

NYSBUA State Championship 2025
3-Umpire Mechanics and Basic Principles

Notation used within this document

- HP is the Home Plate umpire
U1 is the first base umpire
U3 is the third base umpire
- BR is a batter-runner
R1 is a runner originally on 1B
R2 is a runner originally on 2B
R3 is a runner originally on 3B
- RH is a right-handed batter
LH is a left-handed batter
- LF is left field
CF is center field
RF is right field
- Positions on the field are the same as in the manual: A, B, C, and D

Basic Principles for this weekend

- Consistently communicate with each other: **visually and verbally**
- Go out on all ***trouble*** fly balls:
 - OF converging, OF hard in/out, fair/foul, HR/2B possibility
 - If you are U1 or U3 located in the middle of the infield, ***NEVER*** cross the dirt/grass line on trouble balls
 - If an umpire goes out on a fly ball, then revert to the 2-umpire system
- **ROTATIONS:** Only rotate on ***BATTED*** balls
 - Hits to the OF with no runners on, R1 only, or R1/R2 tag up situations
 - We are not rotating on ***THROWN*** balls
- Check swings
 - U1 has RH batters always (no matter positioning)
 - U3 has LH batters always (no matter positioning)
- With 2 outs, U1 will return to the A position and (if necessary) U3 will come into the middle of the field

Outfield Coverages

- **No runners on**

- U1 has fly balls hit from CF to the Center Fielder's left all the way over to the RF line
- U3 has fly balls hit to CF straight in/straight back and to his/her right over to the LF line
- Watch each other on all fly balls to avoid 2 umpires going out on the same fly ball
- **If both umpires go out by accident, HP needs to be aware and trail the runner for a possible play at 2B!**

- **Runners on base**

- If you are on the line, you have responsibility for fly balls from that Outfielder towards the respective foul line
- If you are in the middle of the field, you have the V (LF player to RF player)
- HP has Left Fielder towards the LF foul line and Right Fielder towards the RF foul line depending on the positioning of your partners.

Home Plate Umpire

- **YOU** are the quarterback for the crew. Make sure you take control of crew communication on the field!
- With no runners on base, follow the umpire that goes out:
 - If U1 goes out, trail the BR up the 1B line and you have plays on the BR back into 1B.
 - If U3 goes out, go out in the direction of the ball and help on catch/no catch for U3.
 - If no one goes out, then you rotate and you have plays on the BR at 3B.
- With runners in scoring position, you ***WILL NOT ROTATE*** to 3B unless you have R1/R2 and a tag up situation!
- Pre-pitch communicate with your partners after each ***batter*** and take the lead to make sure the entire crew understands the situation and knows what needs to occur.
- Watch your partners at all times. If U1 and U3 go out on the same fly ball, **YOU** must be prepared and in position for a call on the BR at any base!

First Base Umpire

- Initial Position: No runners on base, same as 2-man.
With R1 only, get closer to 1B so you can see any pickoff attempt.
When in the middle, stay in deep B.
With 2 outs, return to the A position.
- No runners on: Fly ball responsibility from CF to his left all the way to RF. Read U3 on fly balls to CF over to LF. If U3 goes out, come in and pivot to take responsibility for BR. On base hits or U3 not going out, walk towards 1B and watch BR touch 1B. **Rotate** home once the BR commits to 3B.
- R1: Fly ball responsibility from RF towards the line. On base hits, **rotate** to home plate once R1 commits to 3B.
- R2 or R2/R3: Initial position is deep B. Fly ball coverage within the V. You have all calls at 1B and 2B. If U3 goes out, then you have all calls at all bases (revert to 2-umpire system)
- R3: Same responsibilities as no one on base. If U3 goes out, get into the middle ASAP as you have responsibility for any play back into 3B on R3 and all plays on BR at any base.
- R1/R2, R1/R3,
Bases Loaded: Fly ball coverage for RF towards the line. On base hits, come in and pivot taking responsibility for BR at 1B or 2B.

Third Base Umpire

- Initial Position:** With no runners on, treat 3B as if it was 1B (stay behind the third baseman just like he was the first baseman). With R3 or R2/R3, get closer to 3B for possible pickoff plays. With R1 only, be in deep B or deep C. With R1/R2 or bases loaded, be in normal C. Remember that with 2 outs, U1 will go back to the A position so you may have to go into the middle depending on the situation.
- No runners on:** Go out on trouble fly balls in your coverage area. Otherwise, come in towards 2B for possible plays on BR.
- R1:** Be in deep B or deep C (I prefer deep B). Fly ball coverage in the V. On base hits, **rotation** is on! Take responsibility for calls at 2B on R1 and all calls on BR at 1B or 2B. If ball stays in the infield, all calls on R1 at 2B or 3B.
- R2 or R2/R3:** Be in modified D position (closer to 3B for pickoffs or steals). Go out on trouble fly balls in your coverage area. On base hits, stay at 3B and watch for base touches. With 2 outs, get into the middle and have all calls at 2B and 3B.
- R3:** Be in modified D position (closer to 3B for pickoffs). Go out on trouble fly balls in your coverage area. On base hits, make sure R3 commits home and come into the middle for plays at 2B. With less than 2 outs, try to take tag ups of R3 at 3B whenever possible.
- R1/R2, R1/R3,
Based Loaded:** Be in the C position. Fly ball coverage within the V. On base hits, take all responsibility for calls on R1, R2, and R3 at 2B or 3B. U1 will come into the middle and take responsibility for BR at 1B or 2B.

Any Questions or Concerns?

If you have any questions involving this document or the 3-umpire system we are using at the State Tournament, please feel free to contact me at the following:

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