

## **SECTION 8 BASES LOADED**

- 8.1** 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.
- 8.2** On all ground balls, line drives and fly balls to the infield the first base umpire will take a drop step to open up his/her field of vision. He/she will 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, initial position for any play(s) that may develop at second or first. The first base umpire will be responsible for the tag up of and any play back into second on the runner at second. He/she will also be responsible for the tag up and any play back into first on the runner on first; and for any touch of second or play at second on the runner on first. The first base umpire will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; for any play that may develop at first on the batter-runner and for any touch or play at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught or an overthrow occur. The third base umpire, depending on the location of the ball, will move a few feet either into foul or fair territory 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 of the runner on third and for any play back into third on that runner. He/she will also be responsible for the touch or any play at third by all base runners should the ball not be caught or an overthrow occur. 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, the ball and the play. The home plate umpire will be responsible for the catch/no catch of all fly balls and line drives and for any touch of home or plays at home plate on all runners including the batter-runner should the ball not be caught or an overthrow occur. The home plate umpire will also be in a good position to see down the first base line and to be able to offer any assistance at first if needed or requested.
- 8.3** On all fly balls and line drives to the outfield (with the exception of “trouble” balls) the responsibility of 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 and any play back into first and for the touch of second or any play at second on the runner on first. 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 occur at second on the batter-runner should the ball not be caught. The third base umpire will pivot into the infield and be responsible for the tag up of and any play back into second on the runner on second. He/she will also be responsible for the touch of third and any play that

- may develop at third on the runner on second; first and 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 and still be able to get back to home plate for any possible play that may develop there or to be able to move into a position to cover any play back into third. The home plate umpire will be responsible for the catch/no catch on all fly balls and line drives. He/she will also be responsible for the tag up at third on the runner on third; for the touch of home and any plays that may occur at home plate.
- 8.4** On base hits, the first base umpire will pivot into the working area and be responsible for the touch of second and for any play at second that may develop on the runner on first. 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 and any play at second that may develop on the batter-runner continuing to advance. The third base umpire will pivot into the infield and be responsible for the touch of third and for any play that may develop at third on the runner on second, first and the batter-runner. 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 him/her the best view of the field, ball and play; and still be able to get back to home plate for any possible play that may develop at home plate. The home plate umpire will be responsible for the touch of home and any play that may develop at home plate on the runner at third; second, first and the batter-runner and to be able to offer any assistance, if requested.
- 8.5** 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 runners on first and second and for any play back into first or second on either runner. He/she will also be responsible for the touch or any play that may develop at second on the runner on first advancing. The third 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 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 or first 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 the touch and any 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.
- 8.6** 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 of the runners on second and first. He/she will also be

responsible for any play back into second or first on either runner and for the touch of second and any play that may develop at second on the runner on first. The first base umpire will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; for the batter-runner passing the runner; for any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch of second or third and for 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 and moving into a position that will allow him/her 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 for the touch of home and any plays that may develop at home plate. He/she will also be responsible for the touch of third and any play at third on the runner from second or first. After observing the runner(s) touch home plate, the home plate umpire will move down the third base line and communicate with his/her partners, "I've got third if he/she comes". This will alert his/her partners that should a play develop at third, it is covered. He/she will also be responsible for the touch and any play(s) that may develop at home plate.