

# Slow Pitch Mechanics

There are 2 umpires for slow pitch.

- The plate umpire
- The base umpire

Each has their responsibilities during the game.

There is no “king” umpire. No umpire has more authority than the other. This means no umpire can overturn a call of the other umpire.

Can an umpire ask for help? Yes...on a pulled foot or checked swing.  
Ask if you are not sure.

# Appeals...

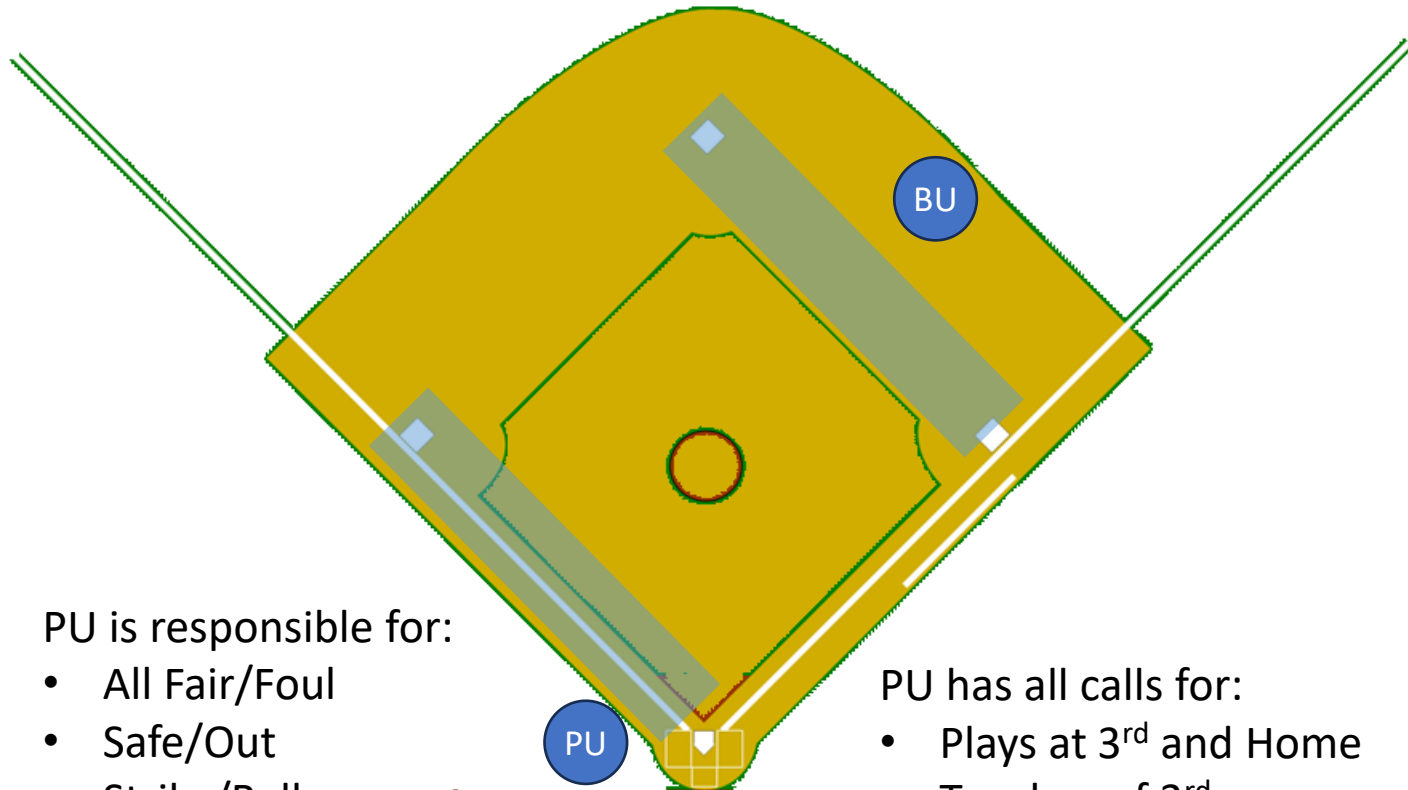
Umpires need to be aware and ready for an appeal. Example, long fly ball into the gap. The defense starts yelling, "...they left early". The first question that should be asked is which umpire is responsible for that tag-up.

Example: The 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman may tell you the runner missed the base. The question is this a base you are responsible for?

You **HAVE** to watch bases being touched or runners tagging up.

Let's look at the positioning of umpires.

Base Umpires: Do NOT “hide” behind the fielders.  
If they miss the ball, you have little time to move.



PU is responsible for:

- All Fair/Foul
- Safe/Out
- Strike/Ball

PU has all calls for:

- Plays at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Home
- Touches of 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Tag ups at 3<sup>rd</sup>

BU is responsible for:

- Plays at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Tag ups at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

# Signals...

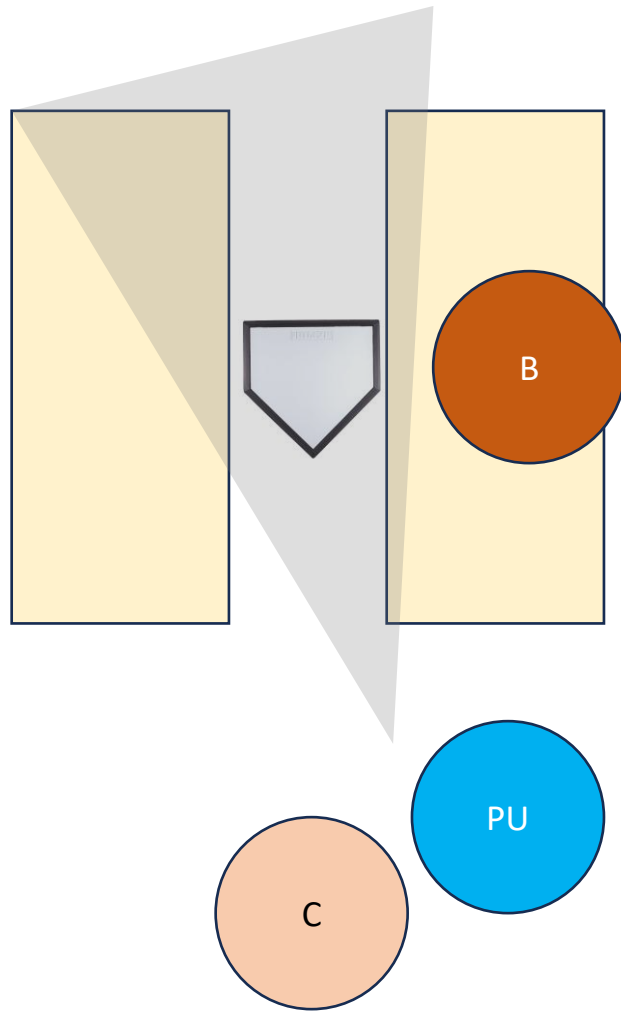
Officials signals are

- Infield fly situation. Using your right hand touch the brim of you hat or hold your fist/index finger up in the air.
- Timing play (2 outs and runners or 2<sup>nd</sup> and/of 3<sup>rd</sup>) tap you left wrist with 2 fingers.

Some “unofficial” signals umpires can use to help their partner.

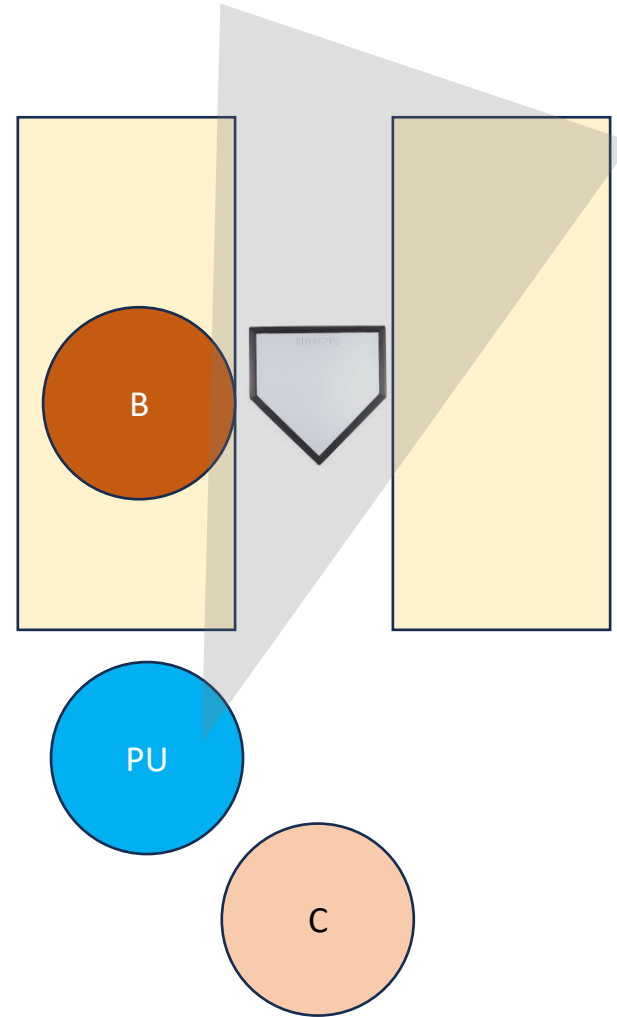
- Base umpire sees the left fielder catch the ball at their shoe top. You can show a fist down by your leg to let the plate umpire know you saw the catch.
- Base umpire sees the outfielder drop the ball before secure possession. You hold you hand with the palm open by your leg
- Tap your chest if you have information about a play that could be used by your partner.

## Left-handed Batter



- You should be on the side with the batter.

## Right-handed Batter



It would be ideal if the catcher is close enough to the plate to not interfere with the batter and allow you to see the pitch.

Note: Catchers are usually going to be closer to the backstop.

Strikezone : Between the batter's back shoulder and the front knee. [USA Softball](#)

