



# Peninsula Umpires Association

## Three Umpire Mechanics

### The three most important words to remember:

**Pause** → Where is the ball? Where are the players?

**Read** → Who & Where is making the play?

**React** → Get to your position!

### An Umpire's Order of Responsibilities are:

1. Fair or Foul Decision
2. Catch / No Catch
3. Safe / Out

### Standard Abbreviations:

|                  |                             |    |                  |    |              |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|
| <b><u>PU</u></b> | Plate Umpire                | BR | Batter-runner    | RF | Right Field  |
| <b><u>U1</u></b> | 1 <sup>st</sup> Base Umpire | R1 | Runner at First  | CF | Center Field |
| <b><u>U3</u></b> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Base Umpire | R2 | Runner at Second | LF | Left Field   |
|                  |                             | R3 | Runner at Third  |    |              |

### Field Position Descriptions:

**Position A** – in foul territory 10-12 feet behind the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman unless he's in front of the base, then gauge 10-12 feet from 1<sup>st</sup> base itself – never go in front of the base.

- ***U1 takes this position with no runners on, runner at 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> only or bases loaded.***

**Position Deep B** – Half way between pitcher's mound and 2<sup>nd</sup> base on the 1<sup>st</sup> base side of the field deep in the grass almost to the dirt.

- ***U1 takes this position with runner at 2<sup>nd</sup> or runners at 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.***

**Position C** – Same as B but on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side.

- ***U3 takes this position with runner at 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> or bases loaded.***

**Position Deep C** – Same as C but deep in the grass almost to the dirt.

- ***U3 takes this position with runner at 1<sup>st</sup> base only.***

**Position D** – In foul territory 10-12 feet behind the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman unless he's in front of the base, then gauge 10-12 feet from 3<sup>rd</sup> base itself – never go in front of the base.

- ***U3 takes this position with no runners on, runner at 2<sup>nd</sup> base, runner at 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> base or runner only at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.***



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#### Fair/Foul Decision Responsibilities:

- When there are **no runners on base** or when there's **a runner only at 3<sup>rd</sup> base**, the **PU** has all the Fair/Foul decisions up to but not including 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base, **U1** has all the balls that hit 1<sup>st</sup> base up to the Foul Pole in RF and **U3** has all the balls that hit 3<sup>rd</sup> base up to the Foul Pole in LF.
- When there is a **runner on 1st base, 1st & 2nd, 1st & 3<sup>rd</sup> or Bases Loaded**, the **PU** has all the Fair/Foul decisions up to but not including 1st base and all the balls down the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line up to the Foul Pole in LF. **U1** has the balls that hit 1<sup>st</sup> base up to the Foul Pole in RF and **U3** has no Fair/Foul responsibilities.
- When there is **a runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base or 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> base**, the **PU** has all the Fair/Foul decisions up to but not including 3<sup>rd</sup> base and all the balls down the 1<sup>st</sup> base line up to the Foul Pole in RF. **U1** has no Fair/Foul responsibilities and **U3** has all the balls that hit 3<sup>rd</sup> base up to the Foul Pole in LF.

#### The Mechanics of a Rotation:

A rotation is executed only when **U1** is in Position A and there is a potential play at 3<sup>rd</sup> base which is covered by the **PU**. Any time the **PU** moves to 3<sup>rd</sup> base to cover a play there, **U1** moves to Home Plate to cover a play there and **U3** takes responsibility for any plays at 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 1<sup>st</sup> base.

Always communicate prior to a play that a potential rotation is on and be prepared to cover your responsibilities quickly and efficiently.

#### Basic Principles

- **Angle** is **primary**, distance secondary. Always work to get your best angle on a play first – then if possible, improve your distance.
- **Box them in...** Almost always with three Umpires one can be in front of the runner and one behind the runner – but not always.
- Infield Umpires **may go out** as required in some situations – this would be the only time an Umpire may cross the base paths and go to the outfield for trouble ball coverage.
- When a base Umpire goes out from any position, the crew will revert back to the Two Umpire system. **Stay out until the play is complete.** **Never go out on a line drive.**
- Pay attention to your partner on the field – he may go out unexpectedly. Be sure of your coverage and hustle to position.



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#### Basic Infield Coverage

- The **PU** has catches by the pitcher moving in, left or right and by 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> basemen going toward Home Plate. When **U3** is in Position C, the **PU** has 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman moving toward foul line. When **U1** is in Position B, the **PU** has 1<sup>st</sup> baseman moving toward foul line.
- When **U1** is in Position A and **U3** is in Position D - **U1** has 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> basemen moving back or toward the foul line and the Short Stop moving toward 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
- When **U3** is in Position D and **U1** in Position A, **U3** has 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman moving back or to the foul line, 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman and the Shortstop moving toward LF, Infield or foul line.
- **U1 or U3** from Position B or C have the Short Stop in all directions, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> basemen moving toward 2<sup>nd</sup> base and 2<sup>nd</sup> moving in.

#### Basic Outfield Coverage

For 2011, let's go out on every **FLY BALL** hit to the outfield when no runners are on base, or when there's only a runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> base, (**U1** in Position A and **U3** in Position D) however, **never go out on a line drive**. The choice being made in advance will take the "indecision" out of the hands of our Umpires giving us a cleaner coverage. Keep in mind that when you go out, you do not return until the completion of the play. Go out from the infield only in the case of a trouble ball.

This means that we will be reverting back to 2 Umpire Mechanics almost every time a fly ball goes to the outfield, so we should be clear of our responsibilities and execute them properly.

- **U1** dictates coverage and is responsible for the CF straight in or back as well as anything hit toward the RF Foul Line.
- **U3** is responsible for the CF moving toward LF as well as anything hit toward the LF Foul Line.
- When **U1** goes out, the **PU** follows the BR to 1<sup>st</sup> base while **U3** comes to the infield to pick up responsibilities for the BR at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Once the BR is released to **U3**, the **PU** returns to Home Plate for a possible play there.
- When **U3** goes out, **U1** comes to the infield, pivots and takes the BR all the way to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. In this case, the **PU** remains at home.
- With runners at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and **U1** or **U3** go out, the **PU** has the play of R2 at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. If **U3** goes out, **U1** has the tag ups at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and all plays at both bases.



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#### Balk Calling Responsibilities

- **PU** should concentrate on the pitcher engaging the rubber properly (hands apart), upper body motions, coming to a stop and/or any movements not consistent with his pitching motion, which in your judgment may deceive the runner.
- **U1** should concentrate on a left-handed pitcher's proper footing on the rubber, gaining distance and direction on a pick off move, coming to a complete stop and any illegal movements, which in your judgment may deceive the runner.
- **U3** should concentrate on a right-handed pitcher's proper footing on the rubber, coming to a complete stop, stepping correctly on the third-to-first move and breaking the back edge of the pitcher's rubber (entire free foot or any part of the stride leg) as well as any illegal movements which in your judgment may deceive the runner.

#### Check Swing Request

Go for help when requested – don't argue. The proper mechanic is to point to your partner *with your left hand* while asking "DID HE GO?" For a **Right Handed batter, go to U1**, and for a **Left Handed batter, go to U3**. When the timing is crucial, (as in a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike) ask for help immediately. Leave your mask on. If you **know** the check swing is a strike, your call is "YES HE DID" or "HE WENT" pointing to the batter with your left hand as you make the call.

**U1** or **U3**, when asked by the **PU** and only the **PU**, respond with either a Safe signal and a verbal, "NO HE DID NOT" or an Out signal and a verbal "YES HE DID".

A batter is said to have "swung" if the barrel of the bat goes past the body of the batter and in your judgment, *the batter tried to strike the ball*. The relative position of Home Plate to the batter may not have a bearing on the call.

#### Rundown Plays

- Single Rundowns: **U1** and **U3** handle all rundowns between 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. On a rundown between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> where the runner has continued to 3<sup>rd</sup> base, **U1** should move toward 2<sup>nd</sup> base and assume responsibility for the back end of a possible rundown between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The **PU** works with **U3** on any rundown between 3<sup>rd</sup> and Home Plate. *Communication is a must.*
- Double Rundowns: With a runner at 3<sup>rd</sup>, the **PU** remains at Home Plate.



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#### Overthrow Responsibilities:

- **Nobody on base:** All overthrows are taken by the PU except when the crew has rotated, **U1** has that responsibility then, since he has rotated to the plate.
- **Runner at 1<sup>st</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>:** All overthrows are taken by the PU except when the crew has rotated, **U1** has that responsibility then, since he has rotated to the plate. If the crew reverts to 2 Umpire System, the PU has all the overthrows - On plays at 3<sup>rd</sup> base taken by the PU, the overthrow will be taken from the inside as well as any play at the plate.
- **Runners at 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>:** All overthrows are taken by the PU except on a tag up rotation, **U1** has that responsibility then, since he has rotated to the plate. If the crew reverts to 2 Umpire System, the PU has all the overthrows - On plays at 3<sup>rd</sup> base taken by the PU, the overthrow will be taken from the inside as well as any play at the plate.
- **Runners at 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> base or bases loaded:** The PU has all the overthrow responsibilities.



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#### NO RUNNERS ON BASE

##### PU Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** The PU reads the ball, moves to the Library and has any play on the BR at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** Go around the left side of the catcher in fair territory toward 1<sup>st</sup> base up to the 45' line to assist U1 on swipe tag or pulled foot. The PU has all tags, interference / obstruction calls up to the 45' line.

##### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** U1 observes BR's touch at 1<sup>st</sup> base from foul territory and begins to move toward Home Plate if the BR commits to 3<sup>rd</sup> base and the PU has rotated to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** Move to a 90-degree angle from throw to rule on plays at 1<sup>st</sup>. All tags, obstruction and interference calls from the 45' line to 1<sup>st</sup> base (make eye contact with PU before making the call if play is in gray area near the 45' line).

##### U3 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** U3 enters the infield and has all plays on the BR at 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** U3 enters the infield and has all plays on the BR at 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### RUNNER ON 1<sup>ST</sup> BASE

##### PU Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** (*rotation*) PU moves to "the library" communicating "I'VE GOT THIRD IF HE COMES" and reads R1, the ball and the fielder then if there's a play at 3<sup>rd</sup>, move to the best position to rule on a play there communicating "I'VE GOT THIRD".
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the "V":** Observe the action moving toward "the library". If ball is dropped, PU is responsible for any plays on R1 at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** Move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side of the mound to assist U3 on the force slide at 2<sup>nd</sup> by R1. PU also has secondary responsibility for assisting U1 on a swipe tag/or pulled foot at 1<sup>st</sup> base.

##### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** (*rotation*) U1 observes the BR's base touch at 1<sup>st</sup> base and begins to move toward Home Plate if R1 commits to 3<sup>rd</sup> base and the PU rotates to 3<sup>rd</sup> base – always in foul territory.



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2. **Fly Ball Caught in the “V”:** **U1** observes R1’s tag up or the BR’s touch at 1<sup>st</sup> base and begins to move toward Home Plate if R1 commits to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U1** has all plays on BR at 1<sup>st</sup> base.

#### U3 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** (*rotation*) **U3** observes R1 touch at 2<sup>nd</sup> base and begins to move to 1<sup>st</sup> base if R1 commits to 3<sup>rd</sup> base and has all plays on BR at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the “V”:** **U3** rules on the catch, observes the action and has any play at 2<sup>nd</sup> base on R1.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U3** has all plays on R1 at 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

### RUNNERS ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup>

#### PU Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** *PU stays home*, observes R2 touching 3<sup>rd</sup> base and observes the plate touch of all runners. **PU** moves to a position to rule on all plays at Home Plate.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the “V”:** (*rotation*) **PU** moves to the best position to view the catch, read the runners and the ball and moves into a position for any play on R2 advancing to 3<sup>rd</sup> base whether or not U3 goes on the fly ball.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **PU** observes the action has all touches at 3<sup>rd</sup> by R2 and all touches at the plate by all runners.

#### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** *U1 comes into the infield, pivots* while observing the BR’s base touch at 1<sup>st</sup> base and has all plays on BR at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the “V”:** (*rotation*) **U1** observes R1’s tag up and if R2 commits to 3<sup>rd</sup> base, U1 commits to Home Plate for any plays there.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U1** has all plays on BR at 1<sup>st</sup> base.

#### U3 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** **U3** observes R1 touch 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>; has all plays on R1 at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, plus R2 at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the “V”:** (*rotation*) **U3** retreats and rules on the catch and R2’s tag up. U3 moves into position for any play at 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> base on R1.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U3** has all plays on R1 and R2 at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base.



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#### **BASES LOADED**

##### **PU Responsibilities**

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** ***PU stays home***, observes R2 touching 3<sup>rd</sup> base and observes the plate touch of all runners. **PU** moves to a position to rule on all plays at Home Plate.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the “V”:** **PU** moves to the best position to view the catch and judge R3’s tag at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. ***PU stays home*** and observes all touches at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and Home Plate by all runners.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **PU** observes the action has all touches at 3<sup>rd</sup> and all touches at the plate by all runners.

##### **U1 Responsibilities**

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** ***U1 comes into the infield, pivots*** while observing the BR’s base touch at 1<sup>st</sup> base and has all plays on BR at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the “V”:** **U1** observes R1’s tag up and is responsible for all plays on R1 at 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U1** has all plays on BR at 1<sup>st</sup> base.

##### **U3 Responsibilities**

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** **U3** observes R1 touch 2<sup>nd</sup> and has all plays on R1 at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, plus R2 and the BR at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the “V”:** **U3** retreats and rules on the catch and R2’s tag up. **U3** moves into position for any play at 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base on R2.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U3** has all plays on R1 and R2 at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base.



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### RUNNERS ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup>

#### PU Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** (*rotation*) **PU** moves toward 3<sup>rd</sup> base while observing R3 touching Home Plate, then move as necessary to rule on a play at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the "V":** **PU** moves to the best position to view the catch and judge R3's tag at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. **PU stays home** and observes all touches at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and Home Plate by all runners. A play on R3 returning to 3<sup>rd</sup> base is the responsibility of **U3**.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **PU stays home** and observes the all touches at the plate by all runners.

#### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** (*rotation*) **U1** observes R1's tag up and if R1 commits to 3<sup>rd</sup> base, **U1** commits to Home Plate for any plays there.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the "V":** **U1** observes R1's tag up and is responsible for all plays at 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U1** has all plays on BR at 1<sup>st</sup> base.

#### U3 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** (*rotation*) **U3** observes R1 touch at 2<sup>nd</sup> base and if R1 commits to 3<sup>rd</sup> base, begins to move to 1<sup>st</sup> base and has all plays on BR at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the "V":** **U3** retreats and rules on the catch. **U3** moves into position for any play at 2<sup>nd</sup> base on R2.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U3** has all plays on R1 at 2<sup>nd</sup> base.



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#### RUNNER ON 2<sup>ND</sup>

##### PU Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** PU stays home and observes all touches at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and Home Plate by all runners.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the "V":** PU stays home and observes all touches at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and Home Plate by all runners.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** PU stays home and observes all touches at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and Home Plate by all runners.

##### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** **U1** observes BR touch at 1<sup>st</sup> base and has all plays on BR at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the "V":** **U1** retreats, rules on the catch as well as the tag up of R2.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U1** has all plays at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

##### U3 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** **U3** has all plays at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the "V":** **U3** has all plays at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U3** has all plays at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

#### RUNNERS ON 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup>

##### PU Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** PU stays home and observes all touches at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and Home Plate by all runners.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the "V":** PU stays home and observes all touches at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and Home Plate by all runners.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** PU stays home and observes all touches at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and Home Plate by all runners.

##### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** **U1** observes BR touch at 1<sup>st</sup> base and has all plays on BR at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the "V":** **U1** retreats, rules on the catch as well as the tag up of R2.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U1** has all plays at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base.



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#### U3 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** **U3** has all plays at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
2. **Fly Ball Caught in the "V":** **U3** has tag up of R3 at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and all plays there.
3. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U3** has all plays at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

#### **RUNNER ON 3<sup>RD</sup>**

#### UIC Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** The **PU** reads the ball, observes the touch at Home Plate by R3 and moves to the library to read the play and has all plays at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** Remain at 1<sup>st</sup> base extended, observe the touch at Home Plate by R3 while preparing to assist **U1** as needed. The **PU** has all tags, interference / obstruction calls up to the 45' line.

#### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** **U1** observes BR's touch at 1<sup>st</sup> base from foul territory and begins to move toward Home Plate if the BR commits to 3<sup>rd</sup> base and the **PU** has rotated to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** Move to a 90-degree angle from throw to rule on plays at 1<sup>st</sup>. All tags, obstruction and interference calls from the 45' line to 1<sup>st</sup> base (make eye contact with **PU** before making the call if play is in gray area near the 45' line).

#### U3 Responsibilities

1. **Clean Hit to the Outfield:** (*rotation*) **U3** enters the infield and has all plays on the BR at 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U3** enters the infield and has all plays on the BR at 2<sup>nd</sup>.