

Four-Person Mechanics

PU – Plate Umpire

BU1 – 1B Umpire

BU2 – 2nd Base Umpire

BU3 – 3rd Base Umpire

Position – A – BU1 Foul Territory behind 1B

Position – B – BU2 normal B position 2 man mechanics (with Runners on 1st or 2nd)

Position – C – BU2 normal C position 2 man mechanics – slightly deeper toward infield dirt (with Runner on 2nd or 2nd & 3rd)

Position – D – 3rd Base Umpire in foul territory behind 3rd base.

Objective – to limit the amount of movement by the PU, these recommended mechanics do not encourage rotation by the PU away from home plate. Instead, the base umpires make the primary rotations.

No runners on – BU1 in A position; BU3 in D position; BU2 - ~ 10-15 feet in Outfield past infield dirt to the right of 2B for LH batters and left side of 2B for RH batters

Check swings – PU goes to BU1 for right-handed batters and BU3 for lefties.

No one on and routine single to outfield – BU2 cuts into infield for play at 2nd; BU1 stays at 1B. BU3 stays at 3B

No one on – batter hits a gap shot for likely double; BU2 goes and stays in OF; BU1 takes the Batter-runner into 2nd base. BU3 stays at 3rd and PU stays home. If either BU1 or BU3 goes out on an extra base hit from the OF to the foul line that umpire stays out and BU2 covers the plays at 2B. If BU1 goes out PU watches touch of 1B by BR and if BU3 goes out BU2 takes BR to 3B.

The PU will move out to cover a play on bases will be no one on and BU1 goes out on a fly ball and PU watches BR touch 1B or any throw back to 1B.

As a general rule, if BU3 goes out to the outfield, (runner(s) on base) BU2 slides over for plays at 3B and BU1 will cover the plays at 1B and BR going into 2B. (Slide mechanic) This allows the PU to stay home.

Line drive coverage is the responsibility of the umpire closest to the glove side of the fielder attempting to make the play.

When BU2 is in position B or C, BU3 goes out on fly balls, gap shots from the CF to the left field line and BU1 goes out on balls when CF moves towards RF as well as all balls hit to the right field line.

The PU will communicate signals to BU2. BU1 and BU3 key off of these signals. (Outs, rotate, infield fly, etc.)

The PU will cover tags and touches at 3B only if BU3 goes out otherwise BU3 takes.

FAIR/FOUL

No one base the PU has fair/foul up to the base then the base umpires take responsibility for ball hitting base or going over the base.

REMEMBER – get together away from coaches and players if necessary to get a rule interpretation correct. If a ball is dropped and the responsible umpire is screened get together and get it RIGHT. Base awards; foul vs. fair home run.

Positioning between innings – BU3 outfield grass between 2nd and 3rd; BU2 in outfield in front of but away from players warming up. BU1 outfield grass between 1st and 2nd; PU part way up the baseline nearest defensive teams dugout unless there was an inning ending controversial situation.

Deal with unsportsmanlike behavior immediately; don't let it build up.

Stay away from spectators; no fraternizing with fans. Be professional

BU3 should carry an indicator to keep the count and outs.

Keep track as to visits to the mound; prevent a possible 2nd trip while same batter is up. This does happen.