

FREDERICKSBURG UMPIRES ASSOCIATION 2-UMPIRE BASEBALL MECHANICS SUMMARY

NO RUNNERS ON BASE

- *Positioning* - **Base Umpire** in **A** Position (10-12 feet behind the first baseman, in foul territory) and no closer than 10 feet to first base.
- *Fair/Foul* – **Base Umpire** call right field line, **Plate Umpire** calls left field line.
- *Catch/No Catch* – Centerfielder coming straight in or toward right field line is the **Base Umpire**. Centerfielder towards left field line is the **Plate Umpire**.
- *Base Hits* – **Base Umpire** pivots to inside, has full responsibility for runner.
- *Trouble balls* - If **Base Umpire** goes out on a fly ball, **Plate Umpire** takes full responsibility for the batter/runner, (Signal and Communicate).
- *Ground balls* - **Base Umpire** sets up three steps inside the foul line, and **Plate Umpire** comes about half-way up the first base line
- *Three foot running lane* – **Plate Umpire** watch for possible interference by runner.
- *Overthrows at first* – **Plate Umpire** follows the ball, **Base Umpire** follows the runner.
- *Swipe tag/1st baseman comes off bag* - **Base Umpire** asks for help, **Plate Umpire** gives answer, **Base Umpire** makes the call.

RUNNER ON FIRST

- *Positioning* - **Base Umpire** in **B** Position (working area on infield grass or inside baseline).
- *Fair/Foul* – **Plate Umpire** has all fair/foul calls.
- *Catch/No Catch* - **Plate Umpire** outside the V (when making calls near the line, signal fair/foul first, then catch/No Catch); **Base Umpire** inside the V (Base Umpire **does not** leave the infield).
- *Tag-up* – Umpire **not** responsible for catch/no catch **is responsible for runner tag-up**.
- *Ground Balls* – **Base Umpire** let the throw take you to the play - watch for possible double play. **Plate Umpire** watch batter/runner run first base line, then rotate to 3rd for possible advance by lead runner.
- *Base hit* - **Plate Umpire** has 1st to 3rd responsibility. (If **Plate Umpire** needs to stay with the ball (line drive down right field line), then **Base Umpire** has runner to 3rd (Stress on Communication).
- *Pick-off at First Base* - **Base Umpire** steps forward as much as possible and turns to the base to improve the angle. Do not return to **B** until ball is returned to Pitcher.
- *Steal of Second Base* - **Base Umpire** drop step back and let the throw turn you - do not turn early. On overthrows or missed catches, follow runner to 3rd.
- *Overthrows* – **Plate Umpire** follows ball on overthrows anytime **Base Umpire** is in **B** or **C**.

RUNNER ON SECOND

- *Positioning* - **Base Umpire** in **C** Position (working area on infield grass or inside baseline).
- *Fair/Foul* – **Plate Umpire** has all fair/foul calls.
- *Catch/No Catch* - **Plate Umpire** outside the V (when making calls near the line, signal fair/foul first, then catch/No Catch); **Base Umpire** inside the V (Base Umpire **does not** leave the infield).
- *Tag-up* - Umpire **not** responsible for catch/no catch **is responsible for runner tag-up**.
- *Ground Balls* – **Base Umpire** let the throw take you to the play. **Base Umpire also responsible for possible throw back to 3rd (positioning is important)**. **Plate Umpire** observes runner going to 1st, but remains near the home plate area.
- *Pick-off at Second Base* - **Base Umpire** watch Pitcher, then turn as ball is released. Do not return to **C** until ball is returned to Pitcher.
- *Steal of Third Base* - **Base Umpire** has full coverage.
- *Overthrows* – **Plate Umpire** follows ball on overthrows anytime **Base Umpire** is in **B** or **C**.

RUNNERS ON FIRST & SECOND; RUNNERS ON FIRST & THIRD

- *Positioning* - **Base Umpire** in **C** Position (may use **B** or **C** Position for runners on first & third).
- *Fair/Foul* - **Plate Umpire** has all fair/foul calls.
- *Catch/No Catch* - **Plate Umpire** outside the V (when making calls near the line, signal fair/foul first, then catch/No Catch); **Base Umpire** inside the V (Base Umpire **does not** leave the infield).
- *Ground Balls* - **Base Umpire** let the throw take you to the play - watch for possible double play. **Plate Umpire** remains at plate.
- *Base Hit* - **Plate Umpire** stays home for possible fair/foul call, and for possibility of runner advance.
- *Pick-offs* - **Base Umpire** has both runners.
- *Steal of Second or Third Base* - **Base Umpire** has full coverage.
- *Tag-up* - **Plate Umpire** has the lead runner, and **Base Umpire** has trailing runner, unless ball is hit to area where **Plate Umpire** can see lead runner more easily (right field). Signal and communicate.
- *Infield fly (First & Second only)* - Signal and Communicate. Either Umpire can call the Infield Fly Rule, partner should mirror it.
- *Overthrows* - **Plate Umpire** follows ball on overthrows anytime **Base Umpire** is in **B** or **C**.
- *Time Play Situation* - **Plate Umpire** clears the bat with runner in scoring position and has full responsibility to determine if run scores before out is recorded. (Angle is very important)

RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD OR BASES LOADED

- *Positioning* - **Base Umpire** in **C** Position.
- *Fair/Foul* - **Plate Umpire** has all fair/foul calls.
- *Catch/No Catch* - **Plate Umpire** outside the V (when making calls near the line, signal fair/foul first, then catch/No Catch); **Base Umpire** inside the V (Base Umpire **does not** leave the infield).
- *Tag-up* - **Plate Umpire** has the lead runner, and **Base Umpire** has trailing runner(s), unless ball is hit to area where **Plate Umpire** can see trailing runner more easily (right field). Signal and communicate.
- *Infield fly (Bases Loaded only)* - Signal and Communicate. Either Umpire can call the Infield Fly Rule, partner should mirror it.
- *Overthrows* - **Plate Umpire** follows ball on overthrows anytime **Base Umpire** is in **B** or **C**.
- *Time Play Situation* - **Plate Umpire** clears the bat with runner in scoring position and has full responsibility to determine if run scores before out is recorded. (Angle is very important)

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Check Swings* - **Plate Umpire** has the option of asking for assistance on check swings by batter. **Plate** may appeal to **Base Umpire** in positions **A** or **B** for a right-handed batter, or position **C** for a left-handed batter. Coach and Catcher do not have appeal authority in high school baseball/softball.
- *Ball touches Batter while still in Box* - If **Base Umpire** sees it, call it! **Plate Umpire** may not have angle.
- *Touching Bases* - **Base Umpire** responsible for runners touching first, second and third. With multiple runners, see as many touches as possible. Prioritize bases (see all touches of third, then second, etc.) **Plate Umpire** responsible for touching of home plate.
- *Asking Partner for Assistance* - If you feel you need help from your partner in any situation, make the request **before** you make the call (Check Swing, Fielder On/Off Base, etc).