

## **SECTION 7**

### **RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD**

- 7.1** The first base umpire will be positioned midway between the second baseman and the second base bag approximately halfway (30 to 40 feet) between first and second base and on the outside of the infield. The third base umpire will be 10-12 feet behind the third baseman with both feet in foul territory.
- 7.2** On all ground balls, fly balls and line drives to the infield, the first base umpire will take a drop step to open his/her field of vision and then step and turn with the ball facing the fielder as the ball is being fielded. The first base umpire will let the ball take him/her to the play and by only taking a step or two in any direction will be in a good position for any play(s) that may develop at second or first. The first base umpire will be responsible for the tag up at second on any play at second on the runner at second. The first base umpire will also be responsible for any play at first on the batter-runner; for the batter-runner touching first and any touch or play that may develop at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught or an overthrow occurs. The third base umpire, depending on the location of the ball, will move a few feet into foul or fair territory, staying to the outside of the infield, and set up in a position to have a good look at the ball or play. The third base umpire will be responsible for the tag up at third of the runner; and for any play back into third. He/she will also be responsible for the touch of third or any play that may develop at third on the runner coming from second; and for any touch of or play at third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught or an overthrow occurs. The home plate umpire will move out to a position in foul territory on the first base line extended to get the best view of the field, ball and play. The home plate umpire will be responsible for the catch/no catch of all fly balls and line drives. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for any touch of home and any play(s) that may develop at home plate on the runners from third and second and on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught or an overthrow occurs. He/she will be in a good position to see the whole field and especially the play at first on ground balls, and to be able to offer any assistance, if requested.
- 7.3** On all fly balls and line drives to the outfield (with the exception of “trouble” balls), the responsibility for the catch/no catch will belong to the home plate umpire. The first base umpire will pivot into the working area and be responsible for the tag up of the runner on second and for any play back into second on that runner. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first base; any play back into first on the batter-runner; and for the touch or any play that may develop at second on the batter-runner if the ball is not caught. The third base umpire will pivot into the infield and be responsible for the tag up of the runner on third and for any play back into third on the runner on third. He/she will also be responsible for the touch of third and for any play that may develop at third on the runner from second and the batter-runner should the ball not be

- caught. The home plate umpire will come out a few feet into foul territory down the third base line and move to a position that will give him/her the best view of the field, the ball and any play while still being able to get back to home plate for any possible play that may develop. The home plate umpire will be responsible for the catch/no catch of the ball and for the touch of home or any plays that may develop at home plate on the runners from third and second. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for touch of home by or play on the batter-runner continuing to advance to home plate if the ball is not caught.
- 7.4** On base hits to the outfield the first base umpire will pivot into the working area and will be responsible for any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first, for any play back into first on the batter-runner; and for the touch of second or any play that may develop on the batter-runner continuing on to second. The third base umpire will pivot into the infield and be responsible for any play back into third on the runner at third. He/she will also be responsible for the touch of third or any play that may develop at third on the runner at second and the batter-runner. The home plate umpire will come out a few feet into foul territory down the third base line and move to a position that will give him/her the best view of the field, ball and play. The home plate umpire will be responsible for the touch of home and any subsequent play that may occur at home plate.
- 7.5** If the first base umpire goes out on a “trouble” ball, the third base umpire will pivot into the working area and be responsible for the tag up of the runner on second and for any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch or any play that may develop at second or third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The home plate umpire will come out from behind home plate going a few feet into foul territory and a few feet down the third base line and will be responsible for the tag up of the runner on third and for any play back into third on the runner. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play that may develop at third on the runner from second advancing and will communicate to his/her partner “I’ve got third if he/she comes” to alert him/her that should a play develop there that it is covered. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for any touch or play that may develop at home plate and must let the ball take him/her to the play and not over commit to either base.
- 7.6** If the third base umpire goes out on a “trouble” ball, you will revert back to the two-man system. The first base umpire will pivot into the working area and be responsible for the tag up at second on the runner on second and for any play back into second on the runner. The first base umpire will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch or any play that may develop at second or third on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The home plate umpire will come out into foul

territory, going a few feet down the third base line. He/she will move into a position that will allow the best view of the field, ball and play. The home plate umpire will be responsible for the tag up of the runner on third; any play back into third on the runner and the touch of home by any runner and also for any play at home plate should the runner on third attempt to advance. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for the touch of or any play that may develop at third on the runner from second. After observing the runner on third touch home plate, the home plate umpire will move down the third base line and communicate with his/her partner "I've got third if he/she comes". This will alert the other umpires that should a play develop at third, it is covered. He/she will also be responsible for the touch of home and any other play that may develop at home plate.