

To: WBSC Europe Baseball Umpires

8th June 2023

Subject: Points of Emphasis Memo 1 - 2023

Dear WBSC Baseball Umpires

Please, pay attention to this Points of Emphasis Memo 1 – 2023

1. Starting Positions – Three Umpire System

As explained during our Virtual Meetings, there will be a key focus on starting positions for your plays.

Most importantly, it is vital that umpires know what their proper position is when responsible for multiple runners. Most vivid example would be with a third base umpire in the three-umpire system, with multiple runners on, when this umpire is positioned in the infield. In this case, umpires are instructed never to use the “deep C” position and are required to use the traditional “C” position used in the two-umpire system. This allows umpires to “split the difference” between their plays and be in a correct position to see crucial elements of both tag and force plays at multiple bases.

Following are examples of a **correct** position:



For the avoidance of doubt, a third base umpire would assume this position:

- With R1 and R2
- With R1, R2, and R3 (bases loaded)
- With R1 and R3
- With R2 and **two outs**
- With R2, R3, and **two outs**.

Following are examples of an **incorrect** position:



2. Starting Positions – What is the umpire squared to?

In the two-umpire system, the base umpire will be always squared to the home plate. In the three umpire system, however, the base umpires are squared to:

First base umpire:

- No runners on: home plate.
- When positioned on the line: pitcher's mound, unless the first baseman does not hold the runner on. If that is the case, the umpire will be squared to home plate.
- When positioned in the infield: the umpire will face to the third base dugout.

Third base umpire:

- Third base umpire:
 - The third base umpire is always squared to home plate, with one exception:
 - With runner on first base only, the umpire will face to the dugout (third base dugout in "deep B" position, first base dugout in the "deep C" position).

3. Hands-on-knees position.

In the two-umpire system, the base umpire is required to use the hands-on-knees position at all times.

In the three-umpire system, the base umpire may "walk the line" with no runners on or when the fielder does not hold a runner on the nearest base, however, the umpire is required to be stopped when the pitcher delivers the ball. Furthermore, the umpire will be "opened" to the field of play, so that he does not have to "crossover" his/her body when reacting off the line in the infield.

In the three-umpire system, umpires are required to use the hands-on-knees position in the following situations:

- Whenever positioned in the infield.
- Whenever positioned on the line with a runner on and a fielder "holding" that runner.

WBSC Europe Baseball Umpiring Committee