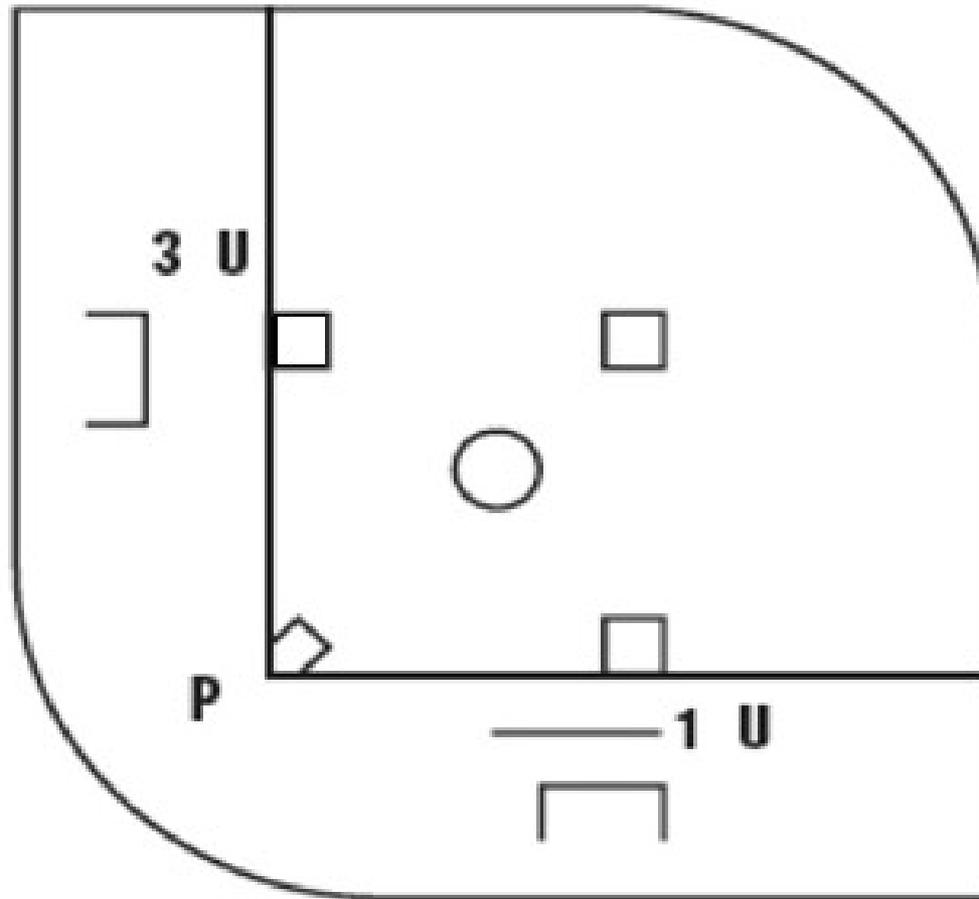


3 Man Softball Umpire Mechanics



Three Umpire System

The three umpire system is a wonderful system to work. It provides many luxuries and advantages over the two umpire system. There are times, especially at third base, where the umpire may need to take only one or two steps to get the best position. Learn each position. Use disciplined and controlled movements.

Know why you move and make all your moves efficient.

The umpire closest to the interference or obstruction is responsible for calling it.

Before EVERY pitch, remind yourself of and prepare yourself for, what you will do on the next batted ball or the next play.

Ask yourself in advance:

What is my area of fly ball coverage?

Where do I go if my partner chases?

Where do I go on a hit to the infield?

Where do I go on a hit to the outfield?

Where do I go on a pick-off or steal?

General Rules of the Three Man System

If you deviate, you must communicate
If you go out you must communicate

If you go out, you stay out until the play is completely over and time is called
Unless an umpire goes out down a line,
the plate umpire will call all fair/foul balls

The umpire that lands up home is the one who calls time
You move in a clockwise position

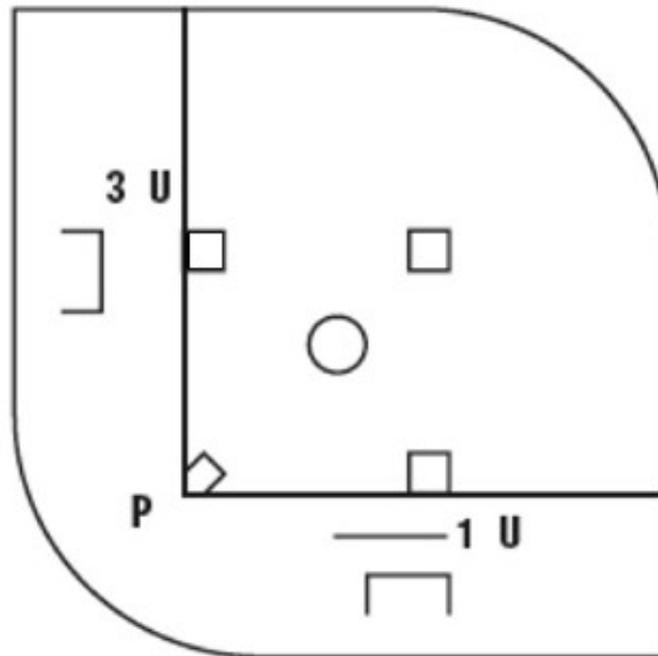
Always practice the “Push/Pull” method while moving in rotation
Eye contact must be made and when play is over,
officials will hustle back to their positions simultaneously
The third base umpire brushed off the pitchers plate with his/her
back toward the outfield

Runners are “boxed in “, with few exceptions
Unless an umpire goes out, the plate official has no tag up responsibilities
The plate umpire has no responsibility in calling a runner
leaving too soon on a pitch

Four Basic Rules

THREE UMPIRE SYSTEM

- 1) Rotation is always clockwise
- 2) When base umpire goes out to outfield, stays out until play is completed
- 3) When base umpire goes to outfield, it becomes a Two-Man System
- 4) When the umpires start from a counter-rotated position, no rotation



Starting Positions

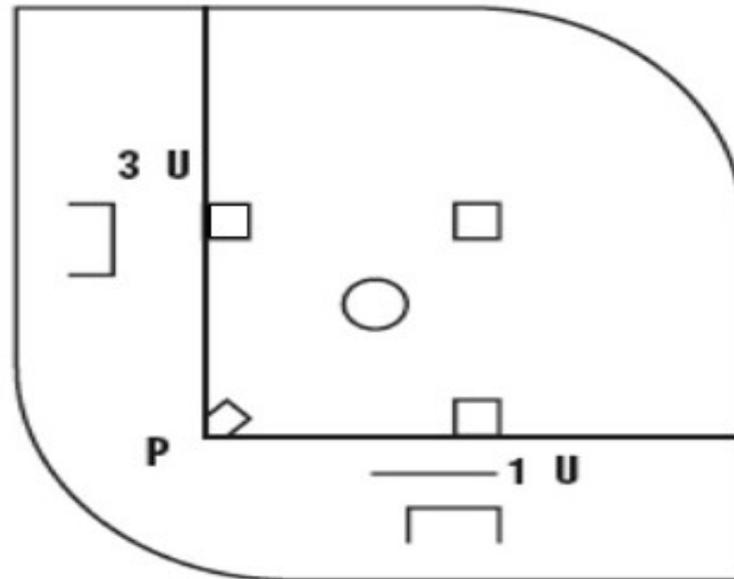
THREE UMPIRE MECHANICS

A Quick Study of the Basics

Starting Positions

There are only three different positions you will ever be in at the start of the pitch

1. Standard position
2. Rotated position
3. Counter-rotated position



Starting Positions

I. Standard Starting Position

A. Use when there are no runners on

P: behind the plate.

1U & 3U: 12-15 feet down and close to the line, completely in foul territory in an upright, standing position. As the pitch is delivered, 1U and 3U take no more than two steps forward, ending in a ready-set position or on the proper push foot (the outside foot).

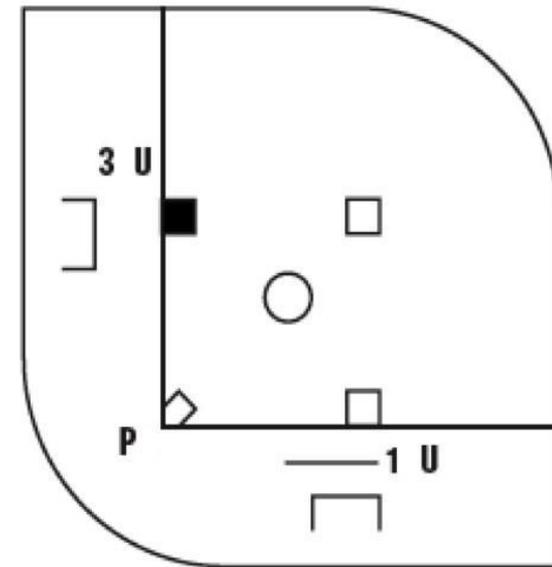
Standard

B. Use when there is a runner on third base only

P: behind the plate.

1U: 12-15 feet down and close to the line completely in foul territory in an upright standing position OR in a set position. If standing, as the pitch is delivered, take no more than two steps forward, ending in a ready-set position or on the proper push foot (the outside foot).

3U: in a set position 4-6 feet down the line, completely in foul territory. 3U is facing the plate and may be a step or so perpendicularly off the line.



[STARTING POSITIONS](#)

Starting Positions

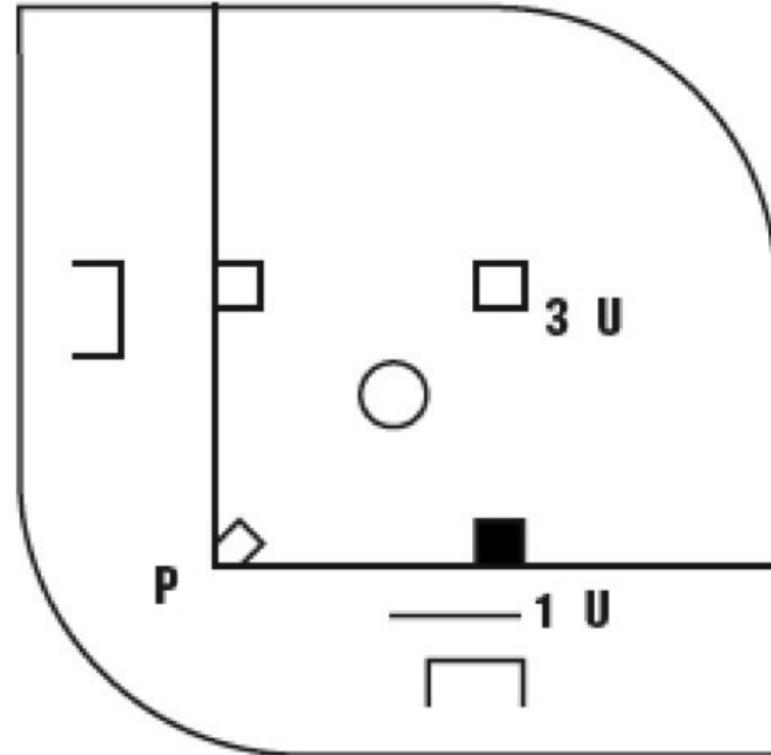
2. Rotated Starting Position

Use when there is a runner on first base only

P: behind the plate.

1U: in a set position 4-6 feet down and on the line, completely in foul territory, facing the plate.

3U: facing the plate in a set position 8-10 feet beyond second base on an imaginary line extending straight out towards right-center field from second base rotated



[RUNNER ON 1ST](#)

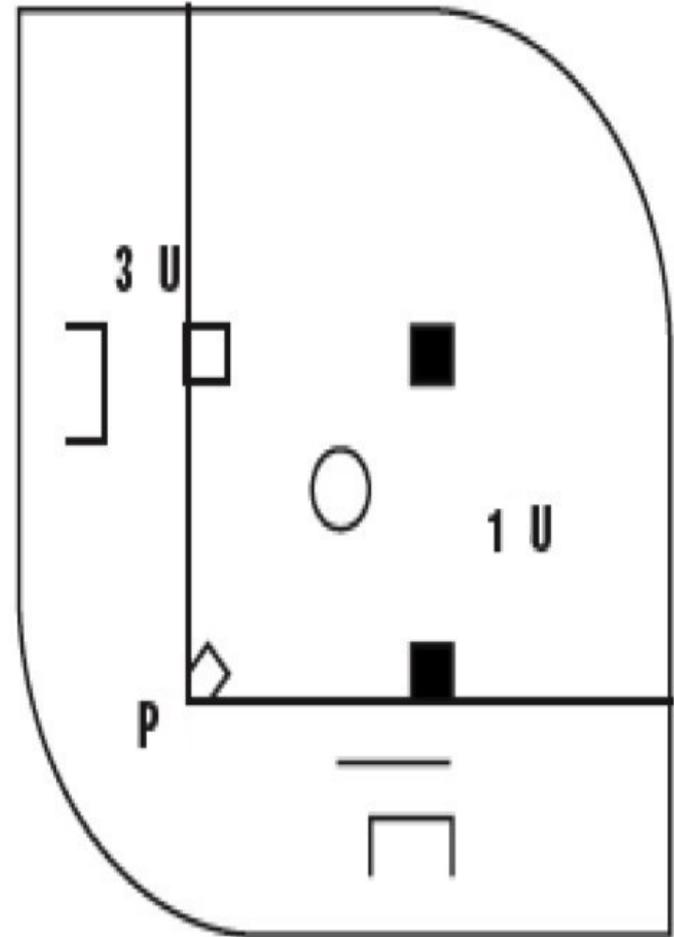
Counter-rotated Starting Position

A. Use in every situation other than no one on, runner on first only or runner on third

PU: behind the plate

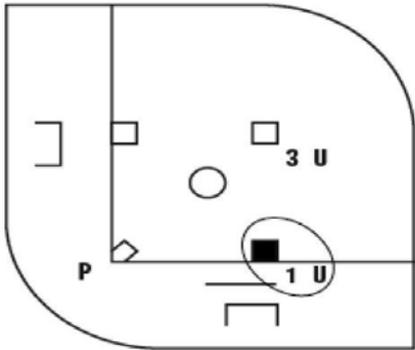
1U: in a set position somewhere in the 30 feet between 15 feet from first base and 15 feet from second base, usually behind the second baseman, and optimally, no more than 15 feet from the baseline and facing the plate.

3U: Facing the plate in a set position 6-8 feet (depending on where the runners are) down and on the line from third base. With a runner on third, 3U may be a few steps perpendicularly off the line but still facing the plate. In this starting position, there is no rotation during the play.

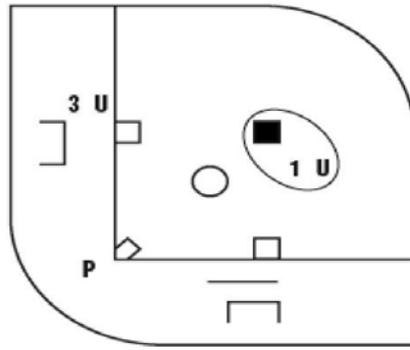


[RUNNERS 1ST & 2ND](#)

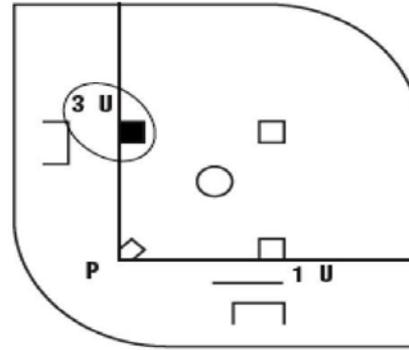
Umpire Responsibilities for Runners Leaving Before the Pitch is Released



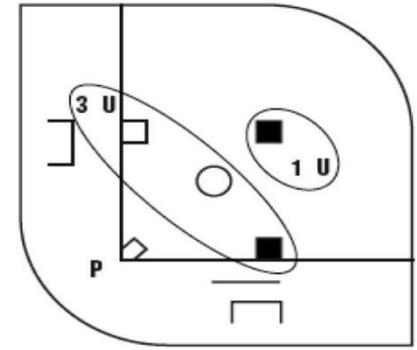
STARTING POSITIONS



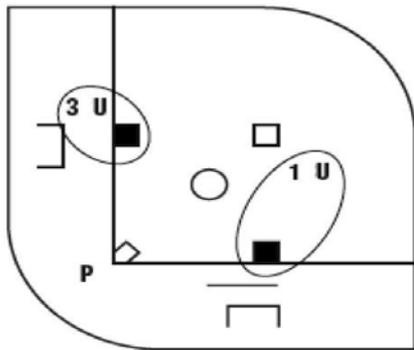
RUNNER ON 2ND



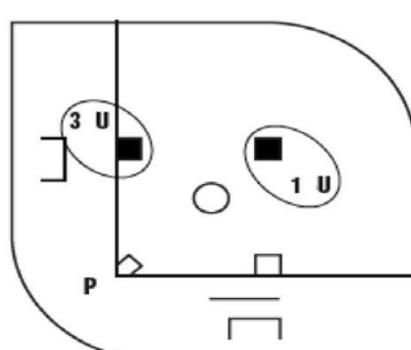
RUNNER ON 3RD



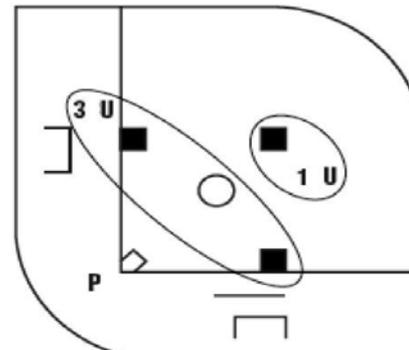
RUNNERS 1ST & 2ND



RUNNERS 1ST & 3RD



RUNNERS 2ND & 3RD



BASES LOADED

How and When Umpires Rotate

Umpires always rotate in a clockwise motion

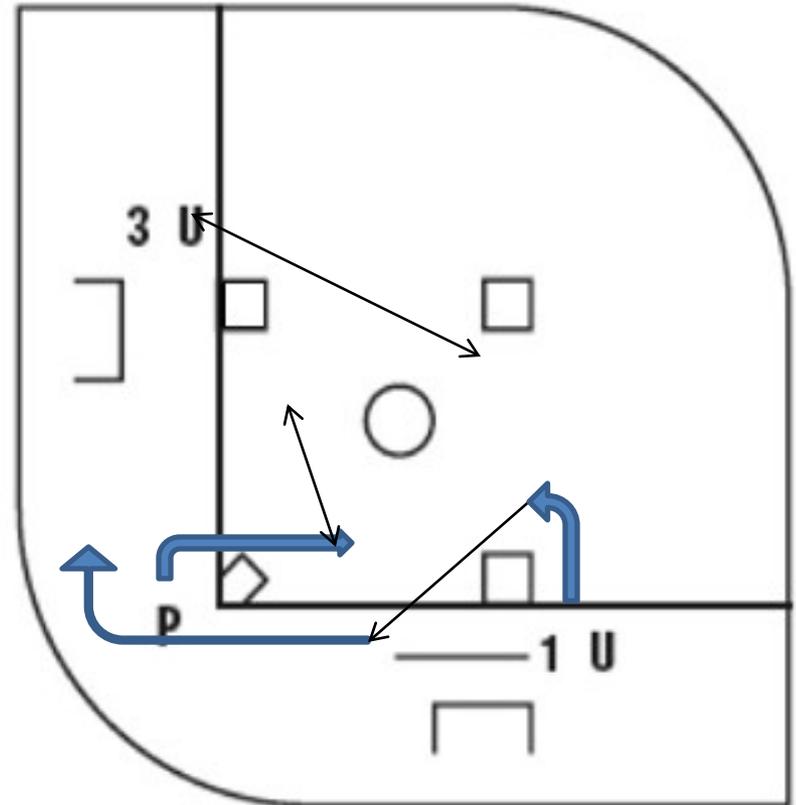
1. Full Rotation

Standard Starting Position with no runners on.

P: Trail the batter runner no more than one-third of the way to first base and as the runner approaches second base, move across the diamond in front of the pitcher plate, close your distance, move to a primary position 8-10 feet from third base.

1U: Pivot inside the diamond 10 feet beyond the baseline and about 10 feet away from the foul line. See the batter runner touch first base. When the runner approaches second base, move to the farthest back corner of the right-hand batter's box. Adjust to the play.

3U: move straight into the diamond to a primary position 8- 10 feet from second base. When 1U rotates to the plate, 3U is responsible for all plays at 1st and 2nd .



Note: Base Hit to the outfield

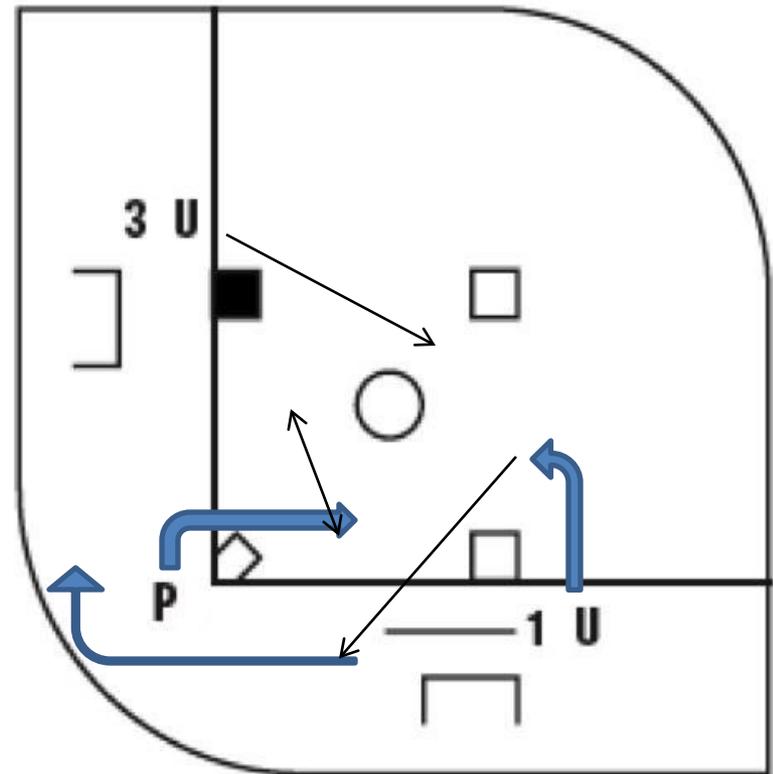
How and When Umpires Rotate

Use when in the Standard Starting Position with a runner on third only AND THAT RUNNER WILL SCORE WITH NO PLAY ON HER/HIM – If there is any chance of a play at 3rd, 3U must stay there and 1U must take BR to 2nd.

P: Move from behind the plate and read the play. See R3 touch home and as batter-runner approaches second base rotate to third base in fair territory, move to a primary position 8-10 feet from third base.

1U: Pivot inside the diamond 10 feet beyond the baseline and about 10 feet away from the foul line. See base runner touch first. When the BR advances beyond second base, rotate to home in foul ground to the farthest back corner of the right-hand batter's box. Adjust to play.

3U: Move straight into the diamond to a primary position 8-10 feet from second base. When 1U rotates to the plate, 3U responsible for 1st and 2nd.



Note: Base Hit to the outfield

Partial Rotation – Only the P and I U Rotate

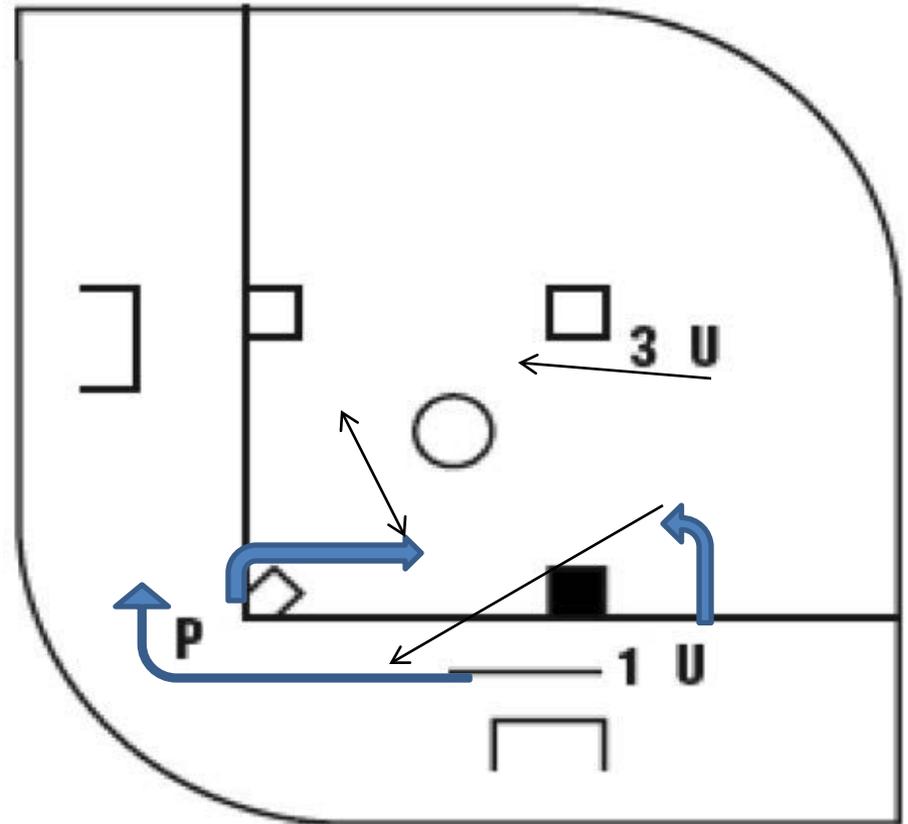
A. Use when in the Rotated Starting Position

No umpire is ever part of a rotation if his/her starting position is off the line

PU: Trail the batter-runner no more than one-third of the way to first base in fair territory. As the lead runner approaches second base, move directly to a primary position 8-10 feet from third base.

1U: Pivot inside the diamond 10 feet beyond the baseline and about 10 feet away from the foul line. See BR touch first. When R1 approaches second base, rotate to home at a minimum 8-10 feet from home plate to the farthest back corner of the right-hand batter's box. Adjust to play.

3U: Pivot inside the diamond to a primary position 8-10 feet from second base and see R1 touch second. When 1U rotates to the plate, 3U is responsible for all plays at 1st and 2nd.



Note: Base Hit to the outfield

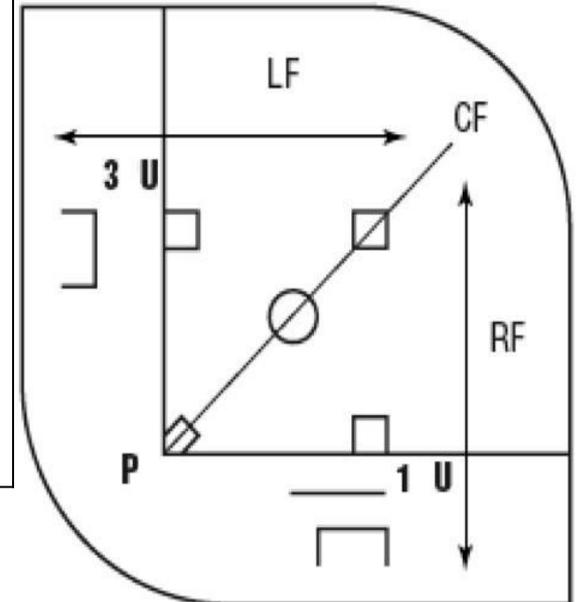
Fly Ball Coverage – Chasing

I. From the Standard Starting Position

According to the
NHSUA

***BASE UMPIRES MUST GO OUT ON
ALL FLY BALLS!!!!***

- U1** Covers CF toward RF and Dead Ball area
- U3** Covers CF toward LF and Dead Ball area
- PU** Calls all Fly Balls when no umpires chases



Fly Ball Coverage - Chasing

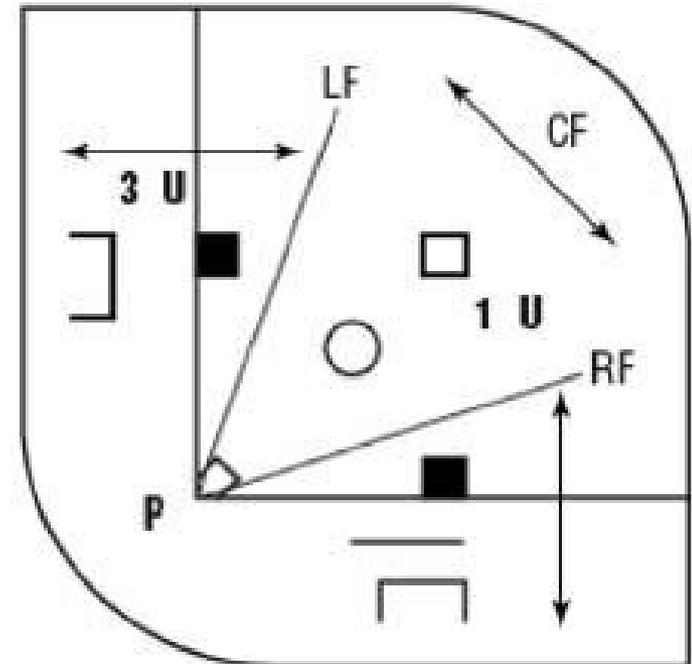
3. From the Counter-rotated Starting Position

When an umpire chases, we are working with two umpires. Usually, but not always, we revert to the two umpire system.

For instance, when 1U chases with no one on, P covers 1st and 3U rotates into 2nd.

When the BR advances to 2nd, P goes back to the plate and 3U takes the runner to 3rd if needed.

In this starting position, there is no rotation during the play.



[RUNNERS 1ST & 3RD](#)

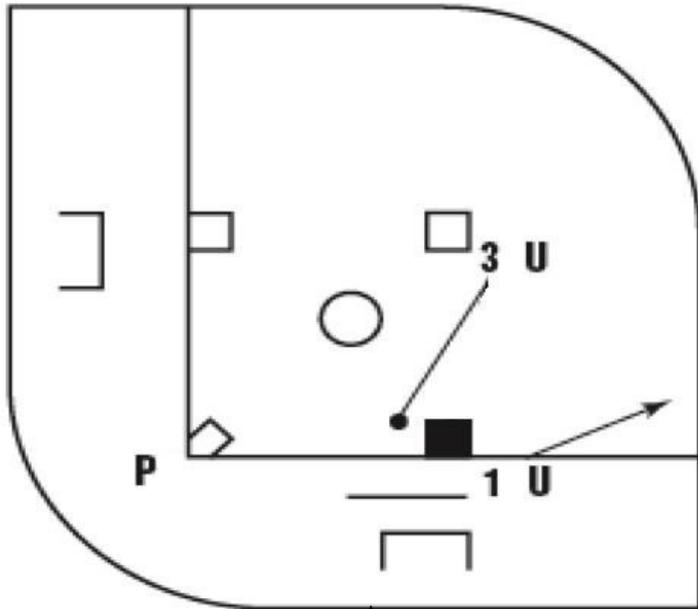
Tag Up Responsibilities When NO Umpire Chases

Runner on First		1U has the tag-up at first
Runner on Second		1U has the tag-up at second
Runner on Third		3U has the tag-up at third
Runners on First and Second		1U has tag-up at first 3U has tag-up at second
Runners on First and Third		1U has tag-up at first 3U has tag-up at third
Runners on Second and Third		1U has tag-up at second 3U has tag-up at third
Bases Loaded		1U has tag-ups at first & second 3U has tag-up at third

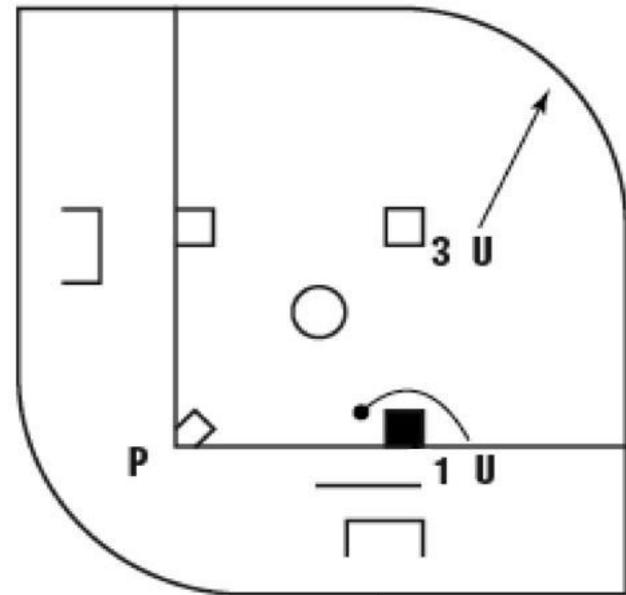
NOTE: Plate Umpire has no tag-up responsibilities if no umpire chases

Tag Up Responsibilities When One Umpire Chases

Runner on 1st only



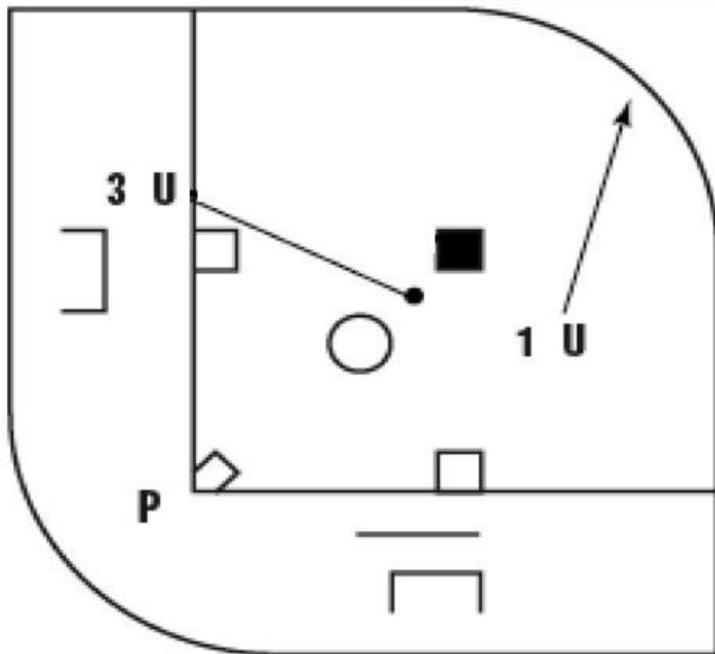
1U Chases
3U has 1st



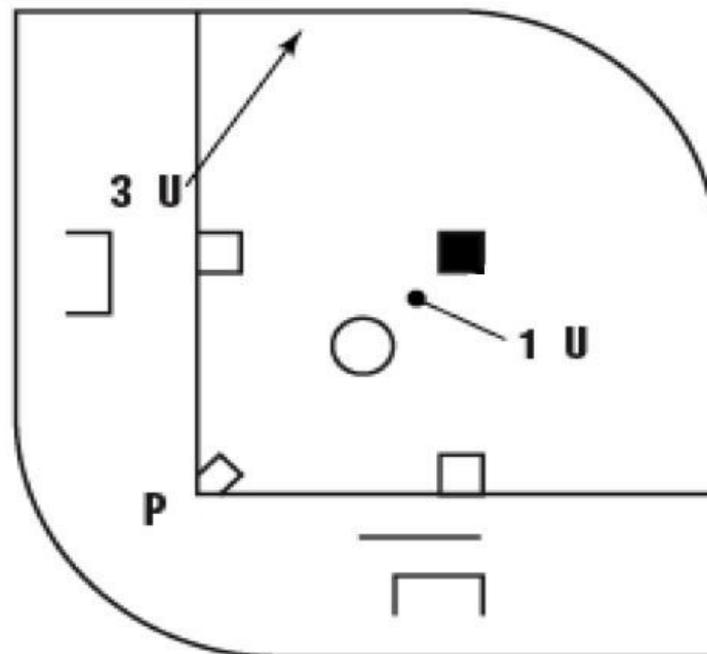
3U Chases
1U has 1st

Tag Up Responsibilities When One Umpire Chases

Runner on 2nd only



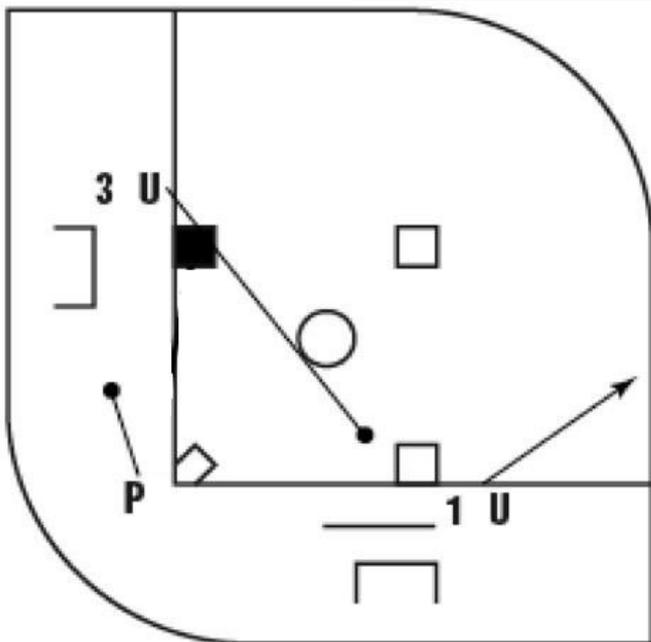
1U Chases
3U has 2nd



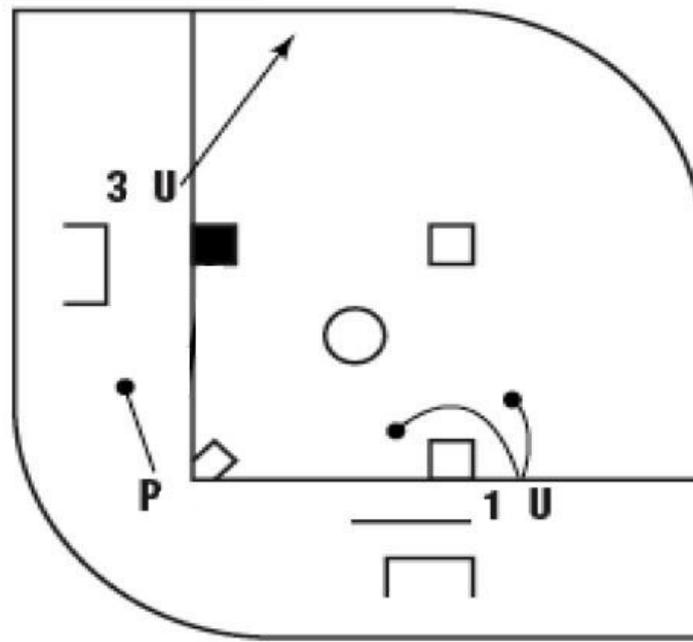
3U Chases
1U has 2nd

Tag Up Responsibilities When One Umpire Chases

Runner on 3rd only



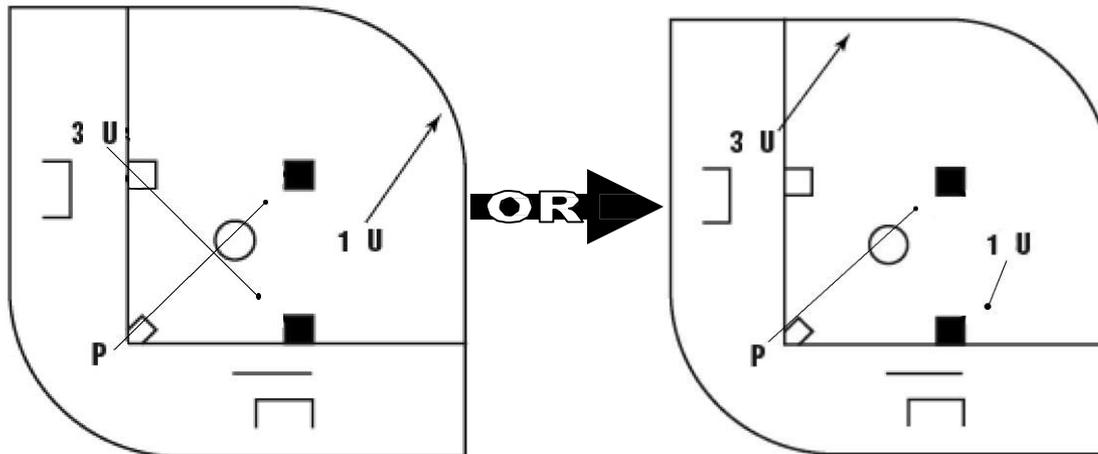
1U Chases
3U has 1st and 2nd
P has 3rd



3U Chases
1U has 1st and 2nd
P has 3rd

Tag Up Responsibilities When One Umpire Chases

Runners on 1st & 2nd



1U chases

P has tag-up at 2nd

3U has tag-up at 1st

OR

3U chases

P has tag-up at 2nd

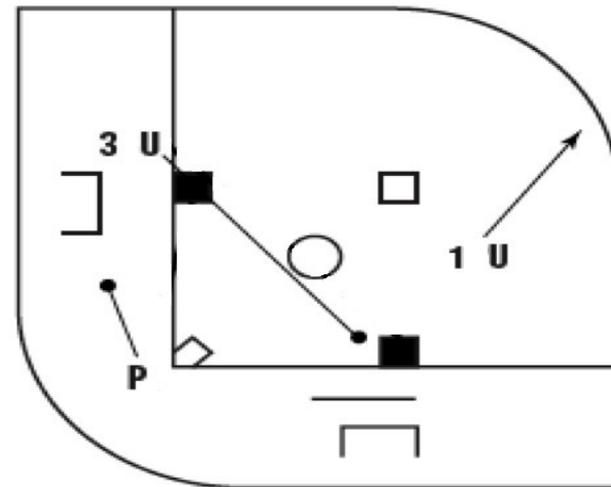
1U has tag-up at 1st

Runner on 2nd only

Tag Up Responsibilities When One Umpire Chases

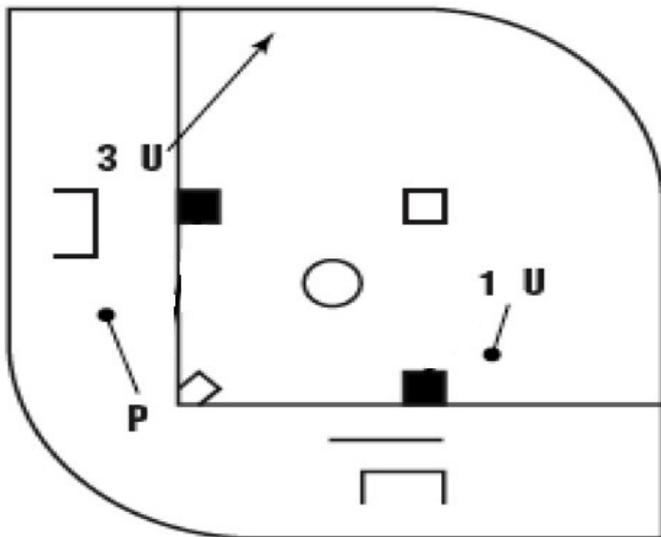
Runners on 1st & 3rd

1U Chases
P has 3rd
3U has 1st



RUNNERS 1ST & 3RD

3U Chases
P has 3rd
1U has 1st

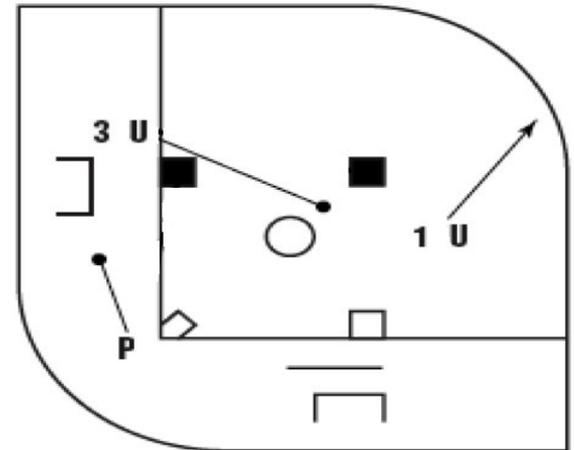


NOTE: 3U NEVER has a tag-up at 3rd if 1U chases

Tag Up Responsibilities When One Umpire Chases

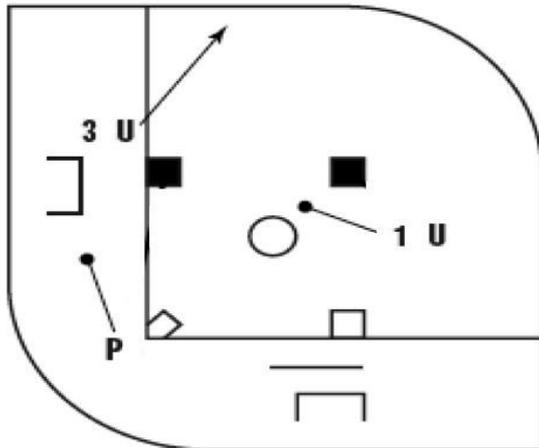
Runners on 2nd & 3rd

1U Chases
P has 3rd
3U has 2nd



[RUNNERS 2ND & 3RD](#)

3U Chases
P has 3rd
1U has 2nd

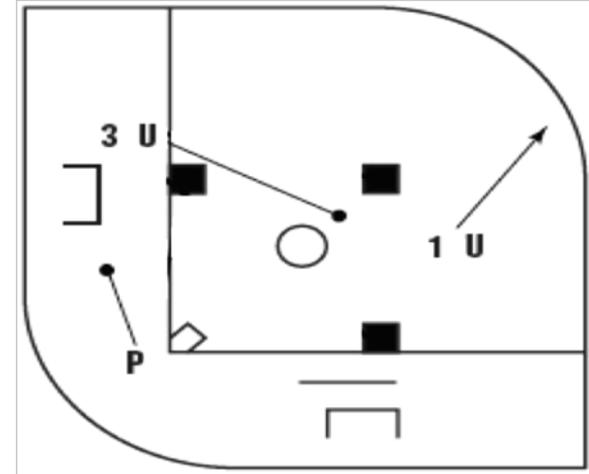


NOTE: 3U NEVER has a tag-up at 3rd if 1U chases

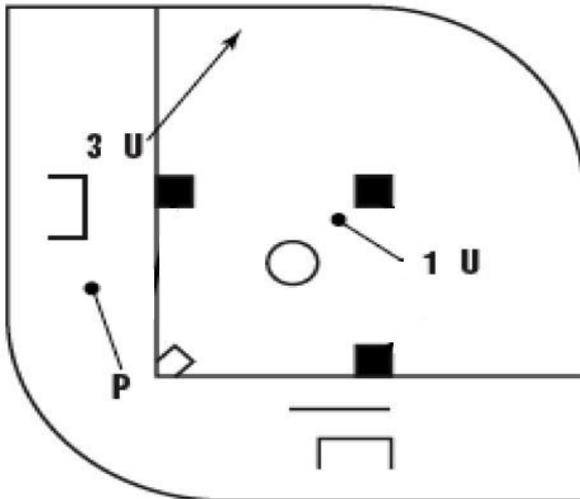
Tag Up Responsibilities When One Umpire Chases

Bases Loaded

1U Chases
P has 3rd
3U has 1st & 2nd



[BASES LOADED](#)



3U Chases
P has 3rd
1U has 1st & 2nd

NOTE: 3U NEVER has a tag-up at 3rd if 1U chases

Between Innings Position

After the third out, 3U brushes off the pitcher's plate, unless 3U chased on the last play, then 1U brushes off the pitcher's plate.

Between innings the base umpires stand about 15 feet off the line in fair territory beyond 1st & 3rd bases at about the grass, facing home plate.

The plate umpire stays 15 to 20 feet from home plate facing the infield on the side of the team entering on defense.

[BETWEEN INNINGS](#)