

SECTION 6 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD

- 6.1** 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.
- 6.2** 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, 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 of the runner on first; for any play back into first on the runner and the touch of or any play that may develop at second. The first base umpire will be responsible for the batter-runner touching first base; the batter-runner passing the runner on 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/play. The third base umpire will be responsible for any tag up at third on the runner at third and for any play that may develop at third on the runner. The third base umpire will also be responsible for any touch or play at third on the runner at first and the batter-runner 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 angle/view of the field, ball and play. The home plate umpire will be responsible for the catch/no catch on all fly balls and line drives and for any touch or play that may develop at home plate on the runners from third and first and 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 clearly see down the first base line and to be able to offer any assistance, if requested.
- 6.3** 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 the runner on first and for any touch or play at second on the runner from first advancing. 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 runner or the batter-runner; and for any touch of or play at second that may develop 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 the runner on third and for any play back into third on the runner. The third base umpire will also be responsible for the touch or play that may develop at third on the runner from first or the batter-runner if the ball is not caught. The home plate

umpire will come out into foul territory, going a few feet down the third base line to a position that will allow him/her the best view of the field, ball and play. From this position the home plate umpire must 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 catch/no catch of the ball and for any touch or play that may develop at home plate on the runner at third advancing. He/she will also be responsible for any touch or play at home plate on the runners; and the batter-runner continuing to advance if the ball is not caught.

- 6.4** On base hits to the outfield the first base umpire will pivot into the working area and be responsible for the touch or play at second that may develop on the runner on first. 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 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 or any play at third on the runner on first or the batter-runner continuing to advance. 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 for the best angle/view of the field, ball and play; and still allow coverage of home plate for any possible play that may develop at home plate. The home plate umpire will be responsible for any touch of or any play at home plate that may develop on the runner at third; first or the batter-runner.
- 6.5** 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; the batter-runner touching first; and any play back into first on either the runner or batter-runner. He/she will also be responsible for the touch or any play that may develop at second on the runner from first advancing. The third base umpire will also be responsible for the touch and 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 on the runner from 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 any touch or play that may develop at home plate.
- 6.6** If the third base umpire goes out on a “trouble” ball, the umpires will revert to the two man system. The first base umpire will pivot into the working area and be responsible for the tag up of the runner on first; any play back into first on the runner on first; for any touch or 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; any play back into first on the batter-runner and for the touch of 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. The home plate umpire will move into a position that will allow for the best angle/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 any play at home plate should the runner on third attempt to advance. He/she will also be responsible for any touch or play that may develop at third on the runner on first. After observing the runner from third 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 any touch of home plate and any play that may develop at home plate.