

SECTION 1 NO RUNNERS ON BASE

- 1.1 The first base umpire should be about 10-12 feet behind the first baseman with both feet in foul territory. The third base umpire should be in the same approximate position behind the third baseman.
- 1.2 If the third base umpire is required to go out to the outfield to render a decision, you will revert back to the two-umpire system. Anytime you go out, **don't try to get back into the play**; wait until all action has ceased before returning to your position.
- 1.3 If the first base umpire goes out, the third base umpire will come straight into the center of the infield and take any play at second or third base on the batter-runner. The plate umpire will come down to first base and be responsible for the batter-runner touching first base and will take any play on the batter-runner returning to first base. The plate umpire will not release the responsibility of the batter-runner until the first base umpire has assumed his/her position after returning from the outfield. Should the batter-runner continue past first base, second, and third, the play at the plate, if any, will be the responsibility of the plate umpire.
- 1.4 With no runners on base, the third base umpire will come straight across to second base on all ground balls and fly balls to the infield and take all plays at second base and third base. The first base umpire will come in and set up in a position needed to render a decision at first base.
- 1.5 With no runners on base, the third base umpire will come straight across the infield toward second base on all fly balls, line drives, and base hits to the outfield and render all decisions on the batter-runner going into second base unless, of course, he/she has found it necessary to go out to the outfield. The first base umpire will come into the infield on all fly balls and line drives to the left side of the outfield (from the center fielder straight in and to the center fielder's right) whether or not the third base umpire goes out. If the ball is not hit in the air to the left side of the outfield, the first base umpire will drift toward the direction of first base so as to be in proper position for any play on the batter-runner returning to first base. (See item 1.7 below.)
- 1.6 With no runners on base, if the batter hits a base hit to the outfield which goes beyond or through the outfielder, the third base umpire will start toward second base, and the first base umpire will come in and pivot watching the batter-runner touch first and will continue to take the batter-runner into second. The third base umpire, seeing the ball has gone through the outfielder, will then hold up and be ready to take the batter-runner into third base. However, if the ball stays in front of the outfielder and is bobbled or is a slow hit ball and the batter-runner tries to stretch it into a double, the third base umpire, who has started across the infield, will be responsible for the play at second base. The first base umpire, who has come in and pivoted, will watch the batter-runner touch first and release the batter-runner to the third base umpire for the play at second base. Both **verbal and**

hand signals should be used to communicate with each other during this situation. Remember that if there is a **play** on the batter-runner at second base in this situation, it belongs to the third base umpire. If there is **no play** at second base (i.e., the batter hits a stand-up double), the first base umpire should take the batter-runner into second. Also, in situations where the ball gets loose *after the play at second* and the batter-runner attempts to reach third base, the plate umpire will be responsible for the play at third, and the first base umpire will cover home if necessary.

- 1.7** On all fly balls where neither umpire goes out, if the fly ball is to left field, left center, or where the center fielder is coming straight in as the third base umpire is coming straight across the infield toward second base, the responsibility of the catch or no catch decision will belong to the third base umpire. The responsibility of the play at second also belongs to the third base umpire. (*The third base umpire should not “rim” along the edge of the outfield grass in order to cover these responsibilities.*) On fly balls hit to right center or right field where neither umpire has gone out, the responsibility of the catch or no catch and the touching of first base belong to the first base umpire.