

SECTION 5

RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND

- 5.1** The first base umpire will be positioned midway between the second baseman and the second base bag approximately halfway (30 to 40 feet) between 1st 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.
- 5.2** 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 the runner on first and the touch of and any play at second that may develop on the runner from first. The first base umpire will be responsible for the batter-runner touching first base; for the batter-runner passing the runner; 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 will come into fair territory, staying to the outside of the infield, and establish a good position/angle to the ball. He/she will be responsible for the tag up of the runner on second; for any play back into second on the runner on second; and any play at third that may develop on the runner at second. The third base umpire will also be responsible for any play at third that may develop on the runner from first or the batter-runner should the ball not be caught or an overthrow occur. On fly balls or line drives the home plate umpire will come out into fair territory in front of the pitcher's mound and be responsible for the catch/no catch of the ball. On ground balls the home plate umpire will move to a position in foul territory, on the first base line extended, to get the best angle/view of the field, ball and play. The home plate umpire will be responsible for any play at home plate that may develop on the runners from second or first and on 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 clearly down the first base line to be able to offer any assistance, if requested.
- 5.3** On all fly balls and line drives (with the exception of "trouble" balls) to the outfield 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 any play back into second on the runner; for the tag up of the runner at first and for any play at second or first base on the runner from first advancing. The first base umpire will also be responsible for the batter-runner touching first; for any play back into first on the batter-runner; and any touch or play at second that may develop on the batter-runner. The third base umpire will pivot into the infield and be responsible for the tag up of the runner at second; and for any touch or play at third that may develop on the runners from second or first and the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

The home plate umpire will come out into fair territory in front of the pitcher's mound and move into a position where he/she has the best angle/view of the ball/play and be responsible for the catch/no catch. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for any touch or play at home plate on the runners on second and first or the batter-runner should the ball not be caught.

- 5.4** On base hits to the outfield the first base umpire will pivot into the infield and be responsible for the touch of and 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; for the batter-runner touching second and for any play at second that may develop on the batter-runner. The third base umpire will pivot into the infield and be responsible for the touch of third by the runner from second; for any play back into third on the runner; and for any touch or play at third that may develop on the runner on first or the batter-runner. The home plate umpire will come out from behind home plate in foul territory going a few feet down the third base line. He/she will be in a good position to observe the field and to offer any assistance that may be needed. The home plate umpire will be responsible for any touch or play that may develop at home plate on either runner or the batter-runner.
- 5.5** 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 first and any play back into first on the runner on first. 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 third base umpire will also be responsible for any play back into second on the runner on second. The third base umpire must let the ball take him/her to the play and not over commit to any base. 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 communicate with 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 be responsible for the tag up of the runner on second and for any play or touch at third on the runners from second and first advancing. He/she will also be responsible for any touch or play that may develop at home plate.
- 5.6** If the third base umpire goes out on a "trouble" ball the first base umpire will pivot into the working area and be responsible for the tag up at first by the runner; for any play back into first on the runner; for any play back into second on the runner on second; for any touch or play at second on the runner advancing from first; for the batter-runner touching first; for any play back into first on the batter-runner and for any touch of or play 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 and move down the third base line in foul territory and communicate with his/her partner "I've got third if he/she comes". This will alert his/her partners that he/she has third covered for any possible play that may develop there. The home plate umpire will

be responsible for the tag up of the runner at second and for any touch or play at third on the runner from second. The home plate umpire will also be responsible for any touch of home and for any play at home plate or third base on the runners from second or first and on the batter-runner at home plate should the ball not be caught. Once an umpire has gone out, he/she will stay out until the play has ended. The umpire should wait until all action has ceased before returning to his/her position.