

## FOUR-MAN UMPIRE SYSTEM

### 1.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

One of the key concepts in understanding four-umpire mechanics is the positioning of the base umpires and their responsibilities especially on balls hit to the outfield. An umpire should only go out when it is absolutely necessary when it is going to be a difficult play (such as fair/foul decisions down the foul lines; home runs; “trouble” balls, i.e., shoe string or diving catches; multiple fielders converging on the ball; catches at the warning track or wall; catches made with the fielders’ back towards the infield; etc.) If an umpire goes out, he/she will stay out until the play has ended. The umpire should wait until all action has ceased before returning to his/her position. The home plate umpire will be responsible for the catch/no catch on **ALL** line drives and fly balls (with the exception of “trouble” balls to the outfield). At the time of the pitch, the base umpires will **ALWAYS** be stationed on the outside of the infield. The first base umpire will be positioned about 10-12 feet behind the first baseman with both feet in foul territory.

The third base umpire will be positioned in the same approximate position behind the third baseman. The second base umpire will be positioned behind second base several feet out into the outfield grass. Depending on the runner(s) or the situation he/she will be shaded either towards the first or third base, always maintaining a clear, unobstructed view of the field and the home plate area. With no runners on or with a runner on third base only, the second base umpire will position himself/herself on the first base side the second base bag. Anytime there is a runner on first base the second base umpire will be positioned between the second base man and the second base bag, approximately 20 feet from second and on the outside of the infield. With a runner on second only or with runners on second and third the second base umpire will be positioned between the shortstop and the second base bag approximately 20 feet from the second base bag and on the outside of the infield.

On **ALL** balls hit to the outfield, the base umpires will pivot into the infield and be responsible for his/her individual base and area of responsibility unless he/she has to go out to cover a “trouble” ball.

### 2.1 NO RUNNERS ON BASE

If the first base umpire goes out the second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at first or second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

If the second base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at first or second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

If the third base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play at first on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second or third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

### **3.1 RUNNER ON FIRST BASE ONLY**

If the first base umpire goes out the second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at first or second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second or third on the runner from first advancing. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

If the second base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at first or second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second or third on the runner from first advancing. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

If the third base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at first or second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second or third on the runner from first advancing. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

### **4.1 RUNNER ON SECOND BASE ONLY**

If the first base umpire goes out the second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second advancing. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

With less than two outs the home plate umpire will come out into the working area in front of the mound and will be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at first on the batter-runner. With two outs the home plate umpire will move out to a position in foul territory on the first base line extended. He/she will be responsible for the touch and any play at first on the batter-runner. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate.

If the second base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for any touch and play that may develop at first or second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second and the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

If the third base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at first on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second and the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

## **5.1 RUNNER ON THIRD BASE ONLY**

If the first base umpire goes out the second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at first or second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

If the second base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at first or second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

If the third base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at first on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second or third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out into foul territory going a few feet towards third base. He/she will be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate.

## **6.1 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND BASE**

If the first base umpire goes out the second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; the batter-runner passing the runner; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second or third on the runner from first. The third base umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out from behind home plate and move down the third base line in foul territory and communicate with his/her partners "I've got third if he/she comes". The home plate umpire will be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second advancing. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate.

If the second base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; the batter-runner passing the runner; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second or third on the runner from first. The third base umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out from behind home plate and move down the third base

line in foul territory and communicate with his/her partners “I’ve got third if he/she comes”. He/she will be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second advancing. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate.

If the third base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; the batter-runner passing the runner; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second or third on the runner from first. The third base umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out from behind home plate and move down the third base line in foul territory and communicate with his/her partners “I’ve got third if he/she comes”. He/she will be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner advancing from second. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate.

## **7.1 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD BASE**

If the first base umpire goes out the second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; the batter-runner passing the runner; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second or third on the runner from first. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out into foul territory, going a few feet towards third, and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate.

If the second base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; the batter-runner passing the runner; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second or third on the runner from first. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out into foul territory, going a few feet towards third, and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate.

If the third base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; the batter-runner passing the runner; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the touch and any play that may

develop at second or third on the runner from first. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out into foul territory, going a few feet towards third, and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate.

### **8.1 RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD BASE**

If the first base umpire goes out the second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second advancing and on the batter-runner at third should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will move out to a position in foul territory on the first base line extended. He/she will be responsible for the batter-runner touching first and any play back into first on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate.

If the second base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second and on the batter-runner at third should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out into foul territory, going a few feet towards third, and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate.

If the third base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second and on the batter-runner at third should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out into foul territory, going a few feet towards third, and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate.

### **9.1 BASES LOADED**

If the first base umpire goes out the second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; the batter-runner passing the runner; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may

develop at second on the runner from first and also for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from first and the batter-runner at third should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out into foul territory, going a few feet towards third, and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second and will communicate to his/her partners "I've third if he/she comes". The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate and must let the ball take him/her to the play and not over commit to either base.

If the second base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; the batter-runner passing the runner; any play back into first on the batter-runner and the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the runner from first. The third base umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from first and on the batter-runner at third should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out into foul territory, going a few feet towards third, and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second and will communicate to his/her partners "I've got third if he/she comes". The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate and must let the ball take him/her to the play and not over commit to either base.

If the third base umpire goes out the first base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; the batter-runner passing the runner, any play back into first on the batter-runner and the touch and any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The second base umpire will pivot in and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at second on the runner from first. The second base umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from first and on the batter-runner at third should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out into foul territory, going a few feet towards third, and be responsible for the tag up and any play back into third on the runner on third. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second and will communicate to his/her partners "I've got third if he/she comes". The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at home plate and must let the ball take him/her to the play and not over commit to either base.