



Appendix 2
WBSC SOFTBALL UMPIRE MANUAL
FIELD MECHANICS – TWO UMPIRE
SYSTEMS – Learning Guide

December 2025

Table of Contents

Two Umpire System	3
Three Basic Principles	3
Conventions.....	4
Plate Umpire Starting Position	5
Base Umpire Ready Position	5
Base Umpire Position for Calls.....	5
Between Inning Position	6
Starting position.....	6
No Runners on Base	7
Starting position.....	7
Ball hit in the infield.....	8
Ball hit to the outfield.....	9
Runner at First Base.....	10
Starting Position.....	10
Ball hit in the infield.....	11
Ball hit to the outfield.....	12
Runner at Second Base	13
Starting Position.....	13
Ball hit in the infield.....	14
Ball hit to the outfield.....	15
Runner at Third Base	16
Starting Position.....	16
Ball hit in the infield.....	17
Ball hit to the outfield.....	18
Runners at First & Second.....	19
Starting Position.....	19
Ball hit in the infield.....	20
Hit to the outfield.....	21
Runners at First & Third Base	22
Ball hit to the outfield.....	24
Runners at Second & Third Base	25
Starting Position.....	25
Ball hit in the infield.....	26
Ball hit to the outfield.....	27
Bases Loaded	28
Starting Position.....	28
Ball hit to the infield	29
Ball hit to the outfield.....	30

Two Umpire System

The Two-Umpire system requires that umpires move into positions appropriate for each play. The information referring to positioning and the calling of plays is written for ideal circumstances and for the best possible positioning for the majority of plays. Proper positioning can be achieved if you think in terms of 'keeping the play in front of you'. In order to do this, there are **Four Essential Elements** that you must see an unobstructed view of.

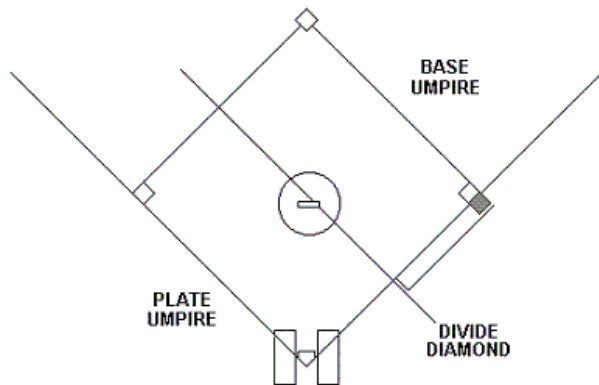
1. The ball.
2. The defensive players.
3. The offensive players.
4. The base or the area of play

Three Basic Principles

There are three basic principles that apply to the Two Umpire System; the division principle, the infield/outfield principle and the leading runner principle.

The Division Principle

The Plate Umpire takes all calls at home plate and third base, and the Base Umpire takes all calls at first and second bases.



Exceptions

- When the Batter Runner goes to third base, the Base Umpire then takes the Batter Runner to third base.
- On an infield play, the Base Umpire takes the first call on a base, even if it is at third base.
- When a runner steals from second base to third base, the Base Umpire takes the call.
- If you must deviate from these rules, communicate your deviation to your partner.

The Infield/Outfield Principle

When the ball is in the infield, the Base Umpire moves or stays in the outfield.

When the ball is in the outfield, the Base Umpire moves to a position in the infield.

The Leading Runner Principle

The Base Umpire should start in a position that is up with the lead runner. The expectation is that, on a pick-off play, (a play where the catcher attempts to put out a runner leading off from a base on the pitch) the catcher will play the lead runner and therefore the Base Umpire needs to be in a position to make this call.

Note: It is the responsibility of **both umpires** to ensure **all** bases are covered in tag-up (re-touching the base after a fly ball is first touched on a catch) situations.

All umpires must watch for, Tags, Obstruction, Interferences, Touched Bases, Runners passing each other, Blocked Balls, etc.

Before the pitch the umpire should stand relaxed. They should be focused on the pitch and the batter, be ready and mobile for any possible play. During a call it is important to be still and focused on the play in front of you.

Conventions

The conventions used to describe the situations in this manual are:

1. The plate umpire is referred to as 'Plate Umpire' or 'PU' and the base umpire is 'Base Umpire' or "BU".
2. Runners at first (1B), second (2B), and third base (3B) are indicated with 'R#'
3. First movement of the umpires is 
 Second movement of the umpires is 
 First movement of the ball is 
 Second movement of the ball 
 (indicating all potential secondary plays available to the fielders)
4. Icons used in this manual:

			
Plate Umpire	Base Umpire	Runner	Fielder

Plate Umpire Starting Position

In all cases, the plate umpire's starting position and actions are as follows:

- Sweeps the home plate and checks that the field is clear and ready for play.
- Should take up a position behind the catcher.
- After each pitch, you should call ball or strike, give signals as required and then relax, while maintaining good general awareness.
- Responsible for calling:
 - Illegal pitches
 - Fair/foul balls
 - Batting infractions
 - Safes and outs
- On every hit exit from behind the catcher via the left (even on a left-handed batter) and go to your position.
- If the ball is close to the foul line, move to the line and straddle the line to make the fair/foul call.
- On infield hits, with no runners, trail the batter runner approximately one third of the way to first base watching for possible interference or obstructions; with runner on first base only, trail runner then move to foul territory on the third base side for possible call on R1 at third base; and with runners on second or third base, stay in foul territory and watch batter runner to first base.

Movements are always dictated by the principle of keeping the **Four Essential Elements** in front of the umpire.

Base Umpire Ready Position

The Base Umpire should assume a ready position by:

- Facing SQUARE TO THE BATTER prior to the pitch, always being able to see both the pitcher and the home plate area.
- As the pitcher assumes the set position (hands together), the umpire should place their feet a comfortable distance apart (at least shoulder width), stay relaxed but still.
- As the pitcher releases the pitch adopt the 'ready' position by unlocking the knees slightly, with your weight resting lightly on the balls of the feet and the hands drawn in, close to the belt line in front of the body.
- Remain in this position until the catcher catches the ball or the ball is hit.

Once the ball is hit or thrown, the umpire pushes off on the balls of their feet and moves to position for a potential play.

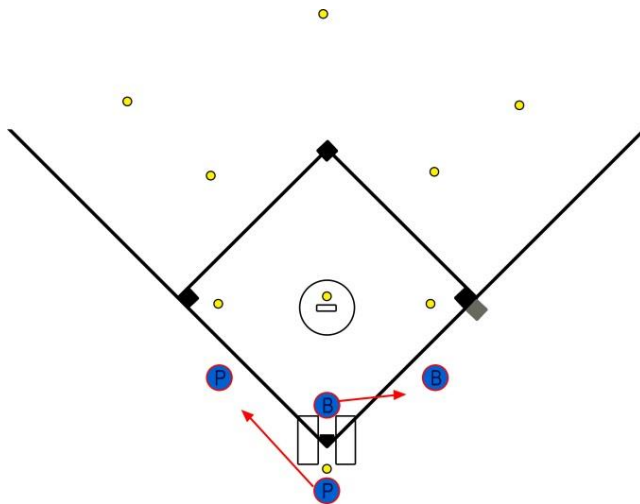
Base Umpire - Starting Position in Relation to Fielders

Base Umpires must not set up in a position ahead of any infielder, prior to the catcher receiving the pitch or the ball being batted and must be positioned to maintain a clear, unobstructed view of home plate.

Base Umpire Position for Calls

Before the pitch the base umpire should stand relaxed. With no runners on, the starting position is 5.5 meters (18 feet) behind first base in foul territory, 150 mm (6 inches) off the line. With runners on, the starting position is 4.5 meters (15 feet) behind the base line. On force plays call from 5.5 meters (18 feet). On tag plays move to 3.5 meters (10-12 feet) to see and make the call. At the start of the pitch be focused on the pitch and the batter, be ready and mobile for a possible play. During a call it is important to be still and keep the **Four Essential Elements** in front of you.

Between Inning Position



Starting position

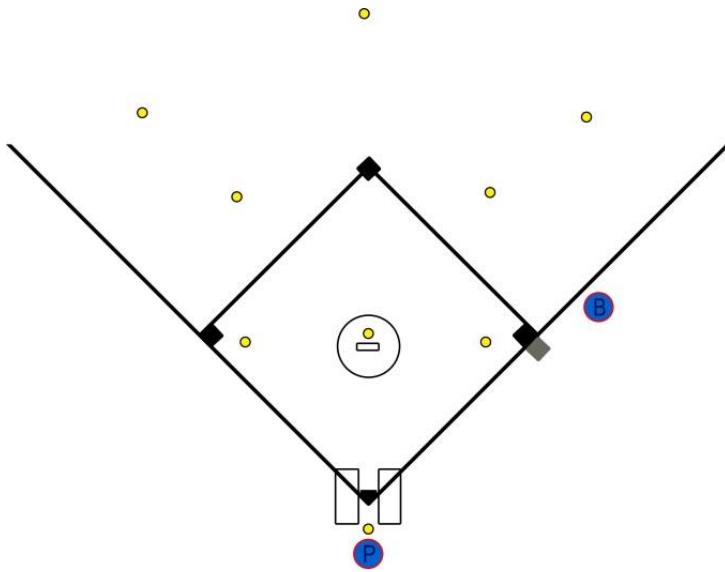
Plate Umpire

- After the plate meeting, stand in a position just off the third base line in foul territory approximately one third of the way to third base.
- Hustle the teams on and off the field.
- Stand facing the diamond with your hands relaxed at your sides.
- Observe the warm-up pitches (five allowed for each pitcher in the first innings and with each new pitcher. Then three warm-up pitches are allowed at the start of each half innings).
- Let the catcher know when the second to last warm-up pitch has been thrown.
- Sweep the home plate and then assume a position behind the catcher.
- During the first half inning and when there is a change of pitchers, you may wish to put on the mask and observe the warm-up pitches, after making the line-up changes and announcing them to the Official Scorer.

Base Umpire

- After the plate meeting, stand in a position just off the first base line in foul territory approximately one third of the way to first base
- Hustle the teams on and off the field.
- Stand facing the diamond with your hands relaxed at your sides.
- After the warm-up pitches in the top half of the first inning, clean the pitching plate and then Hustle (move with purpose) to your preliminary starting position. Clean the pitcher's plate after the last out in the half inning thereafter.

No Runners on Base



Starting position

Plate Umpire

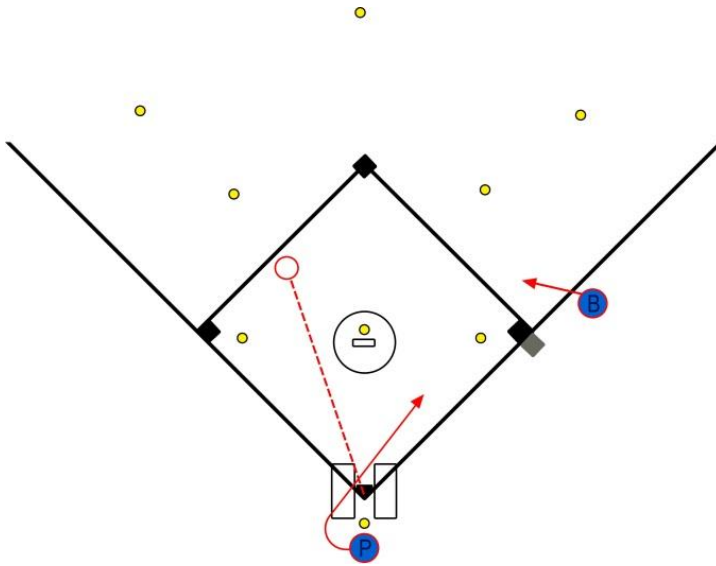
- Take a position behind the catcher as described in the **Plate Umpire Mechanics**
- Responsible for:
 - Illegal pitches
 - Fair/foul balls
 - Batting infractions

Base Umpire

- Face in the direction of home plate with shoulders square to home plate.
- Take a position 5.5 meters (18 feet) behind first base in foul territory, 150 mm (6 inches) off the line.
- Base Umpire Mechanics
- Go into the 'ready position' when the pitcher starts their pitching motion.
- Share responsibility for calling illegal pitches.

No Runners on Base

First Movement

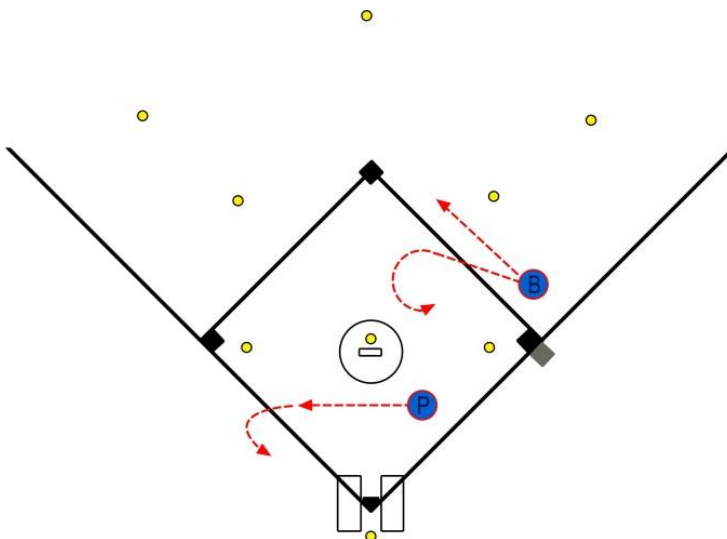


Ball hit in the infield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move with purpose out in front of the home plate and trail the Batter Runner toward first base (in fair territory).
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Stop...let the ball turn you into the play.
- Responsible for:
 - One metre (three foot) lane interference.
 - An overthrow out of play
 - Tag plays halfway way to first base.
- Be prepared to assist your partner.
- Watch the Batter Runner/Runner(s) touch the base(s).

Second Movement

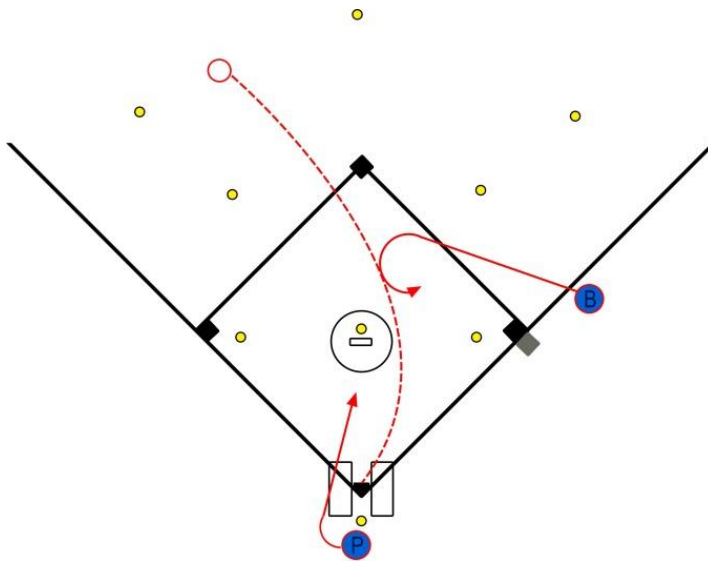


Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- Take two or three steps into fair territory.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop.... Wait... Call and Signal.
- In case of an overthrow, cut into the infield and prepare to go to second and third base.
- Makes all calls on the first throw on all base plays.
- Watch the Batter Runner/Runner(s) touch base(s).

No Runners on Base

1st Movement

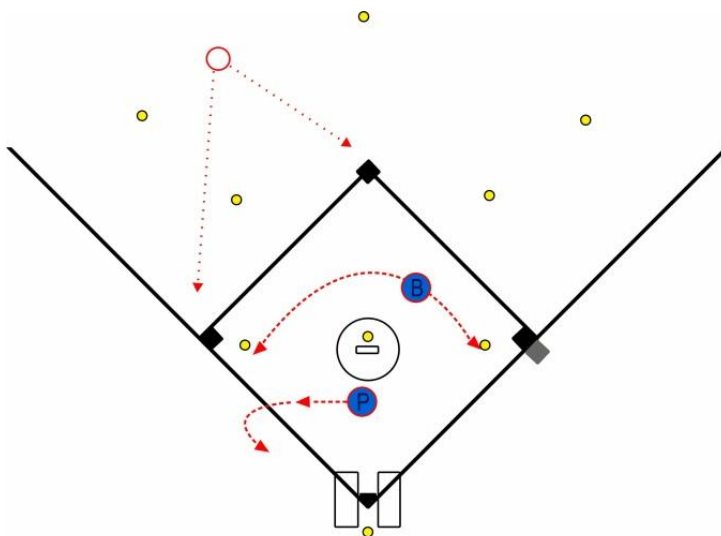


Ball hit to the outfield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move with purpose out in front of the plate toward the flight of the ball.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Straddle line on hits near the foul lines.
- Judge catch/no catch
- Watch the Batter Runner/Runner(s) touch base(s)
- On an overthrow out of play: call/signal "Dead Ball", and award bases to the runner(s)

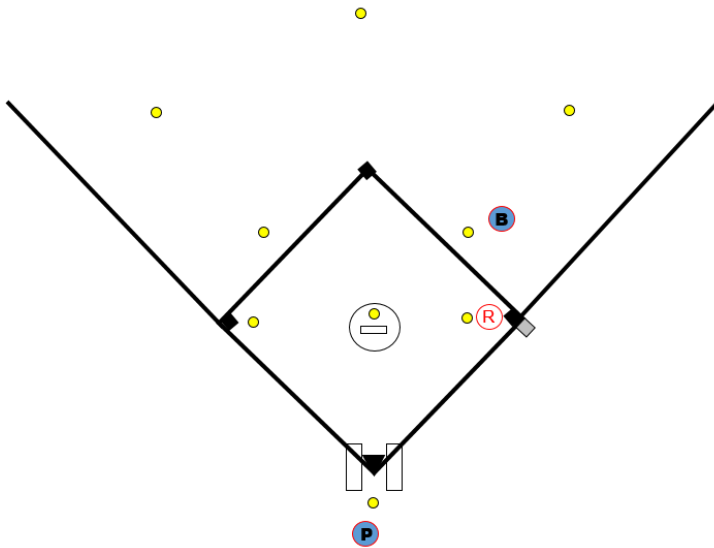
Second Movement



Base Umpire

- Move quickly into the infield and keep the play in front of you.
- Take the Batter Runner into first, second and third base.
- Watch the Batter Runner/Runner(s) touch base(s).

Runner at First Base



Starting Position

Plate Umpire

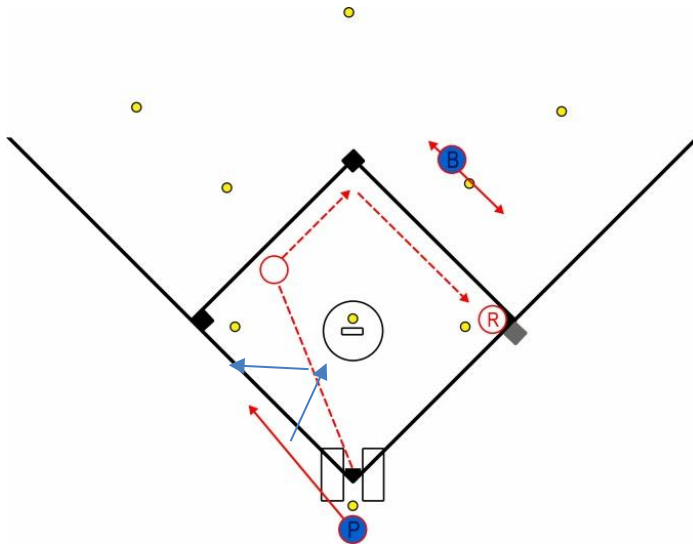
- Take a position behind the catcher as described in the **Plate Umpire Mechanics**
- Responsible for:
 - Illegal pitches
 - Fair/foul balls
 - Batting infractions

Base Umpire

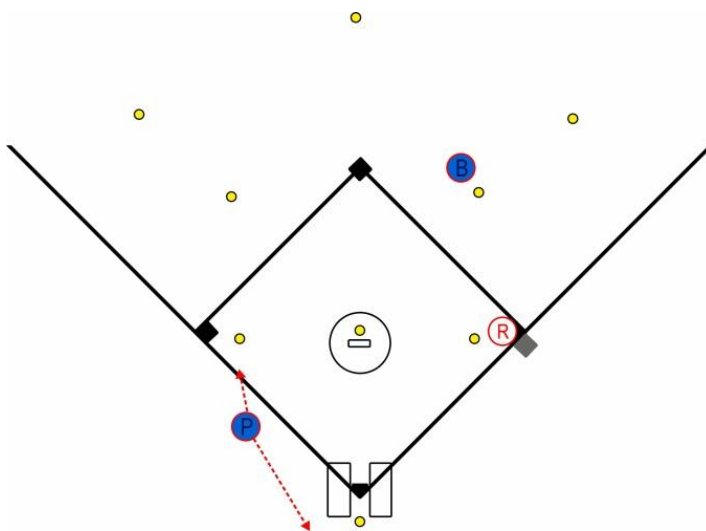
- Face in the direction of home plate with shoulders square to home plate.
- Take a position behind and off of the second base person, shading toward the runner on first base ensuring a view of the pitcher, runner and home plate area.
- Go into the 'ready position' when the pitcher starts their pitching motion.
- Share responsibility for calling illegal pitches.
- Responsible for lead off calls.

Runner at First Base

1st Movement



Second Movement



Ball hit in the infield

Plate Umpire

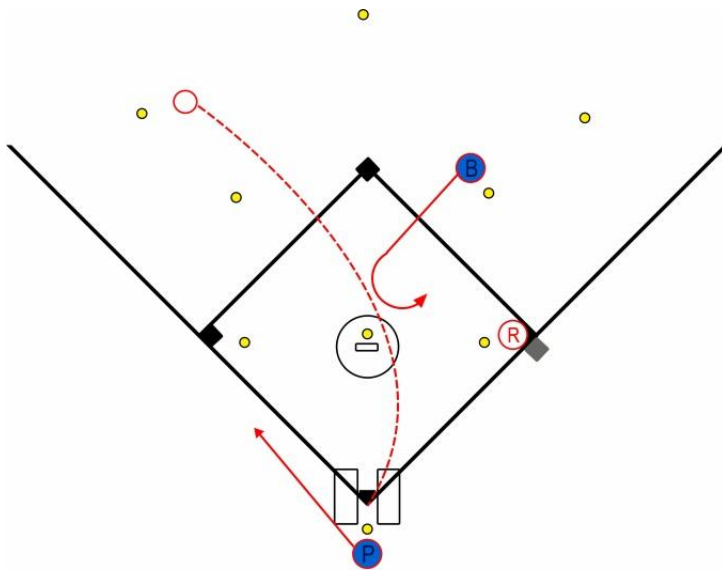
- Exit to the left of the catcher and move with purpose out in front of the home plate and trail the Batter Runner toward first base (in fair territory) if a play is possible at first base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Responsible for:
 - Overthrow out of play
 - One metre (three foot) line interference
- Move into foul territory and be prepared to take R1 into third base and home plate.
- Move quickly toward the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s)

Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- Anticipate a double play.
- Move quickly toward the base where the first play is to be made.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Call all plays made on the first throw.

Runner at First Base

First Movement

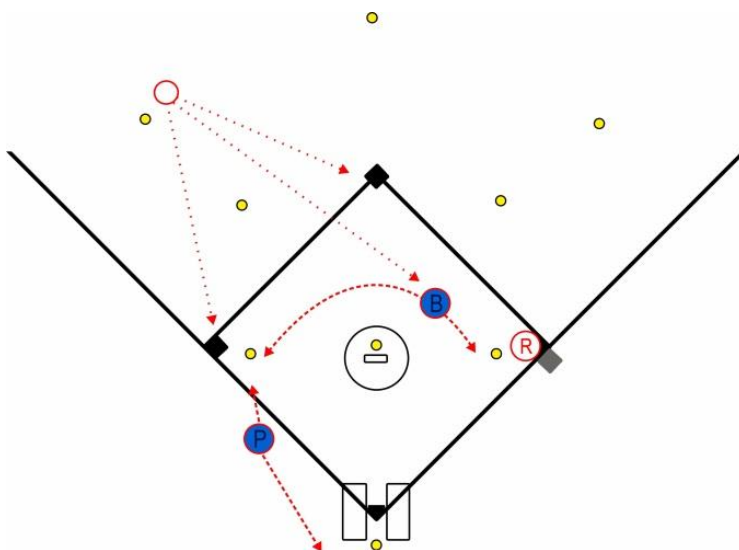


Ball hit to the outfield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move in foul territory toward third base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Judge catch or no catch.
- Responsible for:
 - Overthrow out of play.
 - Fair/foul.
- Move into foul territory and be prepared to take R1 into third base and home plate.
- Watch the Runner(s) touch base(s).

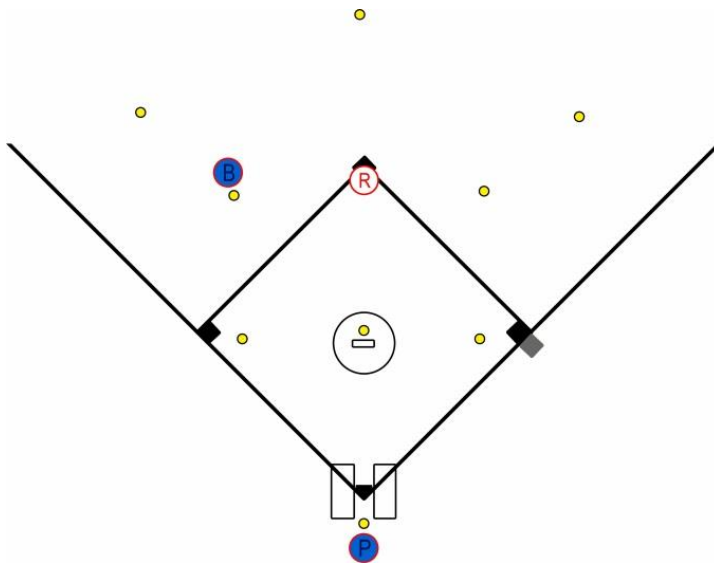
Second Movement



Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- Move quickly into the infield and keep the play in front of you.
- Take the tag-up at first base.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).
- Take the Batter Runner into first, second and third base.

Runner at Second Base



Starting Position

Plate Umpire

- Take a position behind the catcher as described in the **Plate Umpire Mechanics**

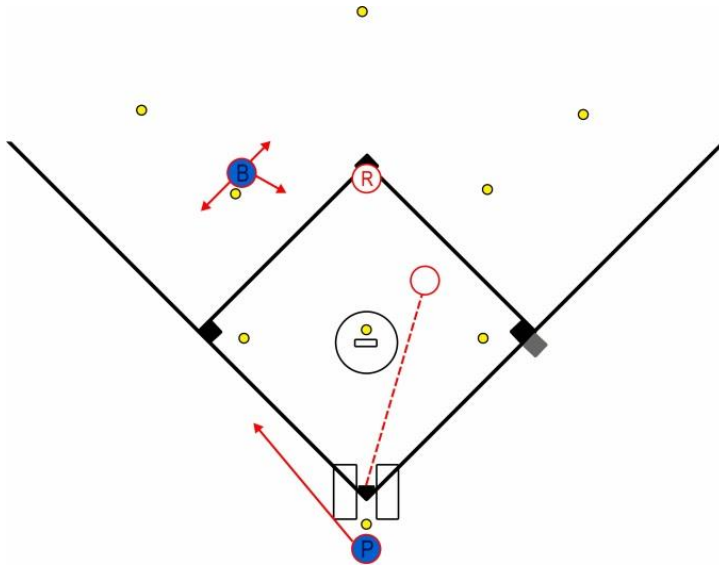
- Responsible for:
 - Illegal pitches
 - Fair/foul balls
 - Batting infractions

Base Umpire

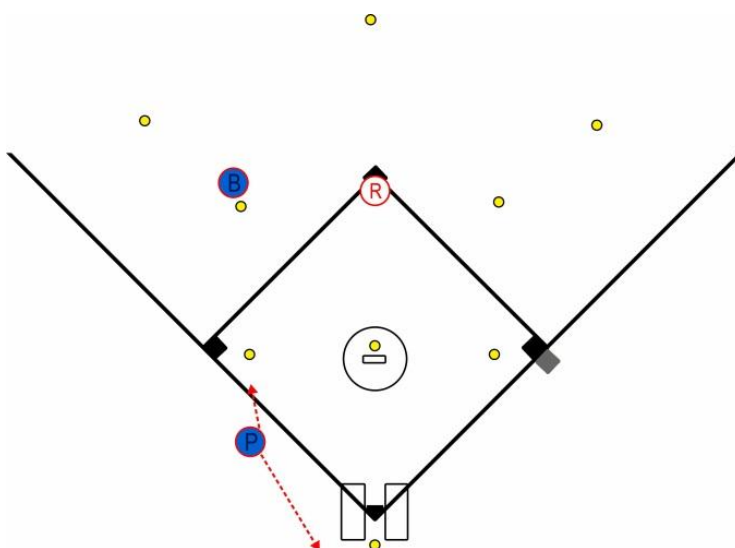
- Face in the direction of home plate with shoulders square to home plate.
- Take a position behind and off of the shortstop shading toward the runner on second base ensuring a view of the pitcher, runner and home plate area.
- Go into the 'ready position' when the pitcher starts their pitching motion.
- Share responsibility for calling illegal pitches
- Responsible for all lead off calls.

Runner at Second Base

First Movement



Second Movement



Ball hit in the infield

Plate Umpire

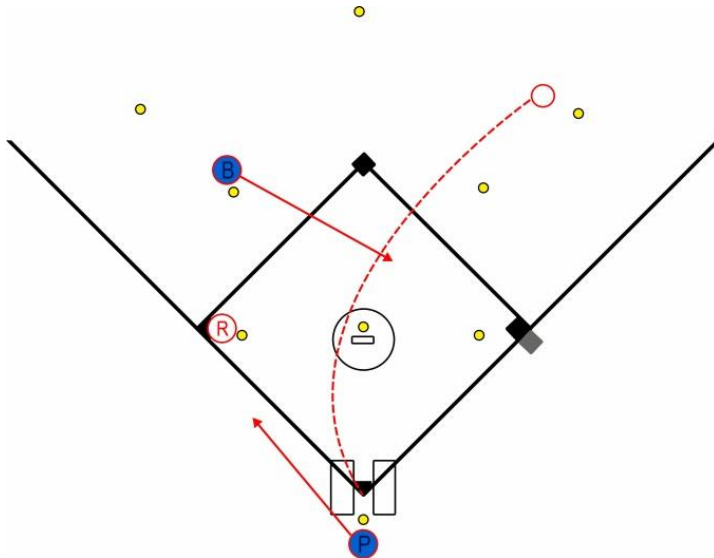
- Exit to the left of the catcher and move in foul territory toward third base.
- Watch possible action at first base (e.g. obstruction, spiking, one metre (three foot lane interference), etc.)
- Responsible for:
 - Overthrow out of play
 - One metre (three foot) lane interference
- Move toward third base.
- Move into foul territory and prepare for a play at third base or home plate.
- On an overthrow out of play: call/signal "Dead Ball", and award bases to the runner(s).
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s)

Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- See where the play will be made.
- Move quickly to the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Call all plays made on the first throw.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

Runner at Second Base

First Movement

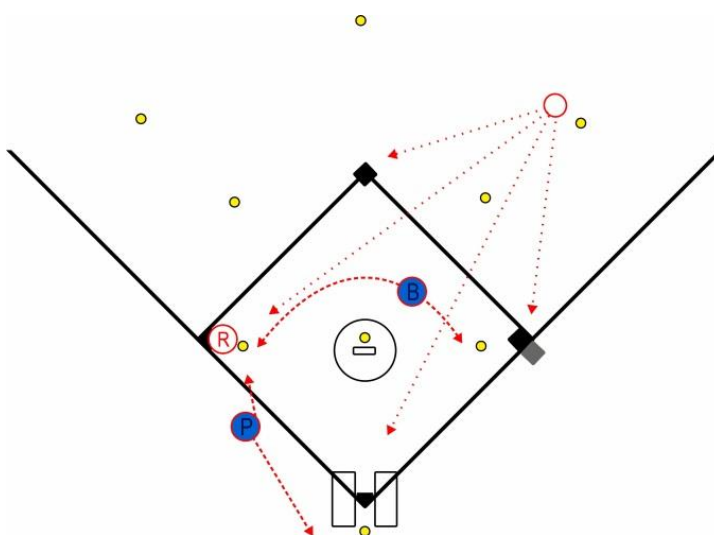


Ball hit to the outfield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move in foul territory towards third base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Take a position to judge fair/foul, catch/no catch
- Take the tag-up at third base.
- Move quickly to the base where the play is made (third base or home).
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s)

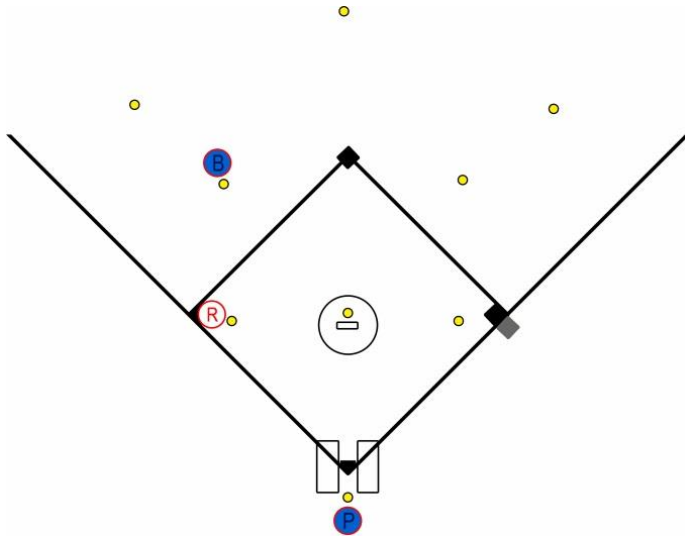
Second Movement



Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- Move quickly into the infield and keep the play in front of you.
- Take the Batter Runner into first, second and third base.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

Runner at Third Base



Starting Position

Plate Umpire

- Take a position behind the catcher as described in the **Plate Umpire Mechanics**

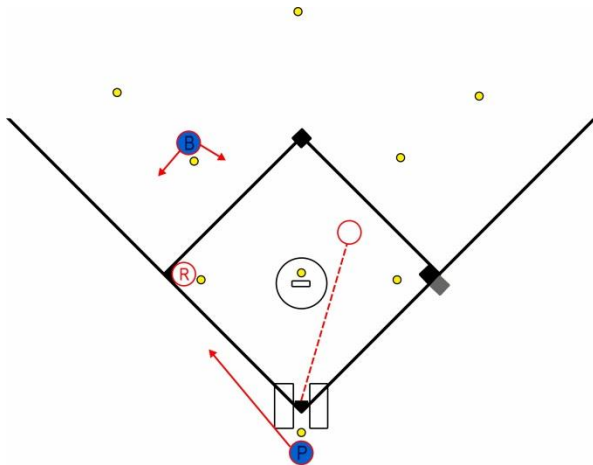
- Responsible for:
 - Illegal pitches
 - Fair/foul balls
 - Batting infractions

Base Umpire

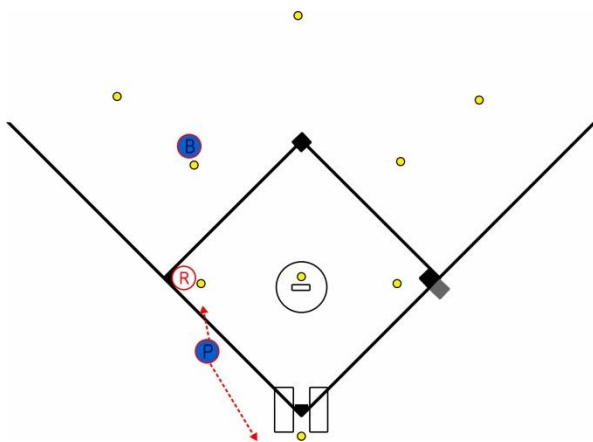
- Face in the direction of home plate with shoulders square to home plate.
- Take a position off of and behind the shortstop shading toward the runner on third base ensuring a view of the pitcher, runner and home plate area.
- Go into the 'ready position' when the pitcher starts their pitching motion.
- Share responsibility for calling illegal pitches
- Responsible for all lead off calls.

Runner at Third Base

1st Movement



Second Movement



Ball hit in the infield

Plate Umpire

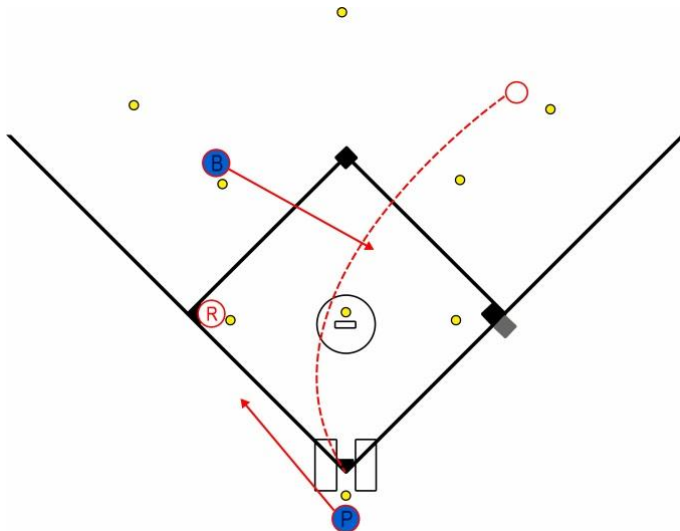
- Exit to the left of the catcher and move in foul territory toward third base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- See where the play occurs.
- Responsible for:
 - Overthrow out of play
 - One metre (three foot) line interference
- Anticipate a play at third base or home plate
- Watch the Runner(s) touch base(s).

Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- See where the play will be made.
- Avoid a thrown ball.
- Move quickly to the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Call the first play made in the infield except for a runner going home.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s)

Runner at Third Base

First Movement

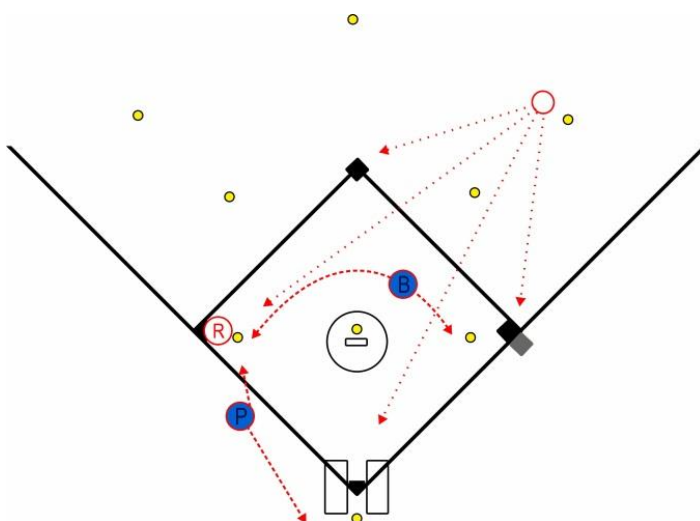


Ball hit to the outfield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move in foul territory towards third base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Take a position to judge fair/foul, catch/no catch
- Take the tag-up at third base.
- Move quickly to the base where the play is made (third base or home).
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s)

Second Movement



Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- Move quickly into the infield and keep the play in front of you.
- Take the Batter Runner into first, second and third base.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

Runners at First & Second

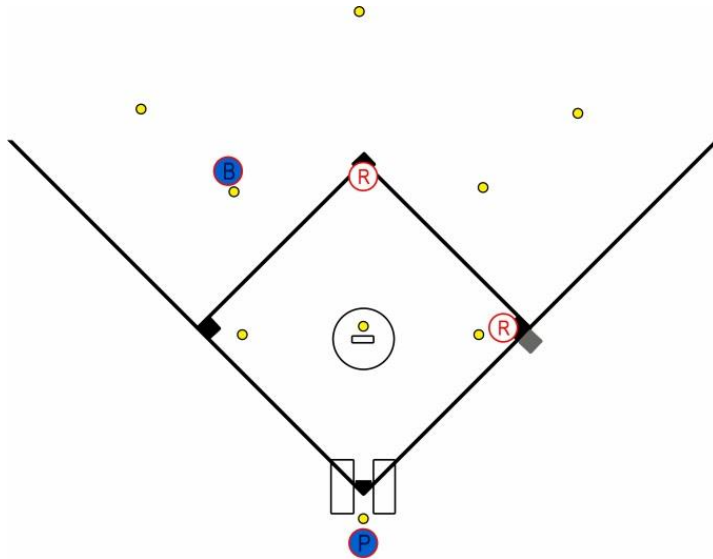
Starting Position

Plate Umpire

- Take a position behind the catcher as described in the **Plate Umpire Mechanics**
- Responsible for:
 - Illegal pitches
 - Fair/foul balls
 - Batting infractions
 - Infield fly (if less than two out).

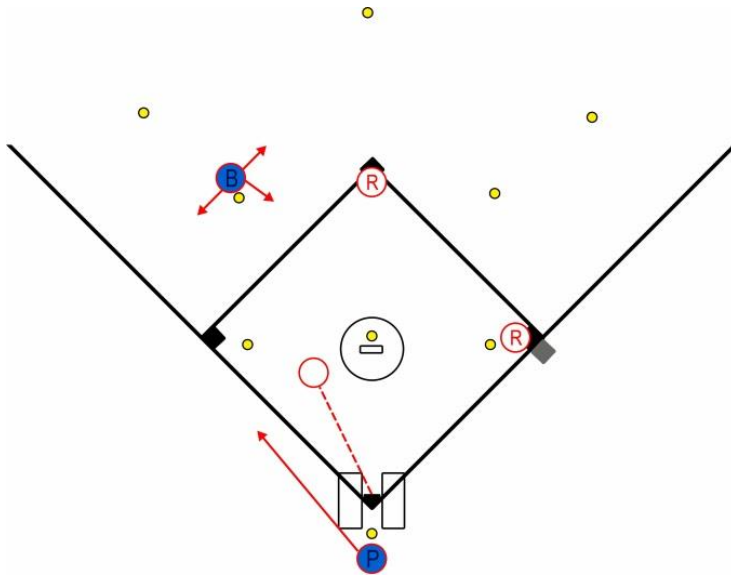
Base Umpire

- Face in the direction of home plate with the shoulders square to home plate.
- Take a position off of and behind the shortstop shading towards the runner on second base ensuring a view of the pitcher, runners and home plate area.
- Go into the 'ready position' when the pitcher starts their pitching motion
- Share responsibility for calling illegal pitches
- Responsible for all lead off calls.



Runners at First & Second

First Movement

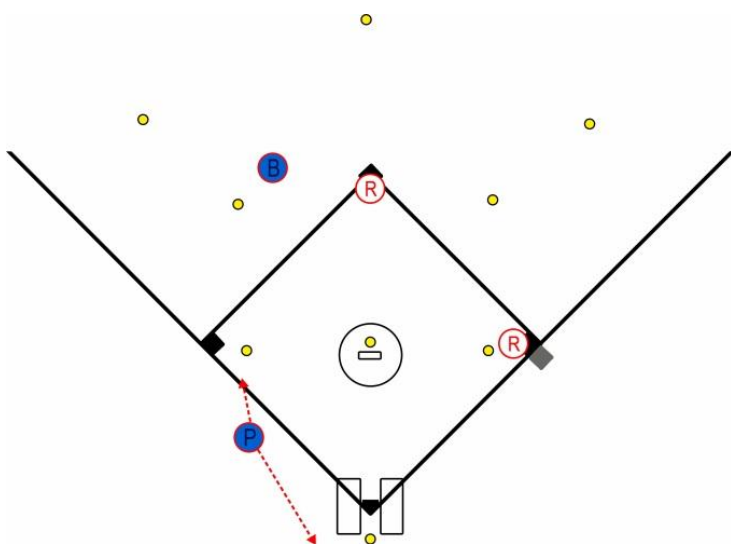


Ball hit in the infield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move in foul territory toward third base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Responsibility to judge fair/foul, catch/no catch.
- Watch to see where the play occurs.
- Responsible for:
 - Overthrow out of play
 - One metre (three foot) lane interference
- After the first play on the infield, responsible for succeeding plays at third base or home plate,
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

Second Movement

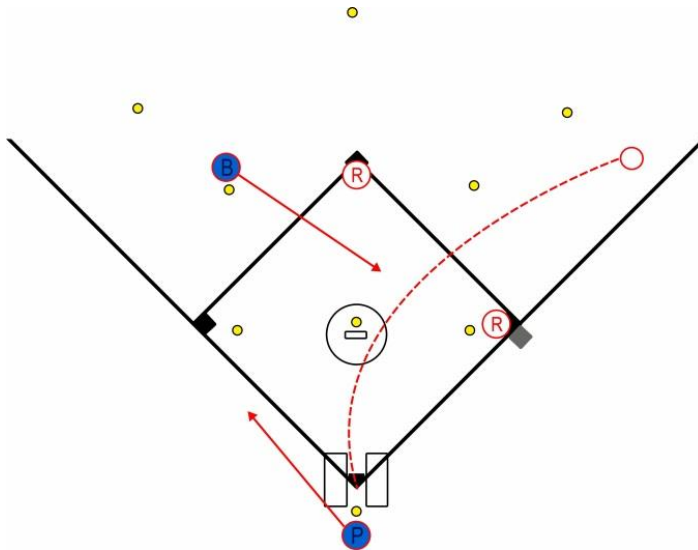


Base Umpire

- Watch the ball,
- See where the play will be made.
- Move quickly to the base where the play is made.
- Call all plays made on the first throw of the ball on the bases.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

Runners at First & Second Base

First Movement

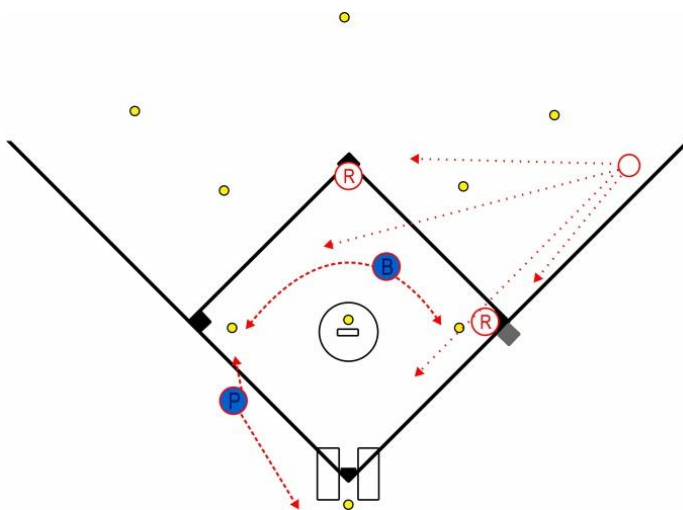


Hit to the outfield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move in foul territory toward third base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Take a position to judge fair/foul, catch/no catch.
- Anticipate a play at third or home plate.
- Move quickly toward the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).
- Assist your partner.

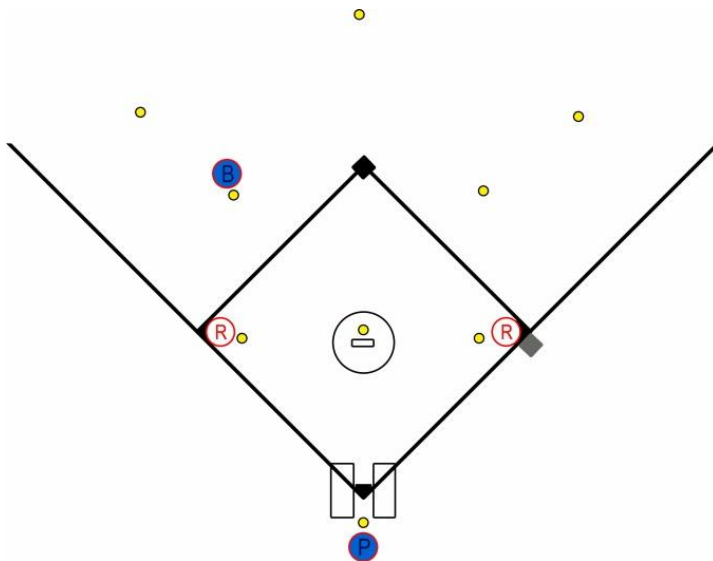
Second Movement



Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- Move quickly into the infield and keep the play in front of you.
- Take the tag-ups at first and second base.
- Take R2 into second and the BR into first, second and third base.
- Move quickly toward the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s)

Runners at First & Third Base



Starting Position

Plate Umpire

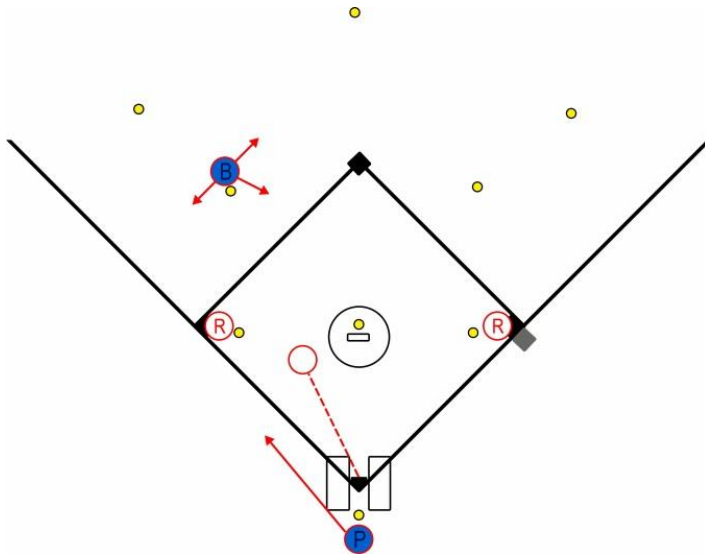
- Take a position behind the catcher as described in the **Plate Umpire Mechanics**
- Responsible for:
 - Illegal pitches
 - Fair/foul balls
 - Batting infractions

Base Umpire

- Face in the direction of home plate with shoulders square to home plate.
- Take a position off of and behind the shortstop shading towards the runner on third base ensuring a view of the pitcher, runners and home plate area.
- Go into the 'ready position' when the pitcher starts their pitching motion.
- Share responsibility for calling illegal pitches
- Responsible for all lead off calls.

Runners at First & Third Base

First Movement

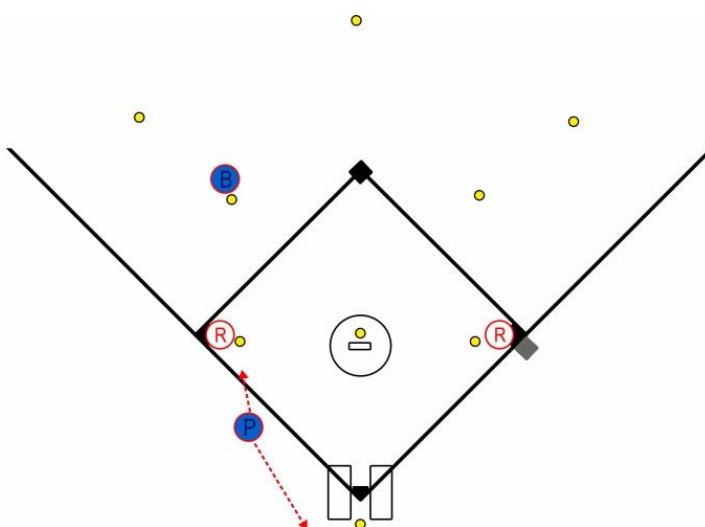


Ball hit in the infield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move into Foul Territory toward third base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Responsible for:
 - Overthrow out of play.
 - One metre (three foot) line interference.
- Watch to see where the play occurs.
- After the first play on the infield, responsible for succeeding plays at third base or home plate.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s)

Second Movement

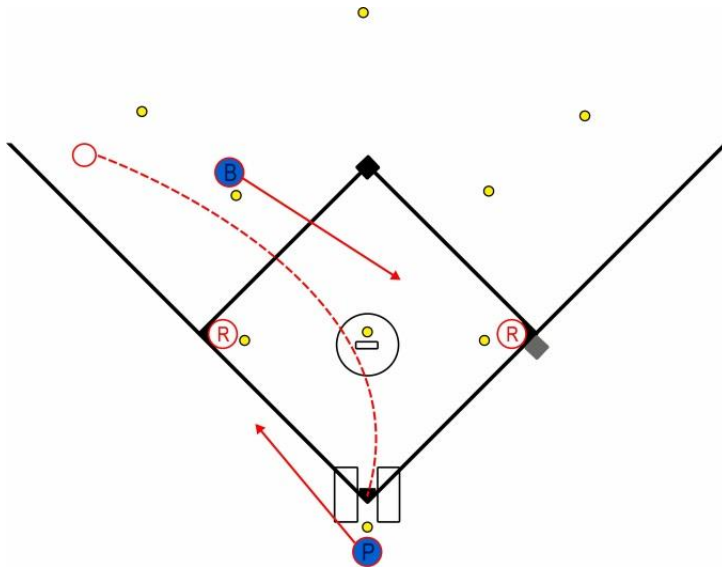


Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- Wait to see where the play will be made.
- Move quickly to the base where the play is made.
- Call all plays made on the first throw.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s)

Runners at First & Third Base

First Movement

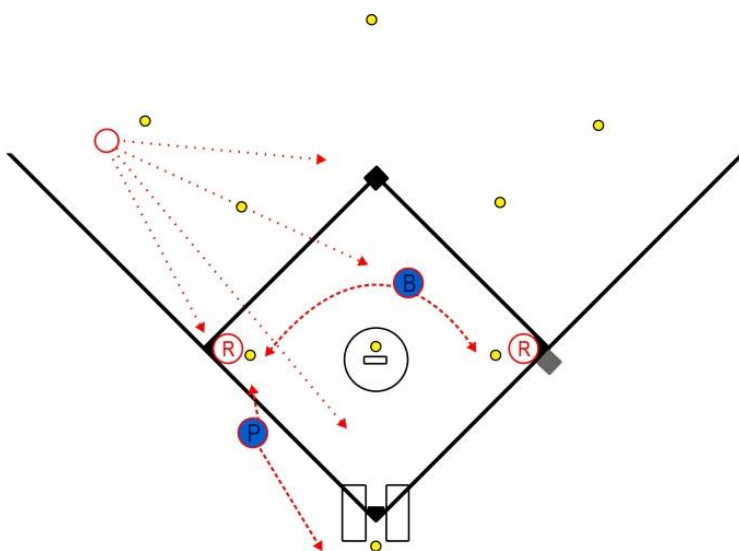


Ball hit to the outfield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move into foul territory toward third base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Judge catch or no catch.
- Move to the holding position to watch the tag-up at third base.
- Anticipate a play at third or home plate.
- Move quickly toward the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s)

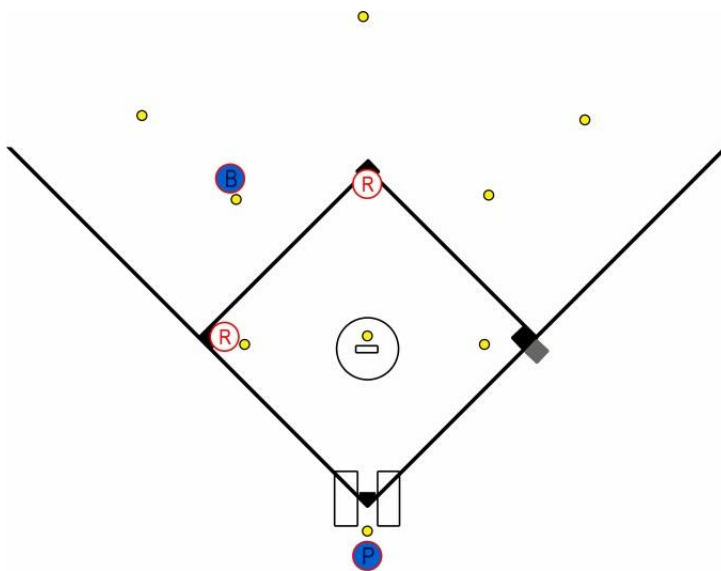
Second Movement



Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- Move quickly into the infield and keep the play in front of you.
- Watch the touches and tag-ups at first and second base.
- Take R2 into second and the BR into first, second and third base.
- Move quickly toward the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

Runners at Second & Third Base



Starting Position

Plate Umpire

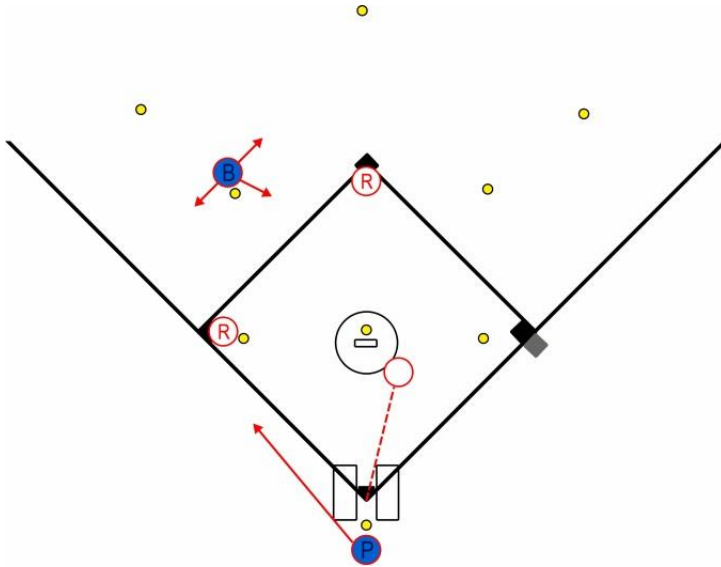
- Take a position behind the catcher as described in the **Plate Umpire Mechanics**
- Responsible for:
 - Illegal pitches
 - Fair/foul balls
 - Batting infractions

Base Umpire

- Face in the direction of home plate with shoulders square to home plate.
- Take a position off of and behind the shortstop shading towards the runner on third base ensuring a view of the pitcher, runners and the home plate area.
- Go into the 'ready position' when the pitcher starts their pitching motion.
- Share responsibility for calling illegal pitches.
- Responsible for all lead off calls.

Runners at Second & Third Base

First Movement

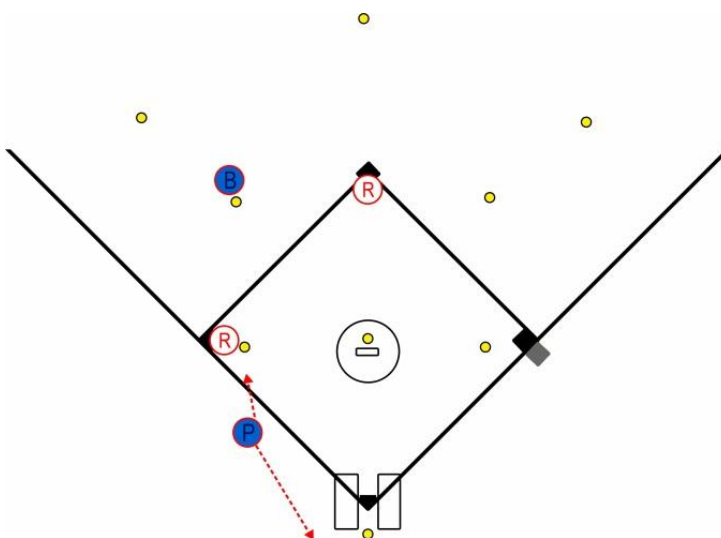


Ball hit in the infield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move into Foul Territory toward third base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Responsible for:
 - Illegal pitches
 - Fair/foul balls
 - Batting infractions
- Move quickly toward the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

Second Movement

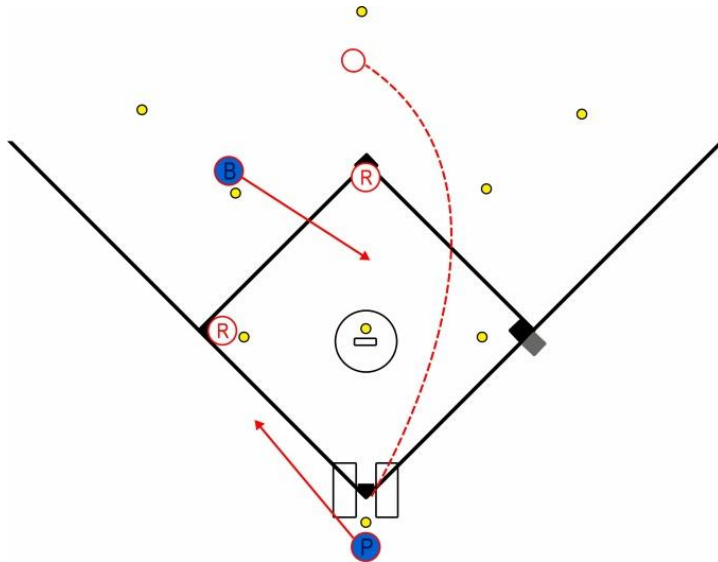


Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- Wait to see where the play will be made.
- Avoid a thrown ball.
- Move quickly to the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

Runners at Second & Third Base

First Movement

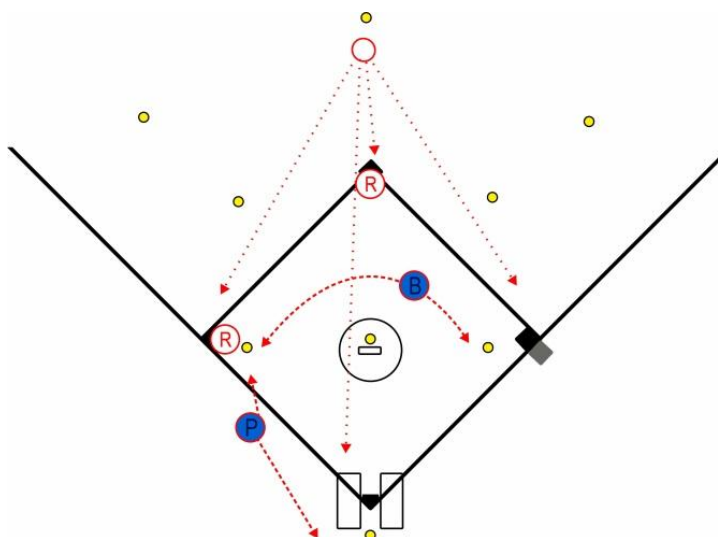


Ball hit to the outfield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move into foul territory toward third base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Judge catch or no catch.
- Watch the tag-up at third base.
- Anticipate a play at third or home plate.
- Move quickly toward the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

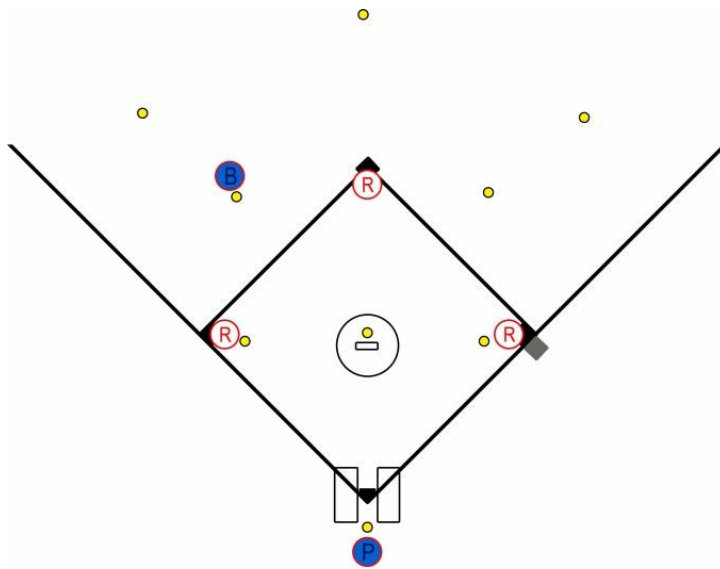
Second Movement



Base Umpire

- Watch the ball,
- Move quickly into the infield and keep the play in front of you.
- Watch the touches and tag-ups at first and second base.
- Take R2 into third base and the BR into first, second and third base.
- Move quickly toward the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

Bases Loaded



Starting Position

Plate Umpire

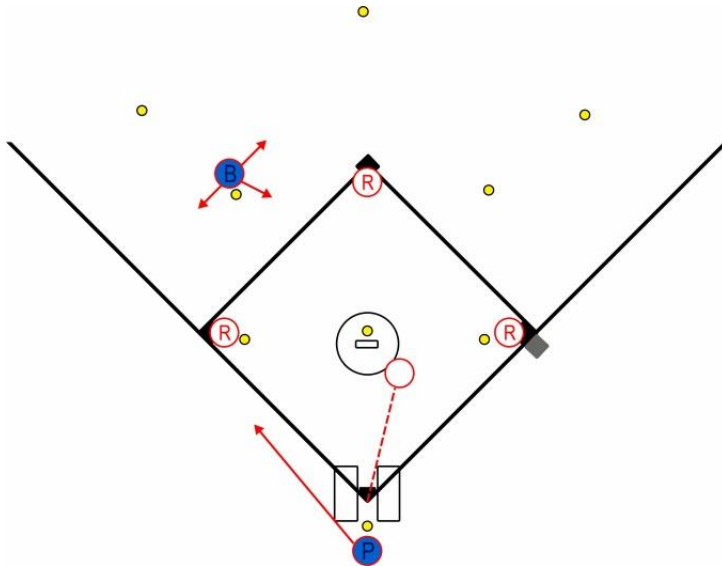
- Take a position behind the catcher as described in the **Plate Umpire Mechanics**
- Responsible for:
 - Illegal pitches
 - Fair/foul balls
 - Batting infractions
 - Infield Fly (if less than two out).

Base Umpire

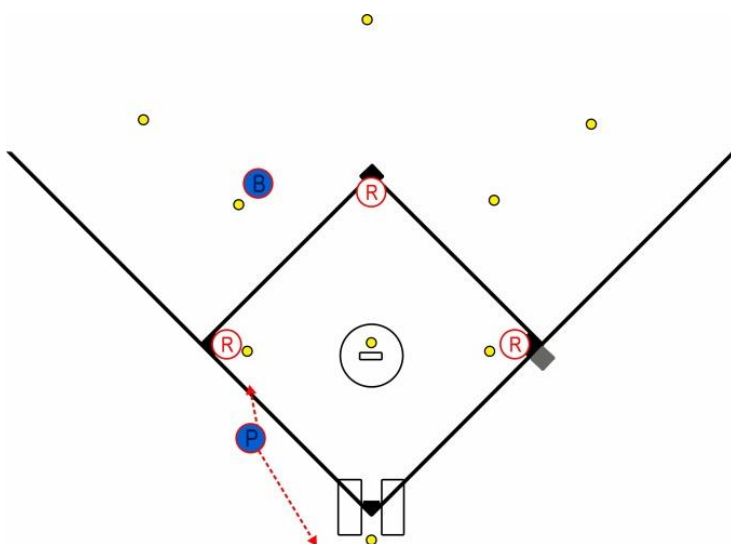
- Face in the direction of home plate with shoulders square to home plate.
- Take a position off of and behind the shortstop shading towards the runner on third base ensuing a view of the pitcher, runners and home plate area.
- Go into the 'ready position' when the pitcher starts their pitching motion.
- Share responsibility for calling illegal pitches.
- Responsible for all lead off calls.

Bases Loaded

First Movement



Second Movement



Ball hit to the infield

Plate Umpire

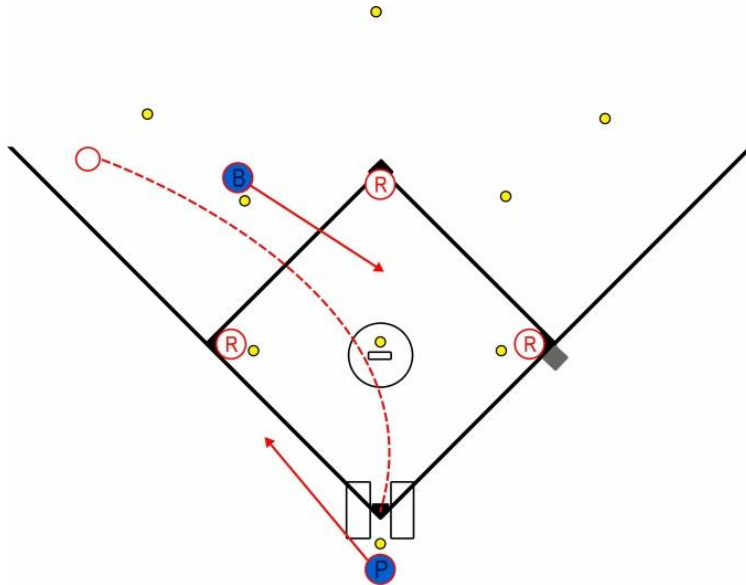
- Exit to the left of the catcher and move into foul territory toward third base
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- You are responsible for:
 - Judging fair or foul
 - Overthrow out of play.
 - One metre (three foot) line interference.
- Anticipate a play at home plate,
- Move quickly toward the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- **Note:** A play at any base is a force play.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

Base Umpire

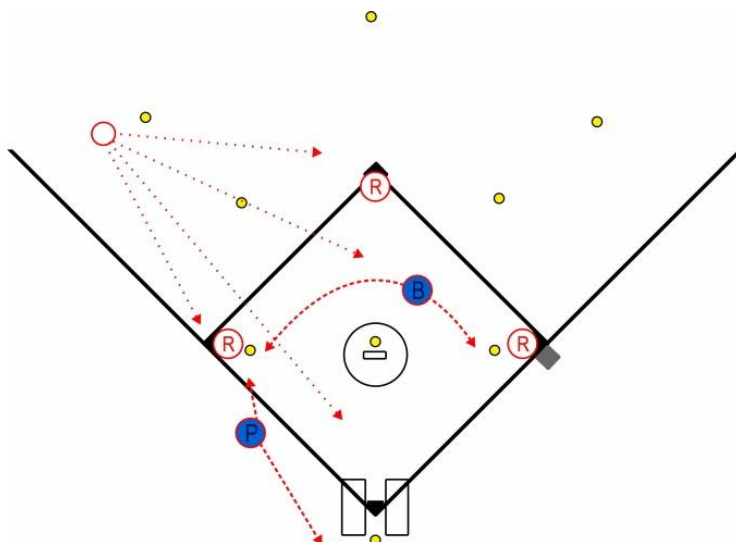
- Watch the ball.
- Wait to see where the play will be made.
- Move quickly to the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Call all plays made on the first throw of the ball on the bases.
- Avoid a thrown ball and runners
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s)

Bases Loaded

First Movement



Second Movement



Ball hit to the outfield

Plate Umpire

- Exit to the left of the catcher and move into foul territory toward third base.
- Keep your eyes on the ball.
- Judge catch or no catch
- Wait to watch the tag-up at third base.
- Anticipate a play at third or home plate.
- Move quickly toward the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).

Base Umpire

- Watch the ball.
- Move quickly into the infield and keep the play in front of you.
- Watch the touches and tag-ups at first and second base.
- Take R3 into second base and the BR into first, second and third base.
- Move quickly toward the base where the play is made.
- Let the ball turn you into the play.
- Stop... Wait... Call and Signal.
- Watch the runner(s) touch base(s).