**Ninety Foot Diamond Coverage with the Four Umpire System**

Below are the key points of the Four Umpire System to be used during the Western Region Baseball Season. The Plate Umpire will review these responsibilities with the crew at the pre-game meeting, incorporating any recent Lessons Learned or additional Points of Emphasis.

**Abbreviations**:

**PU, U1, U2, U3**–-Plate Umpire and Base Umpires

**B/R, R1, R2, R3**--Batter/Runner, Base Runners at Time of Pitch

**F1 <-> F9**--Standard Scorekeeping Notation for Fielders

**HP**--Home Plate, **1B**--First Base, **2B**--Second Base, **3B**--Third Base

**NRISP**--No Runners in Scoring Position or **RISP**--Runners in Scoring Position

**CtB**--Chest to Ball

**C/NC-** Catch/No Catch

**F/F-** Fair/foul

**Locations**:

**A**—foul territory, right foot along the line, 12’-15’ behind the first baseman

**B/C**—along the outfield grass, on either side of 2B, out of the batter’s line of sight with no runners on. With any runners, except 3B only, U2 shall setup inside on the dirt/grass line on either side of 2B, depending on which side he feels more comfortable

**D**—foul territory, left foot along the line, just into the outfield grass

**PoP** – Point of Plate, 15’ behind HP;

**1BX/3BX**—First/Third Base Line Extended into Foul Ground

**Po1**--Point of First Base, area around 1B in foul territory w/CtB

**Po3**--Point of Third Base, area around 3B in foul territory w/CtB

**Library-**That area about 2/3 the way to 3B in foul territory w/CtB

**Working Area-** That area half way between the mound and second base w/CtB

**Fundamentals:**

1. When a play is Routine, each umpire is responsible for all calls at his base.
2. On plays involving Fly Balls, one umpire reads the situation and moves to the best angle/distance to make the call on the batted ball (C/NC, F/F, whether a ball has gone out of play, etc). The rotation is initiated by verbal and hand signals agreed to during the Pre-game Meeting.
3. Three positions in the course of each play: Starting, Reacting, Adjusted
4. Starting--before the pitch position
5. Reacting--initial movement based on reading the ball and the need to rotate
6. Adjusted—follow-on movement after the rotation is completed required to achieve best position for a call

4. U2's area of responsibility, if outside, extends from the left fielder to the right

fielder including left/right fielder straight in/back;

U1/U3 will cover the left/right fielder to their respective lines.

5. If U2 is inside, U1 has the center fielder straight in/back and to his left, U3 has the

center fielder to his right.

6. When one umpire commits to cover a Fly Ball, the three remaining umpires

move to provide the best Reacting position (the "normal rotated" position called

for by the runners and location of the ball) and Adjusted position (based on how

the play develops) to cover the play.

**NOTE:** Trouble Balls include any Fly Ball where:

1. two or more fielders converging
2. fielder making the play has his back to HP or is heading towards a fence
3. catch expected to be made below the knee
4. ball may hit the fence in the air or on bounce
5. question of fair/foul

7. The plate umpire will stay home whenever a runner is in scoring position. The

only time the PU covers 1B or 3B is with R1 only or no runners on base.

**No Runners on Base**

Ball Hit and Fielded in the Infield

1. PU clears F2 and trails B/R for lane violation and back up U1 on pulled foot/swipe tag
2. U1 reads the ball and establishes angle to make potential call at 1B
3. U2 goes CtB from the outside and anticipates break down at 1B

d. U3 comes down the line to Po3

1. Ball Hit through the Infield or a Routine Hit to the Outfield
2. PU clears F2, comes out 15-20’ in direction of the ball and goes CtB
3. U1 reads the ball and comes to Po1; observes B/R touch and play around 1B
4. U2 reads the ball and comes into Working Area; go CtB and glance at B/R
5. U3 reads the ball, comes down the line to Po3
6. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U1 goes)
7. U1 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC
8. PU clears F2 coming up the line for B/R touch/plays at 1B, returns to HP once B/R commits to 2B
9. U2 comes into the working area, responsible for 2B
10. U3 comes into foul territory Po3
11. Fly to the Outfield (U2 goes)

a. U2 reads the ball, goes out and rules on C/NC

b. U1 comes to Po1 sees B/R touch 1B, plays at 1B, moves to PoP when B/R

reaches 2B

c. U3 comes to the Working Area, responsible for 2B

d. PU goes to the library, has touch/play at 3B

1. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U3 goes)

a. U3 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. PU comes to library, has touch/play at 3B

c. U1 has B/R touch and plays at 1B; move to HP when B/R reaches 2B

d. U2 comes to the Working Area, responsible for 2B

**Runner on First Base (R1 only)**

1. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U1 goes)
2. U1 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC
3. U2 has tag up of R1, B/R touch at 1B, plays at 1B, B/R to 2B
4. U3 moves to Po3 keeping CtB
5. PU goes to PoP, has plays at HP

2. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U3 goes)

a. U3 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. PU comes to Library, has responsibility for plays at 3B

c. U1 has B/R touch at 1B, goes to PoP when R1 commits to 3B

d. U2 has all touches/plays at 2B, has B/R when R1 commits to 3B

**Runner on Second Base (R2 only)**

1. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U1 goes)

a. U1 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. U2 has tag up of R2, B/R touch at 1B, plays at 1B and 2B

c. U3 has touch at 3B, plays at 3B

d. PU goes to PoP, has plays at HP

2. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U3 goes)

a. U3 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. U2 has R2 tag up, R2 at 2B and 3B, B/R at 3B

c. U1 comes inside, pivots, takes B/R to 2B

d. PU goes to PoP, has plays at HP

**Runner on Third Base (R3 only)**

1. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U1 goes)

a. U1 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. U2 comes into the working area, has B/R at 1B and 2B

c. U3 has tag up of R3, plays at 3B

d. PU goes to PoP, has plays at HP

2. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U2 goes)

a. U2 reads the ball, goes out and rules on C/NC

b. U1 comes inside, pivots, takes B/R to 2B

c. U3 has tag up of R3, plays at 3B

d. PU goes to PoP, has plays at HP

3. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U3 goes)

a. U3 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. PU has tag up of R3, goes to PoP, has plays at HP

c. U1 comes inside, pivots, has B/R at 1B and 2B

d. U2 comes inside, has plays at 3B

**Runners on First and Second (R1 & R2)**

1. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U1 goes)

a. U1 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. U2 has tag ups/plays at 1B and 2B

c. U3 moves to Po3, keeping CtB, plays at 3B

d. PU goes to PoP, has plays at HP

2. fly Ball to the Outfield (U3 goes)

a. U3 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. U1 comes inside, pivots, has tag up of R1, B/R to 2B

\*If first play is at 3B, U1 has all plays at 2B

c. U2 has tag up of R2, R2 back to 2B, R1 to 2B, plays at 3B

\*Let the ball take him to the play

d. PU goes to PoP, has plays at HP

**Runners on First and Third (R1 & R3)**

1. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U1 goes)

a. U1 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. U2 has tag up of R1, all plays at 1B and 2B

c. U3 has tag up of R3 and plays at 3B

d. PU goes to PoP, has plays at HP

2. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U3 goes)

a. U3 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. U1 comes inside, pivots, has tag up of R1, R1 back to 1B, B/R to 2B

c. U2 has R3 back to 3B, R1 to 2B, B/R at 3B

d. PU has tag up of R3, goes to PoP, has plays at HP

**Runners on Second and Third (R2 & R3)**

1. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U1 goes)

a. U1 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. U2 has tag up of R2, all plays at 1B and 2B, B/R to 2B

c. U3 has tag up of R3, plays at 3B

d. PU goes to PoP, has plays at HP

2. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U3 goes)

a. U3 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. U1 comes inside, pivots, has B/R to 2B

\*If first play is at 3B, has all plays at 2B

c. U2 has tag up of R2, R2 back to 2b, plays at 3B

d. PU has tag up of R3, goes to PoP, plays at HP

**Bases Loaded (R1, R2 and R3)**

1. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U1 goes)

a. U1 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. U2 has tag ups of R1 and R2, plays at 1B and 2B, B/R to 2B

c. U3 has tag up of R3, plays at 3B

d. PU goes to PoP, has plays at HP

2. Fly Ball to the Outfield (U3 goes)

a. U3 reads the ball, goes out and rules on F/F and C/NC

b. U1 comes inside, pivots, has tag up of R1, B/R to 2B

\*If first play is at 3B, U1 has all plays at 2B

c. U2 has tag up of R2, R3 back into 3B, R1 at 2B, plays at 3B

\*Let the ball take him to the play

d. PU has tag up of R3, goes to PoP, has plays at HP