

**FREDERICKSBURG UMPIRES ASSOCIATION  
3-UMPIRE SOFTBALL MECHANICS SUMMARY**

**NO RUNNERS ON BASE; RUNNER ON THIRD**

- *Positioning* – **U1** in **A** position, **U3** in **D** position. (18-21 feet behind each base).
- *Fair/Foul* – **U1** calls right field line, **U3** calls left field line.
- *Catch/No Catch* – Center Fielder coming straight in or toward right field line is **U1**, Center Fielder towards left field line is the **U3**.
- *Base Hits* – **U1** pivots to inside, has runner at 1st. **U3** pivots to **C** position, has runner advancing to 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Plate** rotates to 3<sup>rd</sup> and has runner advancing to 3<sup>rd</sup>, **U1** rotates to plate, and has runner coming home.
- *Trouble balls* - If **U1** goes out on a fly ball, **Plate Umpire** follows the batter/runner to 1st, **U3** pivots to **C** position and has runner to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Plate** returns to home for plays there. If **U3** goes out, **U1** has runner all the way to 3<sup>rd</sup>, just like 2-man system. ***Umpire that goes out, stays out!***
- *Overthrows at first* – **Plate** follows the ball, **U1** follows the runner, **U3** takes position **C** for runner to 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- *Three foot running lane* – **Plate Umpire** watch for possible interference by runner.

**RUNNER ON FIRST**

- *Positioning* – **U1** in **A** Position, **U3** in **B** position (behind second baseman).
- *Fair/Foul* – **U1** has right field line, **Plate** has left field line.
- *Catch/No Catch* – **U3** inside V, **U1** has right fielder to right field line, **Plate** has left fielder to left field line.
- *Base hit* - **Plate Umpire** rotates to third for runner advance, **U3** covers second, **U1** rotates to plate after runners clear first.
- *Runner Leaving Early* – **U1** has runner.
- *Steal of Second Base* – **U3** has call at second, and follows runner to third on overthrows.

**RUNNER ON SECOND**

- *Positioning* – **U1** in **B** position (behind second baseman), **U3** in **D** position.
- *Fair/Foul* – **Plate** has right field line, **U3** has left field line.
- *Catch/No Catch* – **U1** inside V, **U3** has left fielder to left field line, **Plate** has right fielder to right field line.
- *Base Hit* – **Plate** watches runner to first, calls plays at home. **U1** covers first & second, **U3** covers third.
- *Runner Leaving Early* – **U1** has runner.
- *Steal of Third Base* – **U3** has full coverage.

**RUNNERS ON FIRST & SECOND; RUNNERS ON FIRST & THIRD**

- *Positioning* – **U1** in **B** position, **U3** in **D** position.
- *Fair/Foul* – **Plate** has the right field line, **U1** has the left field line.
- *Catch/No Catch* - **U1** inside V, **U3** has left fielder to left field line, **Plate** has right fielder to right field line.
- *Runners Leaving Early*– **U3** has runner at 3<sup>rd</sup>, **U1** has runners at 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- *Steal of Second or Third Base* – **U1** has steal of second, **U3** has steal of third.
- *Tag-up* – **U3** has the lead runner (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>), and **U1** has runner at first. Signal and communicate.
- *Infield fly (First & Second only)* – Signal and Communicate. Any Umpire can call the Infield Fly Rule.
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## **RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD OR BASES LOADED**

- *Positioning* – **U1** in **B** position, **U3** in **D** position.
- *Fair/Foul* – **U3** has left field line, **Plate** has right field line.
- *Catch/No Catch* – **U1** inside the V, **U3** from left fielder to left field line, **Plate** from right fielder to right field line.
- *Runners Leaving Early* – **U3** has runners at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. **U1** has runner at 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- *Tag-up* – On balls hit to left field, **Plate** has lead runner, **U1** has trailing runner(s). On balls hit to right field, **U3** has lead runner, **U1** has trailing runner(s), on balls hit into the V, **U3** has lead runner and **Plate** has trailing runner(s). Signal and communicate.
- *Infield fly (Bases Loaded only)* – Signal and Communicate. Any Umpire can call the Infield Fly Rule.

*\*Check Swings* – **Plate Umpire** has the option of asking for assistance on check swings by batter. **Plate** may appeal to **U1** in positions **A** or **B** for a right-handed batter, or to **U3** in positions **C** or **D** for a left-handed batter. Coach and Catcher do not have appeal authority in high school softball.