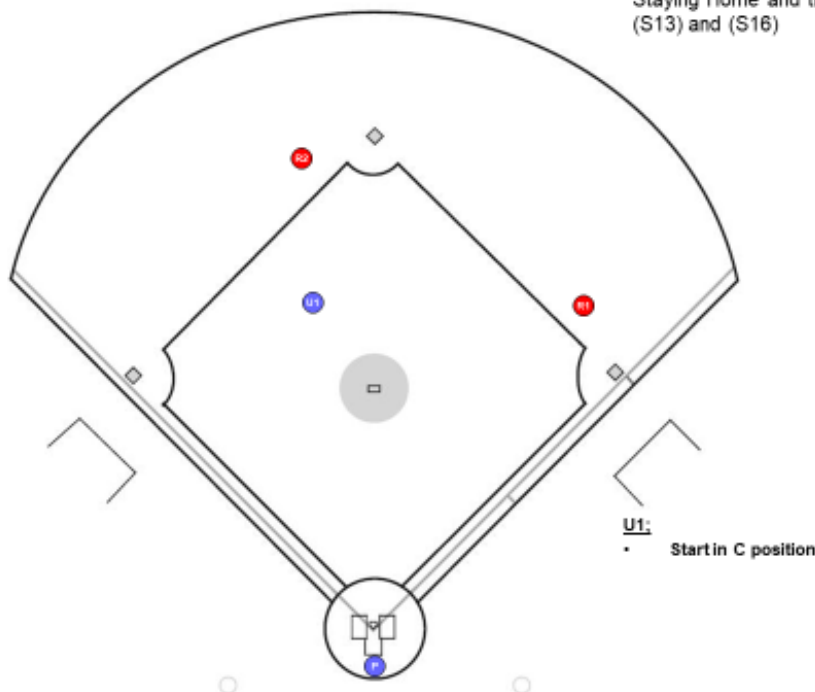
### BASE HIT



### RUNNERS AT FIRST AND SECOND

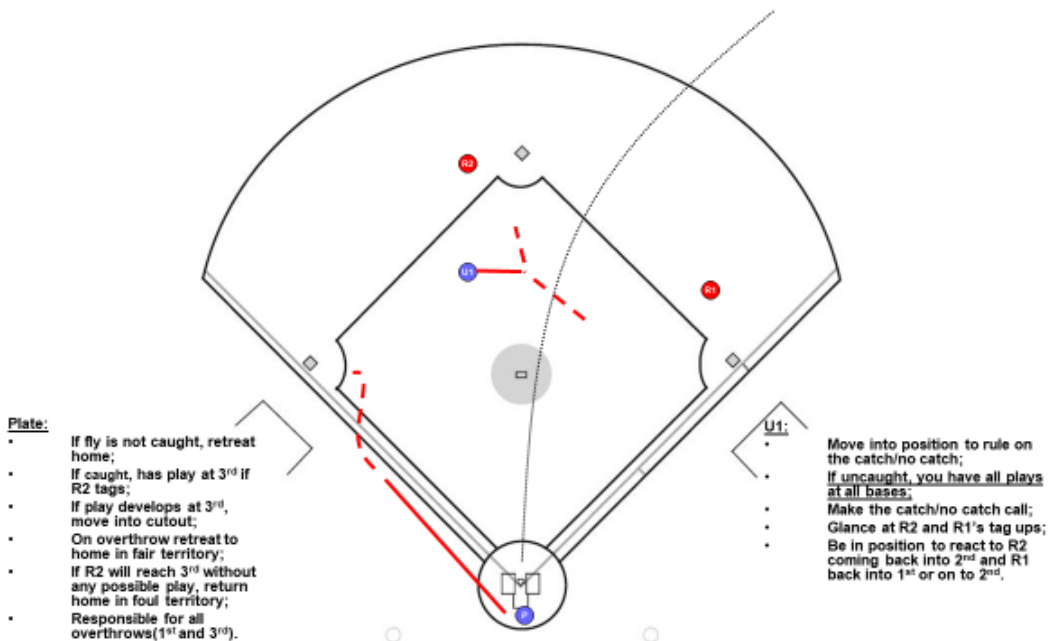
#### Communication:

Less than 2 outs:  
 Infield fly, plate covers third on  
 caught fly ball to outfield (15)  
 Two outs:  
 Staying Home and timing play  
 (S13) and (S16)

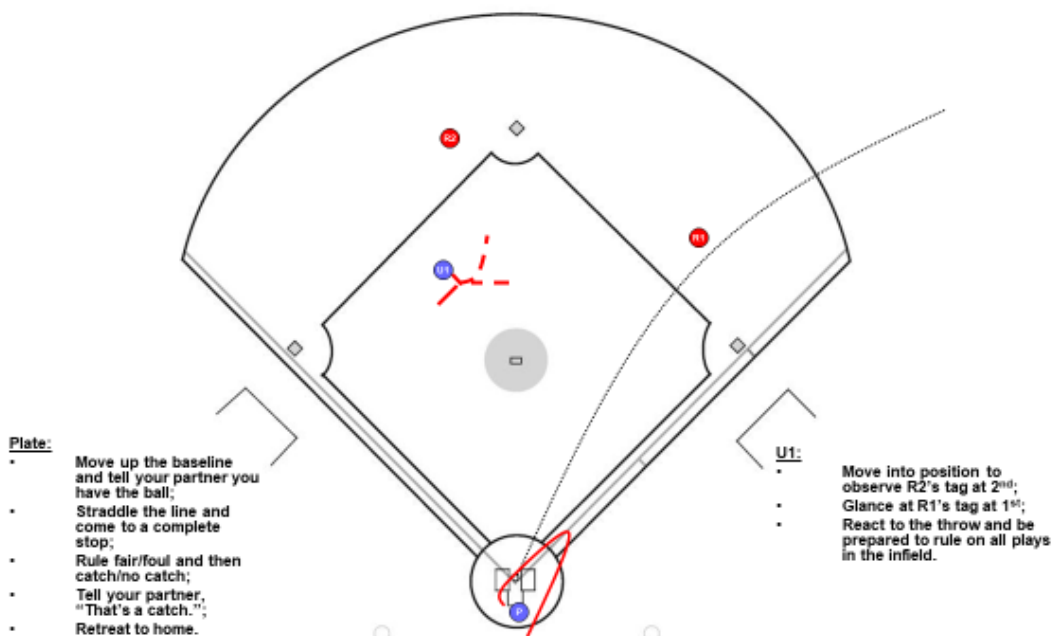




### ROUTINE FLY BALL U1 HAS THE CATCH/NO CATCH R1 TAGS

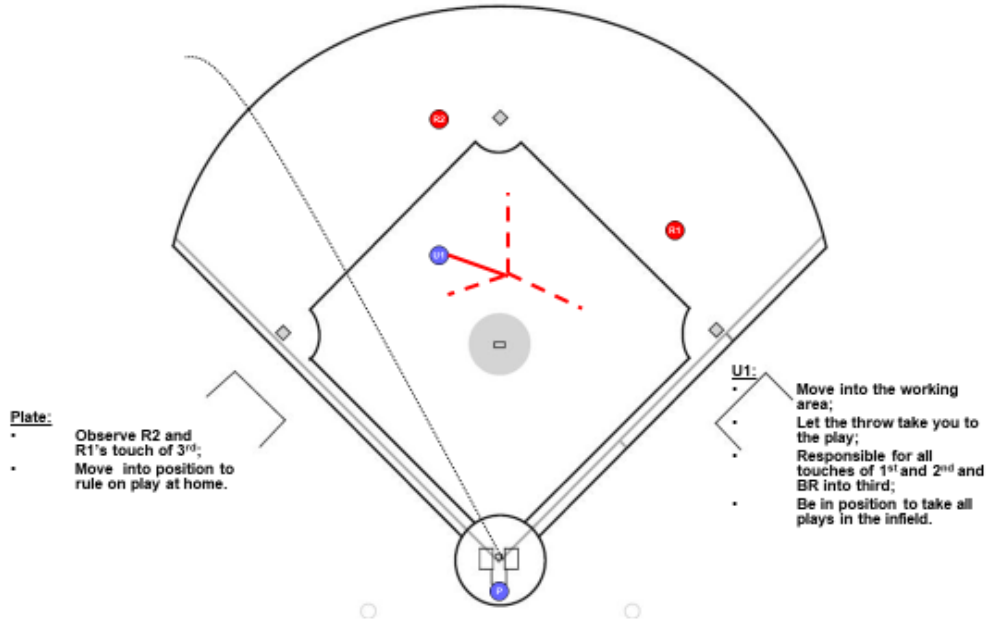


### FLY BALL DOWN THE RF LINE PLATE HAS THE FAIR/FOUL AND CATCH/NO CATCH R1 TAGS



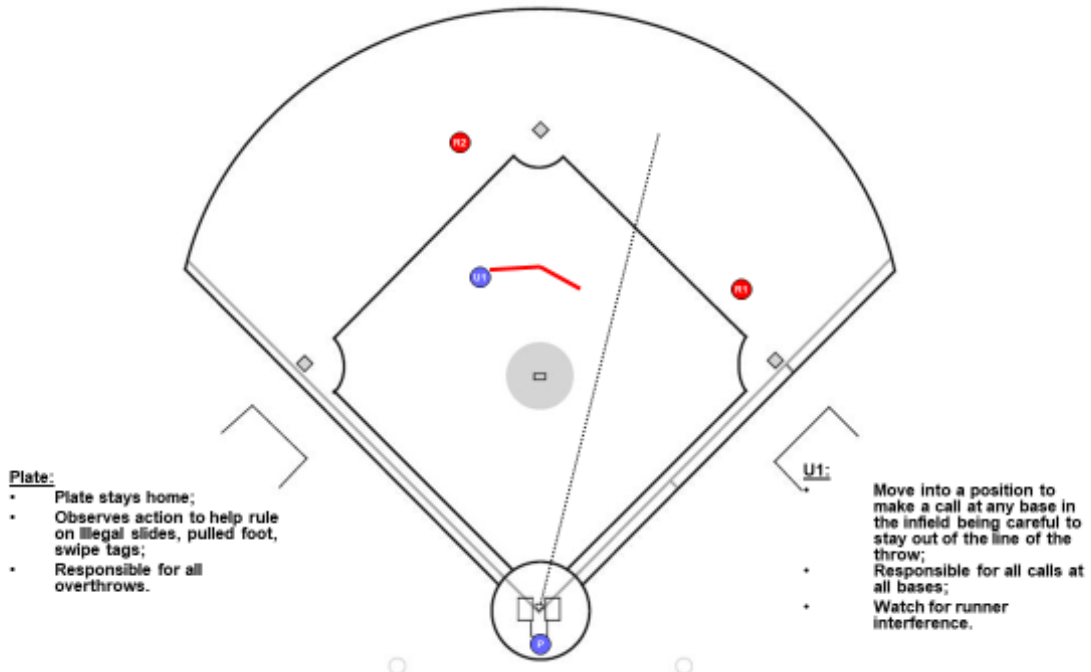
——— INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 - - - - - SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 ○ ○ ○ BALL FLIGHT

### BASE HIT



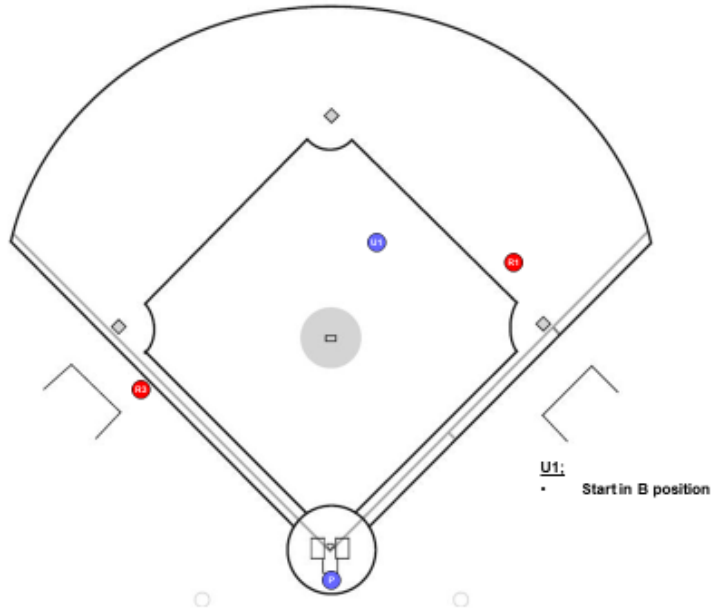
——— INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 - - - - - SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 ○ ○ ○ BALL FLIGHT

### GROUND BALL



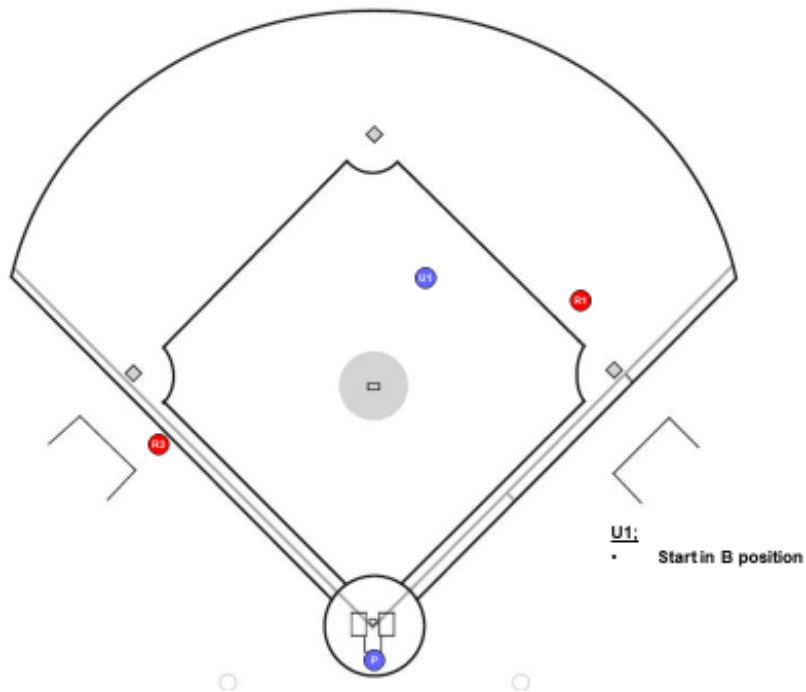
**RUNNERS AT FIRST AND THIRD**

**Communication:**  
Standard Rotation (S14) on  
base hit into outfield



**RUNNERS AT FIRST AND THIRD**

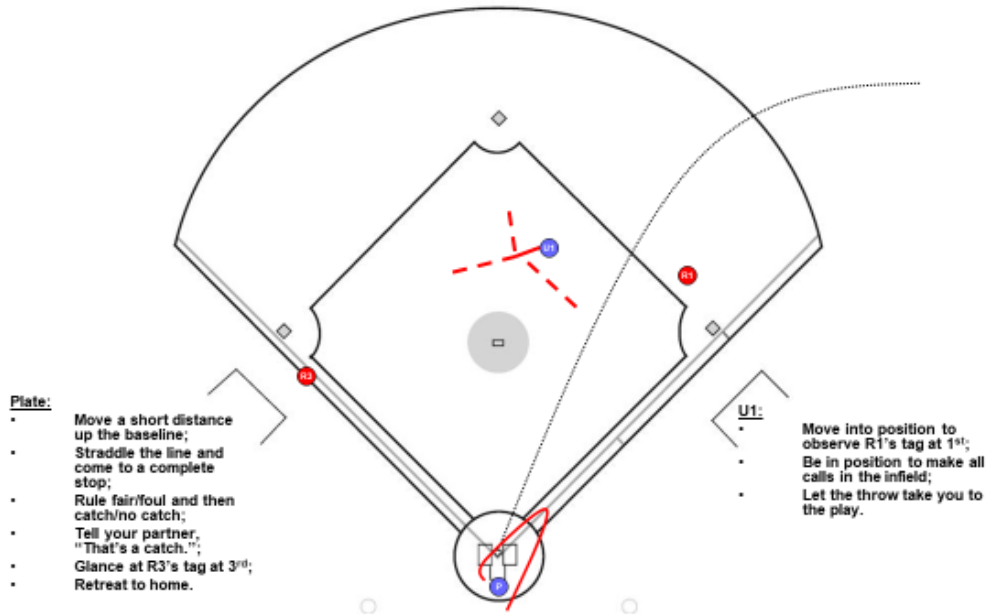
**Communication:**  
Standard Rotation (S14) on  
base hit into outfield



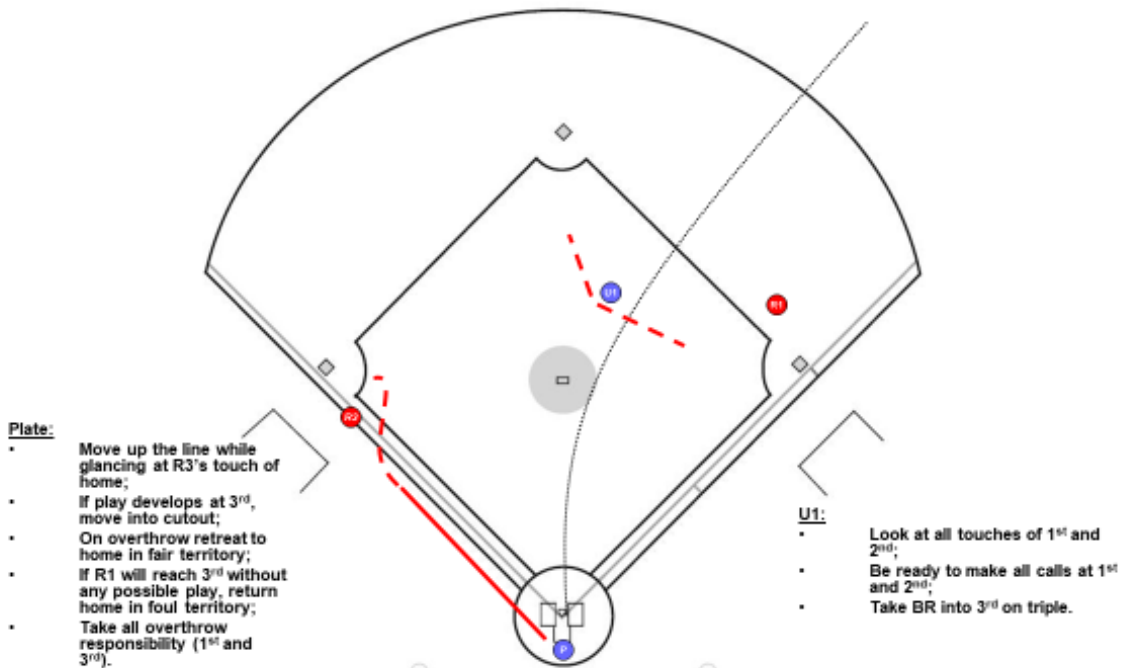


### FLY BALL DOWN THE RF LINE

PLATE HAS FAIR/FOUL AND CATCH/NO CATCH

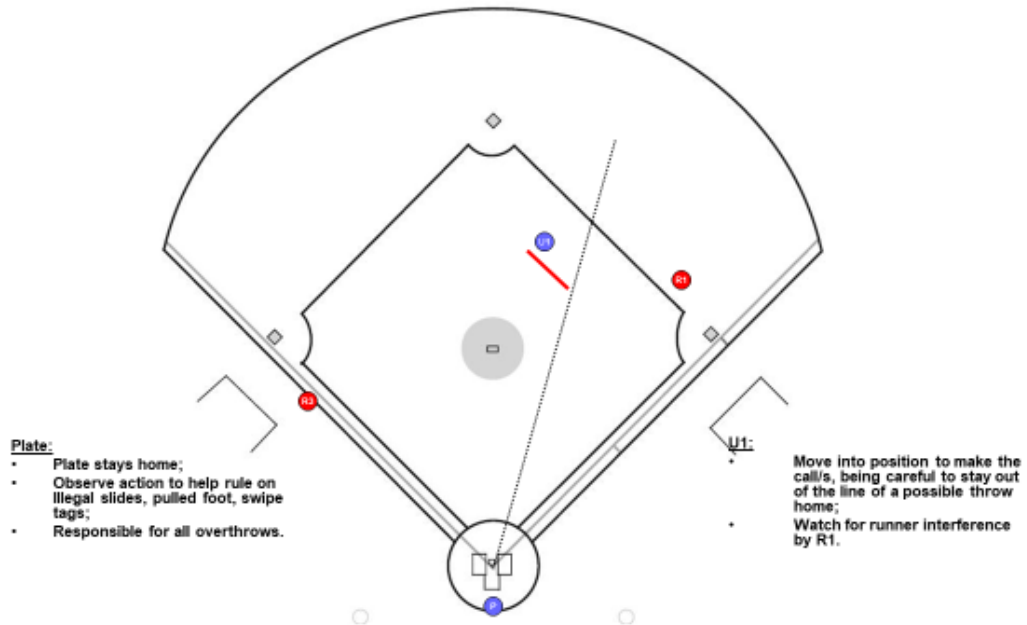


### BASE HIT



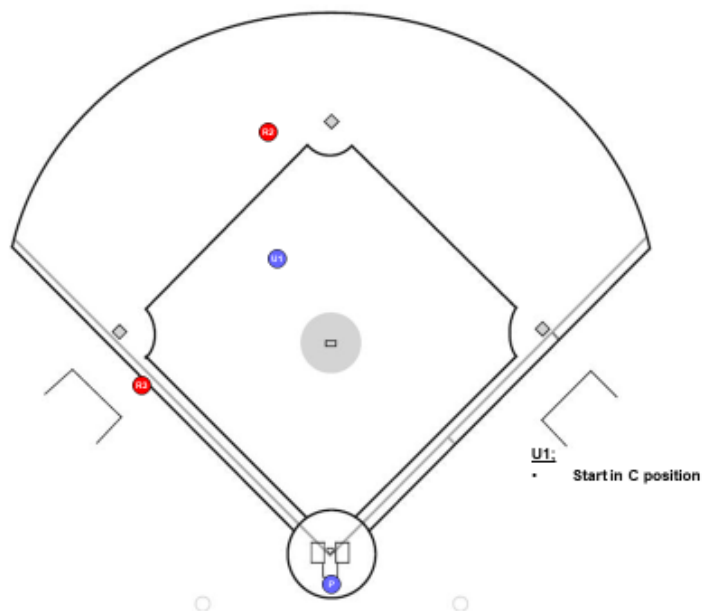
INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

### GROUND BALL



### RUNNERS AT SECOND AND THIRD

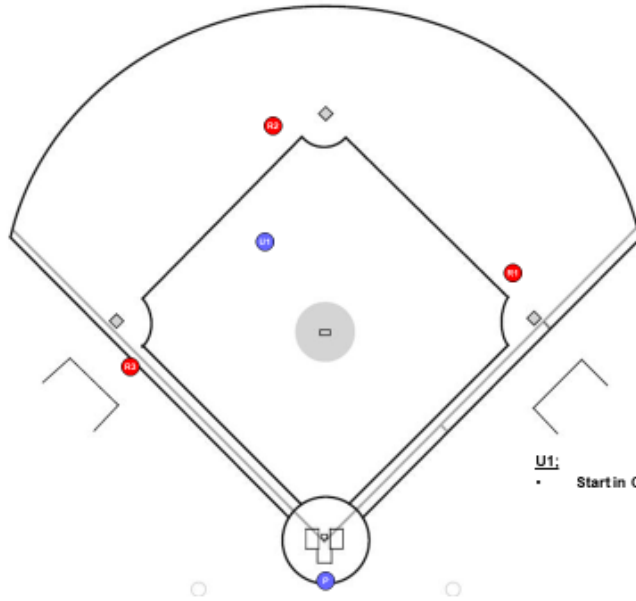
**Communication:**  
 Staying Home (S16)  
 With two outs also add  
 Timing Play (S13)





### BASES LOADED

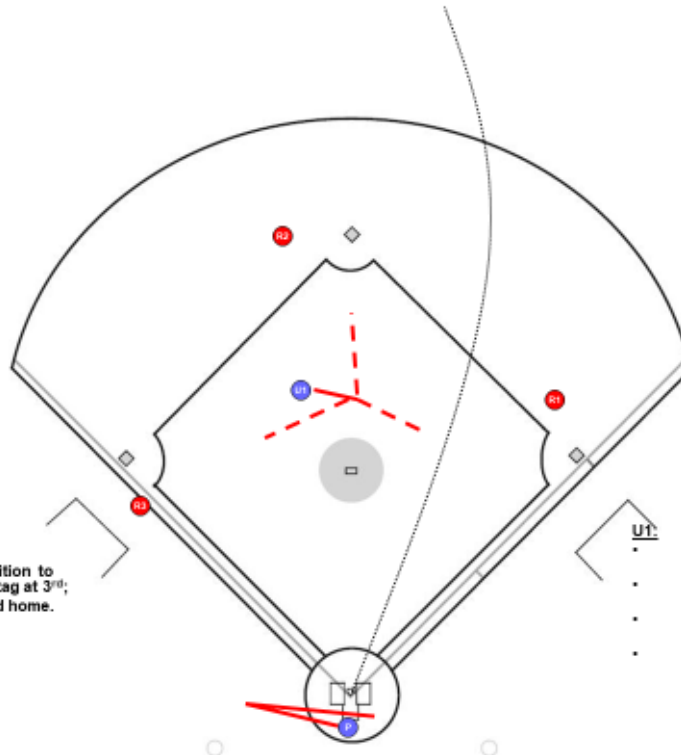
**Communication:**  
 Staying Home (S16)  
 With two outs also add  
 Timing Play (S13)



**U1:**  
 • Start in C position

——— INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 - - - - - SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

### ROUTINE FLY BALL U1 HAS THE CATCH/NO CATCH



**Plate:**  
 • Move into position to observe R3's tag at 3<sup>rd</sup>;  
 • Retreat toward home.

**U1:**  
 • Move into position to rule on the catch;  
 • Make the catch/no catch call;  
 • Observe R2's and R1's tag ups;  
 • Let the throw take you to the play.



INITIAL MOVEMENT  
 SECONDARY MOVEMENT  
 BALL FLIGHT

### BASE HIT

