



## Peninsula Umpires Association Two 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:

**PU** – Plate Umpire

**U1** Field Umpire

**BR** Batter-runner

**LF** Left Field

**CF** Center Field

**RF** Right Field

**R1** Runner at 1<sup>st</sup>

**R2** Runner at 2<sup>nd</sup>

**R3** Runner at 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Field Positions

**Position A** – in foul territory 10-12 feet behind the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman unless he's in front of he 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.***

**Position B** – Between pitcher's mound and 2<sup>nd</sup> base on the 1<sup>st</sup> base side of the field making a straight line between you, the edge of the mound and home plate. Face Home Plate.

- ***U1 takes this position with runner on 1<sup>st</sup> base ONLY.***

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

- ***U1 takes this position with runners at base(s) other than just a runner on 1<sup>st</sup> base.***

### Fair/Foul Decisions:

**PU** has the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line to the Foul Pole in LF and the 1<sup>st</sup> base line to the Foul Pole in RF when **U1** is in Position B or C. Otherwise, when **U1** is in Position A, **U1** has from the front of 1<sup>st</sup> base to the Foul Pole in RF and the **PU** has up to but not including he 1<sup>st</sup> base bag.



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#### Basic Principles:

- **Angle** is **primary**, distance secondary. Always work to get your best angle on a play first – then if possible, improve your distance.
- **U1** has all the touches of the BR at 1<sup>st</sup> base except when **U1** goes out for a trouble ball, then the **PU** has the touch of the BR at 1<sup>st</sup>. **U1** has all the touches at 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
- The **PU** has all the touches and tag ups of all runners at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- **U1** has all the tag ups at 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>rd</sup>.
- The **PU** will move. Helping on a **pulled foot** at 1st... helping with a **swipe tag**... helping on **slides** at 2nd... covering **plays at 3rd**... obstruction/interference up to the 45' line... the **PU** is responsible for much more than balls and strikes.

#### Overthrow Responsibilities:

All overthrow responsibilities belong to the **PU**. It is the responsibility of both Umpires to know when a ball is thrown from the outfield or a secondary throw from the infielder the location of runners to award bases properly.

#### Balks:

- **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 proper footing on the rubber, gaining distance and direction on a jump turn and any illegal movements, which in your judgment may deceive the runner.
- Either the **PU** or **U1** can call a balk, for NFHS, the proper mechanic is to call **“TIME”**, then call **“THAT’S A BALK”**.

#### Rundown Plays:

Single Rundowns: **U1** has all calls until **PU** reaches 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> and the runner is running toward 2<sup>nd</sup> base. At that time, the **PU** communicates, **“I’VE GOT THIS END”** or **“I’VE GOT THIS HALF”**. If the runner is tagged running toward **U1**, **U1** has the call. If the runner is running toward the **PU**, the **PU** has the call. The same applies for Obstruction, Interference or running outside the 3-foot lane trying to avoid a tag. Eye contact is imperative when in doubt.

Double Rundowns: **U1** has all the calls. **PU** remains at home for a possible play there.



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#### First-to-Third Coverage:

With a runner at 1<sup>st</sup> (R1) or with a runner at 1<sup>st</sup> (R1) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (R3), and after a clean hit to the outfield, the **PU** is responsible for the play at 3<sup>rd</sup> with R1. The Umpires signal the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> coverage, once the ball leaves the infield, the **PU** moves to the library verbalizing to **U1** *“I’ve got 3<sup>rd</sup> if he comes”*. If R3 comes in to score, observe his touching Home Plate before moving toward 3<sup>rd</sup> base. If R1 commits to 3<sup>rd</sup> and the ball is thrown there, the **PU** steps into the cutout at 3<sup>rd</sup> to make the call on the play verbalizing *“I’ve got 3<sup>rd</sup>, I’ve got 3<sup>rd</sup>”*. If there is an overthrow, the **PU** retreats to Home Plate on Fair territory so as to not cross the path of the runner and be prepared to make a call at Home Plate.

#### 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?”* 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.

When asked by the **PU** and only the **PU**, respond with either a Safe signal and a *“NO HE DID NOT”* or an Out signal and a *“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. Home Plate may not have a bearing on the call depending on the position of the batter.

#### Basic Infield Coverage:

With no runners on base, the **PU** has all infield catches where infielders are moving toward LF, Home Plate or 3<sup>rd</sup> base. **U1** has all infield catches where 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or Short Stop are moving toward RF or 1<sup>st</sup> Base.

With runners on any base, the **PU** has 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> moving toward foul lines and pitcher moving toward Home Plate - all others belong to **U1**.



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#### Basic Outfield Coverage:

- With no runners on base, the **PU** is responsible for all fly balls to the outfield except for when **U1** goes out for trouble balls as explained below.
- With **U1** in B or C Positions, **U1** is responsible for all fly balls within the “V” from the RF to LF players and everything in between. The **PU** has from the RF to the Foul Line and from the LF to the Foul Line.
  - Tag up responsibilities:
    - Runners at 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> belong to **U1**. A subsequent play at 3<sup>rd</sup> belongs to the **PU**, a play at 2<sup>nd</sup> belongs to **U1**.
    - Runner at 2<sup>nd</sup> only belongs to **U1** as well as the subsequent play at 3<sup>rd</sup>.
    - Runners at 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, **U1** has R2 and a play at 3<sup>rd</sup>. The **PU** has R3.
    - Runners at 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bases Loaded or R3 only, R3 belongs to the **PU**.
- If **U1** goes out on a trouble ball, and it's a no-catch situation, **U1** returns to Home Plate on Foul territory after rendering the no-catch decision. **PU** in the meantime is observing the touches of the bases by BR and being in position for a play at any of the bases.

Four conditions that require U1 to go to the outfield:

1. The CF or RF player turns his back to run toward the outfield fence
2. Multiple players converging on a fly ball
3. A catch being made below the waist (possible trap)(Center or Right Fielder)
4. Right Fielder moving toward the foul line for a possible fair/foul decision

If in doubt, go out on fly balls in your coverage area.

1. If you are going out, go out hard but **NEVER** go out on a line drive, **NEVER**
2. Leave no doubt in your partners mind about whether or not you are going out
3. Signal your partner by raising your arm and calling **“I'M GOING OUT”** if you go out
4. Once you go out, do not return to the infield for a play, the **PU** has all those calls. If the ball is dropped, ***return to Home Plate on foul territory*** for any play on the batter-runner there - after ruling no catch. When in position at Home Plate, **U1** verbalizes to **PU “I've got home”**. If caught, make your **“OUT”** call and return to Position A.

### NO RUNNERS ON BASE

#### PU Responsibilities

1. **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. All tags, interference / obstruction calls up to the 45' line.



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#### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Plays Within the Infield:** Move to a 90-degree angle from throw to rule on plays at 1<sup>st</sup>. Take all tags, obstruction and interference calls from the 45' line to 1<sup>st</sup> base. Prior to making a call on the play, make sure the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman has secure possession of the ball.

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

#### PU Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down the RF line:** On any batted ball within the Home Plate area or near the 1<sup>st</sup> base line, **PU** must remain near the foul line to rule on fair/foul decision and to observe the BR within the running lane. Communicate to **U1** **"I'M ON THE LINE"** indicating that you cannot cover R1 at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. If fly ball is caught, move to 1<sup>st</sup> base for a possible play there on R1 returning.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** Move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side of the mound to assist **U1** on the double play legal 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 as well as overthrows.

#### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down RF Line:** **U1** has the tag up and all plays at 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> base except if a fly ball is caught, **PU** moves to 1<sup>st</sup> base for a possible play on R1 returning there.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** Step in the direction of the batted ball, let it turn you and read the play moving into best position to rule on initial play at any base. **U1** has all plays at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Additionally, **U1** has any plays on R1 at 3<sup>rd</sup> since the ball has not left the infield.

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

#### PU Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down the RF line:** On any batted ball within the Home Plate area or near the 1<sup>st</sup> base line, **PU** must remain near the foul line to rule on fair/foul decision and to observe the BR within the running lane.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** **PU** stays at Home Plate and is responsible for the touch at 3<sup>rd</sup> by R2 and R1. **PU** also has secondary responsibility for assisting **U1** on a swipe tag/or pulled foot at 1<sup>st</sup> base. If a play develops at Home Plate take 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Base Extended to rule on the play and prevent **"straight lining"** which blocks your view.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) outs, communicate the timing play signal followed by pointing to Home Plate indicating that you will stay at Home Plate.



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#### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down RF Line:** **U1** has the tag up and all plays at all the bases.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U1** moves into the best position to rule on initial plays on all the bases. If there is a second play at 3<sup>rd</sup>, **U1** has the responsibility for that play.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) out communicate the timing play signal. **U1** has all decisions at the bases.

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

#### PU Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down the RF line:** **PU** moves to the best position to view the catch at RF then returns to Home Plate.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** **PU** observes the action at 1<sup>st</sup> base to assist on swipe tag, pulled foot, obstruction/interference (up to 45' line). **PU** is responsible for the touch at 3<sup>rd</sup> by R2. Return to Home Plate in case of a play.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) outs, communicate the timing play signal followed by pointing to Home Plate indicating that you will stay at Home Plate.

#### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down RF Line:** **U1** has the tag up of R2 and all plays at all bases.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U1** moves to the best position to rule on initial plays at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base as well as any secondary plays on the bases.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) out communicate the timing play signal. **U1** has all decisions at the bases.

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

#### PU Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down the RF line:** **PU** moves to the best position to view both the catch at RF and the tag up by R3 at 3<sup>rd</sup> base (first base line extended as needed).
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** **PU** moves to the best position to rule on a play at Home Plate. Has secondary responsibility for assisting **U1** on swipe tag, pulled foot, obstruction or interference (up to 45' line). **PU** is responsible for all touches at 3<sup>rd</sup>.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) outs, communicate the timing play signal followed by pointing to Home Plate indicating that you will stay at Home Plate.



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#### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down RF Line:** **U1** has the tag up by R2 and all plays at all bases.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U1** moves to the best position to rule on all plays at all bases.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) out communicate the timing play signal. **U1** has all decisions at the bases.

#### **BASES LOADED**

#### PU Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down the RF line:** **PU** moves to the best position to view both the catch at RF and the tag up by R3 at 3<sup>rd</sup> base (first base line extended as needed).
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** Move to the point of the plate and be prepared to move as needed to observe and make a call on the play at the plate. **PU** is responsible for the touch at 3<sup>rd</sup> by R2 and R1. **PU** also has secondary responsibility for assisting **U1** on a swipe tag/or pulled foot at 1<sup>st</sup> base.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) outs, communicate the timing play signal followed by pointing to Home Plate indicating that you will stay at Home Plate.

#### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down RF Line:** **U1** has tag up responsibilities at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> as well as all plays at all bases.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U1** moves into the best position to rule on initial plays on all the bases. If there is a second play at 3<sup>rd</sup>, **U1** has the responsibility for any play there.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) out communicate the timing play signal. **U1** has all decisions at the bases.

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

#### PU Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down the RF line:** **PU** moves to the best position to view both the catch at RF and the tag up by R3 at 3<sup>rd</sup> base (first base line extended as needed). If the ball is not caught, move to “the library” looking back to observe R3 touching Home Plate communicating to your partner that **“I’VE GOT THIRD IF HE COMES”**. Read the ball, runner and player and move to the best position to rule on a play at 3<sup>rd</sup> on R1 while



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communicating, **“I’VE GOT THIRD”**. If a play develops at Home Plate, the **PU** retreats (in fair territory) to cover the play at the plate. **Never cross the runner’s path.**

2. **Plays Within the Infield:** Observe R3 touching at Home Plate.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) outs, communicate the timing play signal followed by pointing to Home Plate indicating that you will stay at Home Plate.

#### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down RF Line:** **U1** has the tag up of R1 and all plays at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** Step in the direction of the batted ball, let it turn you and read the play moving into best position to rule on initial play at any base. **U1** has all plays at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) out communicate the timing play signal. **U1** has all decisions at the bases.

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

#### PU Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down the RF line:** **PU** moves to the best position to view both the catch at RF and the tag up by R3 at 3<sup>rd</sup> base (first base line extended as needed).
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** The **PU** observes the touch at Home Plate by R3 and any action at 1<sup>st</sup> base to assist on swipe tag, pulled foot, obstruction or interference (up to 45’ line). Stay at 1<sup>st</sup> base extended.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) outs, communicate the timing play signal followed by pointing to Home Plate indicating that you will stay at Home Plate.

#### U1 Responsibilities

1. **Batted Ball Down RF Line:** **U1** observes the players and has any play back at 3<sup>rd</sup>.
2. **Plays Within the Infield:** **U1** moves to the best position to rule on all plays at all bases.
3. **Timing Play:** With two (2) out communicate the timing play signal. **U1** has all decisions at the bases.