

NCUA THREE and FOUR MAN MECHANICS – APRIL 1st, 2nd, and 4th 2009

THREE MAN INITIAL POSITIONS

We call the plate umpire **UIC**, the first base umpire **U1** and the third base umpire **U3**. Note that this departs from past NCUA training which called the plate umpire U1, the first base umpire U2 and the third base umpire U3.

We will refer to specific Case Studies in the NASO book “Baseball Umpires Guidebook, Crews of Two and Three” by their number and include the diagrams in your study materials.

UIC must not put the ball in play until both U1 and U3 are in their proper initial positions. The number of outs does not matter. Only the position of runners dictates initial positions

| Runners | U1 (first base) | U3 (third base) |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nobody on base | regular A | regular D |
| 1B only | short A | long C |
| 1B and 2B | short A | regular C |
| 1B and 3B | short A | long C |
| bases loaded | short A | long C |
| 2B only | long B | regular D |
| 3B only | regular A | short D |
| 2B and 3B | long B | short D |

Initial positions are very simple: U1 is in the A except for two situations: runner on 2B only or 2B and 3B. U3 is in the C whenever there is a runner on 1B

Depth (short, regular, long) depends on the situation. regular is the same as two umpire mechanics. long is one step inside the baseline. when covering a runner at the corner, the umpire is short

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COVERAGE

Outfield Fly Ball General Principles:

- A. corner base umpire (BU) must not “freeze” or “drift”. corner BU must either Go Out or Stay In: “Pause, Read, React”
- B. when a corner BU Goes Out, he Stays Out
- C. inside BU never goes Out, except for an outfield ground rule situation

Outfield Fly Ball – U1 and U3 at the corners (A and D)

- A. U1 and U3 have ALL outfield fly balls whether they Go Out or whether they Stay In.
- B. U1 has from F8 going clearly to his left to the RF OOP line.
- C. U3 has from F8 straight (either in or back) and going to his right to the LF OOP line.
- D. UIC has Nobody!
- E. If it is a Trouble Ball (on or near a foul line and/or any possible trapped ball), the covering umpire should Go Out. (66)
- F. If both umpires start Out, U1 keeps going Out, and U3 cuts back in. UIC and U3 are now in the Two Man mechanics
- G. with Nobody on, if U1 Goes Out, UIC has all plays at first and third, and U3 has all plays at second and home. (67)
- H. with a runner at third, if U1 goes Out, UIC has the Tag at third, any play at home, and the batter at third. U3 has the batter at first, second, and home. (87)
- I. if U3 goes Out, UIC has the tag and advance of the lead runner and the batter at third. U1 has any play on the lead runner at third and the batter at first, second and home, including the backdoor at third. (82)
- J. if U1 and U3 stay In with nobody on, UIC has any play at third. U3 has any play at second. U1 has any play at first and home. (69)
- K. if U1 and U3 stay In with a runner on third, U3 stays at third. UIC stays at home. U1 has any play at first and second

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Outfield Fly Ball – U1 or U3 inside (B or C)

- A. UIC has corner outfield to the open OOP line. corner BU has corner outfielder to his covered OOP line.
- B. inside BU has all fly balls in the Cone
- C. corner BU has fair/foul on his side. if corner BU goes Out, inside BU and UIC are in 2 man mechanics

Infield Fly Balls

- A. UIC has all plays by F1 and F2
- B. UIC has all foul balls except if a corner BU has no runner to cover
- C. UIC has F3 and F5 playing in or near a foul line
- D. corner BU has the two infielders on his side
- E. inside BU has only the infielder nearest to him
- F. regardless, the umpire with the best look calls the play

ROTATIONS

- A. when the crew Rotates during playing action, it is always CLOCKWISE; UIC Rotates to third, U1 Rotates to home, and U3 Rotates into B to cover second and first as necessary.
- B. the crew only Rotates with a runner on first, or with runners on first and third.
- C. with runners on first and second and less than 2 outs, the crew Rotates on any catchable outfield fly ball (caught or not)
- D. with a runner only at first and two outs, the crew must Rotate on any fly ball
- E. with nobody on base, U3 Rotates to second whenever the batter-runner is safe at first. UIC may Rotate to third if there is a possible play there, with U1 Rotating home
- F. with a runner only at third and the batter walks, U1 must stay with batter runner if he keeps going to second
- G. with a runner at second or runners at second and third, the crew does not Rotate. UIC stays home, U1 (B position) has both first and second, and U3 has third
- H. with bases loaded, the crew does not Rotate. UIC stays home, U1 has first, and U3 (C position) has second and third.

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PLAY SITUATIONS

Tagups – U3 has tagup at third when in D. UIC has tagup at third when U3 is in C. all tagups at second are by inside BU. U1 has tagups at first. when corner BU goes Out, tagups are according to two-man mechanics

Rundowns – with multiple runners, only lead runner should be boxed (one umpire at each end)

Interference/Obstruction – force play slide interference at second is called by U3. U3 does not turn with the throw to first

Check swing requests – U1 has right handed batters, U3 has left handed batters

GAME MANAGEMENT

- A. a three man crew will have a Crew Chief, appointed by the Assignor. the Crew Chief or the Assignor will determine assignments.
- B. each umpire should bring plate equipment and be at the game site 45 minutes before game time.
- C. agree beforehand where you will park and where you will meet. exchange cell phone numbers.
- D. the crew will have a pregame umpires meeting, led by the Crew Chief. to be discussed are: initial positions, coverage, rotations, play situations, and game management.
- E. the Crew Chief should have a Rules Book and Case Book at the game site for the purpose of resolving a Protest situation.
- F. if help is needed after playing action is over, all three umpires will conference away from players and coaches on the field. any umpire can initiate the crew conference
- G. between innings U1 and U3 should stay in the outfield, except when all three umpires will signal to conference away from players and coaches on the field
- H. the Crew Chief will conduct an umpire postgame meeting and review any important situations

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FOUR MAN INITIAL POSITIONS

We call the plate umpire **UIC**, the first base umpire **U1**, the second base umpire **U2**, and the third base umpire **U3**.

- U1 regular A with no runner at first or short A with a runner at first
- U2 outfield on hitter's side with no runner or runner only at third. all other situations: long B with a runner at second and long C with no runner at second
- U3 regular D with no runner at third or short D with runner at third

COVERAGE

Infield line drives

- A. UIC has F1 and F2, and F3/F5 coming in to make catch
- B. U1 has F3 and F4 unless U2 is in then U2 has F4
- C. U2 has nothing if he is in outfield. when U2 is in, he has F4 and F6
- D. U3 has F5 and F6 unless U2 is in then U2 has F6

Tagups

- A. If all BUs are in, each BU has his base
- B. if U1 goes out, with 1 runner, UIC has first, U2 has second and U3 has third; with 2 runners, U2 has back runner and U3 has front runner; with bases loaded, U2 has first and second, and U3 has third
- C. if U3 goes out, in all situations, UIC has third, U2 has second and U1 has first

Outfield Fly Balls

- A. Going Out is OPTIONAL for any Trouble Ball, but if all BUs Stay In, the responsible BU has the outfield call
- B. U2 calls fly balls in the Cone. U1 calls fly balls to F9's left toward the line. U3 calls fly balls to F7's right toward the line.
- C. U2 does not Go Out from the inside!
- D. U1 and U3 NEVER Go Out to call any fly ball inside the Cone
- E. UIC NEVER makes an outfield fly ball call or outfield fair/foul call

ROTATIONS

- A. When a BU Goes Out, the Crew Rotates

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- B. when U1 goes out with nobody on or runner only on first, UIC has first and home, U2 has second, U3 has third; all other situations, UIC has home, U2 has first and second, and U3 has third
- C. when U2 Goes Out and Stays Out from his outside position (with nobody on or runner only on first, UIC has third), U3 has second, U1 has home; all other situations, U1 has first and second, U3 has third, and UIC has home
- D. when U3 goes out with nobody on, runner only on first, and most situations, UIC has third, U2 has first and second, and U1 has home; other situations, UIC has home, U2 has second and third, and U1 has first and last live runner at second
- E. UIC must communicate Rotations to U3