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Baseball Umpires Manual
2027-28

Baseball Umpires Manual 2027-28

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Greetings and Welcome to the 2027 and 2028 College Baseball Seasons

Let us start by saying congratulations to all the umpires across the country that made 2026 a very successful season across all three divisions of NCAA baseball. Interest in college baseball is at an all-time high, and the officiating continues to meet the challenge. Our hope is that we help provide umpires the tools necessary to continue to evolve in an ever-changing game. I would like to thank everyone who served on the CCA Baseball Umpires Manual Committee for participating in establishing the proposals that were brought to the Division I conference coordinators for a vote and ultimately approved.

Our goal for this manual is to provide umpires with a point of reference to ensure the mechanics being utilized are as consistent as possible from coast to coast. It is impossible to provide guidelines for every single situation that may happen during the course of a game, but again, our hope is that this manual will serve as a guide to achieve consistency. With that being said, it is very important that we become familiar with the changes within our mechanics as we head into the 2027 season. There are multiple changes to the two, three and four-umpire systems. A conscious effort was made to align the different systems so that similar concepts are being used even though we may have a different number of officials on the field.

There are also several changes to NCAA playing rules for the 2027 and 2028 seasons. Every umpire should spend time gaining command of these changes, in particular, rule 5-15-C-3. Non-coach personnel that leave their position and choose to participate remain subject to an ejection and the subsequent game suspension(s). Those that leave their position and choose not to participate remain subject to a game suspension(s). Players and other team personnel are encouraged not to leave their position during any potential altercation or fight. This, again, will be a point of emphasis within this manual.

The CCA Baseball Umpires Manual Committee would like to encourage you going forward, as the umpire, to participate in any surveys or opportunities provided for feedback and ideas. You all are on the field. You see what is working and you know the areas that need to be tweaked or improved. We value your input, so when those opportunities are given, we want to hear from you. We look forward to continued progress on behalf of you all, the umpires.

Best of luck in 2027!

Scott Cline,
Chair of the CCA Baseball Umpires Manual Committee



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Opening Pitch



Q&A with Jeff Gosney

NCAA National Coordinator of Baseball Umpires

Q: Congratulations on your first year as the NCAA National Coordinator of Baseball Umpires. Can you share your thoughts on your first year in the role?

A: Thank You!

It definitely feels good to have the first year behind me.

I entered this role unsure of what to expect, so the first year brought plenty of learning and growth. Fortunately, I was surrounded by a great support team who helped guide me in the right direction. I know that year one would not have been as successful as it was without them!

Before the 2026 season, we introduced strike-zone analytics and slightly adjusted the Division I Baseball Championship selection process. Both initiatives initially met some resistance, which is common when challenging the status quo. But once the season began, support for the analytics grew. By mid-April, umpires were reviewing pitches from their games, taking greater pride in their performance, and working to improve throughout the season.

The other major initiative was delaying Super Regional selections. Although it also faced friction early, the change paid off. Tracking those "bubble" umpires from the final week of the regular season through conference tournaments and Regional play helped solidify the group of 32, giving some umpires additional time to distinguish themselves.

Another positive takeaway was the high level of umpiring I observed while on the road and on television. Across all three divisions, umpires were fully engaged and performed at a high level.

The umpires' outstanding performance at the Men's College World Series in Omaha provided the perfect conclusion to my first year.

Q: Going out from the middle in a crew of three is very rarely, if ever, done at the college level. A lot of that has to do with umpires' experience in those systems and their comfort level with the mechanic. Would you like to see umpires doing it more? What advice would you give umpires for successfully executing that mechanic when starting from the inside?

> "Before the 2026 season, we introduced strike-zone analytics ... By mid-April, umpires were **reviewing pitches** from their games, **taking greater pride** in their performance, and **working to improve** throughout the season."

A: I'd absolutely like to see umpires go out from the middle more often. Each umpire system is designed to provide the best possible coverage, and in a three-umpire system, that includes going out from the middle. Although these situations are less common, umpires still need to be prepared to cover them properly.

My best advice for covering this is simple: GO!

When a fly ball is in the small "V" for the inside umpire, and you see the outfielder going hard toward the wall, just go.

The system gives us the ability to go out and improve our view; let's do it!

Q: On pickoffs at first base in a crew of three or four, where do you like to see U1 positioned? Do you want the umpire just a few feet from the bag, or do you prefer a deeper starting position? Is there a set position you recommend, or is it more a matter of personal preference? What should umpires consider when deciding where to position themselves?

A: Pickoffs at first base are among our most challenging calls, especially with our restrictive starting position on the line. As with any tag play, the ideal starting position has the runner moving toward you, giving you the most flexibility to adjust as the play develops—just as I discussed for plays at the plate in last year's preseason clinic video.

While we see some professional umpires use an exaggerated starting position off the line for pickoffs, we need to remember that they have decades of experience and may assess risk vs. reward differently. At the collegiate level, I strongly encourage everyone to follow the Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) Baseball Umpires Manual: start on or very near the line and take the play from there. If the play develops in a way that allows you to quickly improve your angle without moving through the play, you may make that adjustment.

As far as depth from the base and play, that is all personal preference. Find a position where you feel comfortable, can get out of the way of a hard-hit ball, and can see all vital elements of the play. There is no "X" on the field for this starting position. Find what feels right to you.

Q: A common topic in every pregame is fair/foul responsibilities. Commonly, the question is whether the plate umpire wants fair/foul to the front edge of the bag or to the cutout at the bases. How do you like to see crews divide fair-foul responsibilities on the first- and third-base lines?

A: Again, everyone should strive to work within the framework of the CCA Baseball Umpires Manual. The plate umpire should take everything up the base, and the base umpire should take anything at the base and beyond. You may see umpires and crews who are a little more advanced in their umpiring journey, and they might split this a little differently. But the default should always be to work the way the CCA Baseball Umpires Manual prescribes.

Q: How do you want to see umpires conduct checks of pitchers for foreign substances? What process should they use, how often should they perform the checks and what should the check look like? Are there particular areas they should focus on, such as the glove, hat, hands or forearms? How thorough should umpires be?

A: We should all start by referring to the September 3, 2024, memorandum titled Guidance on Foreign Substance Checks in RQ+. It outlines three options conferences may use during the regular season. The NCAA Division I Baseball Championship currently uses Option One (1).

In my first year on the road and in reviewing observation reports, I noticed two recurring issues. First, umpires do not always check relief pitchers who enter during game-deciding situations, such as a closer entering for the final half-inning or a reliever returning to the mound in the ninth inning of a close game. Second, umpires sometimes check pitchers after ineffective outings. There is no need to check a starter removed in the second inning after allowing five runs, or a reliever who walks two batters and allows a home run. Use common sense in these situations.

As for thoroughness, the Baseball Umpire Program guidance considers checking the pitcher's hands sufficient enough. If your conference requires additional checks of hats, gloves, belts, or other areas, follow these instructions. For umpires working in the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship, a hand check is sufficient.

> "Ultimately, know the system you are working inside and out. Although we hope for routine games with flawless rotations and coverage, breakdowns will happen. When they do, adapt and umpire."

Q: When an umpire's preferred positioning differs from the manual's recommended positioning, how much flexibility should the umpire have? Where is the line between adjusting to personal comfort and moving away from the approved mechanic?

A: Every umpire should work within the CCA Baseball Umpires Manual's framework whenever possible. Each umpire system is designed to provide optimal coverage. Whether working a two-, three-, four-, or six-umpire system, you should understand it thoroughly, including where you and your partners should be at every stage of a play.

Advancement from one system to the next is also a linear progression: the three-umpire system builds on the two-umpire system, and the four-umpire system builds on the three-umpire system. Straying from the manual can make it harder to advance and become proficient in the next system.

I see little room for variation within these systems because most changes would negatively affect other coverage responsibilities.

Ultimately, know the system you are working inside and out. Although we hope for routine games with flawless rotations and coverage, breakdowns will happen. When they do, adapt and umpire. If U1 must sprint across the infield because the plate umpire missed a rotation, do it. If two umpires go out on a fly ball and the plate umpire must come over the mound to cover second base, do it. Be flexible and fill the gap.

Q: What are the most important elements of an effective college baseball crew pregame? Are there responsibilities or unusual situations that crews do not discuss often enough?

A: It's funny that you bring this question up. I am sure that most, if not all, of the umpires who worked with me when I was a crew chief will laugh at this question, because they know that I was not a big pregame crew chief.

An effective pregame should be brief and to the point. They should cover any new interpretations and training material from the conference, the NCAA Baseball Umpire Program, or the NCAA Baseball Secretary-Rules Editor. Discuss unique plays that a member of the crew may have recently had. Talk about any issues the teams may have had in the past.

Opinions may differ, but a pregame should not become a mechanics training session. Answer questions and address recurring issues, but avoid lengthy lectures on coverages. Respect the rest of the crew and the time they need to prepare for the game.

Q: What communication habits separate the strongest crews from the rest? What can umpires do to improve their communication before, during and after plays?

A: Communication—or the lack of it—is a major issue for umpires at every level. Most crews communicate well before the pitch, using eye contact and signals to confirm coverage or rotations. Problems arise once the ball is hit, when we tend to focus only on our own responsibilities. Whenever the ball is put in play, look at your partners and read their movements. This nonverbal communication is essential to the crew's success.

How can umpires develop this skill? Practice. Start small: whenever the ball is hit in the air, briefly glance at your partners

instead of tracking only the ball. Next, do the same on every ball hit to the outfield, whether in the air or on the ground. Eventually, make it a habit on every ball put in play.

As venues grow larger and crowds become louder, nonverbal communication becomes even more important. In my opinion, the ability to read partners and respond to their reactions and movements is what separates good umpires from elite ones.

Q: What qualities distinguish umpires who are ready to advance to higher levels of college baseball? Are there particular habits, preparation methods or crew skills that conference coordinators of baseball umpires and/or conference baseball administrators notice?

A: In a results-driven profession, accuracy and sound judgment on the field are essential, as are a strong command of the rules and mechanics, effective communication, and people skills. But one phrase has stayed with me since I began teaching at umpire school in 2012: coachability and upside potential.

Success in this profession requires continuous improvement. Being receptive to constructive feedback and applying it to your performance can take you far. If you remain coachable and committed to developing, your potential has no limit.

Success in this profession requires continuous improvement. Being receptive to constructive feedback and applying it to your performance can take you far. **If you remain coachable and committed to developing, your potential has no limit.**

Q: What is one college mechanic that you believe umpires commonly misunderstand, and what would you like to see them do differently?

A: In three- and four-umpire systems, U1 often is not proactive enough about moving inside on non-rotation coverage when the ball is hit to left field. The issue may be less about misunderstanding the coverage than about not recognizing what—and whom—to read on the field.

Since umpires stopped going out on every fly ball, I have seen a steady decline in movement across the infield, especially in the four-umpire system. Under the former approach, the entire crew

stayed in motion: when one umpire went out, the others moved toward their next potential play through a PU–U1 rotation or a U1–U2 slide. Eliminating that mechanic also eliminated valuable movement repetitions.

On a routine fly ball to center field in the four-umpire system, for example, U1 once moved off the line toward second base to cover either the catch or continue with the batter-runner to second base.

Similarly, in the three-umpire system, U1 now moves inside less consistently when the ball is hit to left field. I notice instances in almost every game where U1 will be standing behind first base, while U3 will be inside taking responsibility for multiple runners.

U1 needs to make a habit of moving toward second base while reading the other umpires. Being proactive, not reactive, is the key here.

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CC: Crew Chief



Mechanics Changes

Mechanics Points of Emphasis

Character and Conduct

General Principles and Guidelines

Basic Umpiring Guidelines

Previous Points of Emphasis

Section 1 Mechanics Changes

1.1 R1 Only, Two Outs: All Umpire Systems

With two outs and a runner on first base only, PU may signal to his partner(s) before the pitch that he is not rotating and will remain at home. When PU stays home, the base umpire or base umpires assume responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

1.2 R1, R3 – Two-Umpire System

With runners on first and third, PU no longer rotates to third base on a clean hit to the outfield. PU remains home with a runner in scoring position, consistent with the coverage used in other umpire systems. PU is responsible for all touches and plays at the plate. U1 is responsible for all plays at first, second and third base.

1.3 R1 Only, Two Out Rotation – Three-Umpire System

With a runner on first base and two outs, PU may remain at home rather than rotate to third base, regardless of where the ball is hit, provided PU communicates to U1 and U3 before the pitch that the rotation is off. When this option is used, U1 and U3 assume responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

With two outs and a 3-2 count, U3 may start in the regular "C" position when PU has declared the rotation off. This allows U3 to stay ahead of R1 and improve the angle for a potential play at third base.

1.4 U2 Positioned Inside: Four-Umpire System

Whenever U2 starts inside, U2 has no outfield coverage. U1 and U3 divide all routine and trouble fly-ball responsibilities.

U1 has all fly balls on which the center fielder moves straight in, straight back or toward right field. U1 also has all fly balls to the right fielder.

U3 has all fly balls on which the center fielder moves toward left field. U3 also has all fly balls to the left fielder.

1.5 R3 Only, Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage: Four-Umpire System

With fewer than two outs, U2 starts in shallow left-center field on the left-field side of second base. With two outs, U2 starts on the right hip of the second baseman when the second baseman is in his normal position.

U1 has fly balls hit directly at the center fielder, fly balls on which the center fielder moves back or toward right field, and all fly balls to the right fielder.

U2 has fly balls on which the center fielder moves straight in, fly balls on which the left fielder moves straight in or straight back, and fly balls between the left fielder and center fielder. This area forms a small "V." U2 serves as the quarterback on fly balls in gray areas and dictates coverage by going out or moving into the infield.

U3 has fly balls on which the left fielder moves toward the left-field foul line.

1.6 R3 Only, Two Outs, U1 Goes Out: Four-Umpire System

With a runner on third base and two outs, if U1 goes out on a fly ball, U2 assumes responsibility for all plays involving the batter-runner at first and second base. U3 remains at third base for any potential play there.

1.7 R3 Only, Two Outs, U2 Goes Out: Four-Umpire System

On a deep trouble ball, PU remains at the plate. U1 observes the batter-runner's touch of first base and assumes responsibility for the batter-runner at first and second base. U1 may move inside the diamond or rim outside. U3 remains at third base for any potential play involving the batter-runner.

This coverage should be used on a sure double when no initial play at second base is expected. U1 remains responsible for any play back into second base on the batter-runner.

On a shallow trouble ball, PU remains at the plate. U1 observes the batter-runner's touch of first base and is responsible for any play back into first base. U3 moves across the infield toward second base and is responsible for any play involving the batter-runner at second or third base..

1.8 R2 or R2/R3, Fewer Than Two Outs, U3 Goes Out: Four-Umpire System

With a runner on second base, or runners on second and third, and fewer than two outs, U3 may go out on a fly ball to left field. If R2 returns to second base in anticipation of a catch, U2 releases toward third base for any potential play there. U1 moves toward second base to observe R2's touch or tag and is responsible for the applicable play at second base.

Section 2 Mechanics Points of Emphasis

2.1 Rotation-Off Communication — All Umpire Systems

With two outs and a runner on first base only, the plate umpire may signal to his partner or partners before the pitch that he is not rotating and will remain at home on any batted ball. When this option is used, the base umpire or base umpires assume responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

This coverage is optional and must be communicated before the pitch. It cannot be decided after the ball is put in play. If PU does not signal that the rotation is off, the crew should use its standard rotation. Crews should establish a consistent signal during the pregame meeting so every umpire understands when PU is remaining home.

In the three-umpire system, with two outs and a 3-2 count, U3 may start in the regular "C" position only after PU has communicated that the rotation is off. This allows U3 to stay ahead of R1 and improve his angle for a potential play at third base.

The two-umpire system uses a separate, mandatory coverage with runners on first and third. In that configuration, PU no longer rotates to third base on a clean hit to the outfield. PU remains home with a runner in scoring position, consistent with the coverage used in larger umpire systems. PU has all touches and plays at the plate, while U1 has all plays at first, second and third base.

Once the crew has established that PU is remaining home, each umpire must commit to the coverage. Strong pre-pitch communication will prevent two umpires from covering the same base or leaving a base uncovered.

2.2 Outfield Coverage and Secondary Responsibilities — Four Umpire System

When U2 starts inside, U2 has no outfield coverage. U1 and U3 divide all routine and trouble fly balls. U1 has the center fielder moving straight in, straight back or toward right field, along with all fly balls to the right fielder. U3 has the center fielder moving toward left field, along with all fly balls to the left fielder.

U2 must remain engaged even without fly-ball responsibility.

U2 should read whether U1 or U3 goes out, communicate the coverage and move immediately for the appropriate base responsibility. The crew should discuss the outfield split during the pregame meeting because the exact boundary may vary slightly based on the runner configuration, the number of outs and the positioning of the outfielders.

The R3-only configuration is different because U2 retains a defined area of outfield coverage. U1 has fly balls hit directly at the center fielder, fly balls on which the center fielder moves back or toward right field, and all fly balls to the right fielder. U2 has the center fielder moving straight in, the left fielder moving straight in or straight back, and the area between the left fielder and center fielder. This area forms a small "V." U3 has fly balls on which the left fielder moves toward the left-field foul line.

In this configuration, U2 serves as the quarterback on fly balls in gray areas. U2 must clearly dictate the coverage by going out or moving into the infield. U1 and U3 must read U2 and react without hesitation.

With R3 only and two outs, the depth of a trouble ball in U2's coverage area determines the base coverage when U2 goes out. On a deep ball when no initial play at second base is expected, U1 takes the batter-runner at first and second base while U3 remains at third base. On a shallow ball, U1 protects first base and U3 moves across the infield for any play involving the batter-runner at second or third base.

If U1 goes out with R3 only and two outs, U2 assumes responsibility for all plays involving the batter-runner at first and second base. U3 remains at third base for any potential play there. PU remains at the plate in each of these coverages.

2.3 R2 Tag-Up Coverage When U3 Goes Out – Four-Umpire System

With a runner on second base, or runners on second and third, and fewer than two outs, U3 may go out on a fly ball to left field. When U3 goes out, the remaining umpires must read the actions of R2 before committing to their secondary responsibilities.

If R2 returns to second base in anticipation of a catch, U2 releases toward third base and prepares for any play that may develop there. U1 moves toward second base to observe R2's tag and is responsible for any play back into second base. This coverage mirrors the mechanic used with runners on first and second.

U2 should not wait until R2 begins advancing toward third base to make the move. Once R2 returns to second and the tag-up possibility develops, U2 should begin releasing toward third. At the same time, U1 must move aggressively toward second while remaining aware of the batter-runner.

The crew should review this coverage during the pregame meeting. U1 and U2 must use clear visual and verbal communication so both second and third base remain covered while U3 is in the outfield.

Section 3 Character and Conduct

3.1 Character

Umpires (and sports officials in general) stand at the intersection of competition and integrity. Every decision we make, every moment we manage, and every interaction we navigate reflects not just our judgment, but our character. In a profession where the spotlight often finds us only when something goes wrong, our greatest strength is the consistency of who we are — calm under pressure, fair in conflict, and unwavering in our commitment to the game. Character isn't an accessory in officiating; it's the foundation. It's what allows us to earn trust, maintain respect, and uphold the standards that keep the game honorable. When the environment gets loud, when emotions run high, and when the stakes rise, character is the anchor that keeps us grounded and the compass that guides us forward.

3.2 Conduct and Ethics

Principles for Sports Officials

- **Integrity in Every Decision —** Uphold the rules without bias, favoritism, or personal influence. The standard is consistency, not convenience.

- **Professional Demeanor —** Maintain composure regardless of game intensity, crowd behavior, or coach interactions. Your presence sets the tone.

- **Respectful Communication —** Listen fully, respond calmly, and avoid escalating conflict. Treat all participants with respect, even in disagreement.

- **Accountability for Actions** — Own mistakes when they occur. Demonstrating honesty builds trust with partners, coaches, and assigners.

- **Commitment to Preparation —** Arrive mentally, physically, and professionally ready. Study rules, mechanics, and points of emphasis – Always be prepared!

- **Neutrality and Impartiality —** Never allow team affiliation, personal relationships, or external pressures to influence judgment.

- **Consistency in Enforcement —** Apply rules evenly throughout the game and season. Consistency helps build credibility.

- **Confidentiality and Discretion —** Keep private conversations, evaluations, and internal matters within the officiating community.

- **Appearance and Presentation —** Maintain a professional uniform, posture, and presence. Officials represent the integrity of the sport the moment they walk onto the field.

- **Commitment to Continuous Improvement —** Seek feedback, review performance, and embrace education. Growth is a responsibility, not an option.

- **Support for Crewmates —** Protect partners, communicate clearly, and present a unified crew. Crew integrity is essential to game integrity.

- **Avoidance of Conflicts of Interest —** Disclose any potential conflicts immediately and remove yourself when necessary.

3.3 Standards for Removal from the Game

NCAA baseball umpires are entrusted with the authority by rule to remove or eject any participant or member of team personnel from a game. That responsibility should never be taken lightly. The NCAA recognizes that every situation is unique and that umpire discretion is essential to proper rule enforcement. While there are possible unique and extraordinary circumstances, student-athletes and coaches look to the umpires for uniformity in applying consistent standards for ejections. The following general principles should be considered when deciding whether to eject a coach, student-athlete or another member of team personnel from a game.

1. Use of profanity specifically directed at an umpire or vulgar personal insults of an umpire, including accusations of bias or cheating are grounds for an immediate ejection (NCAA 2-26 and 5-15).

2. Once a ball-strike warning has been issued and the umpire notifies the head coach, no coach or player is allowed to continue to argue balls, strikes or half swings from any location. Offenders are subject to immediate ejection (NCAA 3-6-f).

3. Physical contact with an umpire including bumping, cap billing, shoving, kicking, spitting or spraying or any other physical abuse or threat of physical abuse is an automatic ejection and suspension without a warning (NCAA 5-15-c-2).

4. Refusal to stop arguing and further delaying the game after the umpire has provided the head coach adequate opportunity to make a point is grounds for ejection. The umpire should warn the head coach that he has been heard and that he should return to his position or be ejected. Following an ejection a prolonged argument by any team personnel will lead to suspension (NCAA 2-53, NCAA 5-15a AR 4).

5. If a coach or student-athlete leaves his position or the dugout to argue balls and strikes (including half swings) the individual will be subject to immediate ejection (NCAA 3-6-f).

6. "Step balk," the head coach is allowed to receive an explanation from the umpire that the call was a for a step balk. Should the head coach continue to argue the call, he will be warned to immediately return to his position (or the dugout) or be subject to immediate ejection.

7. During an argument, if a coach or student athlete makes reference to having observed a video replay that purportedly contradicts the call under dispute, such person is subject to immediate ejection.

8. The use of histrionic gestures (e.g., jumping up and down, violently waving one's arms, or other demonstrations) while arguing with an umpire or stepping out of the dugout or out of the batter's box and making gestures toward the umpire are grounds for ejection.

9. Throwing anything out of the dugout (towels, cups, equipment, etc.) is grounds for an automatic ejection. Actions by players specifically intended to ridicule an umpire are grounds for ejection. An example would include drawing a line in the dirt to demonstrate where the player thought the pitch was thrown.

10. Throwing equipment in disgust over an umpire's call will be grounds for ejection. The umpire may warn the offender for throwing equipment, but if the umpire deems the action severe, the umpire may eject without warning.

11. Any coach or student-athlete who fails to comply with an order from an umpire to do or to refrain from doing anything that affects the administering of the rules and regulations governing play is subject to ejection. Examples include failure to stay within the lines of the batter's box after a warning, refusal to submit a piece of equipment for an umpire's inspection, etc.

12. Ejected persons must comply with the NCAA rules and be out of "sight and sound." Once the ejected person has left the field or dugout, it is the responsibility of the ejected person and of the home institution's game management to ensure the ejected

person complies with all NCAA rules regarding ejections and to report any infractions to the NCAA and respective conference office.

While the standards listed above justify an ejection, they are not all inclusive and umpires are granted discretion to eject any participant, without a warning for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language. Many ejections also carry automatic suspension penalties depending upon the specific personnel ejected and the reason for the ejection. In addition, there are other situations that result in immediate ejections, such as a batter charging the pitcher with the intention of fighting, a pitcher intentionally throwing at a batter after a warning or in some instances, without a warning.

3.4 Coach/Umpire Philosophy

While head coaches will still sometimes cross the line when it comes to the interactions with an umpire during a situation, it is imperative that an umpire be the calming influence as opposed to being out of control.

Even if a coach goes ballistic, an umpire is expected to remain professional in his actions. By doing that, and by requesting the same actions from an upset coach, the umpire will diffuse a situation quicker and the game can resume.

While most umpires are aware of their role and responsibility in dealing with confrontational situations, there is still improvement to be made.

- **Stay Calm**

Nothing good can happen when you are just as upset in a discussion as a coach. Coaches are emotionally involved; some are fighting for their jobs and livelihood every game of every season. That is rarely true for an umpire. When umpires lose their composure, they have forgotten their role is to manage the game and the situations that arise.

- **Watch What You Say, Where You Say It**

There is simply no defense for using improper language, whether on the field, in the locker room or anywhere that someone from a team can hear you. You never know who is listening or when there is a recording being made. Even in a casual postgame conversation at a nearby restaurant, you need to keep it clean and don't make any statement that can be used against you.

• **Watch Your Hands**

An umpire should never be the one to initiate contact with a player or coach. Players and coaches face suspension penalties (at a minimum) for making contact with an umpire. If stepping in between an irate coach/player and another umpire or holding up a stop sign does not stop the improper actions, you are better off letting the out of control coach continue to act out. He will face consequences. Even if the coach is out of control, you are likely to only make the situation worse if you do something you aren't supposed to do.

Type of Offense	Offender	Consequence for First Offense	Consequence for Second Offense	Consequence for Third Offense	Rule Ref.
Unsportsmanlike conduct or language directed toward an umpire or an opponent	Assistant coach, player or team personnel	Ejection plus a one game suspension.	Ejection from present contest plus a three-game suspension by the same individual in the same season.	Same as second offense.	2-26-f, 5-15-d
Unsportsmanlike conduct or language directed toward an umpire or an opponent	Head coach	Ejection from present contest—no suspension.	Same as first offense.	Same as first offense.	2-26-f
Unsportsmanlike conduct or language directed toward an umpire or an opponent	Player whose last listed position is that of a pitcher	Ejection plus a four-game suspension for a starting pitcher and a two-game suspension for a relief pitcher.	Ejection from present contest plus a four-game suspension for a starting pitcher and a three-game suspension for a relief pitcher.	Same as second offense.	2-26-e, 5-15-d
Game Misconduct – Removing team from the field; refusing to continue	Head coach	Ejection plus a two-game suspension.	Same as first offense.	Same as first offense.	5-15-b
Prolonged or continued arguing, offensive language or excessive expressions directed at an umpire or game official after an ejection	Any participant	Two-game suspension added to the present accumulative total for applicable suspension penalties.	Same as first offense.	Same as first offense.	2-26-h; 5-15-a-4
Fighting	Any participant	Ejection plus a four-game suspension.	Ejection plus a suspension from the team's next five contests.	Ejection plus a suspension for the remainder of the season, including postseason competition.	5-15-c-1
Leaving vicinity of the dugout, bullpen, or position on the field at the time of a potential altercation or fight	Player(s) or team personnel (excluding coaches)	One-game suspension.	Same as first offense.	Same as first offense.	5-15-c-3
Physical abuse of participants or umpires	Any participant including head coach	Ejection plus a four-game suspension.	Ejection plus a suspension from the team's next five games.	Ejection plus a suspension for the remainder of the season, including postseason competition.	5-15-c-2
Intentionally throwing at a batter	Pitcher, or pitcher and head coach	Ejection plus a four-game suspension. The head coach is not ejected if no warning is given. If a warning has been given, the head coach is ejected from that game and suspended for one game.	Ejection plus an eight-game suspension. The head coach is not ejected if no warning has been given. If a warning has been given, the head coach is ejected and suspended for one game.	Ejection plus a suspension for the remainder of the season, including postseason. If no warning is given, the head coach is not ejected. If a warning is issued, the head coach is ejected and suspended for one game.	5-15-c-4
Verbal abuse/bench jockeying *(Note: The following penalties are for actions during the same game.)*	Any participant or game personnel other than head coach	If the unsportsmanlike conduct continues after the warning or if the initial offense is a major offense, the offender shall be ejected.	If the unsportsmanlike conduct continues after the first ejection in the same game, the head coach shall be ejected along with any other offending team personnel.	If the unsportsmanlike conduct continues, the acting head coach shall be ejected along with any other offending team personnel.	5-15-d

Type of Offense	Offender	Consequence for First Offense	Consequence for Second Offense	Consequence for Third Offense	Rule Ref.
Failure to leave and remain out of sight and sound of the playing field and grandstands after an ejection	Any participant	Three-game suspension added to any penalties already accumulated.	Same as first offense.	Same as first offense.	3-6-d, Note 2 and 3
Collision rule	Player	Ejection plus a one-game suspension.	Same as first offense.	Same as first offense.	8-7
Ejection for tobacco use	Player or team personnel and head coach	Ejection plus a one-game suspension for everyone other than the head coach.	Same as first offense.	Same as first offense.	3-11
Postparticipation ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct	Assistant coach, player (other than pitcher) or team personnel	Ejection from the next scheduled contest plus a one-game suspension for a total of two games. These two games will be added to any other applicable penalties for other offenses.	Ejection from next scheduled contest plus a three-game suspension for a total of four games. These four games will be added to any other applicable penalties for other offenses.	Same as second offense.	2-26-c; Appendix D
Postparticipation ejection	Head coach	Ejected from team's next game—no suspension.	Same as first offense.	Same as first offense.	2-26-c; Appendix D
Postparticipation ejection for a pitcher	Player whose last listed position is that of a pitcher.	Ejection from the next scheduled contest plus a four-game suspension for a starting pitcher for a total of fives games and an additional two-game suspension for a relief pitcher for a total of three games.	Ejection from the next scheduled contest plus a four-game suspension for a starting pitcher for a total of fives games and an additional three-game suspension for a relief pitcher for a total of four games.	Same as second offense.	2-26-e
Possession or use of any foreign substance or moisture applied to the hand or fingers, or do anything to deface the ball.	Pitcher and head coach.	Ejected plus a four-game suspension for a starting pitcher and a two-game suspension for a relief pitcher for everyone other than the head coach.	Ejection plus a four-game suspension for a starting pitcher and a three-game suspension for a relief pitcher for everyone other than the head coach.	Same as second offense.	9-2-e
Use of illegal electronic devices	Player or team personnel and head coach	Ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct plus a one-game suspension for everyone other than the head coach.	Ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct plus a three-game suspension for everyone other than the head coach.	Same as second offense.	5-16

Note 1: It is the responsibility of the institution's Head Coach and Director of Athletics to administer and enforce any suspension penalties.
Note 2: Suspension penalties, regardless of the number, shall be served during the offending team's next scheduled contest(s). Postparticipation ejections and any applicable suspension penalties shall also be served during the offending team's next scheduled contest(s). Conferences and institutions may choose to implement additional penalties for misconduct.
Note 3: A listing of ejection and suspension procedures is contained in Appendix D.

Section 4 General Principles andGuidelines

4.1 Style and Form of Calls

Umpires may have individual mechanics in style and it is recognized that the individual styles of umpires have evolved over a number of years. However, certain fundamentals should be evident in signals and calls.

1. Umpires shall make a signal on all calls with the exception of ball and an obvious catch of a fly ball. Signals are to be visible, crisp and clear. Voice calls should be clearly audible.

2. All signals should project decisiveness to the teams, fans and media. Signals should not be slow to the point of appearing uncertain or causing confusion for the participants, fans or media.

3. Umpires are expected to increase the assertiveness of their call signal and voice as the play becomes closer. A casual, laid-back signal is not appropriate in a crucial, close play. However, over-elaborate, excessive signals are not an acceptable technique either.

4. Umpires should strive to see all plays with body and head in a stable position, not on the move. Whenever possible, a call should be completed in its entirety prior to turning or moving to another position.

4.2 Handling Situations

Umpires must walk a fine line between keeping the game under control and not exacerbating situations with over-aggressive or arrogant actions. Although every situation is unique, umpires on the field should follow the guidelines below:

1. Umpires should remain calm, professional, tactful, firm, in control, fair and impartial. They cannot be perceived as overly aggressive, confrontational, hot-headed, short-tempered, timid, intimidated or nervous. Umpires must never display impatience or a condescending attitude.

2. Umpires are expected to understand their role as a steady, calming influence on the game. Umpires must be able to sort out complex

and important situations and cannot be hesitant to make unpopular decisions.

3. Umpires should never ignore occurrences on the field that require their attention to maintain order and control. But when difficult situations arise, it is essential that umpires stay above the emotional fray and never lower themselves to the excitable level of a particular player or coach. Umpires must be clear and decisive, while not overly aggressive or overbearing. They are expected to become more assertive if the situation calls for such, but must control their temper at all times. All in all, umpires must calm volatile situations while keeping control and managing them.

4. Umpires should listen to head coaches if discussions are reasonable and non-emotional. Correct body language is critical during any discussion. Umpires are to be firm and authoritative in conversations with head coaches — but should never initiate an argument. Umpires must not create unnecessary friction by ignoring reasonable inquiries. At the same time, umpires must command respect during difficult situations and never tolerate personal abuse.

5. Umpires must avoid sarcastic remarks and profanity and not insist on the last word. Individual conferences have policies in place that will not tolerate umpires' language, which, if used by a player or coach toward an umpire, would result in discipline.

6. Umpires must not charge a player or coach or follow them if the argument is over and they are walking away. Umpires cannot look for trouble or invite arguments. If a situation can defuse itself, umpires must allow it to happen. Umpires must not be perceived as having escalated a situation.

7. Umpires must not initiate contact with a player or coach. Initiating contact, including "bumping" and physical finger pointing, will subject umpires to disciplinary action.

4.3 Handling Fights

All umpires must be constantly aware of situations that may lead to a physical confrontation between participants. If an umpire senses tension rising or actions that commonly lead to a fight, they should immediately intervene and use preventive officiating techniques to stop any escalation. If a batter is hit by a pitch, the plate umpire should immediately read the situation and if necessary move to a position to prevent the batter from charging the mound. Often that is not possible as the batter charges quickly and other players are converging. If a physical confrontation has started, all umpires should remain far enough away from the action to be able to identify the participants and not try to stop the confrontation themselves. Umpires must refrain from physically touching players and coaches at any time. After the altercation is over, the entire crew should get together to discuss the possible ejections. After the discussion as a crew, the crew chief should notify each head coach of the ejections, reason for the ejections and if they are suspendable offenses. Umpires are not to discuss lengths of suspensions — those matters are to be handled by the conference office or NCAA.

4.4 Suspensions

If an individual is suspended, the head coach must be notified of the suspension and this notification MUST occur before resuming the game and not delayed until after the game. In addition, the umpire will notify game management before leaving the site. The umpire will also notify their conference coordinator immediately after the game and must file the online NCAA Umpire Incident/Ejection/ Suspension report within eight (8) hours of the contest.

4.5 Protests

Any protest by the coach of a competing team must be made at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed. If the game ends (legal contest) in a protestable situation, the offended team has until all fielders have left fair territory to voice its protest intentions. All protests must be made to the umpire-in-chief. No protest shall be allowed involving a judgment decision by an umpire.

Section 5 Basic Umpiring Guidelines

5.1 Mechanics Philosophies/Basic Concepts

A. Umpire mechanics are a series of compromises.

B. Base coverage and mechanics are based on the most likely play to happen next.

C. Mechanics should not be based on unlikely second or third play developments.

D. Mechanics should not be based on limiting the amount of effort an umpire must exert.

E. The crew needs to work together to cover the entire field of play without limiting the workload of any one umpire.

F. College-level umpires must be able to read batted balls and runners and be able to react appropriately with correct mechanics.

G. While fair/foul and catch/no catch are the first things that can happen on a play, those calls do not automatically call for an umpire to leave their position. On plays that will be extremely close, the umpire should go out to rule.

H. College umpires do not work an entire season with the same partner and therefore mechanics must be consistent from crew to crew across the country.

I. Crew communication before every new hitter and during play situations is critical.

J. Umpires should regularly glance at their partners to assure expected movement and coverage.

5.2 Basic Starting Positions

"A" – in foul territory behind first base

"B" – within the infield, half the distance between the pitcher's rubber and first base and half the distance between the pitcher's rubber and second base.

"Deep B" – along the grass dirt line on the first-base side of second base.

"C" – within the infield, half the distance between the pitcher's rubber and third base and half the distance between the pitcher's rubber and second base.

"Deep C" – along the grass dirt line on the third-base side of second base.

"D" – in foul territory behind third base.

5.3 General Balk Responsibilities

A. All umpires should intently watch for all actions that could cause a balk.

B. If you see a balk, you should call it immediately regardless of your position on the field.

C. Other umpires should mirror the balk call of their partners to ensure everyone on the field is clear that a balk has been called. (If a coach comes out to argue the call, the umpire that had the balk should walk toward the coach and explain the call.)

D. There are some balks that are more obvious from some positions (see specific crew sections for details).

5.4 Rundown Plays

All umpires must work to get good angles on run down plays and not get straight lined on the tag. In general, the umpire that has the clearest view of the tag should take the initiative on making the call. Good eye contact between partners is essential.

5.5 Positioning for Taking Plays

The illustrations shown in this manual do not depict actual positions for umpires as plays develop. The illustrations do show the bases for which each umpire is responsible in given situations. Due to the numerous complex possibilities of plays at each base and the plate, umpires are given flexibility to take plays from a position that they deem to be most advantageous without taking themselves out of position for a possible next play.

5.6 Crew Pregame Meeting

The crew chief or plate umpire should conduct a thorough pregame meeting before each game. There should also be a post-game debriefing during which unusual plays, unusual situations, crew self evaluation and game assessment takes place.

An outline of what should be covered in the pregame meeting includes:

5.7 Pregame Conference Outline

1. Notify home institution that the crew has arrived

2. Confirm start time

3. Discussion topics
   a. Uniforms
   b. Points of emphasis

4. Pregame conference
   a. Positioning
   b. Ground rules by home coach
   c. PU does all talking unless otherwise directed
   d. National Anthem position
   e. Run to positions

5. Check swing responsibilities and mechanics

6. Swipe tag and pulled foot mechanics

7. Fair/foul responsibilities

8. Outfield coverage

9. Non-verbal signals
   a. Infield fly
   b. Standard rotation
   c. Reverse rotation
   d. Umpire going out
   e. Appeal
   f. Time Play
   g. Trap/catch by catcher on third strike
   h. Outs and count
   i. Eye contact

10. Review CCA manual play situations

11. Appeals: base touches and tag ups

12. Handling dugouts
   a. Arguing balls and strikes
   b. Bench jockeying

13. Arguments
   a. One on one
   b. When to step in and when to leave them alone
   c. After an ejection the umpire should turn and walk away

14. Fights
   a. Try to stop participants before the fight starts
   b. If you can't stop them, step back and take numbers of participants

15. Closing
   a. Rule or mechanics questions
   b. Hustle at all times
   c. Communicate
   d. Good eye contact
   e. Good timing
   f. Get plays right
   g. Have fun and enjoy what you are doing

Section 6 Previous Points of Emphasis

Points of emphasis address mechanics changes and areas in which greater awareness, improvement or consistency is needed. Umpires should remain familiar with previous points of emphasis and review them as needed. However, earlier guidance may be superseded by subsequent rules or mechanics changes.

The following points of emphasis appeared in the previous manual.

2025

Fly Ball Reads: All Umpire Systems

Umpires must be careful about abandoning their reads on fly balls early and making premature decisions about whether to stay in or go out. Catches made with converging fielders, hard-running catches on the track and in the gap, and other difficult catch attempts should not be made without an umpire going out to seek an angle on the ball when possible. It is important to read the ball and fielders to prevent "wasting" an umpire by going out on a routine fly ball. However, sometimes the read takes longer to confirm.

When time does not allow all the information to be gathered, the umpire should err on the side of going out to take the ball and making himself readable to the rest of the crew so they can cover accordingly. The umpire should get steps toward the outfield while the ball is in the air but should be stopped when the critical action occurs.

Priority should continue to be given to fair/foul first, then catch/no catch, then touches and other action on the bases. The fundamental prioritization of responsibilities should not be lost simply to minimize the amount of movement umpires must make in coverage.

Catch, No-Catch on the Infield: All Umpire Systems

Within this manual, diagrams describe the infield catch and no-catch responsibilities for each umpire system. It is important to note that non-routine situations can arise, and strict adherence to these responsibilities is not always prudent in the spirit of getting

the call right. Complexities including, but not limited to, how the ball is hit, where the infielders and umpires are positioned, and how fielders converge can create a need for improvisation.

The committee suggests, as a rule of thumb, that the umpire to whom the glove is open take the catch or no-catch decision. This should be discussed at length during the crew's pregame meeting. Extraordinary communication is needed in these gray-area catch/no-catch situations to ensure there is only one calling umpire. These types of calls often place runners in immediate jeopardy and may fall into a category of plays that are not reviewable or correctable.

Slashing vs. Rimming: Three- and Four-Umpire Systems

In both the three- and four-umpire systems, there will be times when U1 is responsible for the batter-runner between first and second base. There has been a long-running discussion in the umpiring community about "rimming" outside the diamond toward second base or "slashing" through the inside of the diamond.

The one instance in which it is undoubtedly ideal to rim toward second base is when the ball is hit to the left of center field and the batter-runner is going to advance standing up into second. This allows the umpire to keep the ball and runner in front while preparing for the next possible play, which would be a play on the batter-runner back into second.

In other situations, the decision to rim is less obvious and may create potential issues. When making the decision, an umpire should consider the following:

If I must take an initial play on the batter-runner at second, where is my starting position, and where are my possible calling positions for the play?

Will remaining outside make it more difficult to take a play back into first base if the runner stops and there is a play?

Will remaining outside make it harder or easier to keep the ball and runner in front of me?

Consider these questions along with your athleticism, instincts and comfort level, and allow those factors to guide you to the appropriate decision. Regardless of whether you rim or slash, move aggressively and immediately so your partners are confident that you have the batter-runner covered into second base.

Whether rimming or slashing, U1 has sole responsibility for the batter-runner back into first base in these situations.

The committee recommends that all conference coordinators communicate their expectations regarding this topic to their staffs.

Movements from the C Position: Two-Umpire System

In the two-umpire system with two outs and a runner on third base, the base umpire is positioned in the "C" position. In this situation, most ground balls hit within the infield will be fielded and thrown to first base for a force-play decision.

Once the ball is hit, the base umpire should make a quick initial read to identify any possible play at third base. After determining there will be no play on R3 at third base, the base umpire should begin moving toward first base while the ball is being fielded.

While moving toward first base, it is important for the base umpire to move away from the fielder's throwing lane. This provides sufficient clearance and allows the umpire to turn his head toward the play early. This is best achieved by remaining chest to ball as the play develops so the umpire knows exactly where the fielder is when the throw is made.

This movement toward first base allows the base umpire to gain as much distance as possible toward the base. It also provides the ability to make meaningful adjustments, when necessary, and view all aspects of the play at first base.

As a general rule, the farther the batted ball is from R3, the sooner the base umpire can release from his starting position and begin moving toward the play at first base.

Fight Rule

Umpires should remain engaged during altercations and continue to umpire each element of the situation, noting all movements, physical advances and words spoken by the participants.

Video replay will not be available as a real-time aid in most collegiate baseball games. Additionally, where available, video replay sometimes will tell only part of the story. The committee strongly cautions umpires working games with instant replay against adopting the notion that "replay will take care of this" as the primary means of determining penalties in these situations.

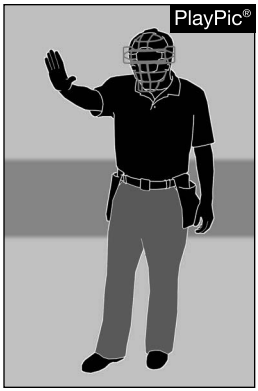
The awareness of the on-field crew and its interpretation of the participants' actions during an altercation will typically be the deciding factor in determining which players should be ejected.

The rule requires umpires to judge a participant's intent and not simply the participant's physical location.

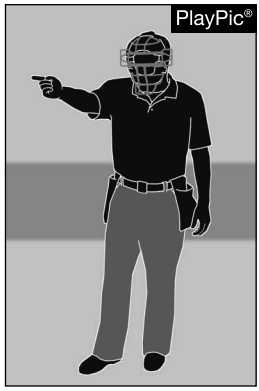
Once an altercation is under control, a crew consultation and possible replay review, where available, are recommended before decisions are announced regarding ejections, warnings or other administrative matters.

Once the crew reaches a decision, the committee strongly recommends informing the head coaches separately of the decisions and resulting penalties before play resumes.

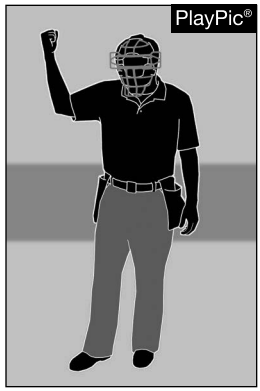
SIGNAL CHART



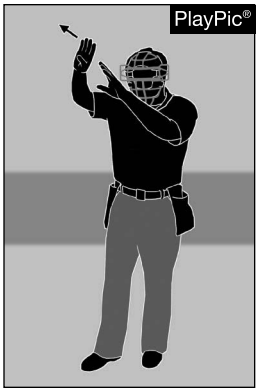
Do not pitch; ball is dead



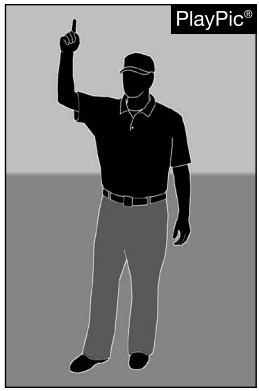
Play



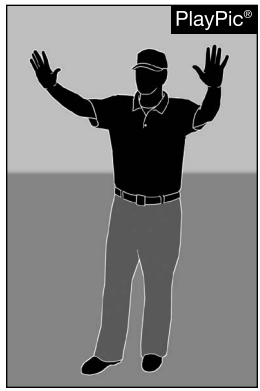
Strike



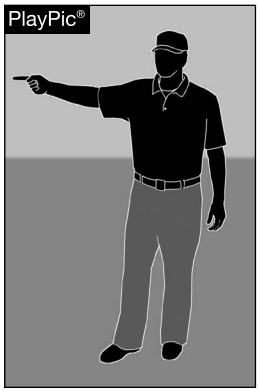
Foul Tip



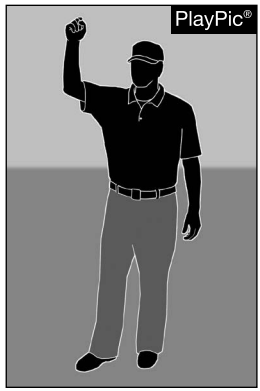
Infield Fly



Time out or dead ball

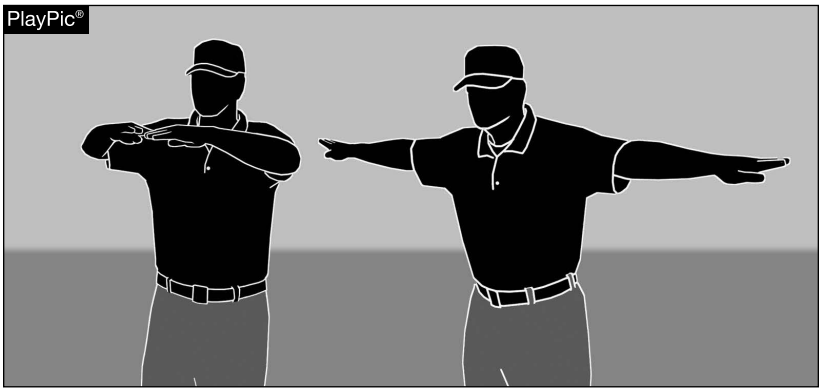


Fair Ball

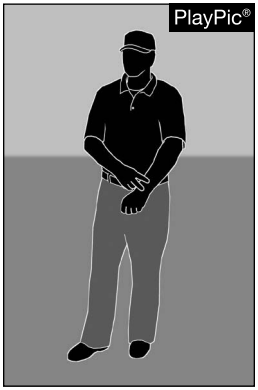


Out

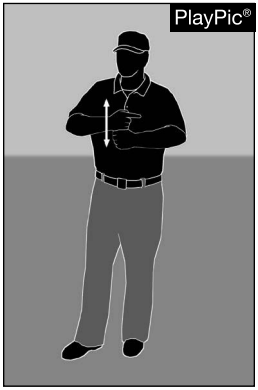
SIGNAL CHART (continued)



Safe



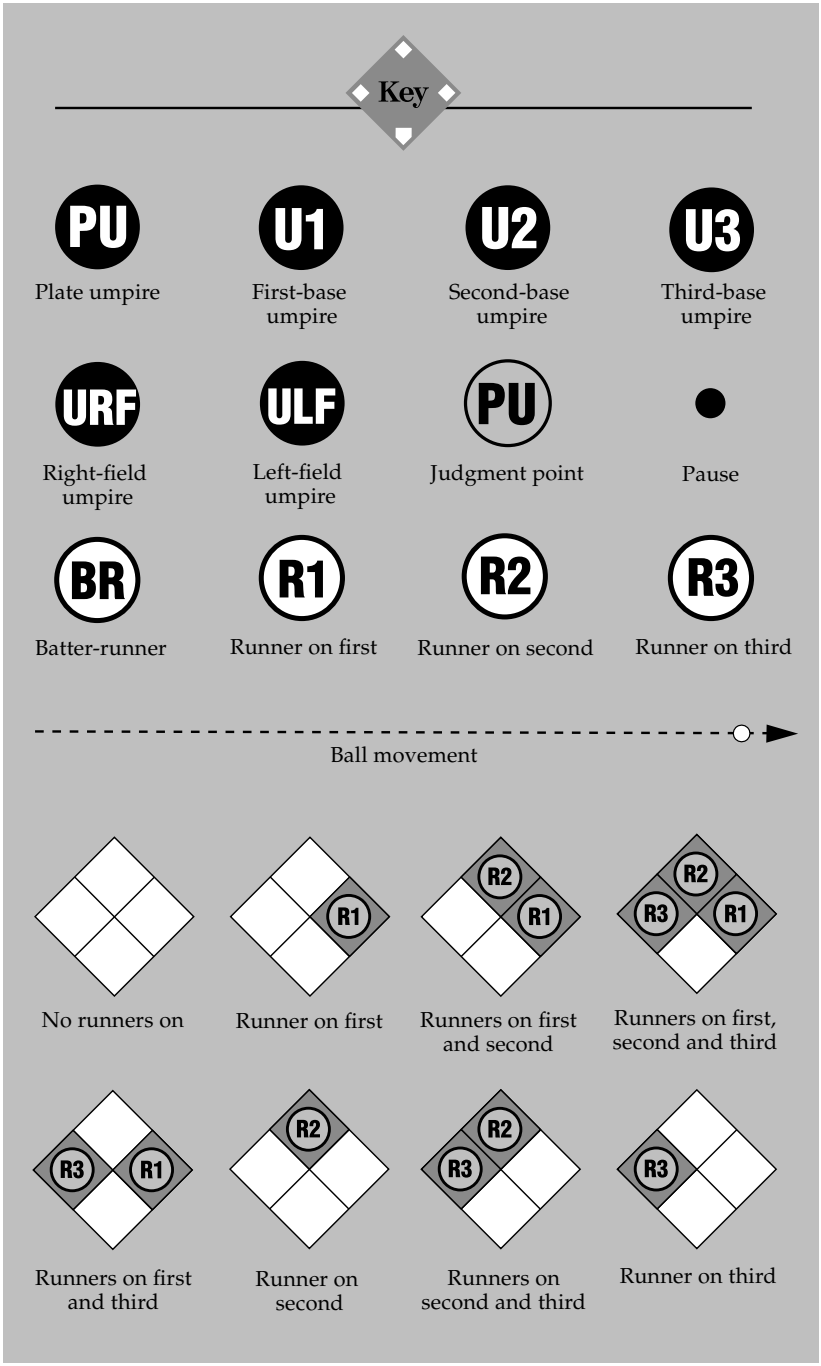
Time play



Double Tag Rotation



Reset


Key
PU
Plate umpire
U1
First-base umpire
U2
Second-base umpire
U3
Third-base umpire
URF
Right-field umpire
ULF
Left-field umpire
PU
Judgment point
Pause
BR
Batter-runner
R1
Runner on first
R2
Runner on second
R3
Runner on third
Ball movement
No runners on
Runner on first
Runners on first and second
Runners on first, second and third
Runners on first and third
Runner on second
Runners on second and third
Runner on third



Section 7

Mechanics for a Crew of Two Umpires



Mechanics for Two Umpires

7.1 Basic Principles

1. Angle is primary, distance is secondary. While this mechanics manual does not delve into the specifics of where an umpire should take a play, know this: With only two umpires, you're not going to be able to get as close as you'd like on some plays. Work to get a great angle.

2. The plate umpire (PU) will move. Helping on a pulled foot at first base … helping on slides at second base … covering plays at third base … the PU is responsible for much more than balls and strikes.

3. Studying two-umpire mechanics will help you understand three umpire mechanics. The two-umpire system is the basis for many coverages with multiple umpires.

7.2 Balk Concentration

There are some balks that are more obvious from some positions.

A. PU should concentrate on:
1. Left-handed pitchers stepping to the plate.
2. Left-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop.
3. Right-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop.
4. Right-handed pitchers gaining ground on the jump turn.
5. Right-handed pitchers closing their front shoulder before the jump turn.
6. Right-handed pitchers breaking their front knee before jump turn.

B. U1 should concentrate on:
1. Left-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop.
2. Right-handed pitchers breaking their front knees before the jump turn.
3. Right-handed pitchers gaining ground on the jump turn.

Note: U1 is no longer responsible for left-handed pitchers stepping to the plate.

7.3 Basic Outfield Coverage

A. Do not go out automatically on all fly balls in your coverage area.

B. Pause, read and react. Then go hard and get a good angle. Be stopped when the play occurs.

C. Four conditions that require an umpire to go to the outfield:
1. The outfielder turns and begins to run toward the outfield fence (possible home run).
2. Multiple players converging on a fly ball.
3. A catch being made below the waist.
4. Outfielder moving toward the foul line and possible fair/foul decision.

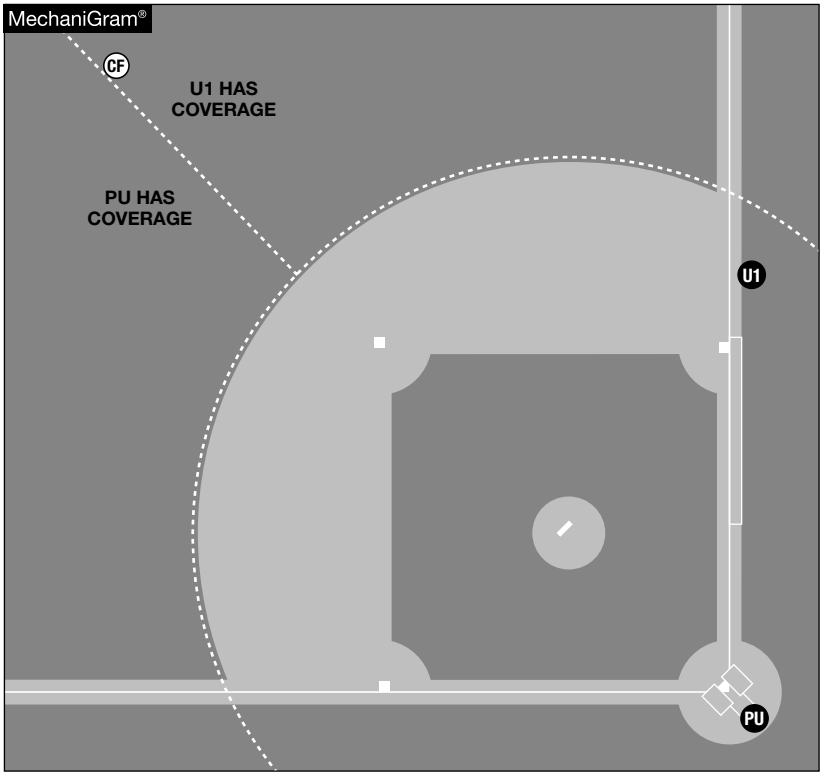
D. If in doubt, go out on fly balls in your coverage area.
1. If you are going out, go out hard.
2. Leave no doubt in your partners mind about whether or not you are going out.
3. If you are not going out, hold your arm out to your partner with your palm facing him and continue with your responsibilities.
4. Once you go out, do not return until the play is complete.
   a. Exception: With no runners on base and U1 goes out, U1 would return to the plate after ruling no catch for any play on the batter-runner there.
5. U1 positioned within the infield should never cross the base path to observe catch/no catch.

7.4 Overthrows

Overthrow responsibility belongs to the plate umpire with one exception.

If the base umpire (with no runners on) goes to the outfield and then rotates to home, overthrow responsibility will then belong to the base umpire at the plate on all overthrows, except the plate umpire (rotated to third) will have the overthrow at third base that goes toward the outfield.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

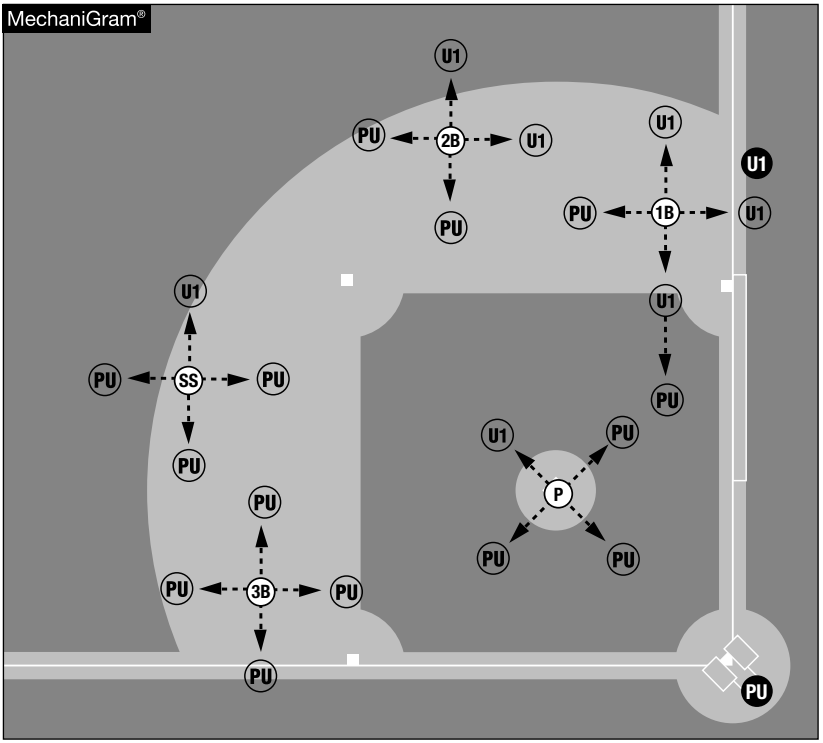


Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has center fielder moving toward the left field foul line and any ball hit to the left fielder.

U1: Is in the "A" position. U1 dictates outfield coverage and has the center fielder straight in and straight back and any ball hit to the right fielder.

Infield Catch Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:

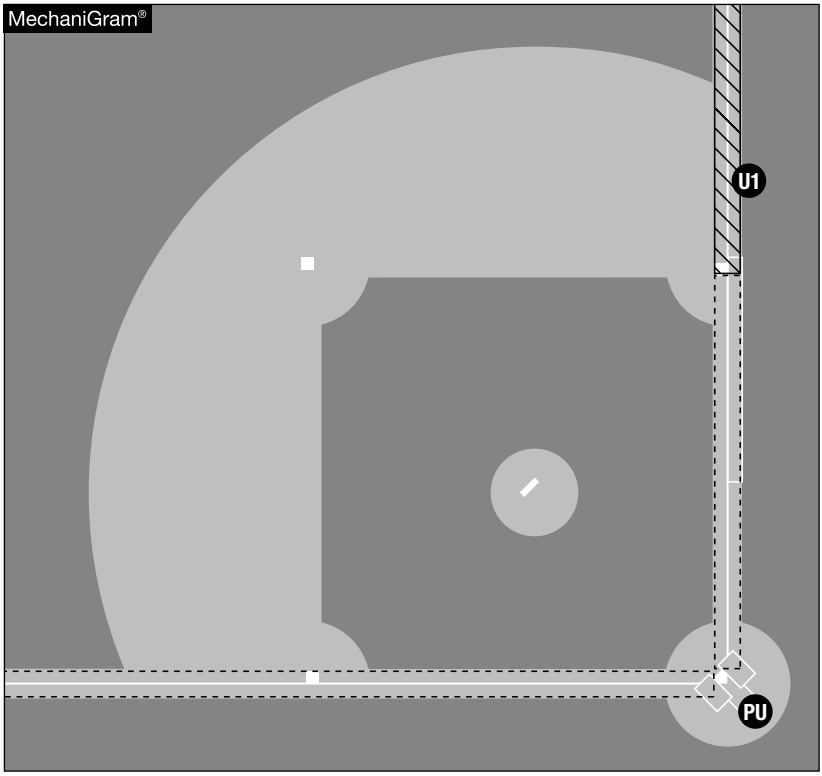
PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first baseman moving significantly in or right.
3. By the third baseman in all directions.
4. By the shortstop moving in, out or toward third base.
5. By the second baseman moving in or toward second base.

U1 has catches:

1. Immediately in front of the first baseman, out or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving out or toward first base.
3. By the shortstop moving toward second base.
4. By the pitcher moving back.

Fair/Foul Coverage

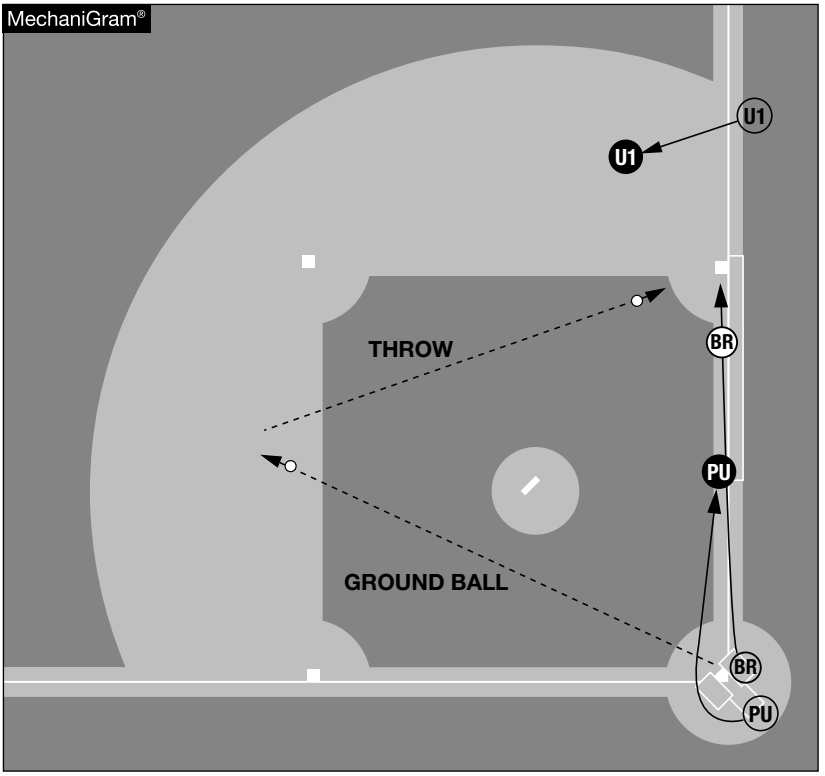


Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and all balls along the third-base line.

U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base and/or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield

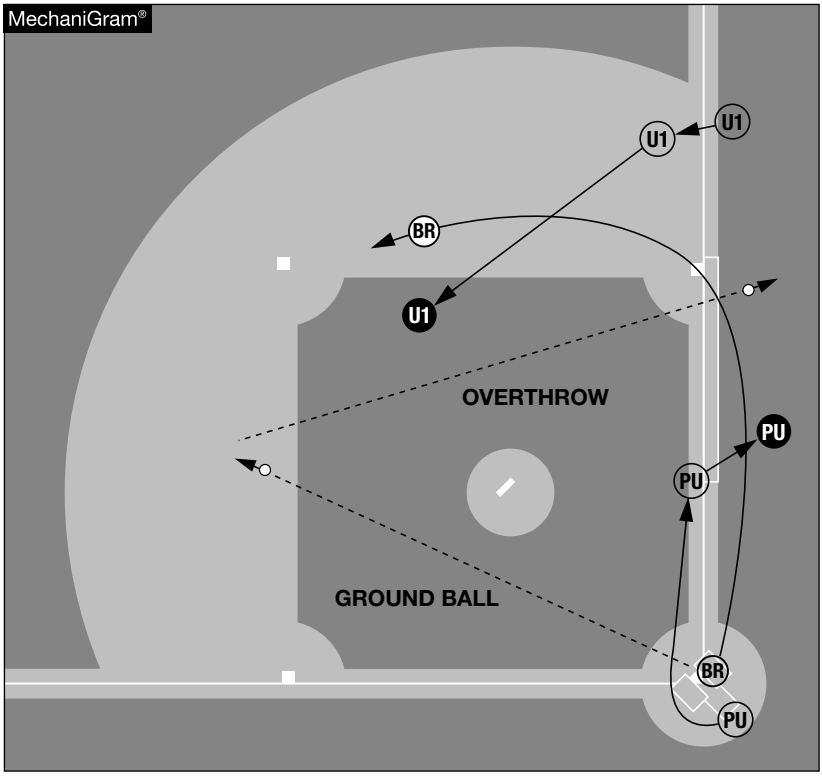


Action on the field: Ground ball to shortstop, throw to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.

Plays Within the Infield: Overthrow

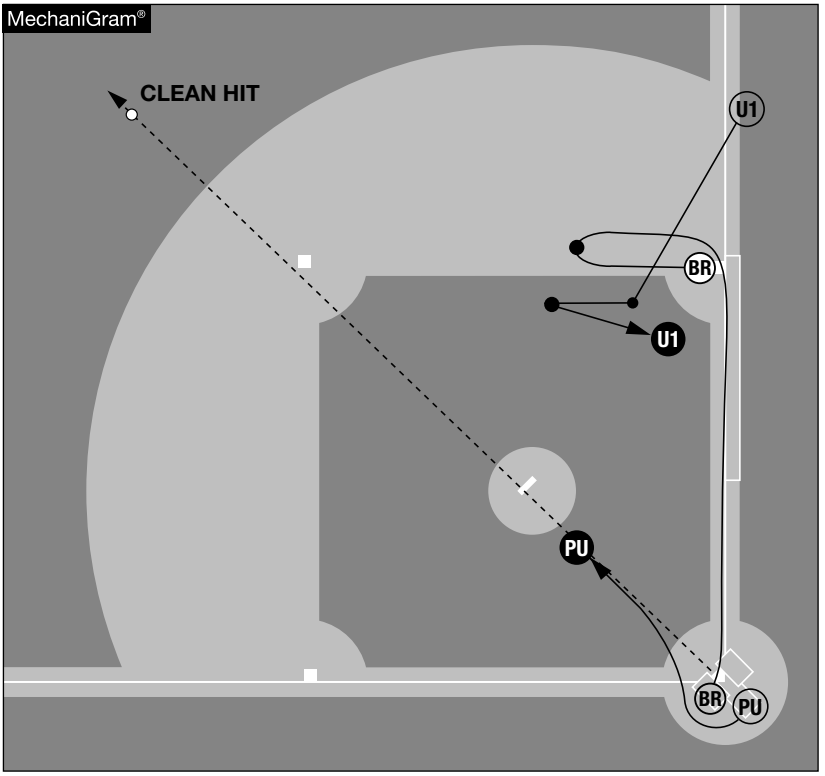


Action on the field: Ground ball to shortstop, overthrow to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes the ball and rules if it enters dead-ball territory, moving into foul territory as necessary.

U1: Enters the infield and has all plays on the bases. A pivot is not necessary since the ball was overthrown at first base.

Clean Hit to the Outfield

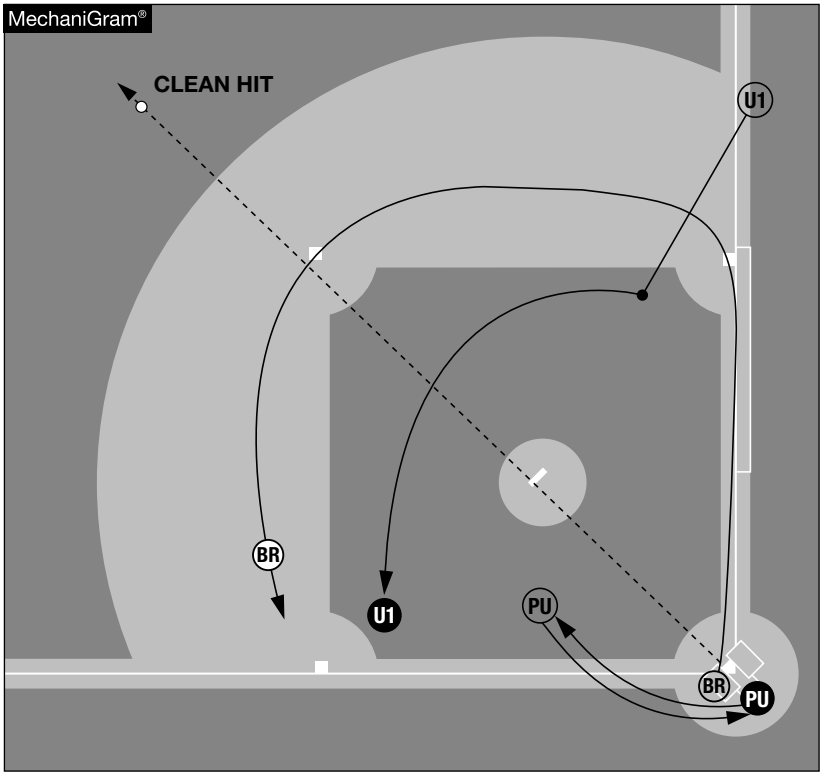


Action on the field: A clean hit to the outfield.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes the play.

U1: Enters the infield with a pivot and prepares for all plays on the batter-runner at first base, second base and third base.

Clean Hit to the Outfield: Extra Bases

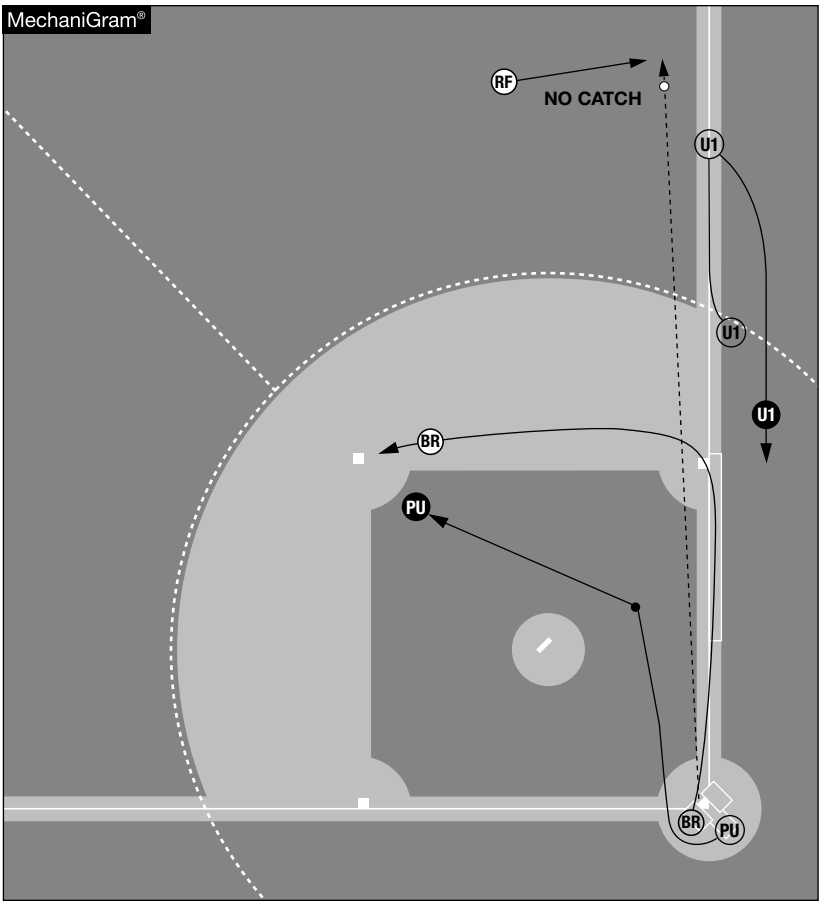


Action on the field: A clean hit to the outfield results in extra bases.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes the play and returns to the plate for any play there.

U1: Enters the infield with a pivot and prepares for all plays on the batter-runner at first, second and third base.

Fly Ball to Right Field: No Catch, U1 Goes Out

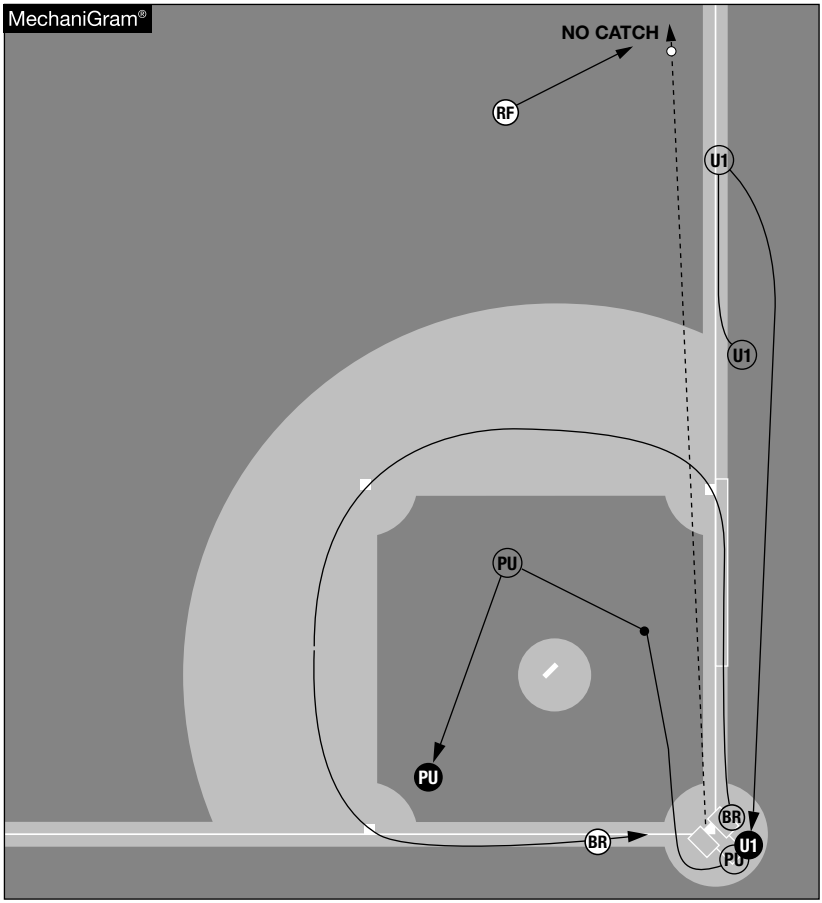


Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, no catch; U1 goes out; the batter-runner advances toward second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the infield and has all plays on the batter-runner at first, second and third base.

U1: Moves into position to best view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Right Field: No Catch, U1 Goes Out, Play at Plate

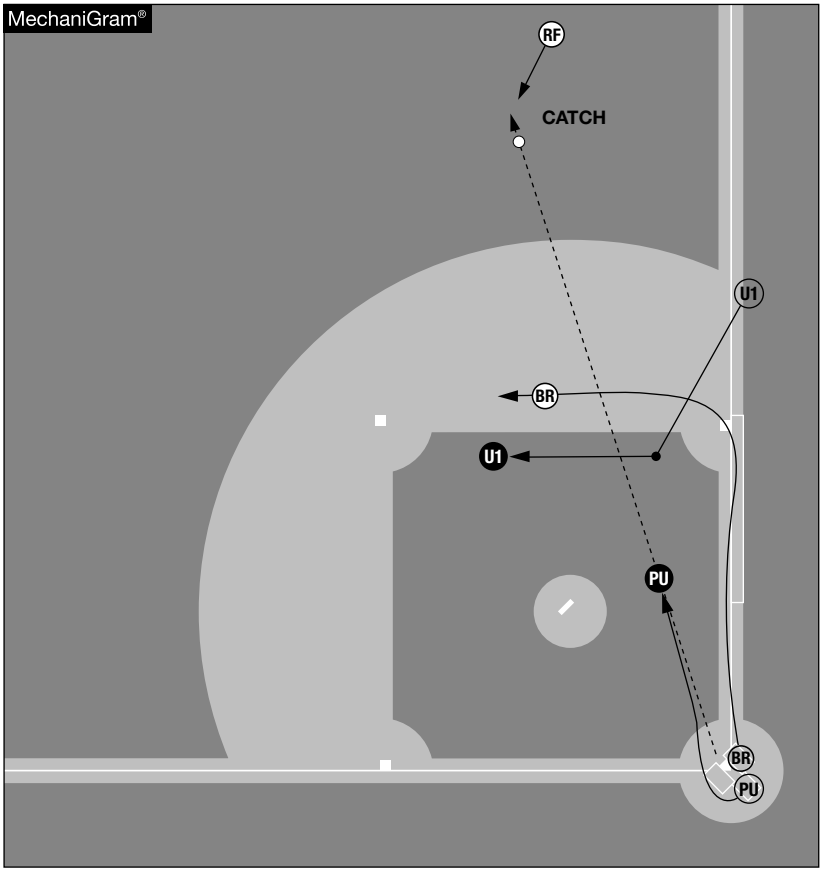


Action on the field: A deep fly ball to right field, no catch; U1 goes out; the batter-runner advances toward the plate.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the infield and has all plays on the batter-runner at first, second and third base.

U1: Returns to the plate in case a play develops on the batter-runner.

Fly Ball to Right Field: Catch, U1 Does Not Go Out

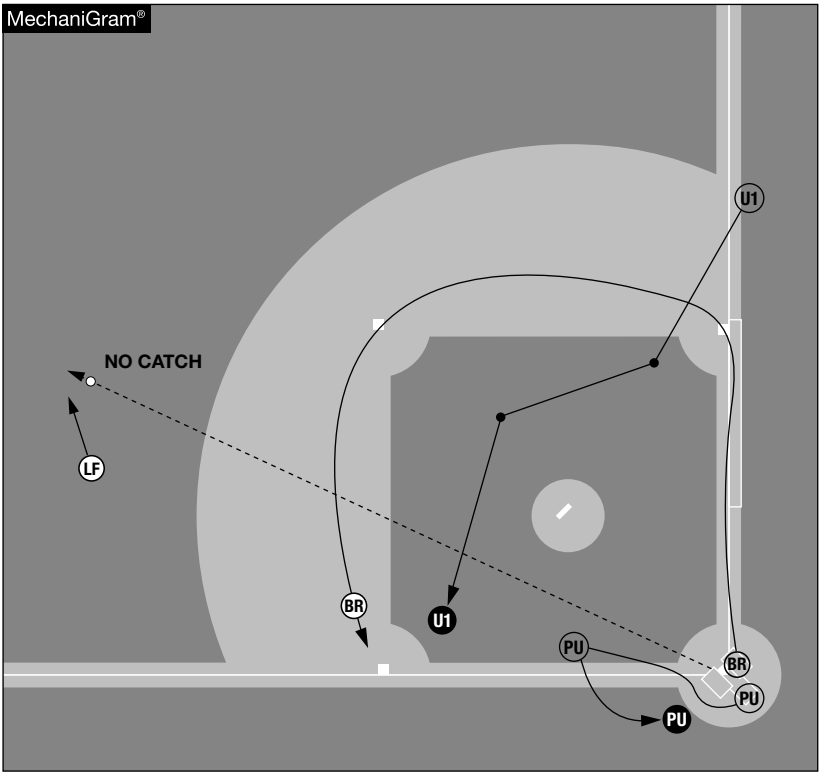


Action on the field: A routine fly ball is hit to right field and U1 does not go out.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

U1: Enters the infield and has all plays on the batter-runner at first, second and third base.

Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch



Action on the field: A fly ball to left field, no catch; the batter-runner advances to third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch. PU then returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Enters the infield and prepares for all plays on the batter-runner at first, second and third base.



SECTION 7.6

Runner on first

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
PU: Has the left fielder moving toward the left-field foul line and the right fielder moving toward the right-field foul line.
U1: Starts in the "B" position. U1 has outfield coverage from the left fielder straight in or straight back to the right fielder straight in or straight back. This area is commonly known as the "V."

Infield Catch Coverage
PU has catches:

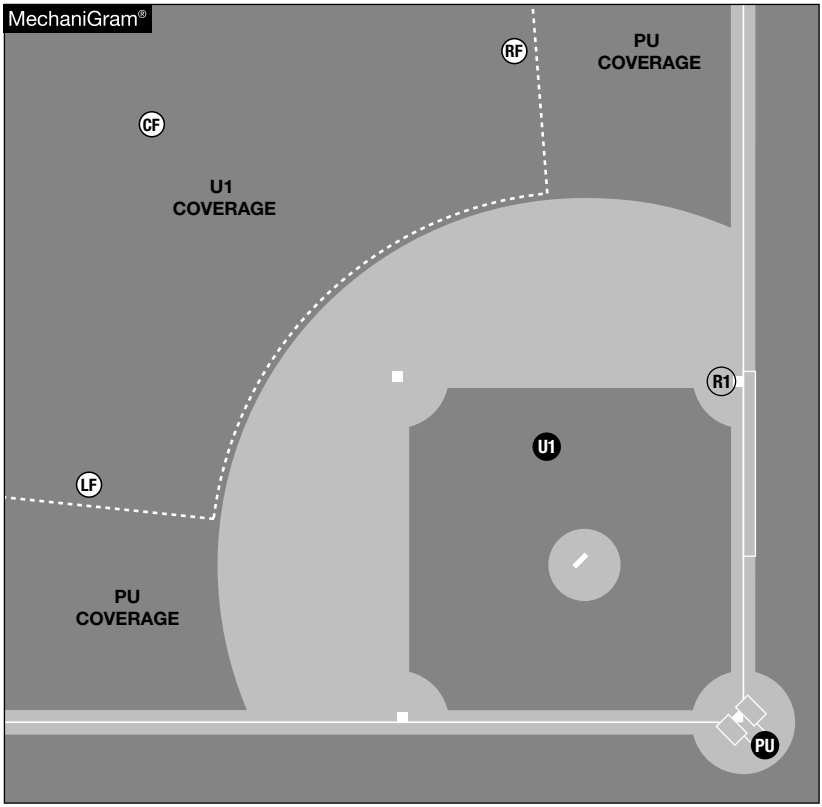
1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
3. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.

U1 has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving back.
2. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
3. By the second baseman moving in all directions.
4. By the third baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.
5. By the first baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.

Fair/Foul Coverage
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on both the first- and third-base lines.
U1: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

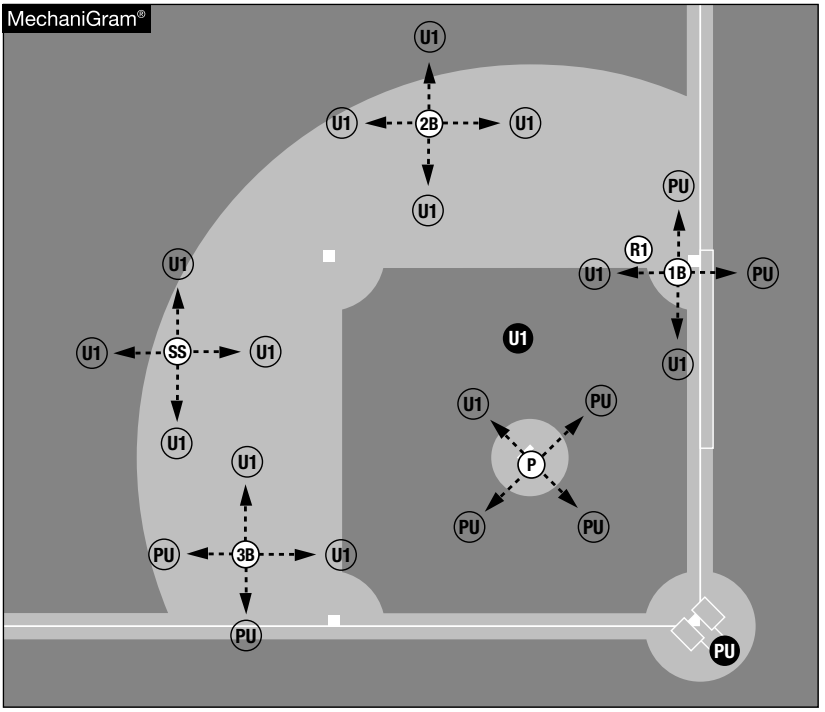


Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has the left fielder moving toward the left-field foul line and the right fielder moving toward the right-field foul line.

U1: Starts in the "B" position. U1 has outfield coverage from the left fielder straight in or straight back to the right fielder straight in or straight back.

Infield Catch Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:

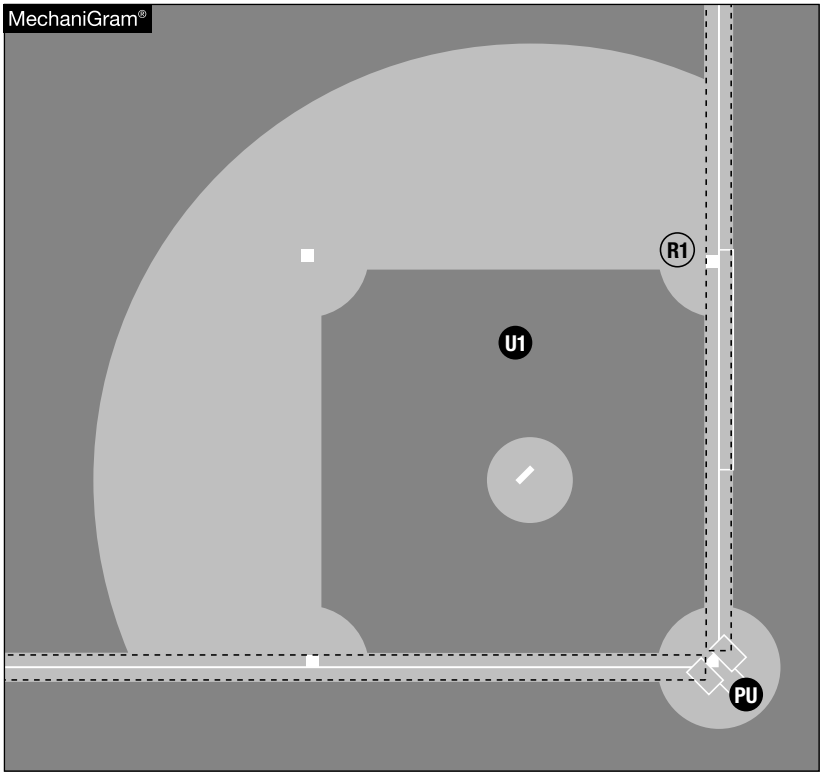
PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
3. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.

U1 has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving back.
2. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
3. By the second baseman moving in all directions.
4. By the third baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.
5. By the first baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.

Fair/Foul Coverage

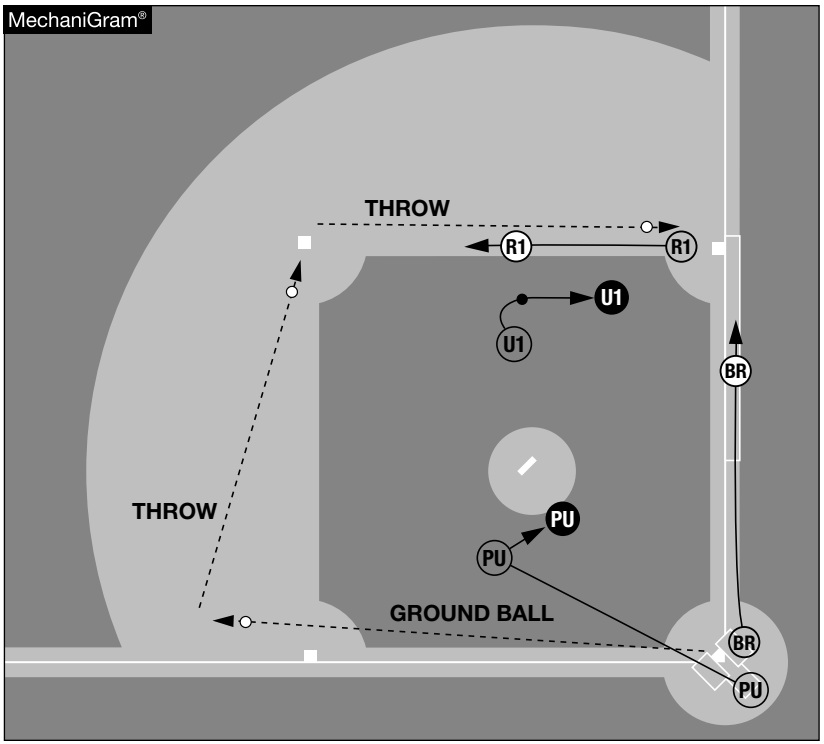


Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the first- and third-base lines.

U1: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

Plays Within the Infield

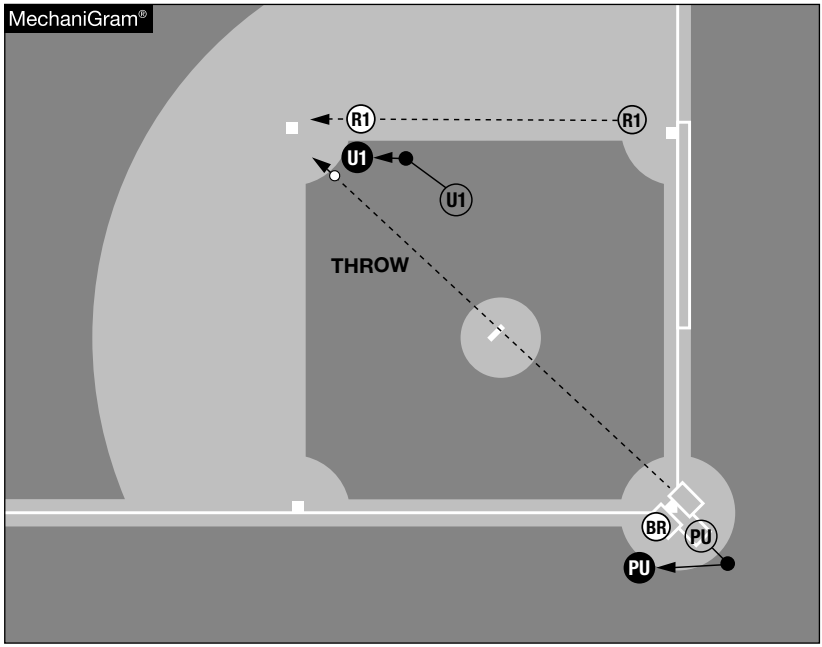


Action on the field: Double-play ground ball to third base, with a throw to second base followed by a throw to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward the third-base side of the pitcher's mound to assist U1 on the slide at second base by R1. If R1 is out, PU stays with the slide to ensure the slide was legal then turns toward first base for secondary responsibility on a swipe tag and/or pulled foot at first base. If R1 is safe and attempts to advance to third, PU has responsibility for play at third if ball and runner come together. PU is responsible for all plays at home.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first or second base, including a drift toward first on the attempted double play. U1 is responsible for the illegal slide until he turns toward first base to rule on the play there.

Steal of Second

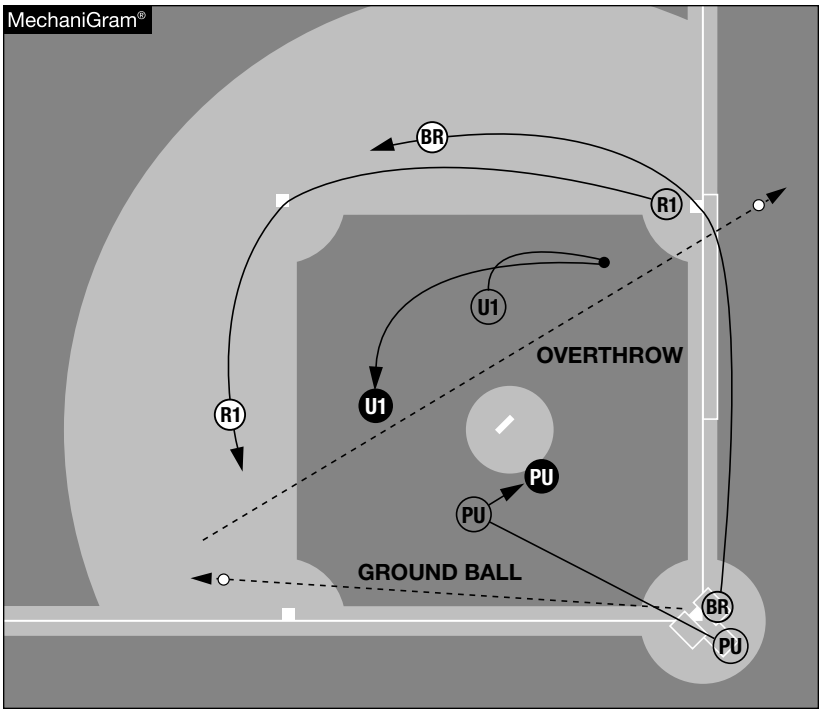


Action on the field: The batter swings and misses at the pitch as R1 attempts to steal second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Signals the swinging strike without taking his focus off the play at hand. Ensures the batter does not interfere with the catcher's throw. Steps out as needed to observe the play.

U1: Starting with the 2020 season, umpires are not allowed to start in the infield and then run to a position out in the dirt looking straight down the baseline toward second base during a steal play. All steal plays must be taken between the B and C starting positions. Takes a backward step or two as the throw is released from the catcher. Keeps eye on the ball and turns as the ball passes U1. Comes to a hands-on-knee set to see the play at second base. If the play is a swipe-tag out, ensure the fielder retains possession of the ball before making the out call. If the runner is safe, no delay is necessary.

Plays Within the Infield: Overthrow

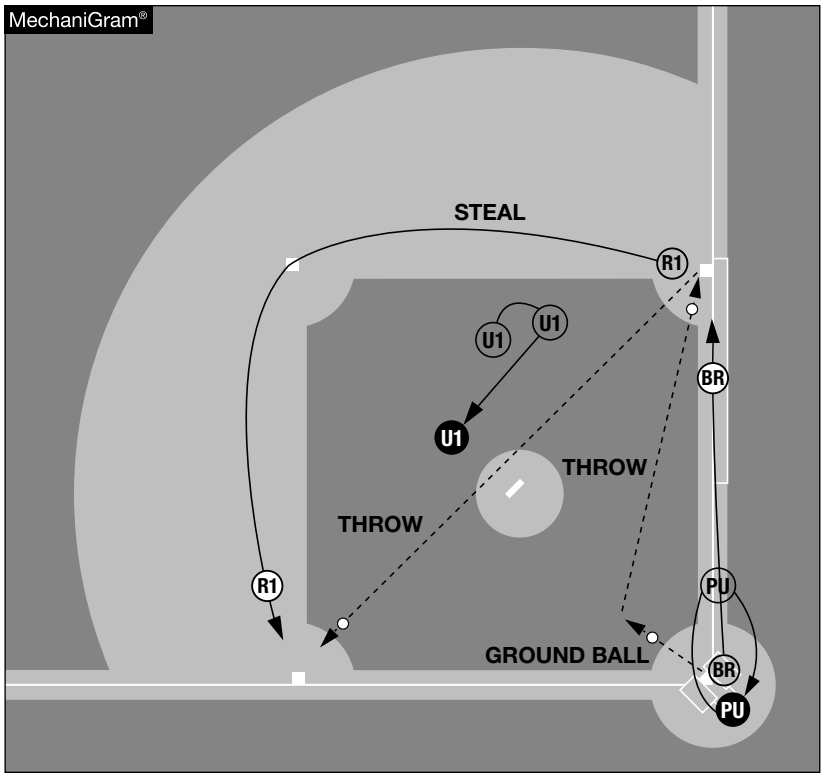


Action on the field: Ground ball to third base with overthrow to first base; R1 advances to third base; BR advances to second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward the third-base side of the pitcher's mound to assist U1 on the slide at second base if the defense attempts a play there. When no play is attempted there and R1 advances toward third, PU is responsible for any play at third base and home.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first or second base, including a drift toward first if there is an attempted double play. U1 has all plays at first and second base and is responsible for taking BR into third. When PU must assume responsibility for R1 (when he is safe at second and advancing toward third), U1 becomes responsible for the overthrow and ball going out of play.

Plays Within the Infield: PU Stays On the Foul Line

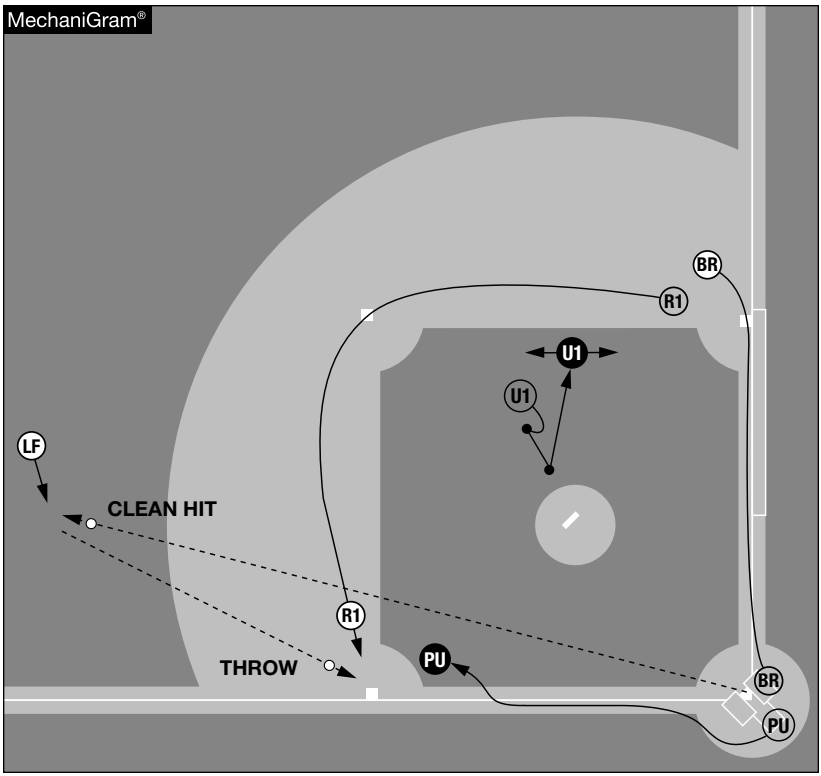


Action on the field: Ground ball in front of the plate; no play on R1 at second base. When the throw goes toward first, R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Remains in the area of the plate to judge fair/foul and any interference possibilities between BR and the catcher. PU then moves toward the first-base line to observe potential running-lane interference. PU communicates to U1 that he is remaining on the line.

U1: Has all plays at first, second or third base

Clean Hit to the Outfield



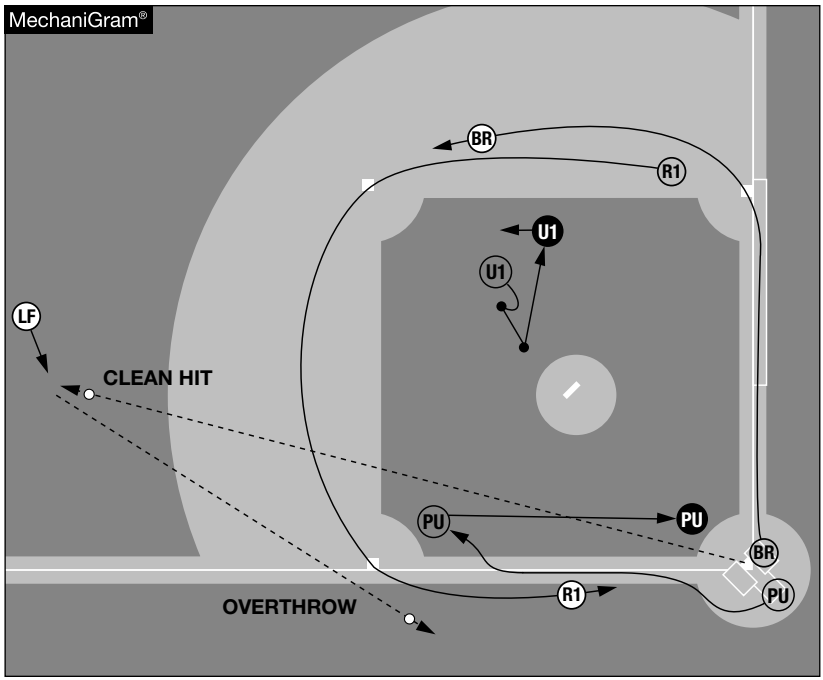
Action on the field: A clean hit to left field, no catch; R1 advances to third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Reads R1 and the ball and moves into a position for any plays at third base on R1.

U1: Has all plays at first and second base.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home on any batted ball, provided this coverage is communicated to the base umpire before the pitch. When this option is used, U1 assumes responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

Clean Hit to the Outfield: Overthrow



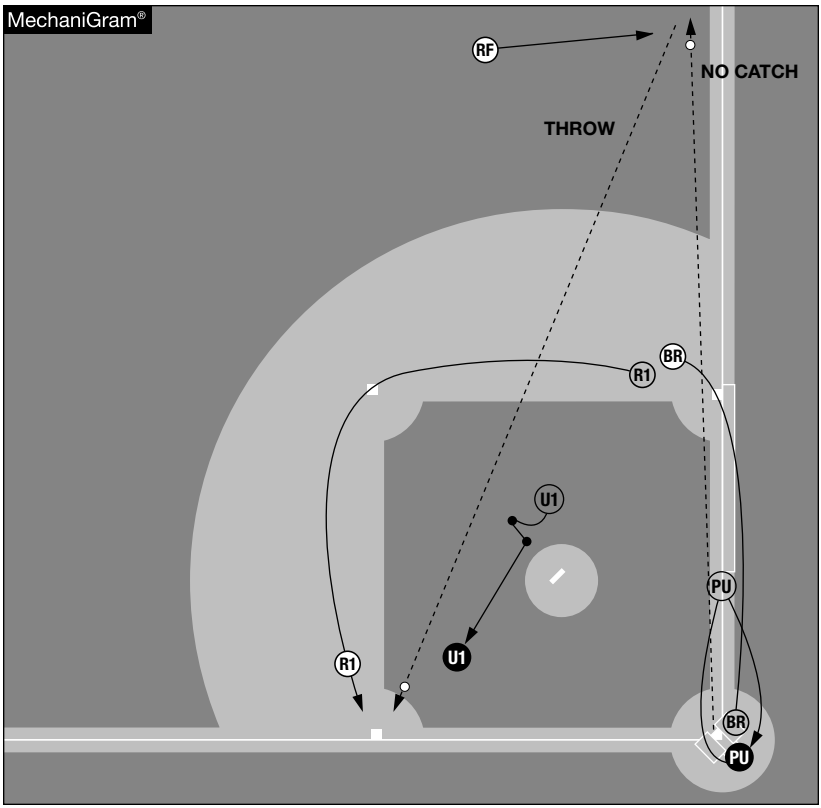
Action on the field: A clean hit to left field, no catch; R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; the ball is overthrown and R1 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner rounds first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Reads R1 and the ball and moves into a position for any plays at third base on R1. If a play develops at third base and R1 then attempts to advance to the plate on a wild throw, PU must retreat in fair territory for any play at the plate.

U1: Observes the batter-runner touch first base and has all plays at first, second and third base on the batter-runner.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home on any batted ball, provided this coverage is communicated to the base umpire before the pitch. When this option is used, U1 assumes responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: No Catch

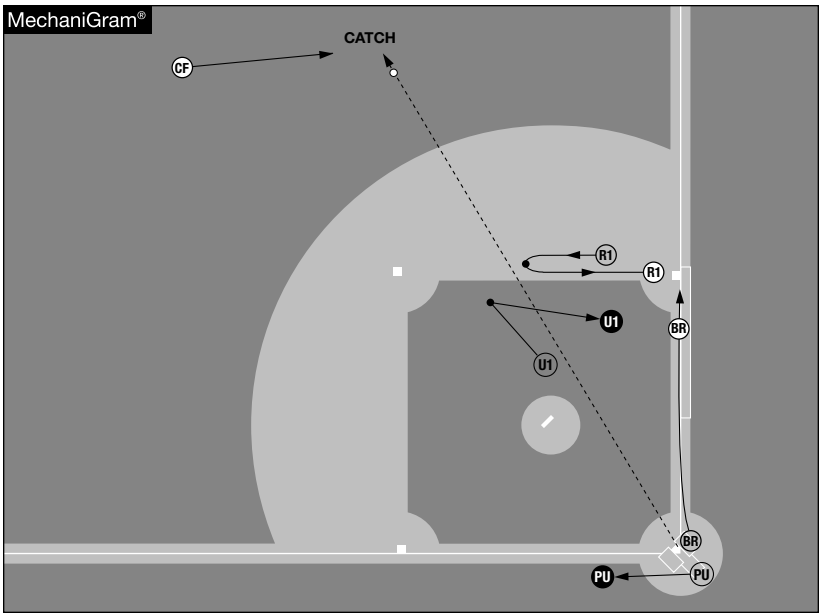


Action on the field: Deep fly ball along the right-field foul line, no catch; PU remains along the foul line; R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; the batter-runner rounds first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Must remain near the foul line to rule on fair/foul and catch/no catch. PU will communicate to U1 that PU is "on the line" and will not have normal rotation coverage.

U1: Has any plays that develop at first, second and third base.

Fly Ball to Center Field: Catch



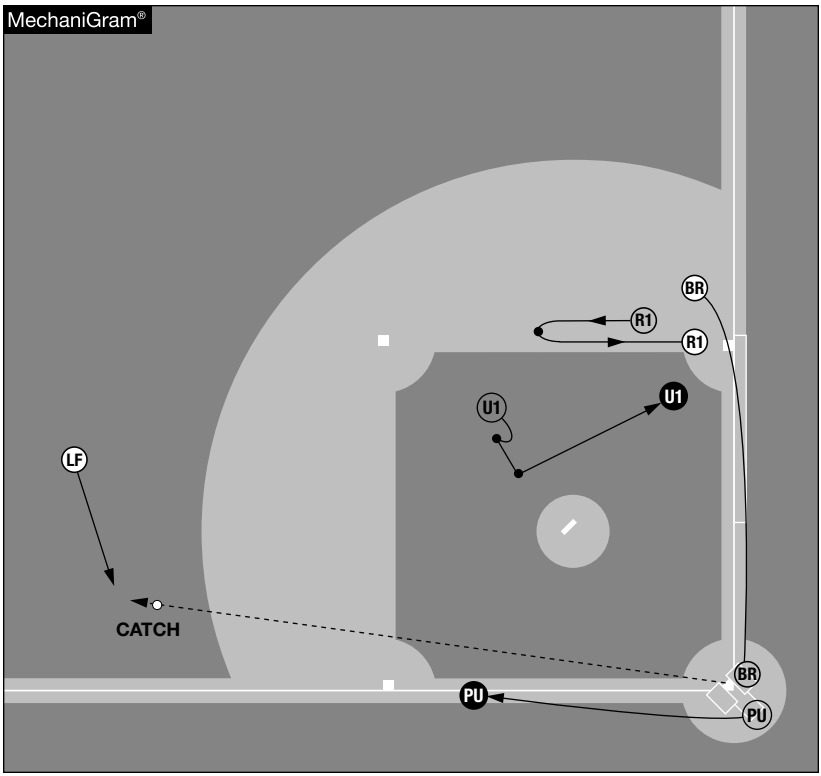
Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the center fielder, R1 returns to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes the action. If the PU reads that the ball will not be caught, PU rotates to third base for any play on R1 and must communicate his position to U1. If a play develops at third base and R1 then attempts to advance to the plate on a wild throw, PU must retreat in fair territory for any play at the plate.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. U1 also is prepared for any throw back on R1 at first base plus any play at second and third base. If the ball is not caught, U1 has any plays involving R1 at first and second base and the batter-runner at any base.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home on any batted ball, provided this coverage is communicated to the base umpire before the pitch. When this option is used, U1 assumes responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

Fly Ball Down the Left-Field Line: Catch



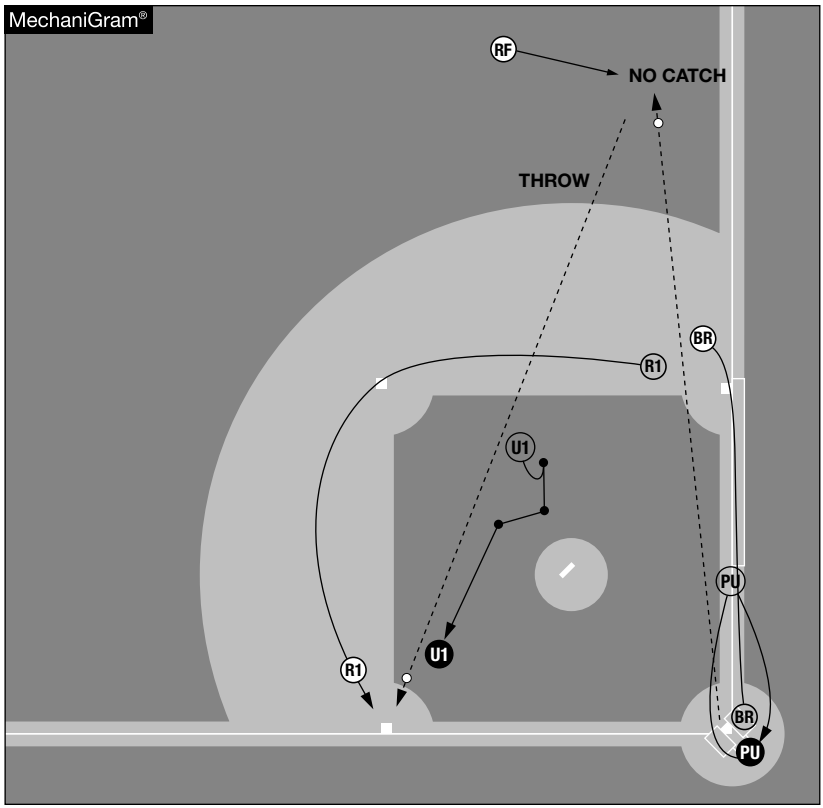
Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; R1 returns to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best possible position to view the catch/no catch. If the ball is not caught, PU continues moving toward third base for any play on R1 there.

U1: Retreats and observes R1 and the batter-runner. U1 has all plays on the bases, except a play on R1 at third if the ball was not caught.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home on any batted ball, provided this coverage is communicated to the base umpire before the pitch. When this option is used, U1 assumes responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: No Catch



Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, no catch; R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; the batter-runner rounds first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best possible position to view the catch/no catch and communicates to U1 that PU has the line. PU does not rotate to third base, but retreats to home and gets into position for potential plays there.

U1: Has all plays on first, second and third bases, including a throwback to first in the event that the ball was caught.



SECTION 7.7

Runners on first and second

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first only (see 7.6.2), with U1 in position C.
PU has catches:

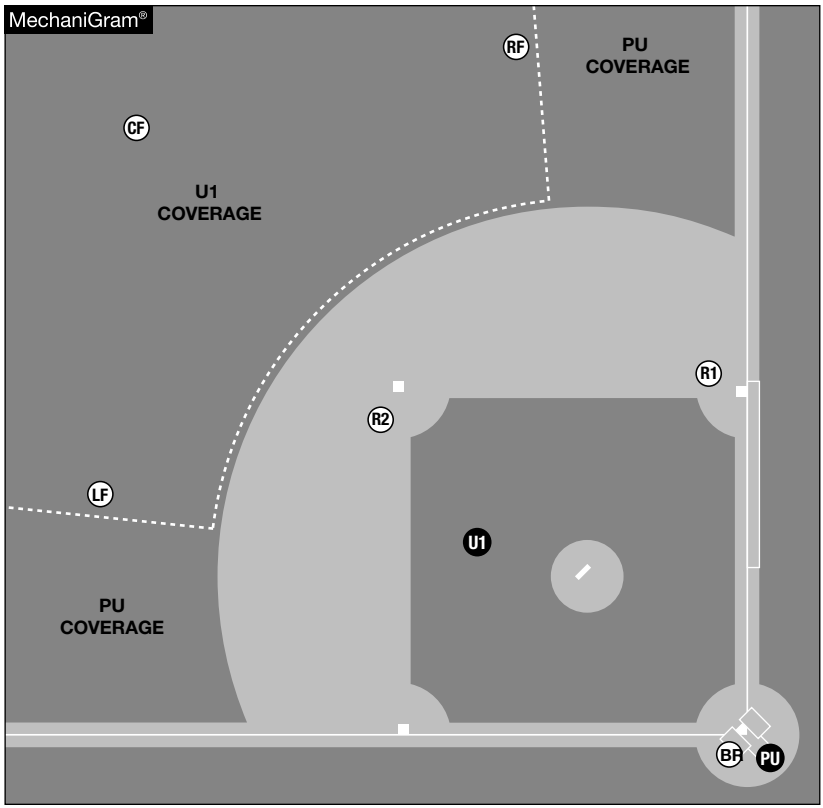
1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
3. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.

U1 has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving back.
2. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
3. By the second baseman moving in all directions.
4. By the third baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.
5. By the first baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.

Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first only (see 7.6.3), with U1 in position C.
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the third-base and first-base lines.
U1: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

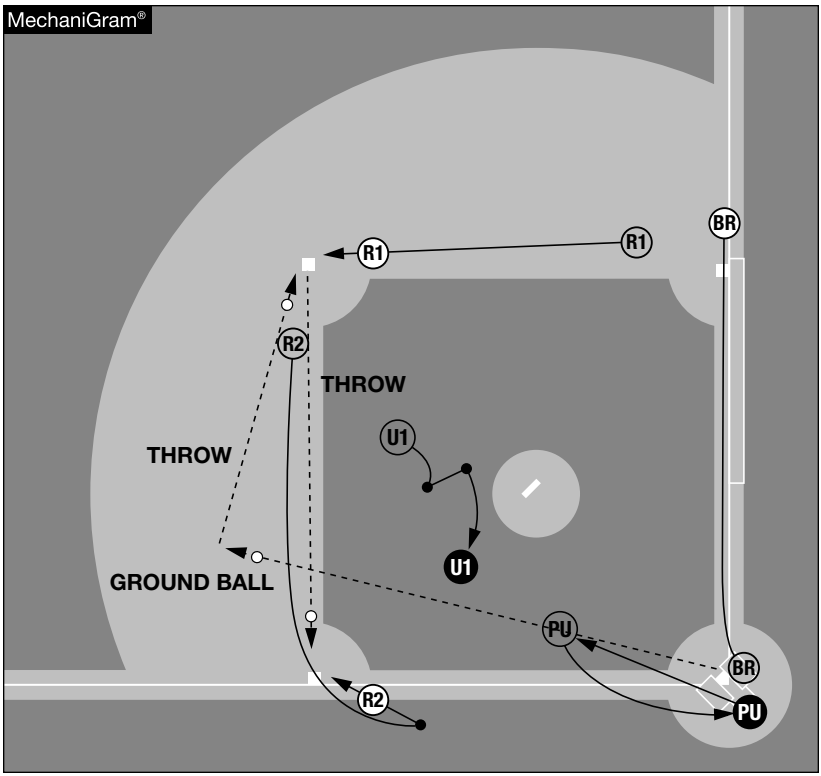


Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has the left fielder moving toward the left-field foul line and the right fielder moving toward the right-field foul line.

U1: Starts in the "C" position and has outfield coverage from the left fielder straight in or straight back to the right fielder straight in or straight back.

Plays Within the Infield

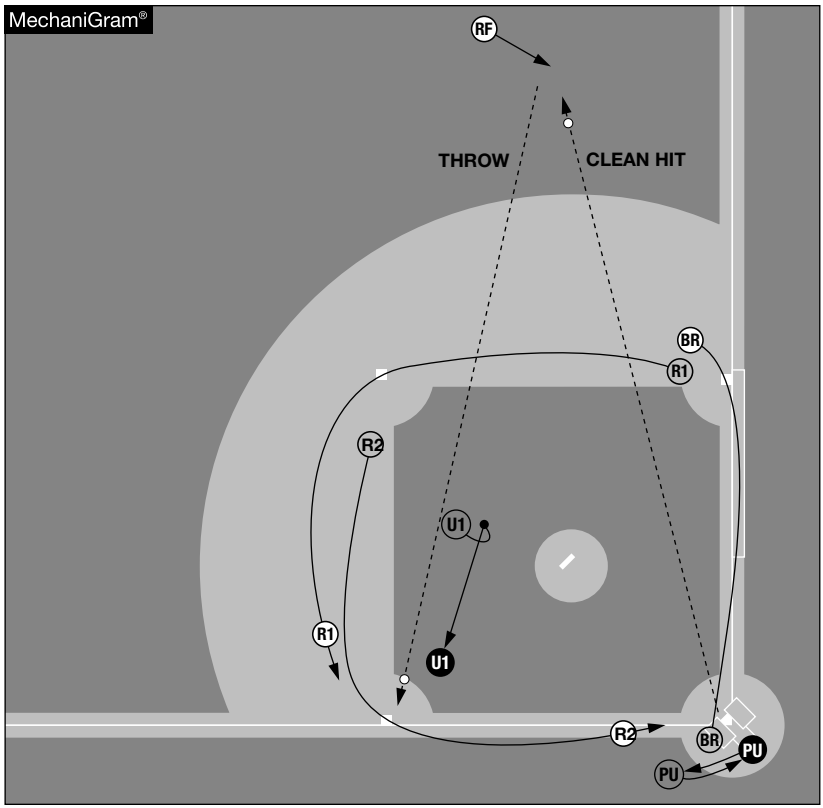


Action on the field: Slowly hit ground ball to the third baseman, who throws to second base to retire R1; R2 rounds third base and draws a throw from the second baseman; the batter-runner advances toward first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to a position to assist U1 on the slide at second base by R1. PU has secondary responsibility for assisting U1 on swipe tag and pulled foot at first base.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on all plays at first, second or third base, including if there is a play at third base on a snap throwback.

Clean Hit to the Outfield

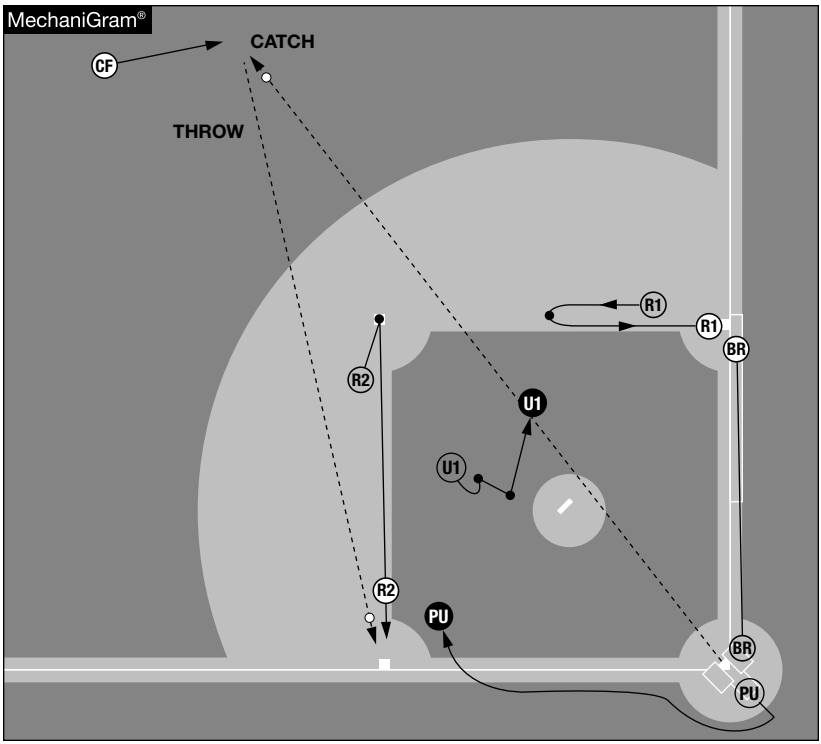


Action on the field: A clean hit to right field; R2 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; the batter-runner advances toward first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes R2's touch of the plate and all base touches at third base. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes base touches at first and second base on all runners. U1 moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball to Center Field: Catch

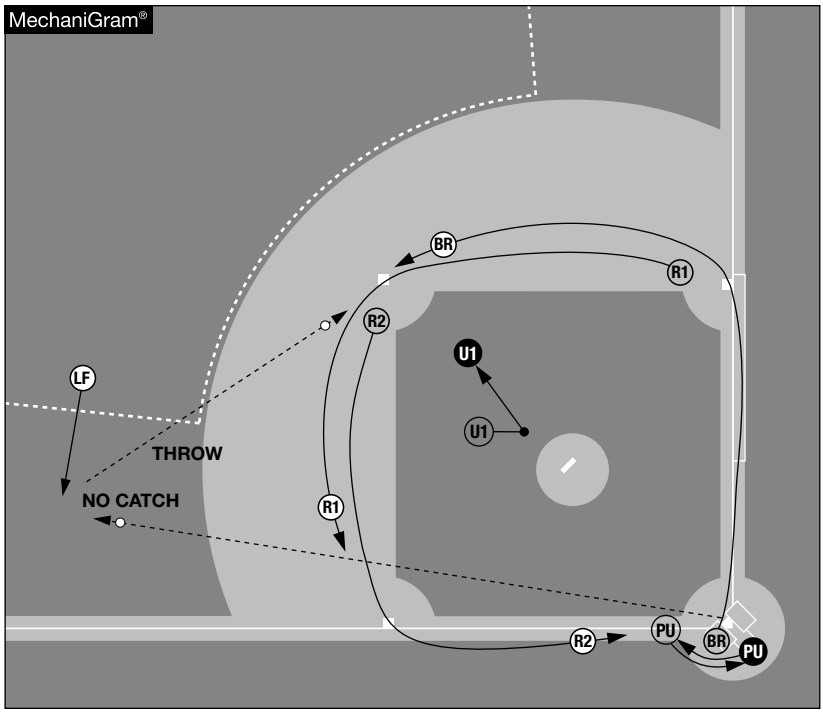


Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the center fielder; R2 tags at second and draws a throw to third base; R1 returns to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward third base. If R2 attempts to advance to third base, PU moves into the third-base area for the play there. If a play develops at third base and R2 then attempts to advance to the plate, PU must retreat in fair territory for any play at the plate. If the ball is not caught, PU returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. U1 observes both R2's tag up at second base and R1's tag up at first base. U1 reads the runners and moves into a position for any plays at first or second base. If the ball is not caught moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball Down the Left-Field Line: No Catch

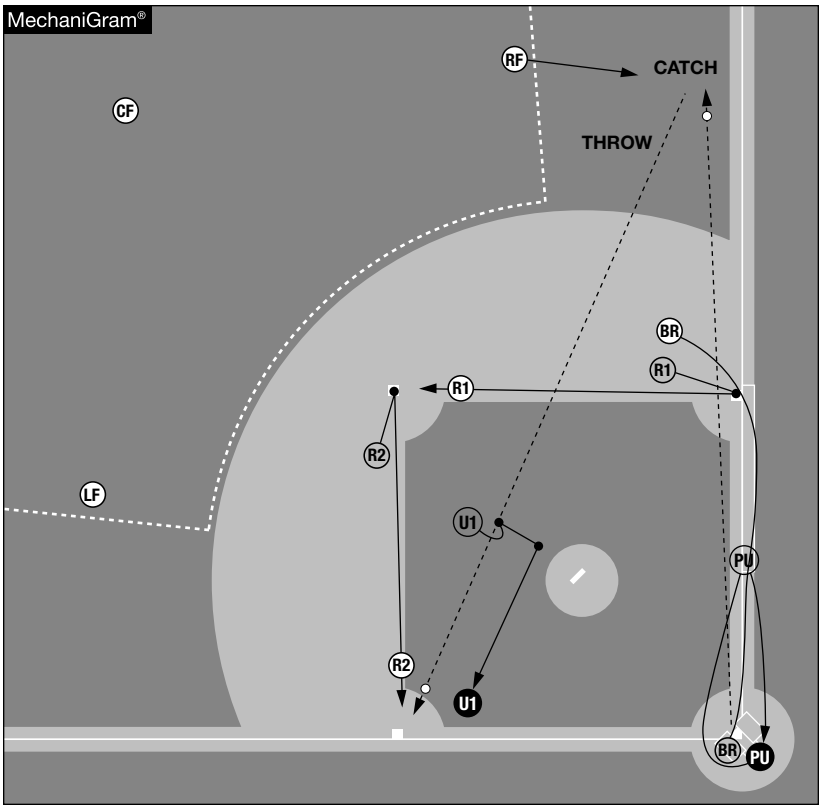


Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; R2 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. PU returns to the plate for all plays there. If the ball is caught, PU reads the runners and the ball and moves into a position for any play at third base. If a play develops at third base and R2 then attempts to advance to the plate, PU must retreat in fair territory for any play at the plate.

U1: Reads the runners and the throw and moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases. If the ball is caught, U1 retreats and observes R1's and R2's tag ups. U1 moves to a position for all plays at first and second base.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: Catch



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder; R2 tags up at second and draws a throw to third base; R1 also tags up and advances to second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch. PU must communicate to U1 that PU is on the line, thus notifying U1 that PU will not be at third base for any play there. PU returns to the plate for any plays there.

U1: Retreats and observes R2 and R1 tagging up and moves to a position to cover all plays on the bases.



SECTION 7.8

Bases loaded

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
The coverage is the same as with runners on first and second base (see 7.7.1).
PU: Has the left fielder moving toward the left-field foul line and the right fielder moving toward the right-field foul line.
U1: Starts in the "C" position and has outfield coverage from the left fielder straight in or straight back to the right fielder straight in or straight back.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runners on first (see 7.6.2), with U1 in position C.
PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
3. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.

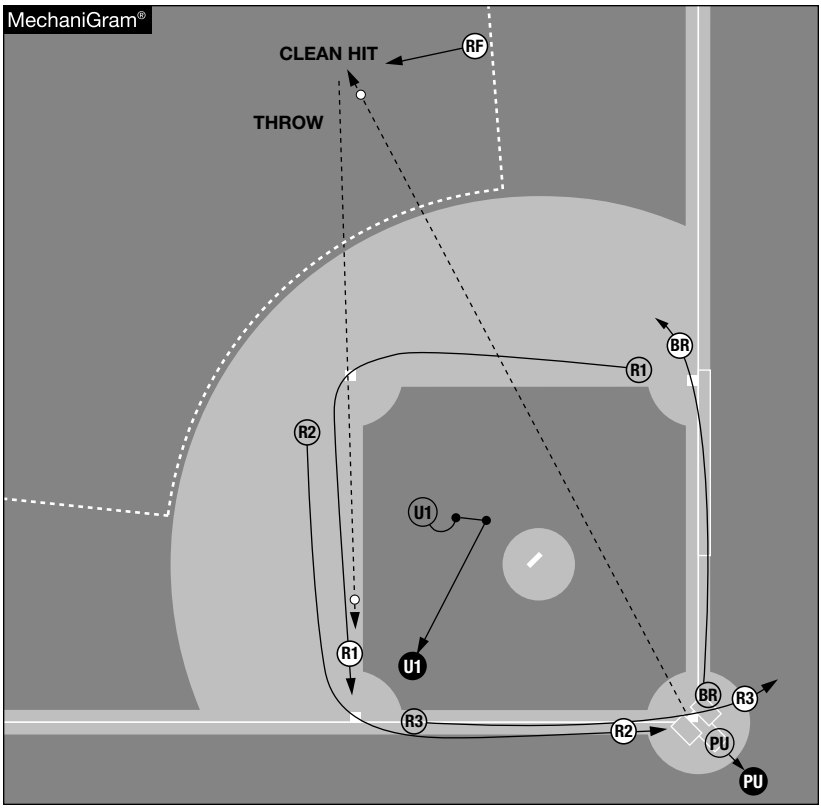
U1 has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving back.
2. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
3. By the second baseman moving in all directions.
4. By the third baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.
5. By the first baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.

Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 7.6.3), with U1 in position C.
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the third-base line and first-base line.
U1: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

Plays Within the Infield
The coverage is the same as with a runners on first base (see 7.6.4), with U1 in position C.
PU: Moves to a position to assist U1 on the slide at second base by R1. PU has secondary responsibility for assisting U1 on swipe tag and pulled foot at first base.
U1: Moves into the best position to rule on all plays at first, second or third base.

Clean Hit to the Outfield

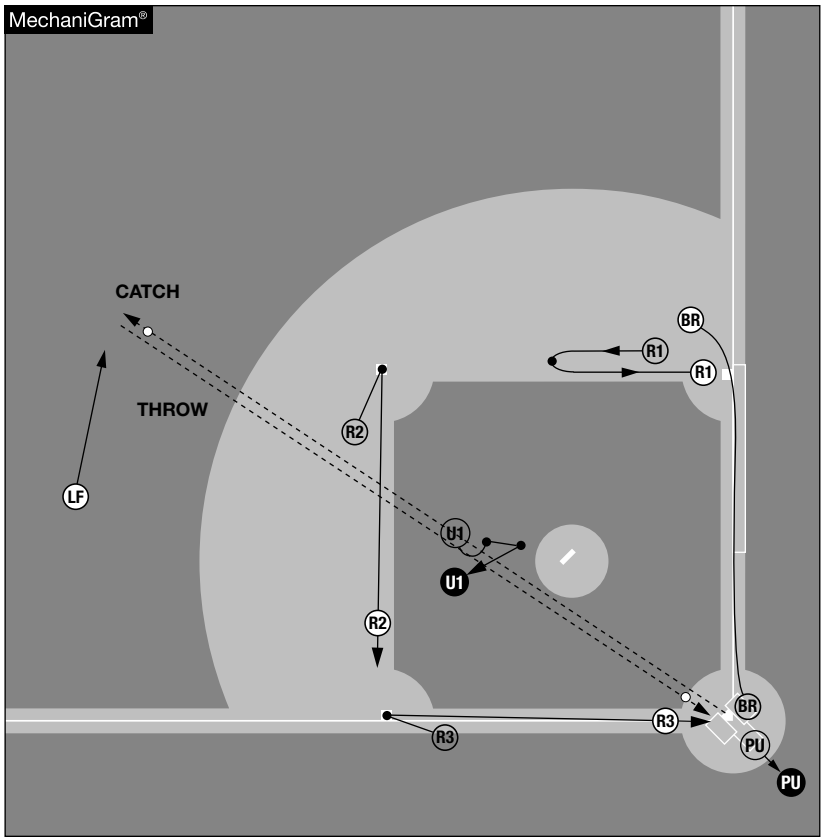


Action on the field: A clean hit to right-center field; R3 advances to the plate; R2 advances to the plate; R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; the batter-runner rounds first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes R3's touch of the plate and the third-base touch of R2 (and R1 if applicable). PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes base touches at first and second on all runners and third base by the batter-runner. U1 moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: Catch

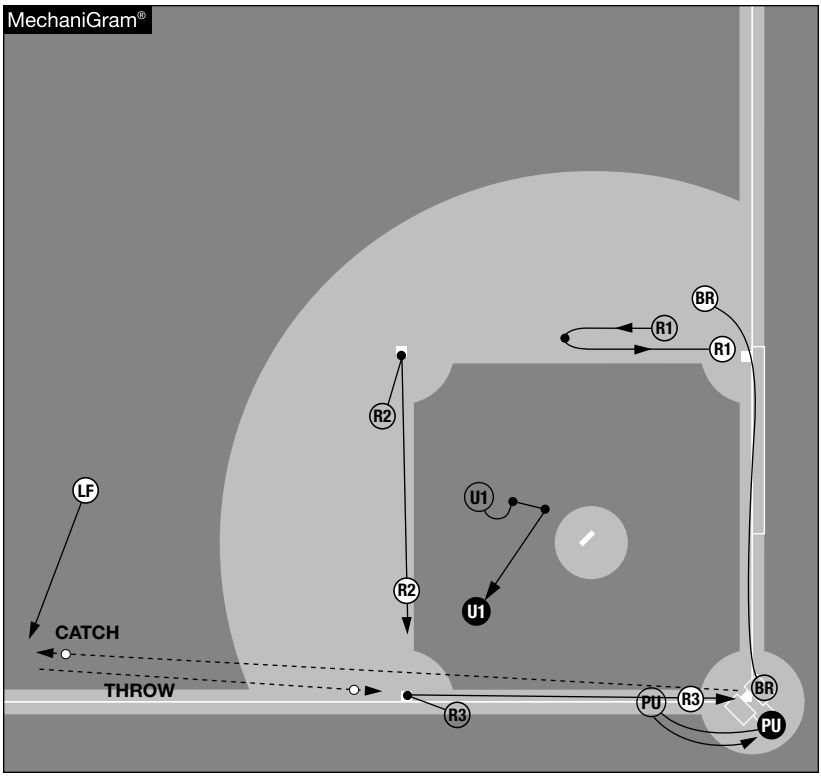


Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; R3 tags up at third and draws a throw to the plate; R2 tags up at second and advances toward third base; R1 retreats to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to a position to best view R3's tag up at third base and returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. U1 reads the runners and throw and moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball Down the Left-Field Line: Catch

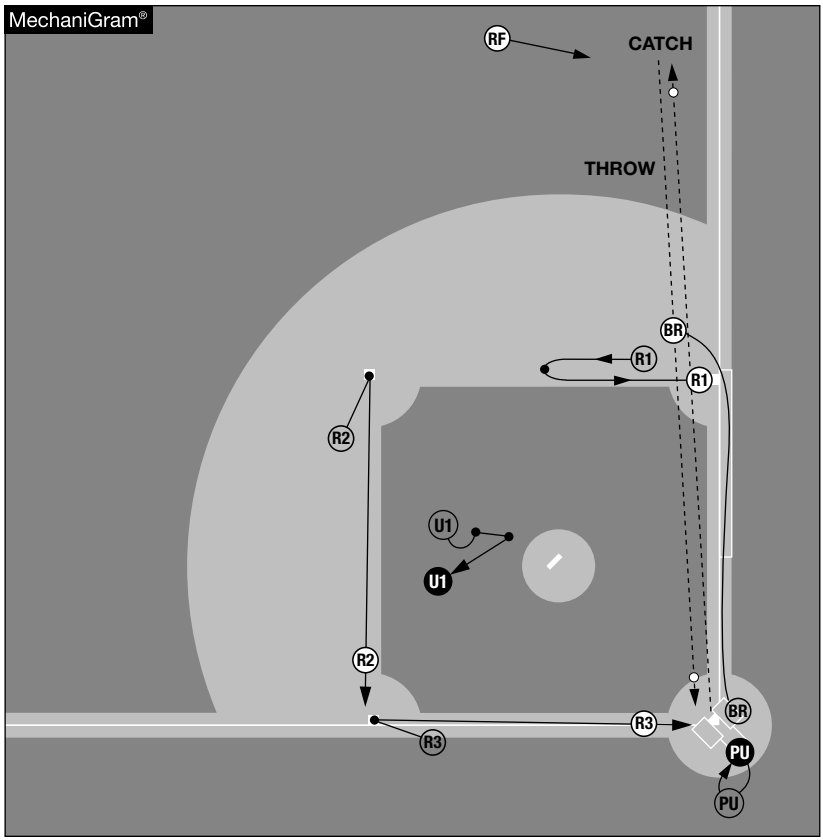


Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder near the foul line; R3 tags up and draws a throw to the plate; R2 tags up and advances toward third base; R1 retreats toward first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch. Also observes R3's tag up. PU returns to the plate for all plays.

U1: Retreats and observes tag ups of R2 and R1. U1 reads the runners and throw and moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: Catch



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder near the foul line; R3 tags up and draws a throw to the plate; R2 tags up and advances toward third base; R1 retreats to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch and then observes R3's tag up (first-base line extended if the ball is in shallow right field). PU returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Retreats and observes tag ups of R2 and R1. U1 moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases.



SECTION 7.9

Runners on first and third

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
The coverage is the same as a runner on first only (see 7.6.1).
PU: Has the left fielder moving toward the left-field foul line and the right fielder moving toward the right-field foul line.
U1: Starts in the "B" position. U1 has outfield coverage from the left fielder straight in or straight back to the right fielder straight in or straight back.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as a runner on first only (see 7.6.2).
PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
3. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.

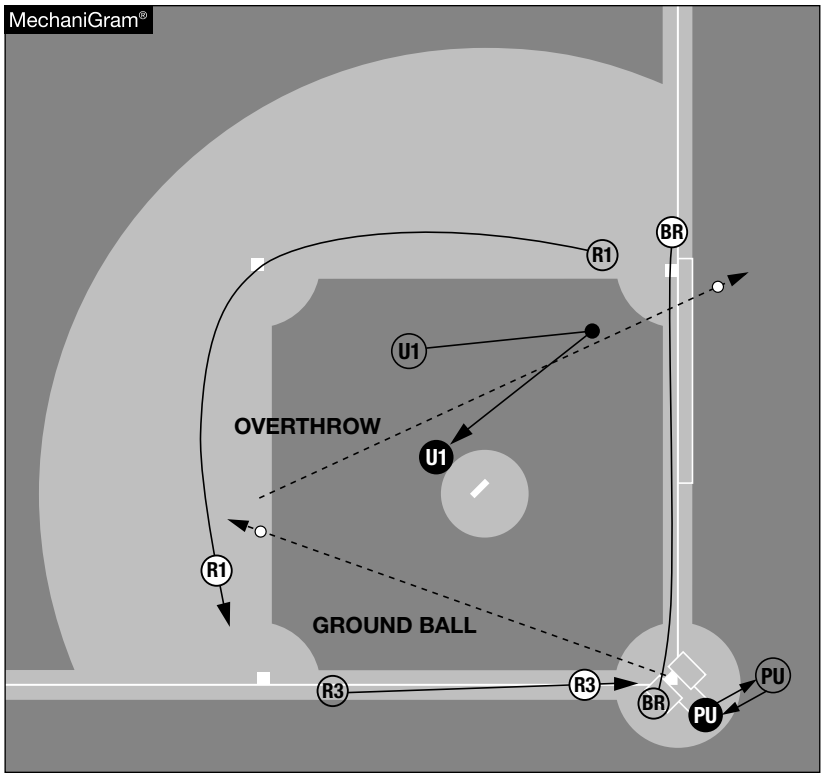
U1 has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving back.
2. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
3. By the second baseman moving in all directions.
4. By the third baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.
5. By the first baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.

Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as a runner on first only (see 7.6.3).
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the third-base line and first-base line.
U1: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

Point of Emphasis
PU will no longer rotate with a runner starting on third base.

Plays Within the Infield

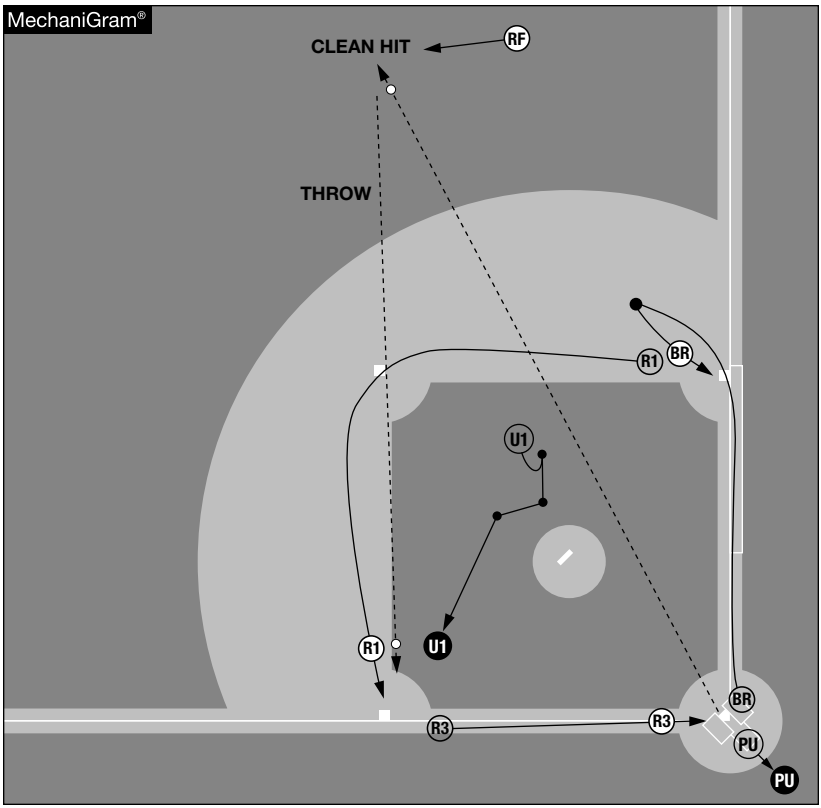


Action on the field: Ground ball to shortstop with an overthrow to first base; R3 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to a position to assist U1 on the slide at second base by R1. PU has secondary responsibility for assisting U1 on swipe tag and pulled foot at first base. PU has all touches and plays at the plate, all overthrow responsibilities at first base and all running-lane interference responsibilities.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on all plays on the bases.

Clean Hit to Outfield



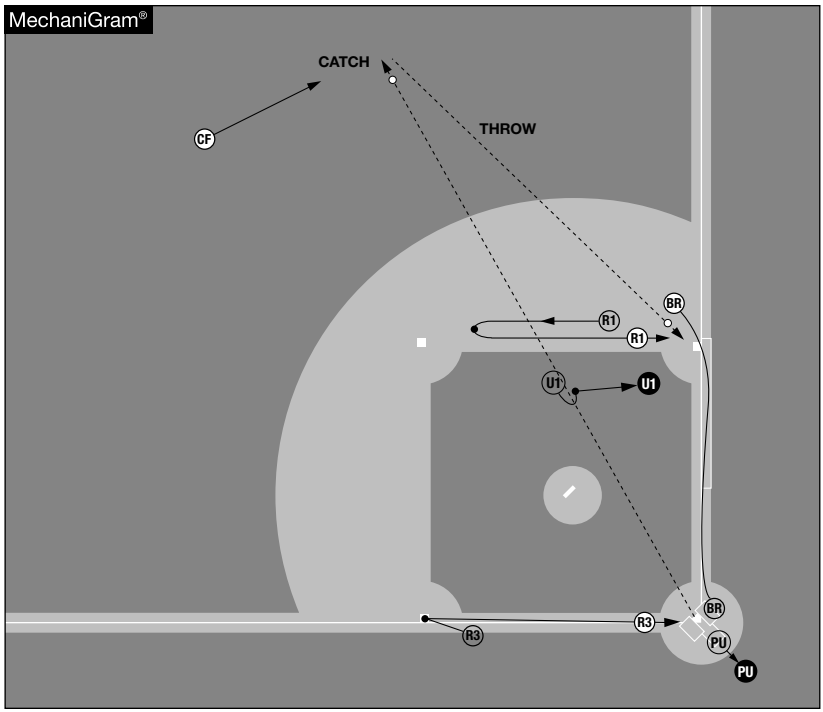
Action on the field: Clean hit to right-center field, no catch; R3 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base and draws a throw there; the batter-runner rounds first and returns there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Remains at home regardless of where the ball is hit or the number of outs. Observes all touches at the plate and moves into position to rule on all plays there.

U1: Is responsible for all plays and base touches at first, second and third base.

Point of Emphasis: PU no longer rotates to third base.

Fly Ball to Center Field: Catch

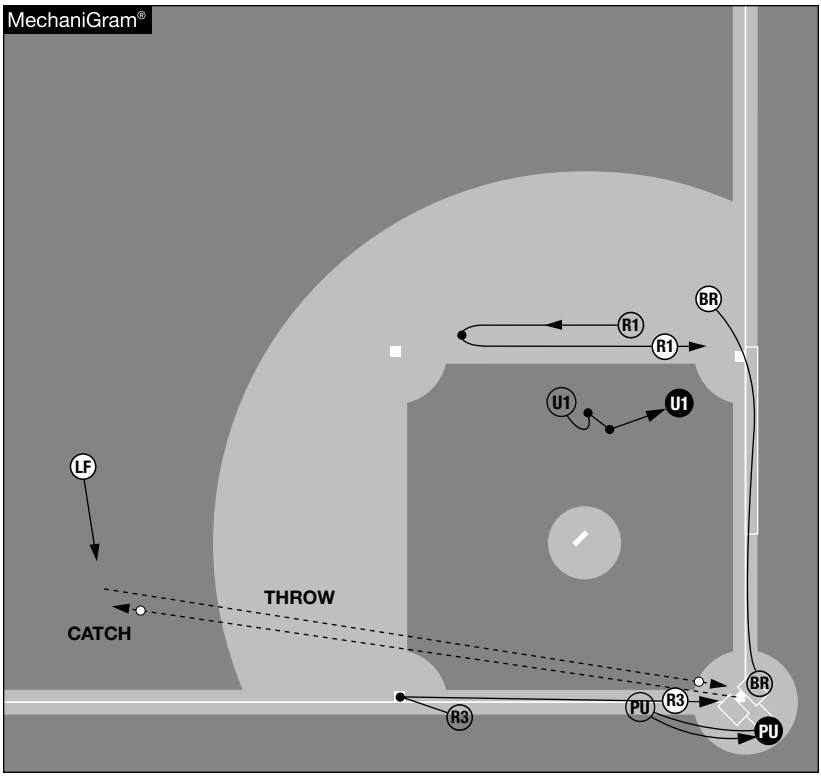


Action on the field: A fly ball caught by the center fielder; R3 tags at third and advances toward the plate; R1 advances too far toward second base, then scrambles to get back to first base and draws a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position to view R3's tag up. PU returns to the plate for all plays there. If the ball is not caught, PU observes R3's touch of the plate and moves toward third base and has all plays on R1 at third base. If a play develops at third base and R1 then attempts to advance to the plate on a wild throw, PU must retreat in fair territory for any play at the plate.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. U1 observes R1's action and has all plays on the bases. If the ball is not caught, U1 moves to a position to rule on all plays at first and second base and the batter-runner at third base.

Fly Ball Down the Left-Field Line: Catch

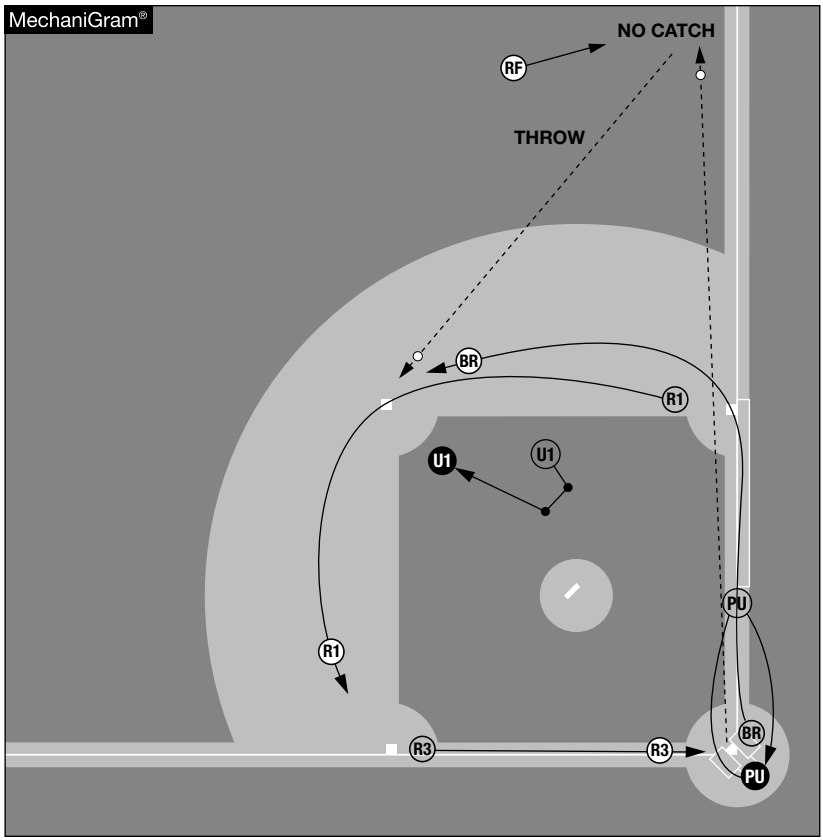


Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R1 retreats toward first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul, catch/no catch and R3's tag up. PU returns to a position for any play at the plate. If the ball is not caught, PU moves toward third base and has all plays there on R1.

U1: Observes R1 and moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases. If the ball is not caught, U1 moves to a position to rule on R1 and the batter-runner at first and second base.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: No Catch



Action on the field: Deep fly ball to right field, no catch; R3 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base and draws a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch. PU is responsible for R3's tag up at third base. Since the ball is deep, PU can move toward first base. PU returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Reads the runners and throw and moves to a position for all plays on the bases.



SECTION 7.10

Runner on second

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
The coverage is the same as with runners on first and second base (see 7.7.1).
PU: Has the left fielder moving toward the left-field foul line and the right fielder moving toward the right-field foul line.
U1: Starts in the "C" position and has outfield coverage from the left fielder straight in or straight back to the right fielder straight in or straight back.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base only (see 7.6.2), with U1 in position C.
PU has catches:

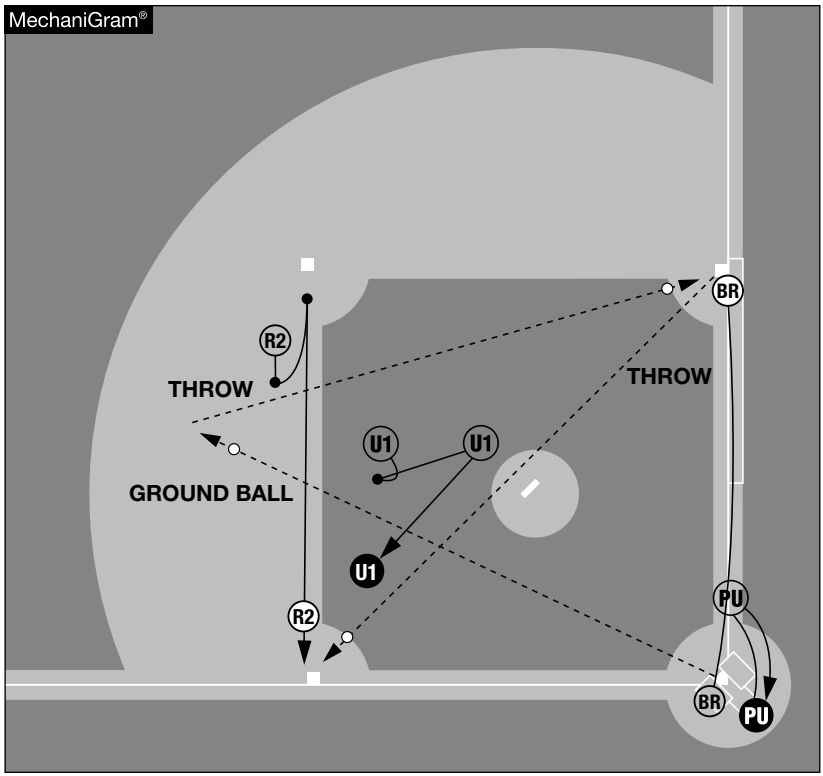
1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
3. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.

U1 has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving back.
2. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
3. By the second baseman moving in all directions.
4. By the third baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.
5. By the first baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.

Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base only (see 7.6.3), with U1 in position C.
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the third-base line and first-base line.
U1: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

Plays Within the Infield

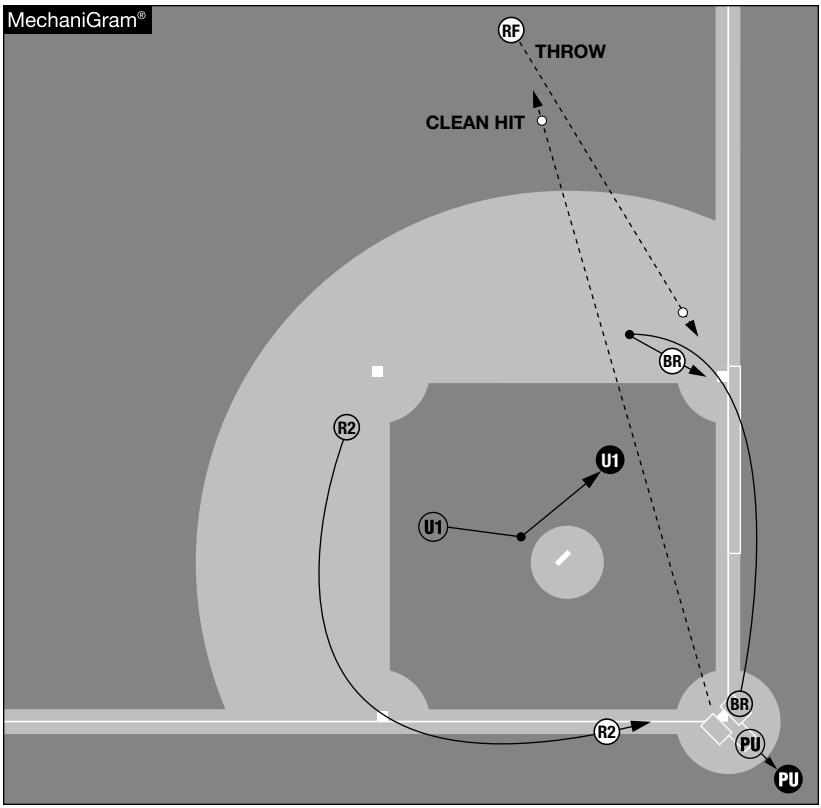


Action on the field: Ground ball to shortstop with a throw to first base; R2 advances toward third base on the throw and draws a throw to third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes the action at first base to assist on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman and then returns to the plate for any play there.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on all plays at first, second or third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield

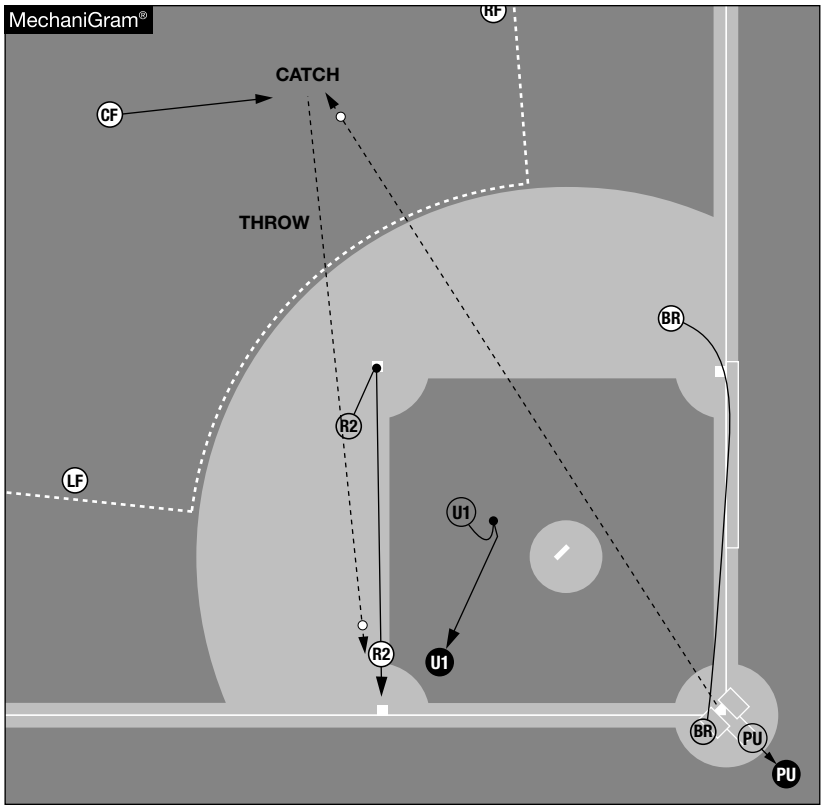


Action on the field: Clean hit to right field, no catch; R2 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner rounds first and draws a throw back to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes R2's base touch at third and has all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes all base touches at first and second base and moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball to Center Field: Catch

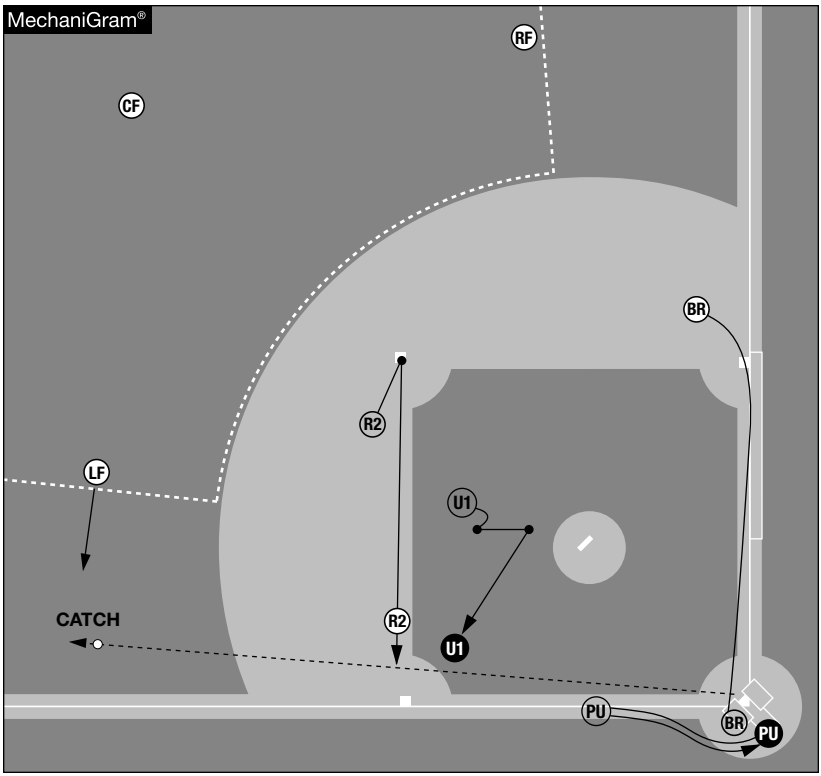


Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the center fielder; R2 tags up and advances toward third, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward third base and observes the action. PU returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. U1 observes R2's tag up. U1 moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball Down the Left-Field Line: Catch

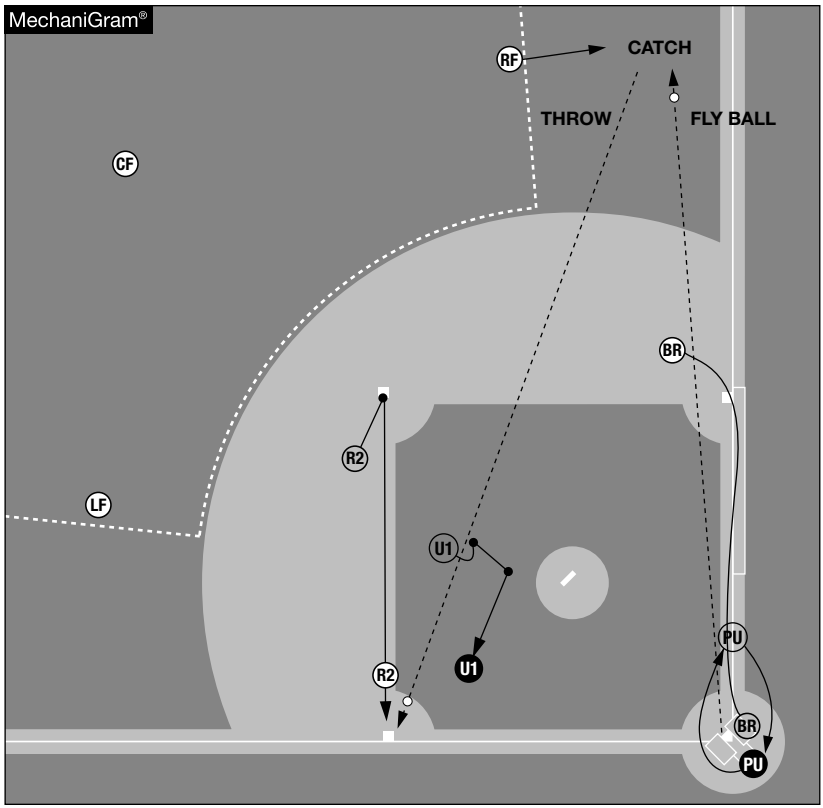


Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; R2 tags up and advances toward third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch. PU returns to the plate for all plays there. PU is responsible for R2's touch of third base if the ball is not caught.

U1: Observes R2's tag up at second base. U1 moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases. U1 has all touches at first and second and the batter-runners touch at third base.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: Catch



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder; R2 tags up, advances toward third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. PU returns to the plate for all plays there. PU is responsible for R2's touch of third base if the ball is not caught.

U1: Observes R2's tag up at second base. U1 moves to a position to rule on all plays on the bases. U1 has all touches at first and second and the batter-runners touch at third base.



SECTION 7.11

Runners on second and third

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
The coverage is the same as with runners on first and second base (see 7.7.1).
PU: Has the left fielder moving toward the left-field foul line and the right fielder moving toward the right-field foul line.
U1: Starts in the "C" position and has outfield coverage from the left fielder straight in or straight back to the right fielder straight in or straight back.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base only (see 7.6.2), with U1 in position C.
PU has catches:

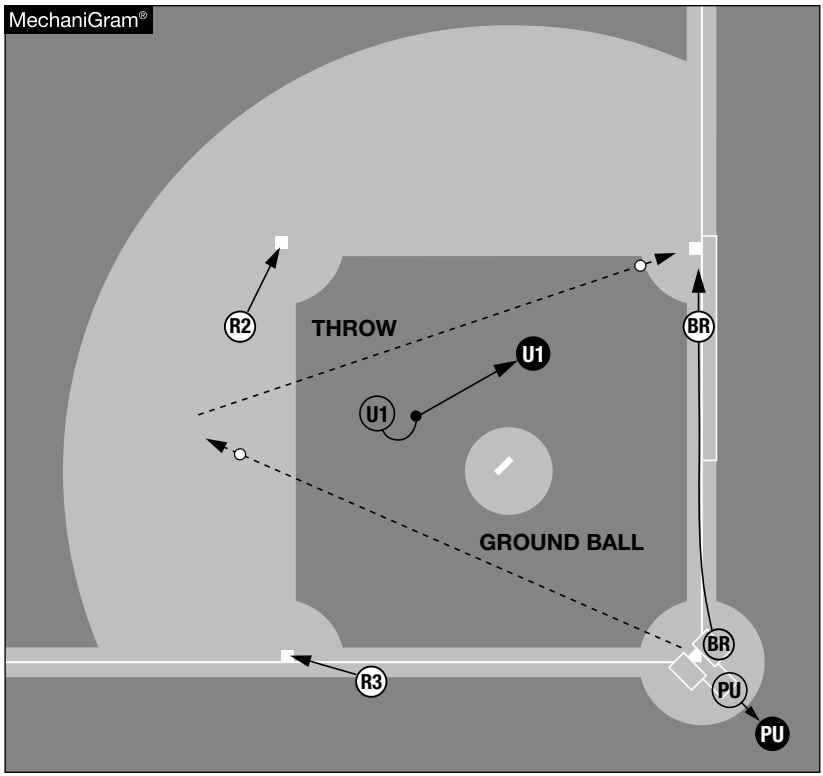
1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
3. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.

U1 has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving back.
2. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
3. By the second baseman moving in all directions.
4. By the third baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.
5. By the first baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.

Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base only (see 7.6.3), with U1 in position C.
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the third-base line and first-base line.
U1: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

Plays Within the Infield

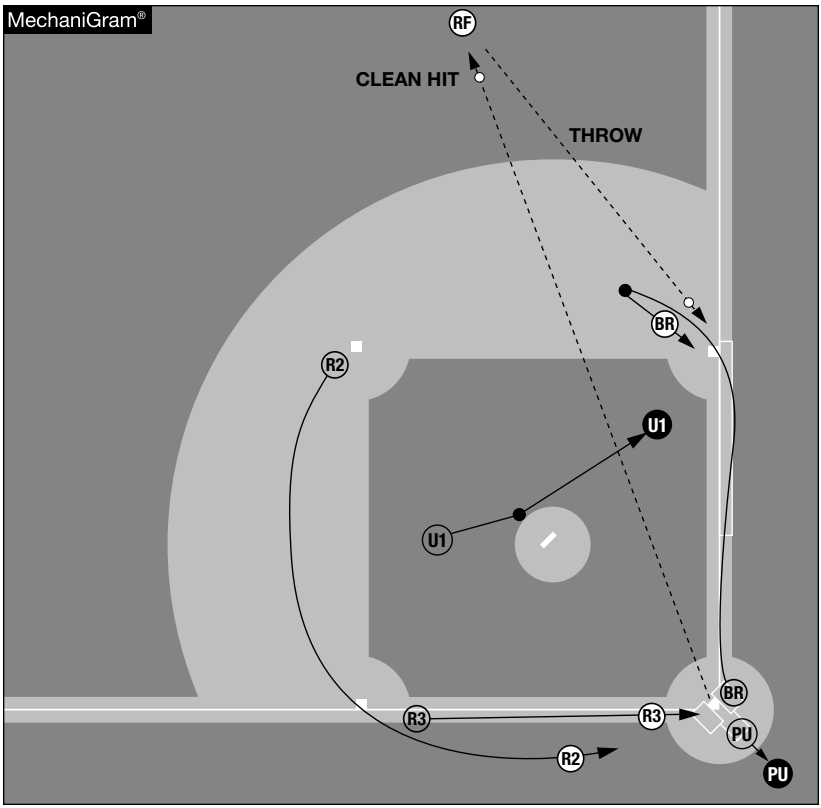


Action on the field: Ground ball to third base with a throw to first base; R3 retreats to third base; R2 retreats to second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has secondary responsibility for assisting U1 on swipe tag and pulled foot at first base. PU has all touches and plays at the plate, all overthrow responsibilities at first base and all running-lane interference responsibilities.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on all plays at first, second or third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield

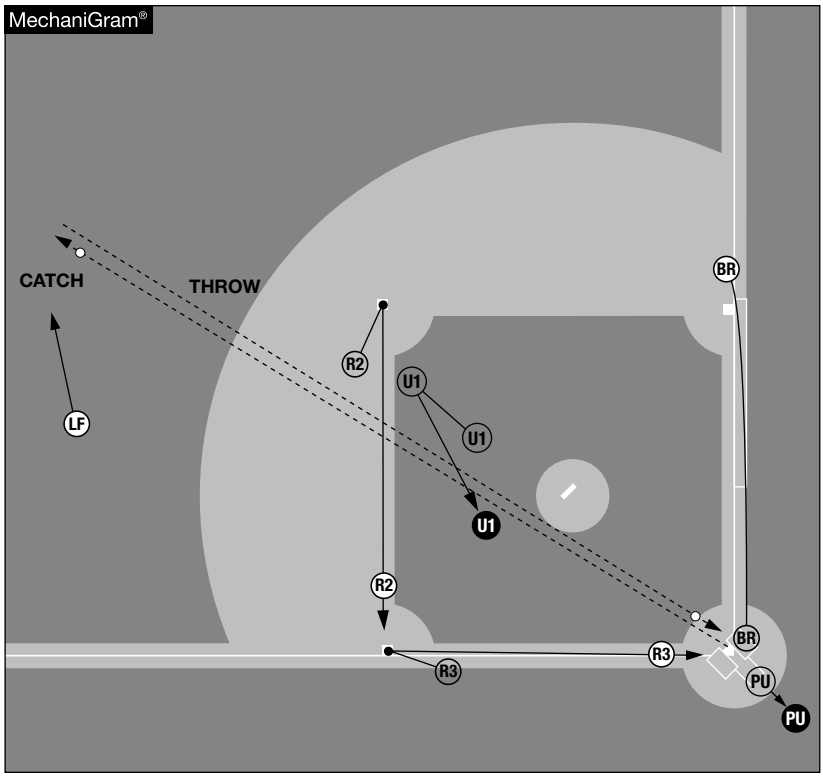


Action on the field: Clean hit to right field, no catch; R3 advances toward the plate; R2 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner rounds first base and draws a throw back to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes R2's touch of third base and all touches at the plate. PU moves into position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes all base touches of the batter-runner. U1 moves into position to rule on all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: Catch

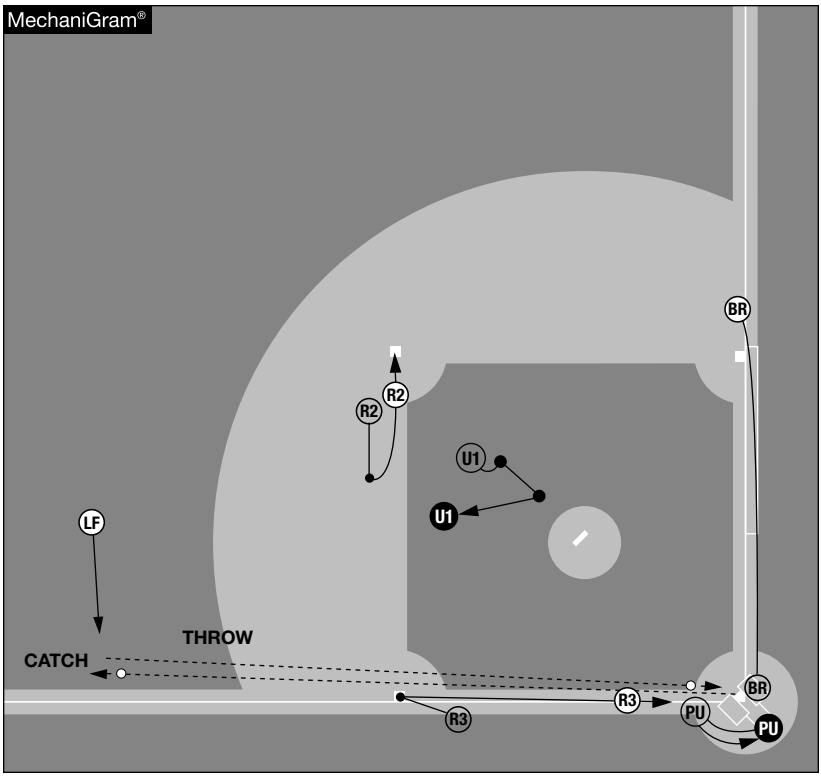


Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 tags up and advances toward third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to observe R3's tag up. PU returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. U1 observes R2 tagging up. U1 moves into position for all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball Down the Left-Field Line: Catch

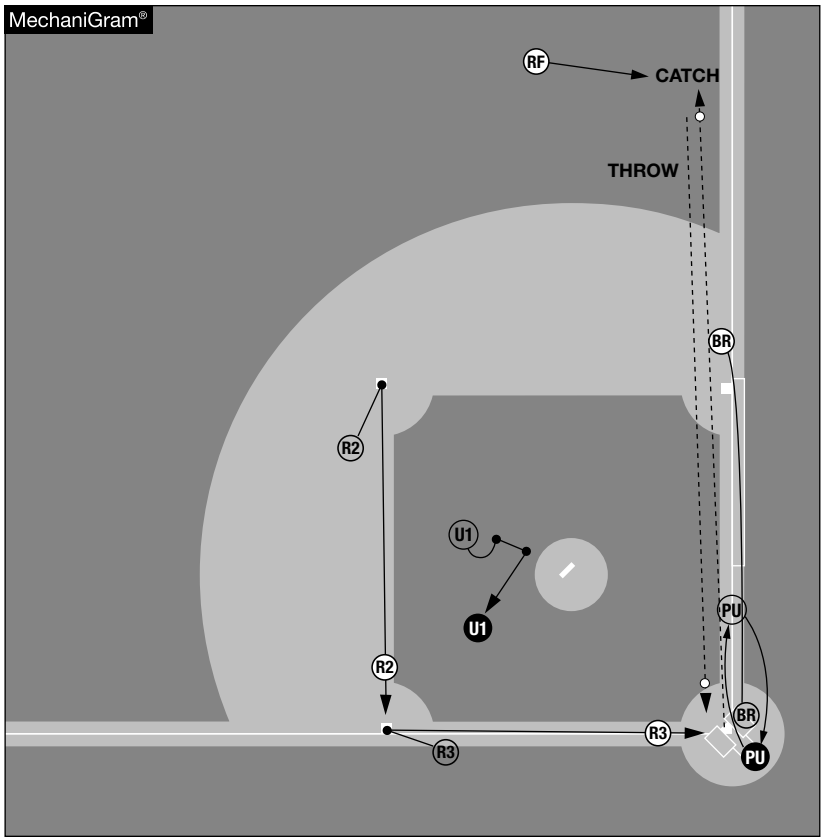


Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 retreats toward second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul, catch/no catch and R3's tag up. PU returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves to the best position to observe R2's tag up. U1 has all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: Catch



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 tags up and advances toward third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul, catch/no catch and then R3's tag up (first-base line extended since the ball is in shallow right field). PU returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves to the best position to observe R2's tag up. U1 has all plays on the bases.



SECTION 7.12

Runner on third

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
The coverage is the same as runners on first and second (see 7.7.1).
PU: Has the left fielder moving toward the left-field foul line and the right fielder moving toward the right-field foul line.
U1: Starts in the "C" position and has outfield coverage from the left fielder straight in or straight back to the right fielder straight in or straight back.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base only (see 7.6.2), with U1 in the "C" position.
PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
3. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.

U1 has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving back.
2. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
3. By the second baseman moving in all directions.
4. By the third baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.
5. By the first baseman moving in or toward the middle of the field.

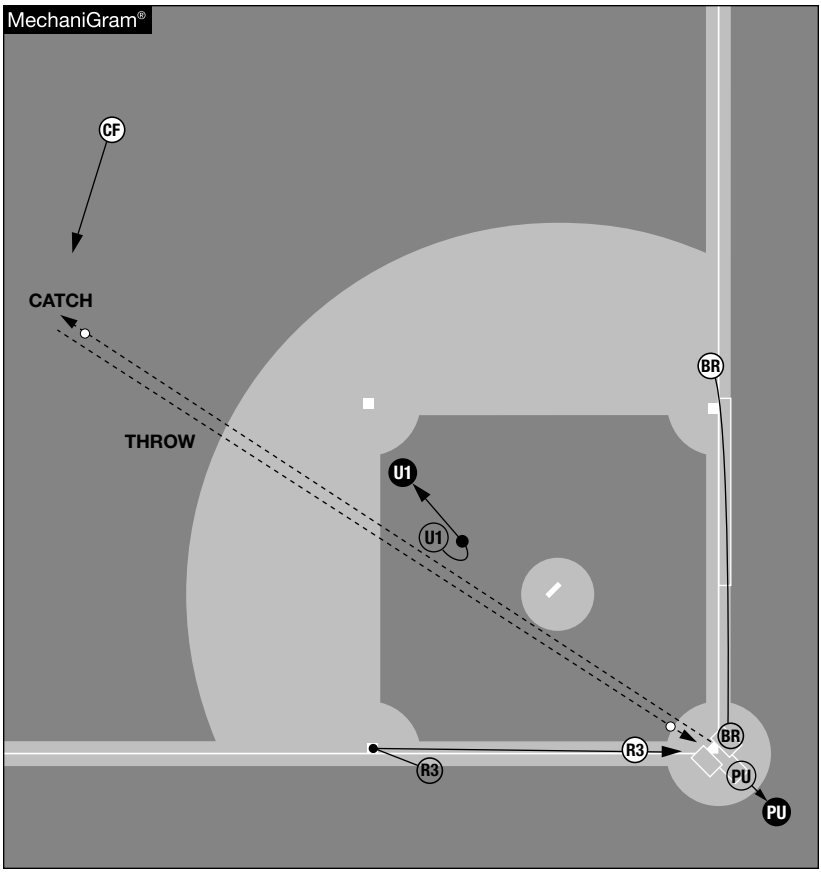
Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base only (see 7.6.3), with U1 in the "C" position.
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the third-base line and first-base line.
U1: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

Plays Within the Infield
The coverage is the same as with runners on second and third (see 7.11.1), with U1 in the "C" position.
PU: Has secondary responsibility for assisting U1 on swipe tag and pulled foot at first base. PU has all touches and plays at the plate, all

overthrow responsibilities at first base and all running-lane interference responsibilities.
U1: Moves into the best position to rule on all plays on all bases.

Clean Hit to Outfield
The coverage is the same as with runners on second and third (see 7.11.2), with U1 in the "C" position.
PU: Moves into position to rule on all plays and touches at the plate.
U1: Observes all base touches involving the batter-runner. U1 moves into position to rule on all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball to Center Field: Catch

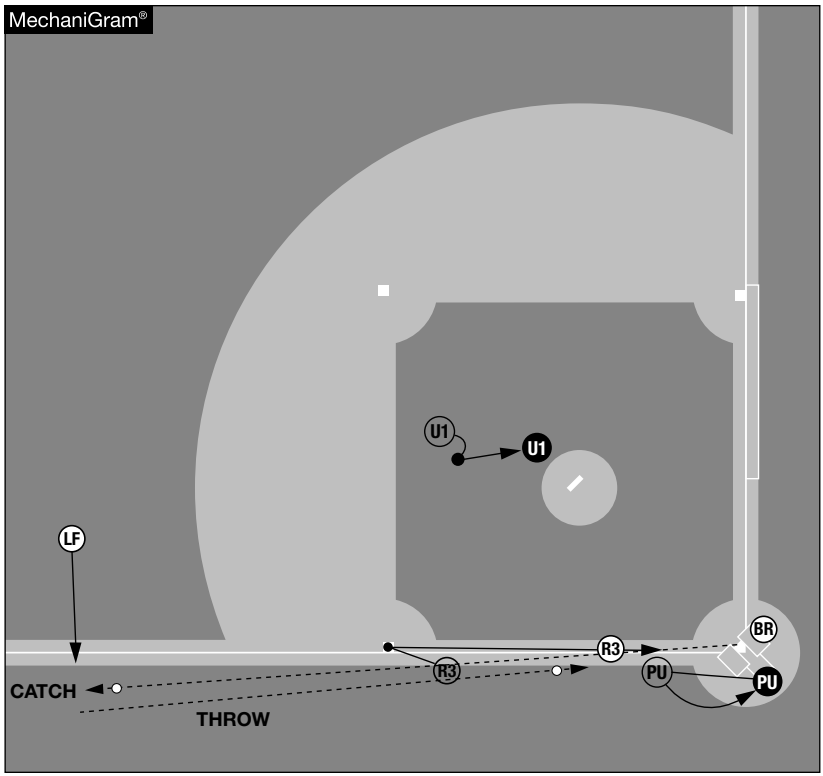


Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the center fielder; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position to observe R3's tag up at third base. PU returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. U1 moves into the best position to rule on all plays on all bases, including any play back at third base.

Fly Ball Down the Left-Field Line: Catch

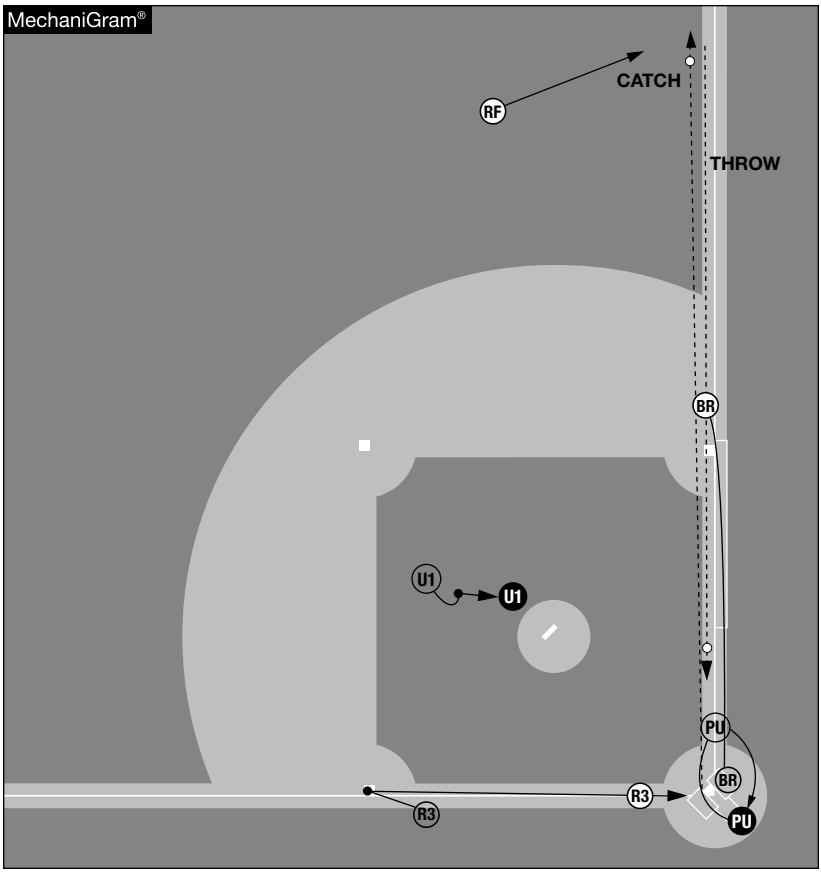


Action on the field: Foul-fly ball caught by the left fielder; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul, catch/no catch and R3's tag up. PU returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Observes the action and has all plays on the bases, including any play back at third base.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: Catch



Action on the field: Deep fly ball caught by the right fielder; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul, catch/no catch and R3's tag up. PU returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Observes the action and has all plays on the bases, including any play back at third.



Section 8

Mechanics for a Crew of Three Umpires



Mechanics for Three Umpires

8.1 Basic Principles:

1. Box 'em in. Having the third umpire often allows umpires the luxury of having one umpire in front of a runner and one umpire behind of a runner — but not always!

2. Communication is crucial. You have to know where your partners are — and what they're doing — in order to function as a unit.

3. Infield umpires may go out. In some situations, an umpire positioned in the middle of the diamond may cross the basepaths and head into the outfield for better coverage.

4. Studying three-umpire mechanics will help you understand four umpire mechanics. If you're going to work the four-umpire system (say, come tournament time), you better have the three-umpire system down pat!

8.2 Balk Concentration

There are some balks that are more obvious from some positions.

A. PU should concentrate on:
1. Left-handed pitchers stepping to the plate
2. Left-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop
3. Right-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop
4. Right-handed pitchers gaining ground on the jump turn
5. Right-handed pitchers closing their front shoulder before the jump turn

B. U1 should concentrate on:
1. Left-handed pitcher's step, or body movement, to the plate
2. Left-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop
3. Left-handed pitchers breaking the back edge of the pitcher's rubber
4. Right-handed pitchers breaking their front knee before the jump turn

C. U3 should concentrate on:

1. Right-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop
2. Right-handed pitchers stepping to the plate on the third-to-first move
3. Right-handed pitchers breaking the back edge of the pitcher's rubber
4. Right-handed pitchers stepping to the plate

8.3 Line Drive Responsibilities

A. Umpires will be held accountable to set their initial pre-pitch position with strong consideration given to line drive responsibilities.

B. Umpires shall start with their inside foot next to the foul line and shall NOT straddle the line. With a runner on third base, U3 is allowed to straddle the line to have an unobstructed view of the hitting zone and check swing responsibility so long as it does not cause poor positioning for line-drive responsibility.

C. U1 and U3 will position themselves no more than 6-8 feet behind the fielder with no runners on base. If the fielder is playing deep near the grass/dirt line, U1 should cut this distance down to 3-4 feet while maintaining a starting position to handle all responsibilities. The umpire should never put himself in a position where a fielder could step into or dive into him on a line drive.

D. U1 and U3 should be well positioned to see line drives hit at the feet of the first or third baseman in their normal positions (with a step or two forward) and to make that call.

E. U1 and U3 will now take all line drives hit directly at and immediately in front of the first or third baseman. "Directly in front" refers to the immediate area in front of the fielder and in the immediate vicinity of his starting position. A fielder who moves a significant distance straight forward will remain the plate umpire's call.

8.4 Basic Outfield Coverage

A. Umpires will not automatically go out on all fly balls with or without runners on base. Umpires are expected to read fly balls and only go out on a trouble ball. The philosophy adopted by the CCA mechanics committee is "if in doubt, go out." That philosophy is not meant to replace the reading of fly balls. Pause, read and react techniques should always be utilized.

B. Pause, read and react. Then go hard and get a good angle. Be stopped when the play occurs.

C. Five conditions that require an umpire to go to the outfield from the "A, B, C or D" positions:

1. The outfielder turns and begins to run toward the outfield fence (possible home run).
2. Multiple players converging on a fly ball.
3. A catch being made below the waist.
4. Outfielder moving toward the foul line and possible fair/foul.
5. A tag-up situation that will have a quick transfer and throw to retire a runner.

D. When a base umpire goes out from any position, the crew will revert back to the two-umpire system in most cases.

E. In the three-umpire system, it is acceptable for umpires positioned within the infield to cross the basepath and go to the outfield for fly ball coverage. Some basic principles apply:

1. Umpires stationed within the infield must communicate (signal and verbal) with their partners before every situation that might call for them to leave the infield on a batted ball.
2. Umpires should only leave the infield on batted balls in their coverage area that are hit deep into the outfield or when outfielders are moving in and a catch is in doubt.
3. Umpires should not leave the infield on line drives or other situations when partners would not have an opportunity to assume their coverage.

F. If in doubt, go out on fly balls in your coverage area.

1. If you are going out, go out hard.
2. Leave no doubt in your partners' minds about whether or not you are going out.
3. Signal your partners by raising your arm if you are going out.
4. If you do not go out, you still maintain responsibility for the catch.
5. Once you go out, do not return until the play is complete.

8.5 Overthrows

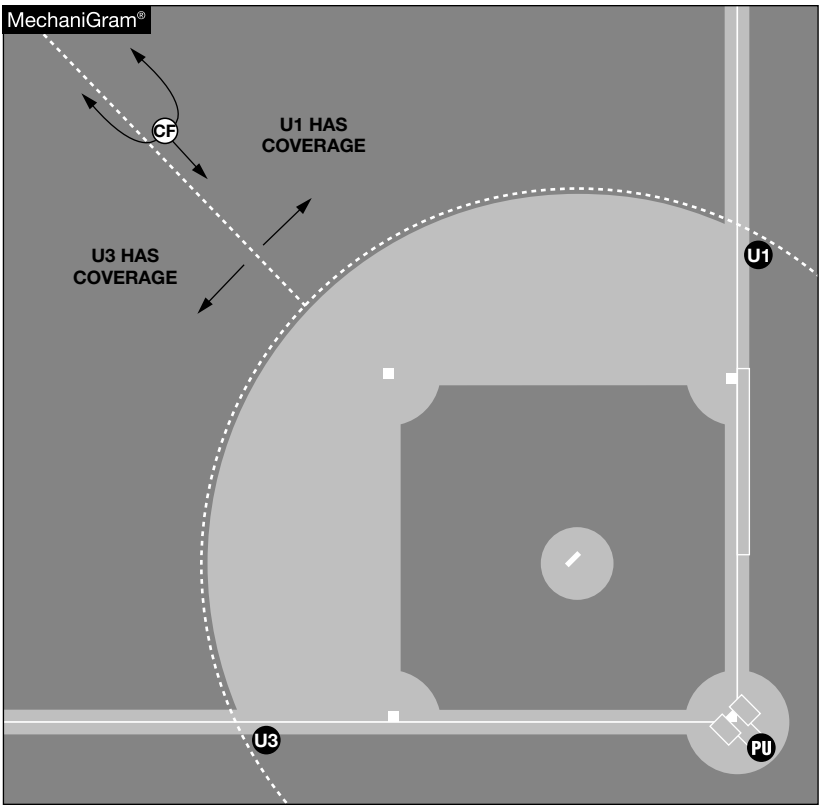
Nobody on base
All overthrows will be taken by the plate umpire with the exception of when the crew has rotated and that responsibility will revert to U1 who has rotated to the plate.

Runner on first base
Plate umpire will have responsibility for overthrows with the exception of when the crew has rotated and U1 has rotated to the plate. U1 will then have that overthrow. In instances when the crew reverts to two umpires, the plate umpire has all overthrows.

Runners on first and second
Plate umpire will take all overthrows with the exception of when there is a tag-up rotation and U1 has rotated to the plate. U1 will then assume that responsibility. When the crew reverts to a two-man system and the plate umpire has a tag play at third base, that umpire will take that play at third, the overthrow and possible play at the plate from the inside.

Runners on first and third, second and third, third base only or bases loaded.
Plate umpire has all overthrow responsibilities.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



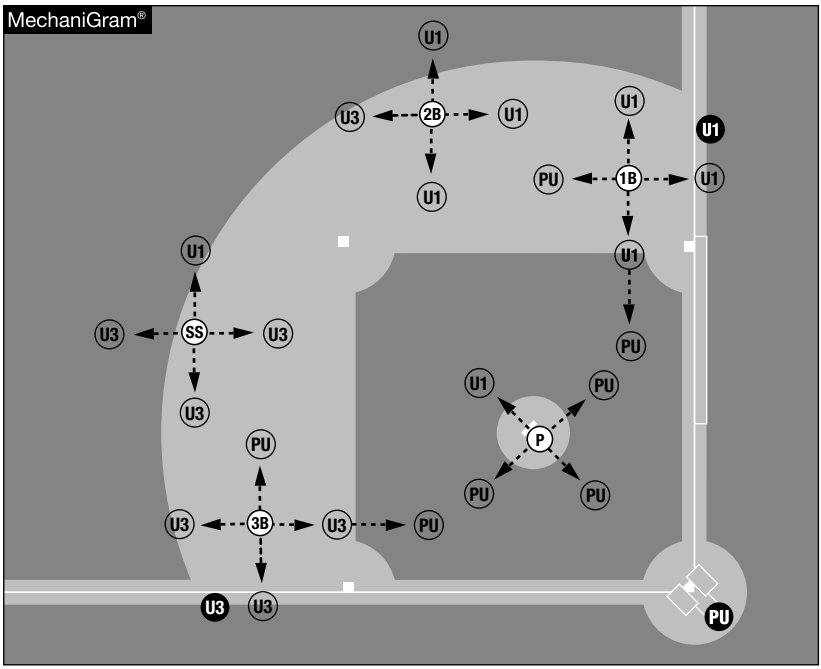
Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has no outfield responsibility with no runners on base.

U1: Starts in the "A" position. U1 dictates coverage and has the center fielder straight in, when the center fielder turns to his left and goes straight back and when he moves toward right field. U1 also has all balls to the right fielder.

U3: Starts in the "D" position. U3 has the center fielder moving toward left field, when the center fielder turns to his right and goes straight back and all balls to the left fielder.

Infield Catch Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third baseman moving toward the plate or toward the middle of the infield.

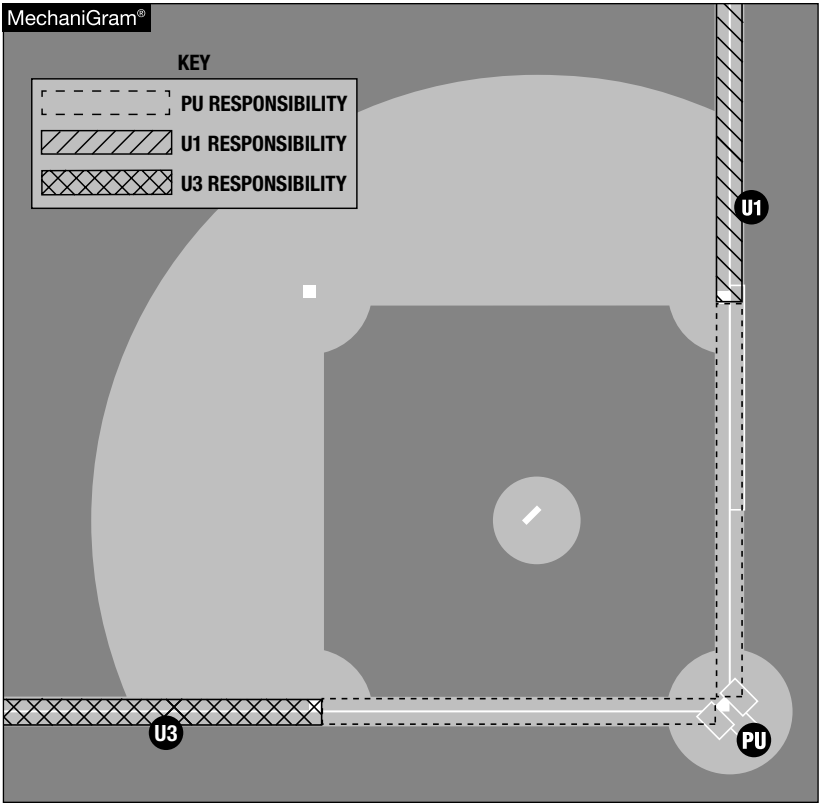
U1 has catches:

1. By the second baseman moving in, out or toward first base.
2. By the shortstop moving toward second base.
3. By the first baseman on line drives directly at or directly in front, moving back or toward the line.
4. By the pitcher moving back.

U3 has catches:

1. By the shortstop moving in, back or toward third base.
2. By the second baseman moving toward second base.
3. By the third baseman on line drives directly at or directly in front, moving back or toward the line.

Fair/Foul Coverage



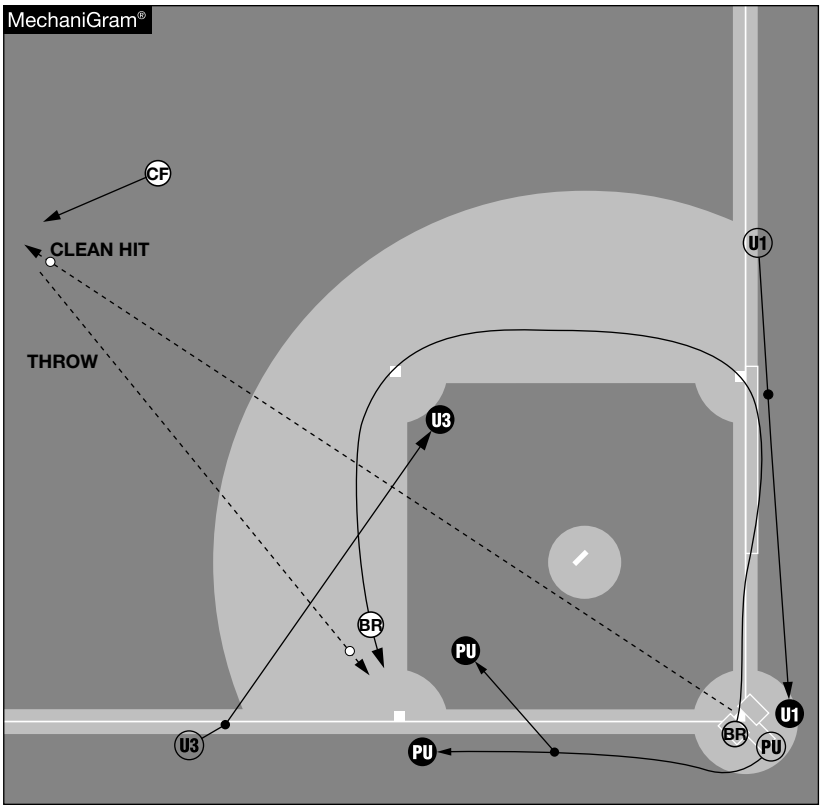
Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.

U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base and/or go beyond.

U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base and/or go beyond.

Clean Hit to the Outfield



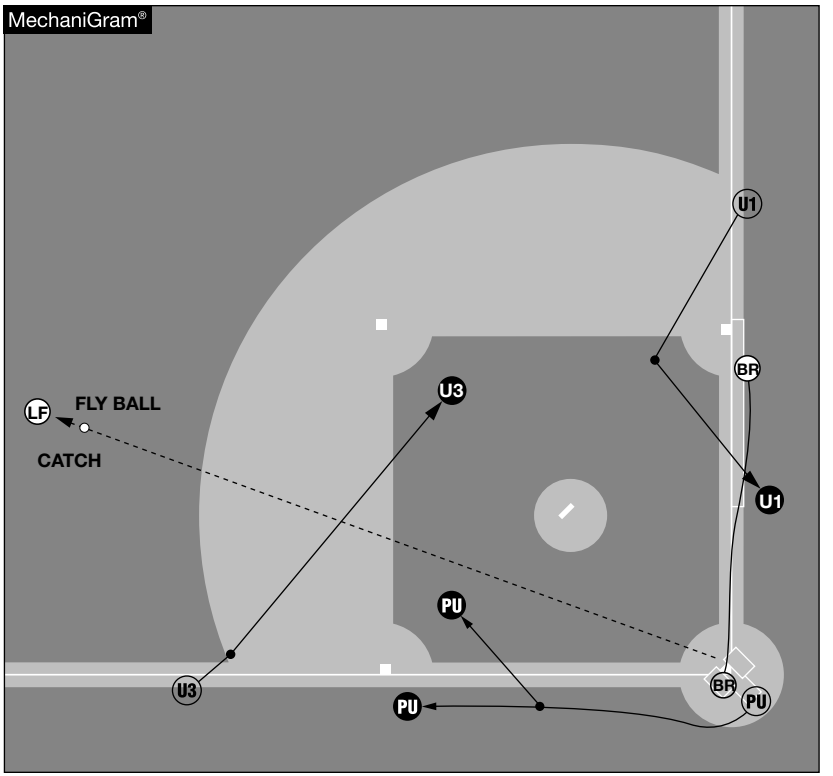
Action on the field: A deep clean hit to the outfield with the batter-runner advancing toward third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Reads the ball and has any play on the batter-runner at third base.

U1: Observes batter-runner's base touch at first base and begins to move toward the plate if the batter-runner commits to third base.

U3: Enters the infield and has all plays on the batter-runner at second base.

Fly Ball to Left Field: Catch



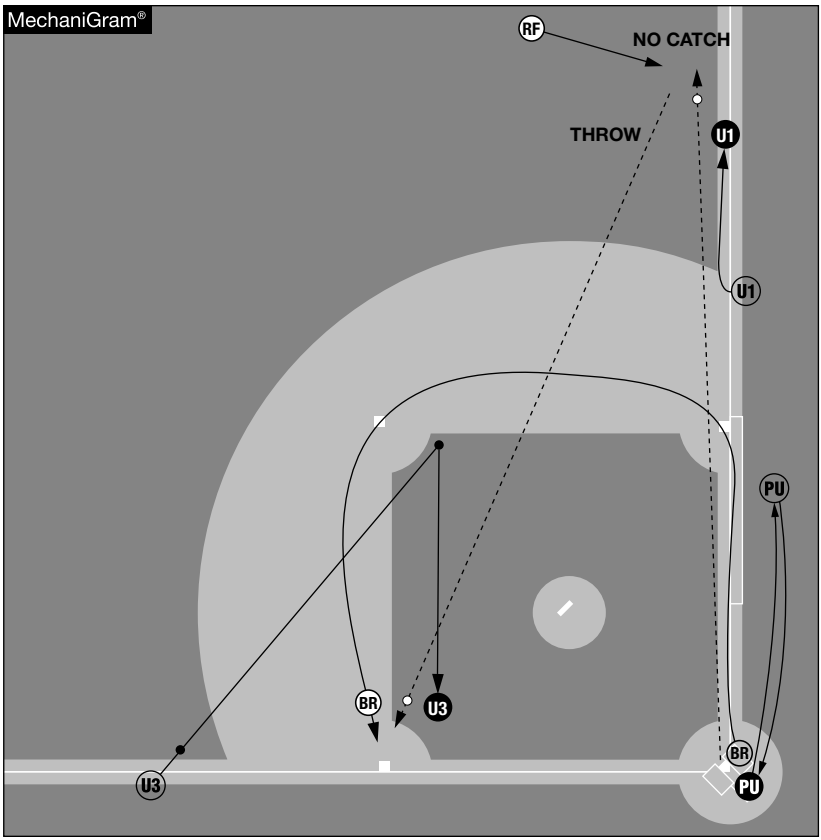
Action on the field: A routine fly ball to left field.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Reads U3's movement and moves up the line for a play at third if the ball is not caught.

U1: Observes batter-runner's base touch at first base. U1 may enter the infield if he desires. If the ball is not caught, U1 must be prepared to move toward the plate if the batter-runner commits to third base.

U3: Moves toward the infield since fair/foul and catch/no-catch are not an issue. U3 continues into the infield for a play at second in the event the ball is not caught.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: No Catch, U1 Goes Out



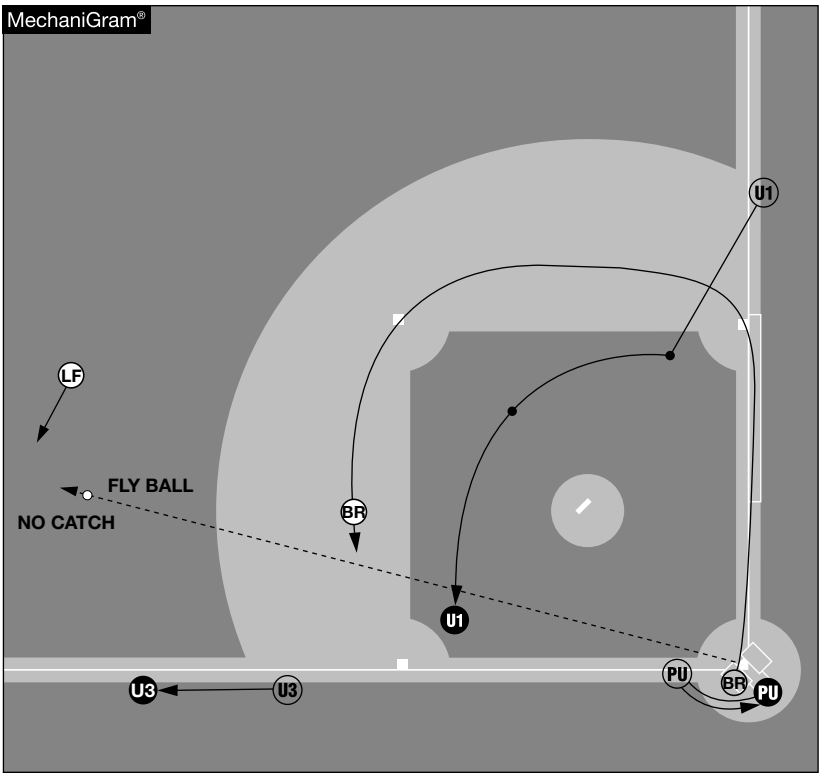
Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, no catch; the batter-runner advances toward third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to first base for any play on the batter-runner. Once the batter-runner reaches second base, PU returns to the plate for any play there.

U1: Goes out on the fly ball to rule on fair/foul and then the catch/no-catch.

U3: Has all plays at second and third base.

Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



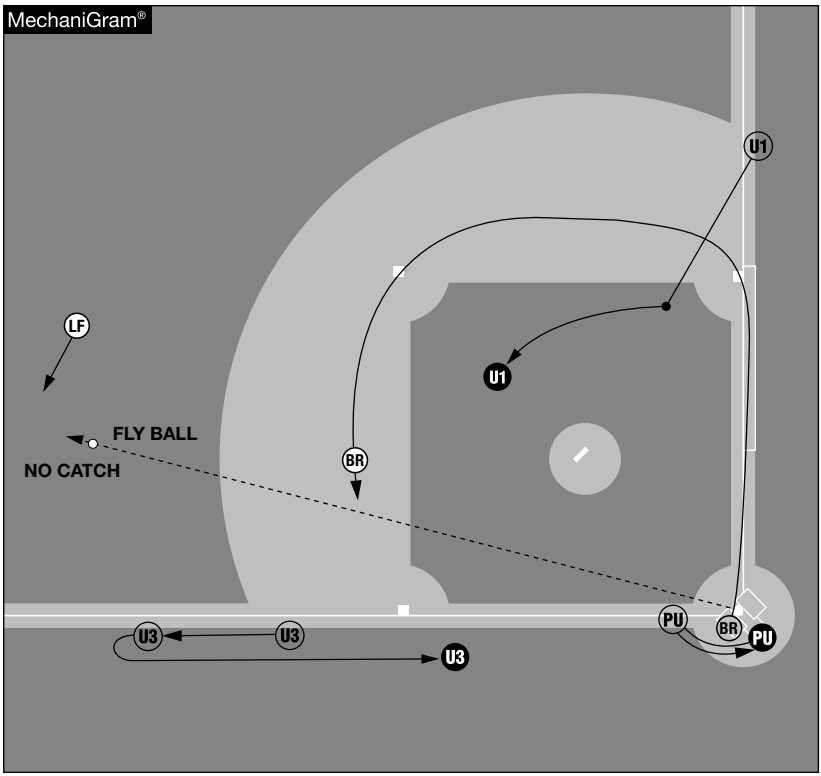
Action on the field: Fly ball to left field; no catch; the batter-runner advances toward third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has any play on the batter-runner at the plate.

U1: Moves to the infield for any play on the batter-runner at first, second or third base.

U3: Goes out on the fly ball to rule on fair/foul and the catch/no-catch.

Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out and Returns



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field; no catch; the batter-runner advances toward third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has any play on the batter-runner at the plate.

U1: Moves to the infield for any play on the batter-runner at first or second base.

U3: Goes out on the fly ball to rule on fair/foul and the catch/no-catch; returns to third base in foul territory to take any play on batter-runner at third base.



SECTION 8.7

Runner on first

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

U1 is in the "A" position. U3 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U3. U1 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to the right-field line. If U1 goes out, the crew reverts to the two-umpire system. If the ball is hit where the left fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has all catch/no-catch responsibility.

With two outs and a full count, U3 may start in regular "C" position.

Infield Catch Coverage

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By first baseman moving in.
3. By the third baseman moving in, back or toward the foul line.

U1 has catches:

1. By the first baseman directly at or directly in front, moving out or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U3 has catches:

1. By all fielders moving toward the middle of the field.
2. By the pitcher moving back.
3. By the third baseman directly at or directly in front
4. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
5. By the second baseman moving in.

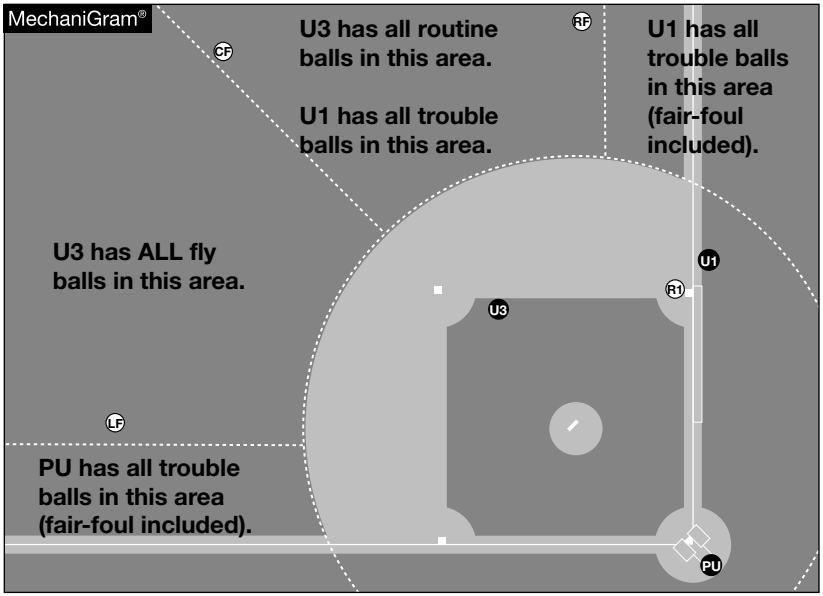
Fair/Foul Coverage

PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the third-base line and up to first base.

U1: Has responsibility for all balls that hit first base or go beyond first base.

U3: Has no foul-line responsibility.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has catch/no-catch responsibility if the ball is hit where the left fielder moves any distance toward the foul line.

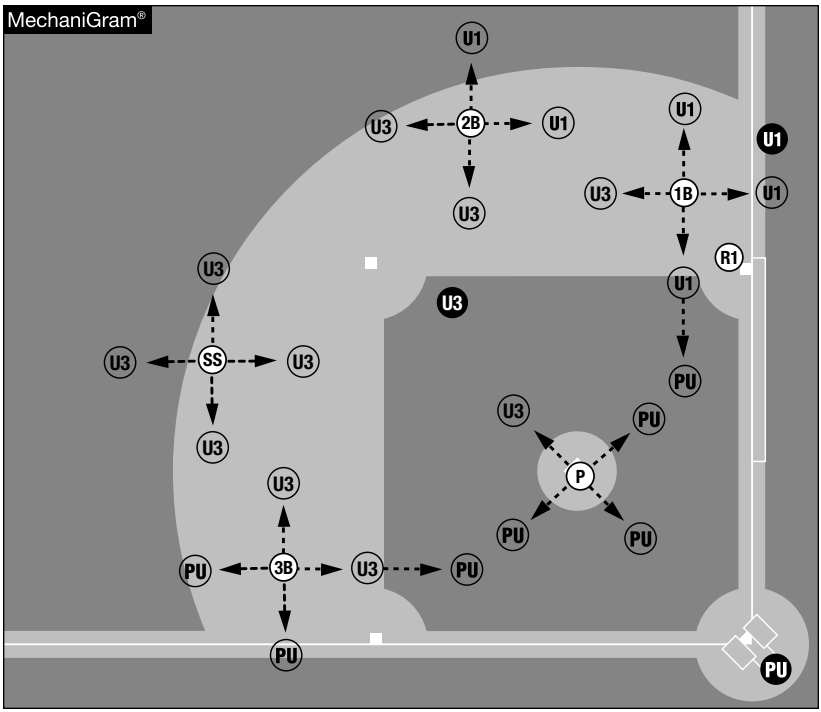
U1: Starts in the "A" position. U1 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to right-field out of play. If U1 goes out, the crew reverts to the two-umpire system.

U3: Starts in the "Deep B" position ("Deep C" is optional and permissible). U3 has responsibility for routine catches from left field to right field, and all trouble catches in the left-center field wedge.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home rather than rotate to third base, provided this coverage is communicated to U1 and U3 before the pitch. When the rotation is off, U1 and U3 assume responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

Only with a 3-2 count and after PU has communicated that the rotation is off, U3 may start in the regular "C" position to stay ahead of R1 and improve the angle for a potential play at third base.

Infield Catch Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By first baseman moving significantly in.
3. By the third baseman moving in, back or toward foul line.

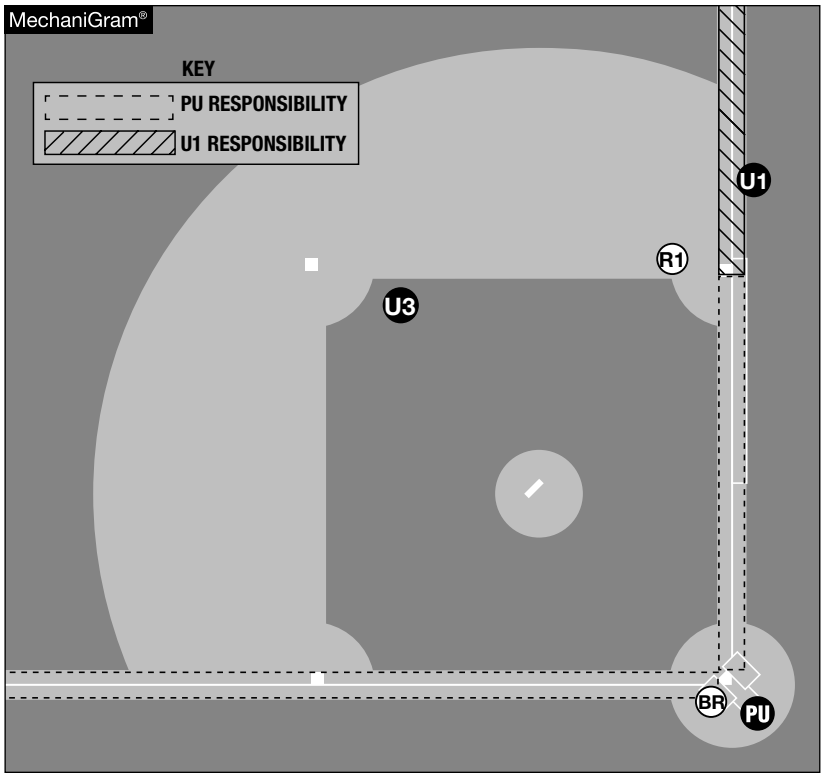
U1 has catches:

1. Immediately in front of the first baseman, out or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U3 has catches:

1. By all fielders moving toward the middle of the field.
2. By the pitcher moving back.
3. Immediately in front of the third baseman.
4. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
5. By the second baseman moving in.

Fair /Foul Coverage



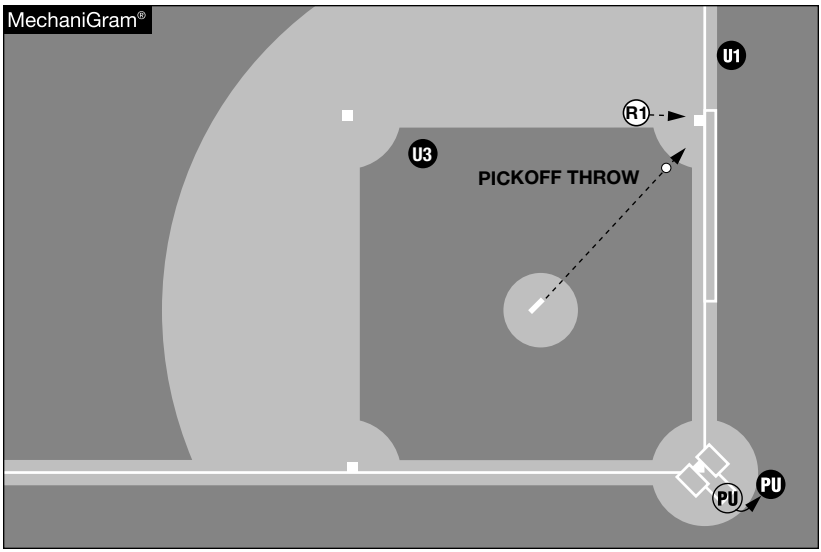
Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the third-base line and up to first base.

U1: Has responsibility for all balls that hit first base or go beyond first base.

U3: Has no foul-line responsibility.

Pickoff at First



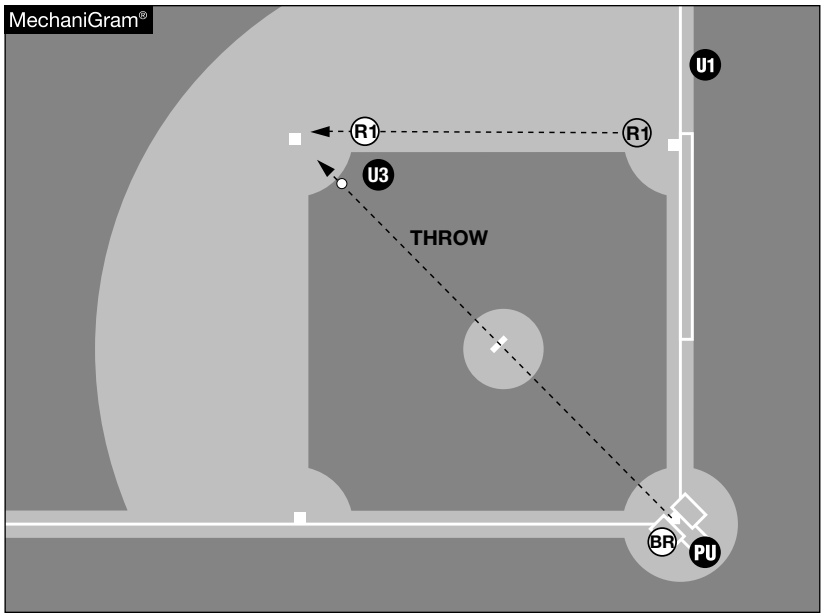
Action on the field: Before pitching, the pitcher attempts to pick off the runner at first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Stays focused on the pitcher until the pick-off throw is complete, making sure the pitcher does not balk. Then has responsibility for any overthrow at first base.

U1: Umpires shall start with their inside foot next to the foul line and NOT straddling the line. When the first baseman is holding the runner on first, U1 should be in a hands-on-knees set position immediately when the pitcher comes in contact with the rubber. U1's distance will be no more than 6-10 feet from the bag. U1's line of sight should be to the inside of the runner leading off with a clear view of the pitcher. On a pickoff, U1 should remain set throughout the entire critical action of the play. U1 should never move into foul territory on a pickoff from the pitcher. Umpires are not to start in foul territory for a pickoff (off the line) and then quickly move back to the foul line as the pitch is being delivered. When the first baseman is NOT holding the runner on first, U1 will position himself no more than 6-8 feet behind the fielder. If the fielder is playing deep, U1 should cut this distance in half and be no more than 3-4 feet behind the fielder. The umpire should never put himself in a position where a fielder could step or dive into him on a line drive. For all back picks at first base, an umpire should always anticipate this pick from the catcher and be ready to quickly move as far as the play will allow. Umpires are not to take a back pick by moving from their initial starting position into FAIR territory.

U3: Watches the pitcher for potential balks before throwing. Is responsible for all plays at second and third base, including if R1 ends up in a rundown.

Steal of Second



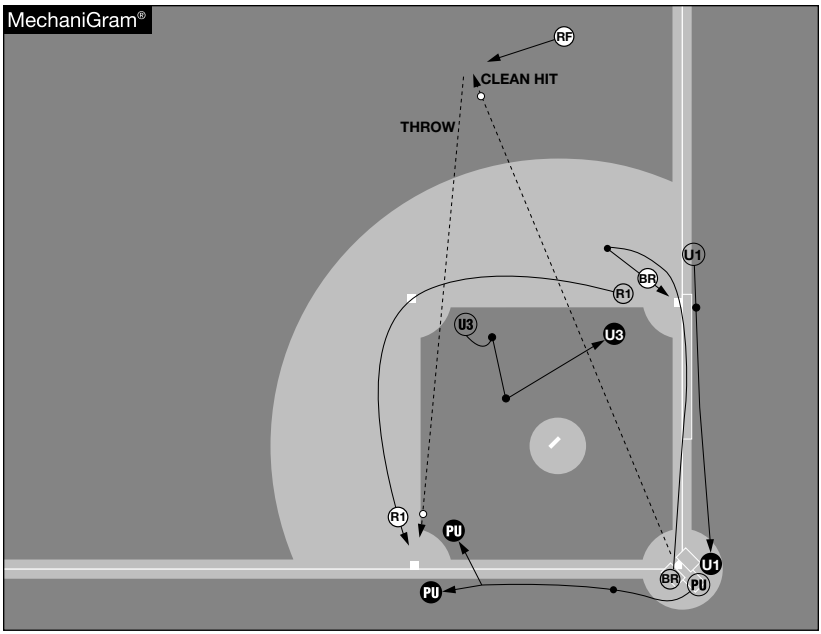
Action on the field: The batter swings and misses at the pitch as R1 attempts to steal second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Signals the swinging strike without taking his focus off the play at hand. Ensures the batter does not interfere with the catcher's throw. Observes the play.

U1: Observes the pitch and the initial throw to second.

U3: Starting with the 2020 season, umpires are not allowed to start in the infield and then run to a position out in the dirt looking straight down the baseline toward second base during a steal play. All steal plays must be taken between the B and C starting positions. Takes a step toward the second-base cutout. Keeps eye on the ball and turns as the ball passes U3. Comes to a hands-on-knee set to see the play at second base. If the play is a swipe-tag out, ensure the fielder retains possession of the ball before making the out call. If the runner is safe, no delay is necessary.

Clean Hit to the Outfield



Action on the field: Clean hit to right field, no catch; R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; batter-runner rounds first and returns there.

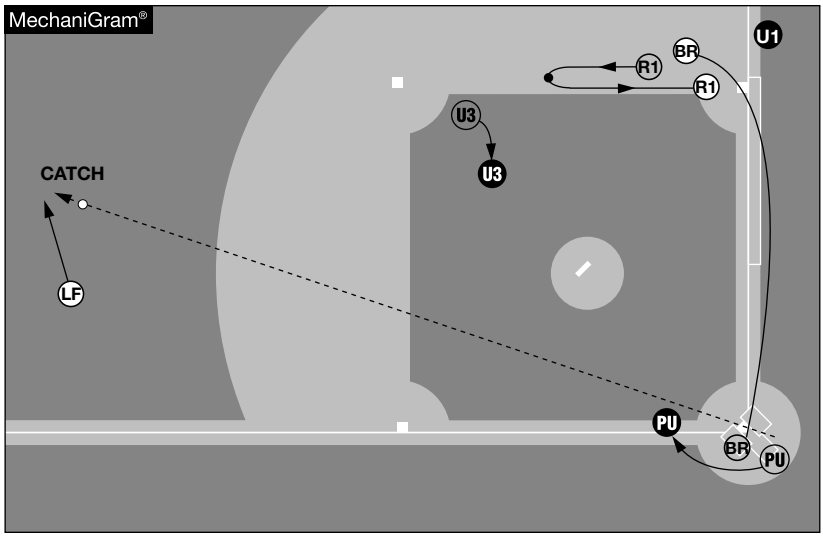
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Reads R1 and the ball and moves into a position for any plays at third base on R1. If a play develops at third base, PU can take the play in either fair or foul territory.

U1: Observes batter-runner's base touch at first base and begins to move toward the plate when R1 touches second base and commits to third base.

U3: Observes the base touch at second base and begins to move toward first base if R1 commits to third base and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home rather than rotate to third base, provided this coverage is communicated to U1 and U3 before the pitch. When the rotation is off, U1 and U3 assume responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

Routine Fly Ball to Left Field: Catch



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, catch; U3 does not go out; R1 retreats toward first base.

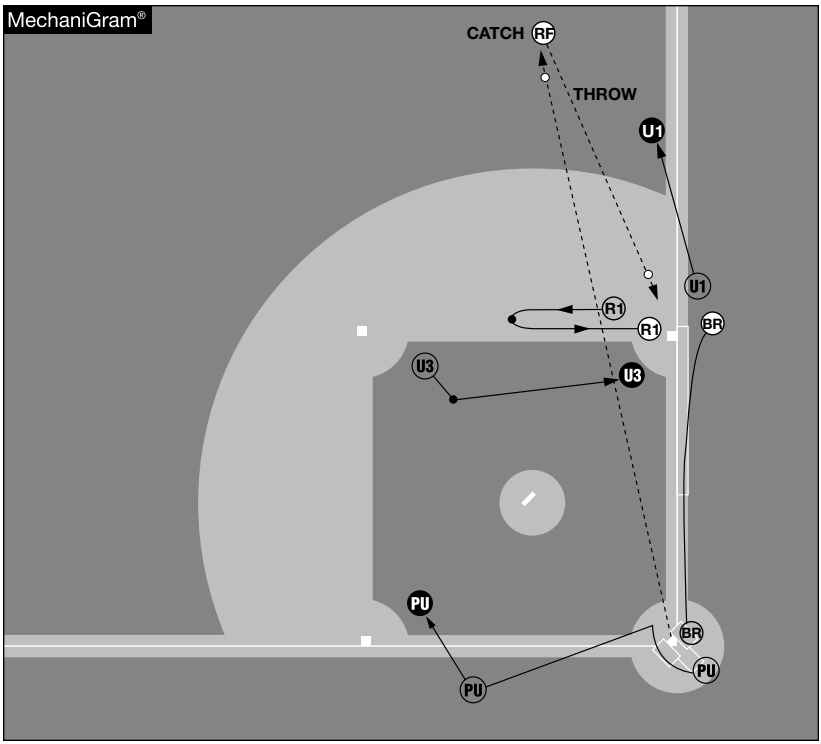
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Initially move in the direction of third base. If the ball is caught, PU returns to home plate. If the ball drops, PU continues to third base for any possible play on R1 or the batter-runner.

U1: Observes R1's action. If the ball is not caught, U1 observes the base touch at first of the batter-runner. Once R1 has touched second and has committed to third base, U1 moves to the plate for any play on R1 there.

U3: Rules on the catch/no catch and has any play on R1 at second base. If the ball is not caught, once R1 has touched second base and has committed to third base, U3 assumes responsibility for the batter-runner.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home rather than rotate to third base, provided this coverage is communicated to U1 and U3 before the pitch. When the rotation is off, U1 and U3 assume responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

Fly Ball to Right Field: Catch, U1 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by right fielder; U1 goes out; R1 goes halfway to second base and returns to first base, drawing a throw there.

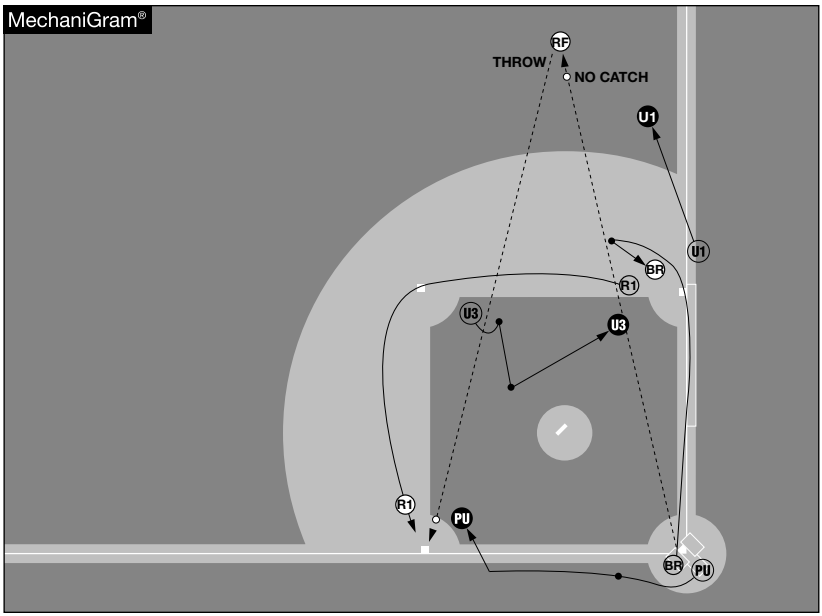
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes the play and remains near the plate. If the fly ball is not caught and a play develops at third base on R1, PU will take the play at third base in fair territory near the cutout at third base.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

U3: Moves to a position to cover all plays on R1 at first, second and third base.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home rather than rotate to third base, provided this coverage is communicated to U1 and U3 before the pitch. When the rotation is off, U1 and U3 assume responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

Fly Ball to Right Field: No Catch, U1 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, no catch; U1 goes out; R1 advances toward third base and draws a throw there; batter-runner rounds first and returns there.

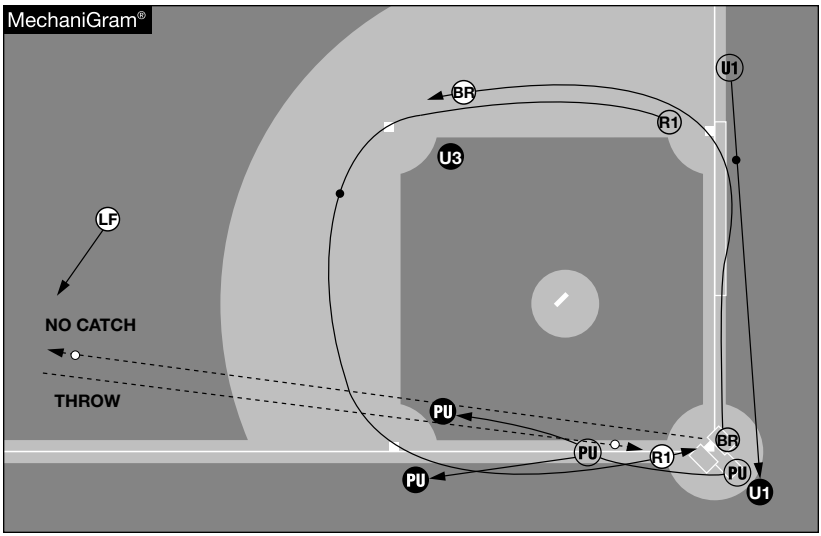
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Rotates to third base for any play on R1 and must communicate his position to U3. If a play develops at third base, PU will take the play at third base in fair territory near the cutout at third base. If a play develops at third base and R1 then attempts to advance to the plate on a wild throw, PU must retreat for any play there.

U1: Goes out on the fly ball.

U3: Observes the action and has all plays at first and second base and plays at third base on the batter-runner.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home rather than rotate to third base, provided this coverage is communicated to U1 and U3 before the pitch. When the rotation is off, U1 and U3 assume responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch



Action on the field: Fly ball that takes the left fielder toward the foul line, no catch; R1 advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; the batter-runner advances toward second base.

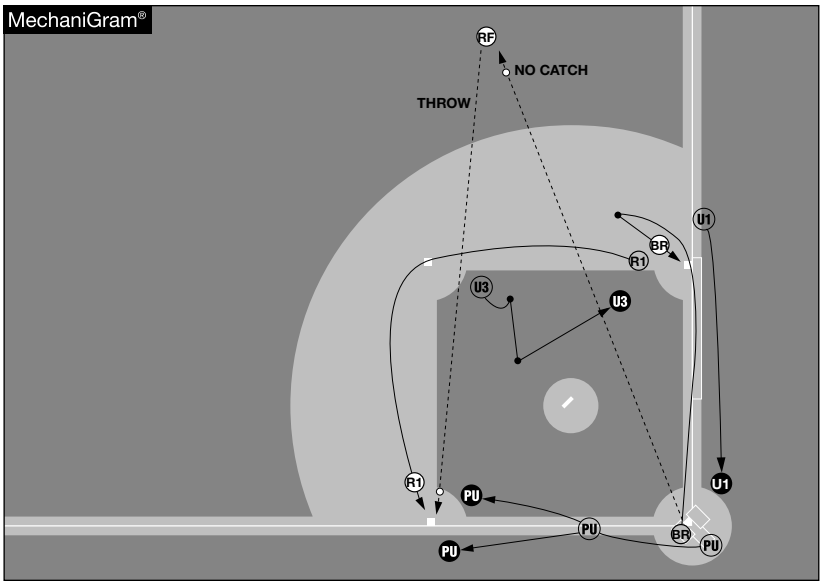
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Initially move in the direction of third base. If the ball is caught, PU returns to home plate. If the ball drops, PU continues to third base for any possible play on R1 or the batter-runner.

U1: Observes the action and base touch at first of the batter-runner. If R1 touches second and commits to third base, U1 moves to the plate for any play on R1. If the ball is caught, U1 observes R1's tag at and has any play back into first base.

U3: Observes the action and has any play on R1 at second base. Once R1 has touched second base and committed to third base, U3 assumes responsibility for the batter-runner.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home rather than rotate to third base, provided this coverage is communicated to U1 and U3 before the pitch. When the rotation is off, U1 and U3 assume responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

Routine Fly Ball to Right Field: 2 Out



Action on the field: Routine fly ball to right field, two outs, no catch; R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; the batter-runner advances toward second base on the throw. With two outs, this is an automatic rotation.

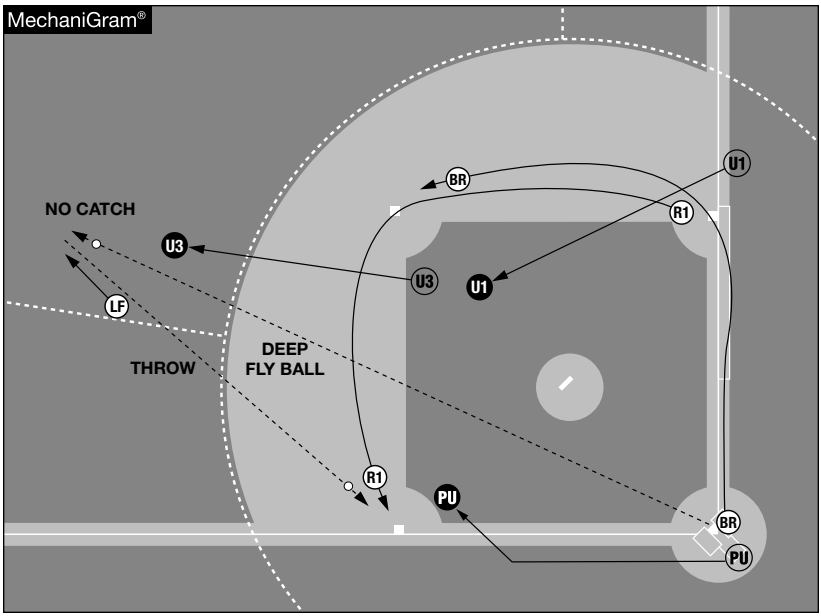
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes the action and moves toward third base for any play on R1 or the batter-runner. If a play develops at third base, PU can take the play in either fair or foul territory.

U1: Observes the action and base touch at first of the batter-runner. Once R1 touches second base and commits to third base, U1 moves to the plate for any play there. Be alert for a potential time play.

U3: Rules on the catch/no catch. U3 moves into position for all plays on R1 at second base and all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home rather than rotate to third base, provided this coverage is communicated to U1 and U3 before the pitch. When the rotation is off, U1 and U3 assume responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Deep fly ball to left-center field, no catch; U3 goes out; R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; batter-runner advances toward second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Reads R1 and rotates to third base if R1 commits to third. If a play develops at third base, PU will take the play in fair territory near the cutout at third base. If a play develops at third base and R1 then attempts to advance to the plate, PU must retreat for any play there. If the ball is caught, PU stays home for all plays there.

U1: Immediately enters the infield and has all plays at first and second base. If the ball is caught, U1 has all plays at first, second and third base.

U3: moves to the outfield to view the catch/no catch.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home rather than rotate to third base, provided this coverage is communicated to U1 and U3 before the pitch. When the rotation is off, U1 and U3 assume responsibility for all plays at first, second and third base.



SECTION 8.8

Runners on first and second

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first only (see 8.7.2), with U3 in the "C" position.
PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By first baseman moving in.
3. By the third baseman moving in, back or toward the foul line.

U1 has catches:

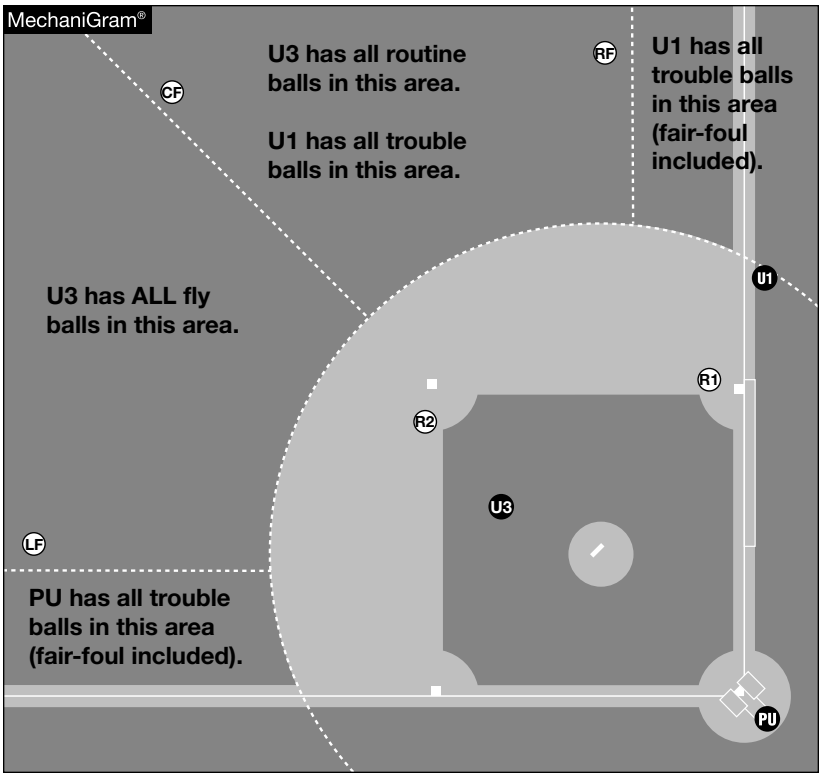
1. By the first baseman directly at or immeditely in front, moving out or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U3 has catches:

1. By all fielders moving toward the middle of the field.
2. By the pitcher moving back.
3. By the third baseman directly at or immediately in front.
4. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
5. By the second baseman moving in.

Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first only (see 8.7.3), with U3 in the "C" position.
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the third-base line and up to first base.
U1: Has responsibility for all balls that hit first base or go beyond first base.
U3: Has no foul-line responsibility.

Initial Position and Outfield Coverage



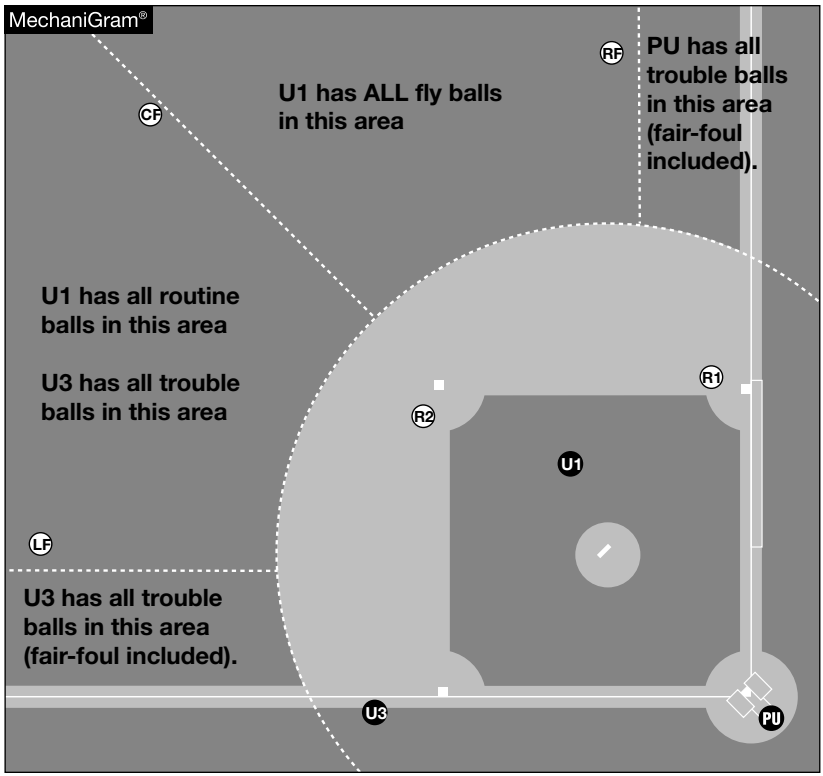
Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has responsibility of all fly balls to the left fielder when they are moving toward the left field line.

U1: Takes responsibility of ALL fly balls to the center fielder straight in, straight back, and anything toward the right field line.

U3: Takes responsibility of ALL fly balls from the centerfielder toward the left field line, along with the left fielder straight in and straight back.

Optional Initial Position and Outfield Coverage in Obvious Bunt Situation

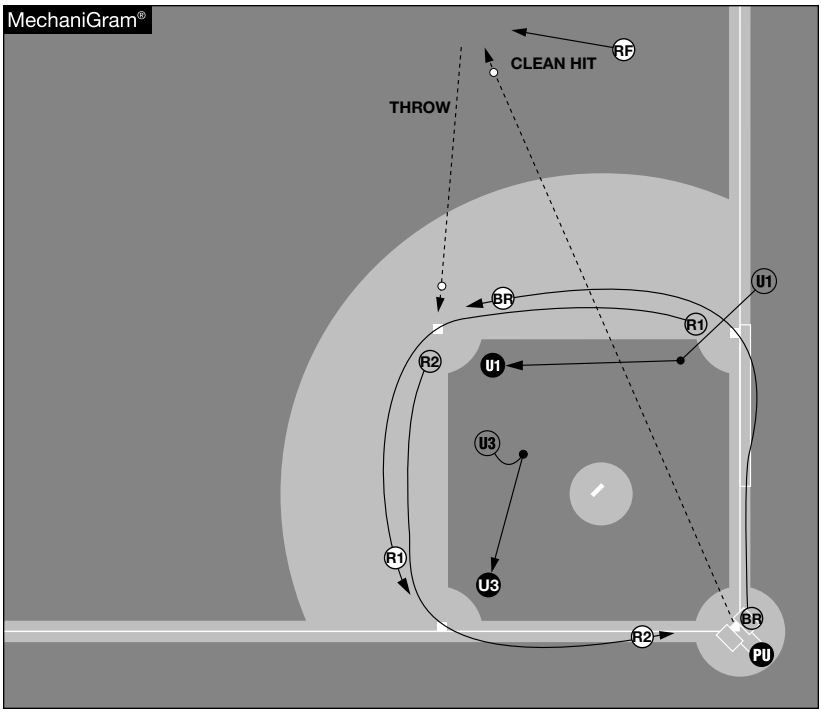


Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities: In an obvious bunt situation, with conference coordinator approval, the crew may decide to place U3 in the "D" position to be ahead of the play at third base. U1 would then begin in the "B" position and have initial responsibility on all outfield catch or no-catch calls.

U3 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to left field out of play. If U3 goes out, the crew reverts to the two-umpire system. If the ball is hit where the right fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has the fair/foul and catch/no-catch responsibility.

Clean Hit to Outfield



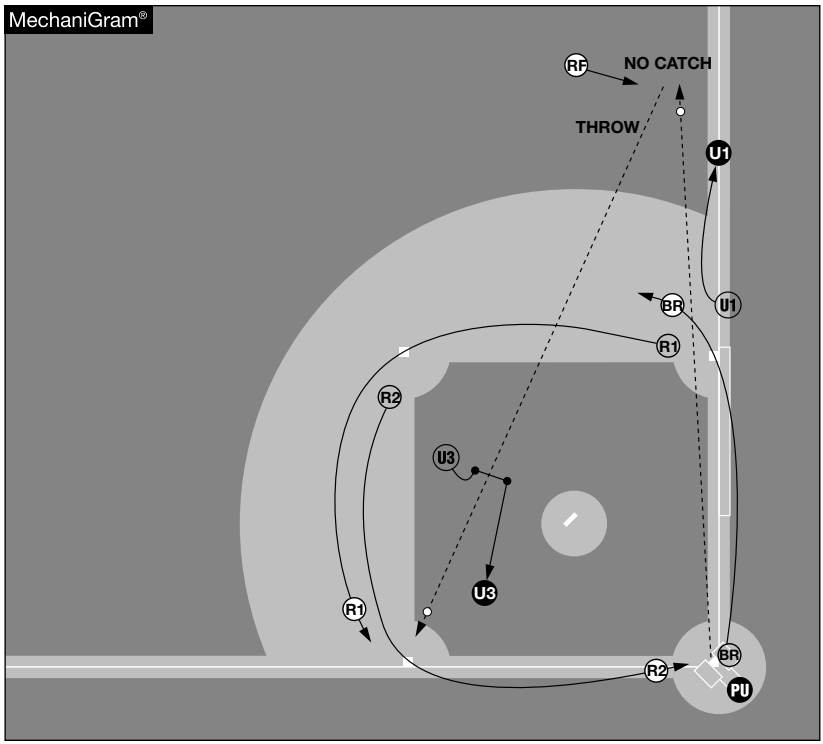
Action on the field: Clean hit to right field, no catch; R2 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; batter-runner advances toward second base and draws a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Stays home, observes R2 touching third base and observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base. When moving inside, be aware of a quick developing throw from the right fielder and make sure to stay clear of any potential throwing lane.

U3: Observes the base touches of R1 at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third, plus R2 and the batter-runner at third base.

Fly Ball to Right Field: No Catch, U1 Goes Out



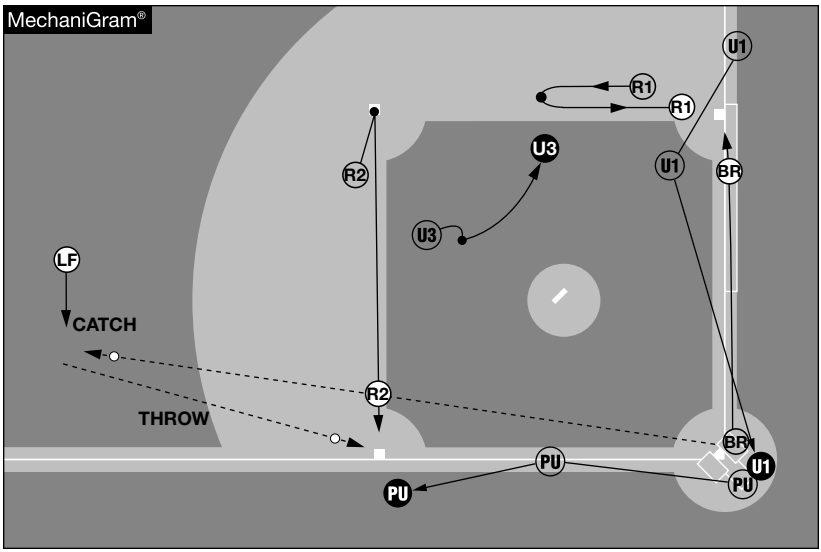
Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, no catch; U1 goes out; R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; R2 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner rounds first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Remains near the plate for all plays there. If the ball is caught, PU reads the ball and if R2 "tags and advances" to third, PU will take the play at third in fair territory near the cutout at third base.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch.

U3: Moves into position for all plays on the bases. If the ball is caught, U3 has the tag ups of R2 at second base and R1 at first base.

Fly Ball Down the Left-Field Line: Catch



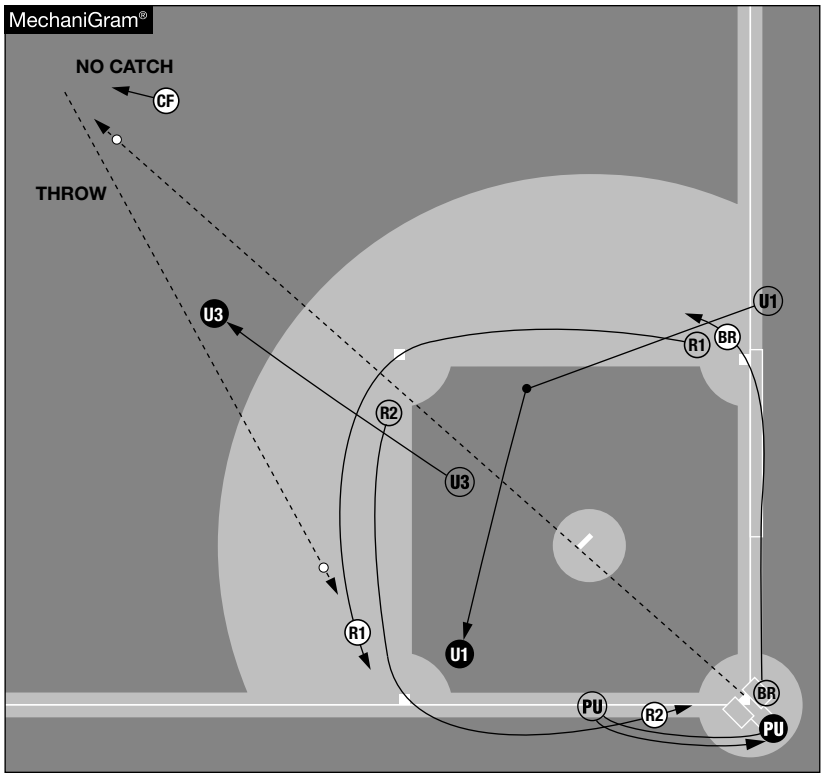
Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw; R1 retreats toward first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch. PU reads the runners and the ball and moves into a position for any play on R2 if he "tags or advances" to third base. If a play develops at third base, PU can take the play in either fair or foul territory. If the ball is not caught, PU observes R2's base touch at third and returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Immediately move into the cutout at first base to observe the batter-runner touch first base. If the ball is not caught, U1 will have all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base, along with any secondary play that develops second base on R1. If the ball is caught, U1 will glance at R1's tag-up at first base, and will rotate home if R2 commits to third base. In this scenario, U1 should be proactive in moving into the first base cutout on contact. This will put U1 ahead of the batter-runner if the ball drops. It is easier to rotate home from the cutout, then it is to wait and then have to chase the batter-runner to second base.

U3: Retreats and observes R2's tag up. U3 moves into position for any play at first or second base on R1. If the ball is not caught, U3 observes the base touches of R1 at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third and R2 and the batter-runner at third base.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



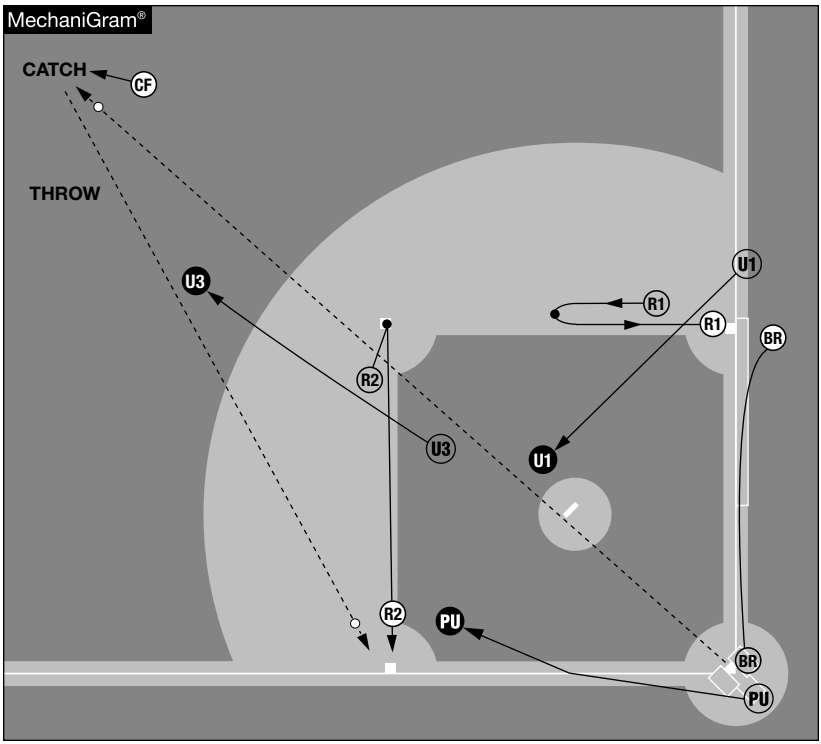
Action on the field: Deep fly ball to left-center field, no catch; U3 goes out; R2 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; batter-runner rounds first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes R2's touch at third and returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Enters the infield immediately and has all plays on the bases.

U3: Moves to the outfield to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: Catch, U3 Goes Out



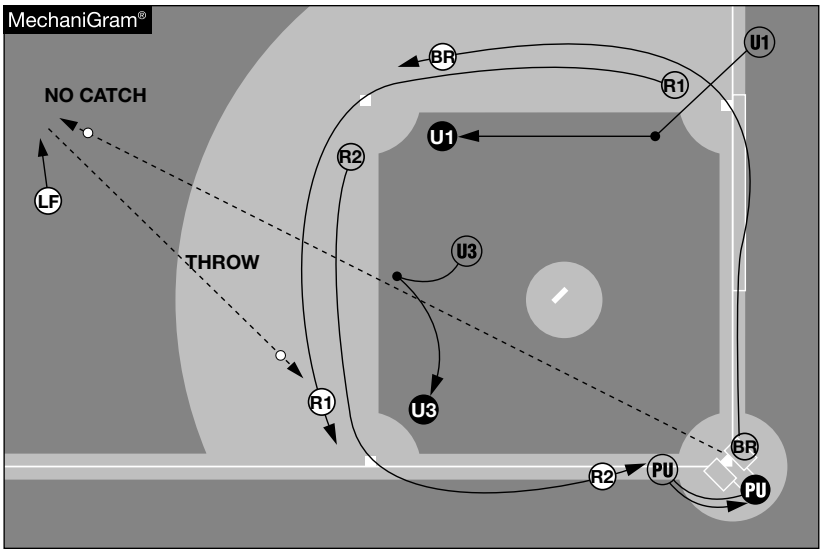
Action on the field: Deep fly ball caught by the center fielder; U3 goes out; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; R1 returns to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward third base. PU reads the runners and the ball and moves into a position for any play on R2 if he "tags and advances" to third base. PU will take the play at third in fair territory near the cutout at third base. If a play develops at third base and R2 then attempts to advance to the plate on a wild throw, PU must retreat in fair territory for any play there.

U1: Enters the infield and observes R1's and R2's tag up and has all plays at first and second base.

U3: Goes out on the deep fly ball to observe the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: No Catch



Action on the field: Fly ball to left-center field, no catch; U3 does not go out; R2 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base and draws a throw there; batter-runner advances toward second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes R2's touch of third and moves into position for any plays at the plate. If the ball is caught and there were less than two outs at the start of the play, PU reads the runners and the ball and moves into a position for any play on R2 advancing to third base.

U1: Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's touch of first and second. U1 has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base. If the ball is caught and R2 tags and advances toward third, U1 observes R1's tag up at first base and commits to the plate for any play there.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. U3 has the touch and all plays of R1 at second and third and the batter-runner at third. If the ball is caught, U3 observes R2's tag up at second base then moves for any play at first or second base on R1 or second base on R2.



SECTION 8.9

Bases loaded

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
The coverage is the same as runners on first and second base (see 8.8.1).

U1 is in the "A" position. U3 is in the "C" position.

The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U3. U1 retains coverage on all trouble balls (see 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to right-field out of play. If U1 goes out, the crew reverts to the two-umpire system. If the ball is hit where the left fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has all catch/no-catch responsibility.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 8.7.2), with U3 in the "C" position.
PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By first baseman moving in.
3. By the third baseman moving in, back or toward the foul line.

U1 has catches:

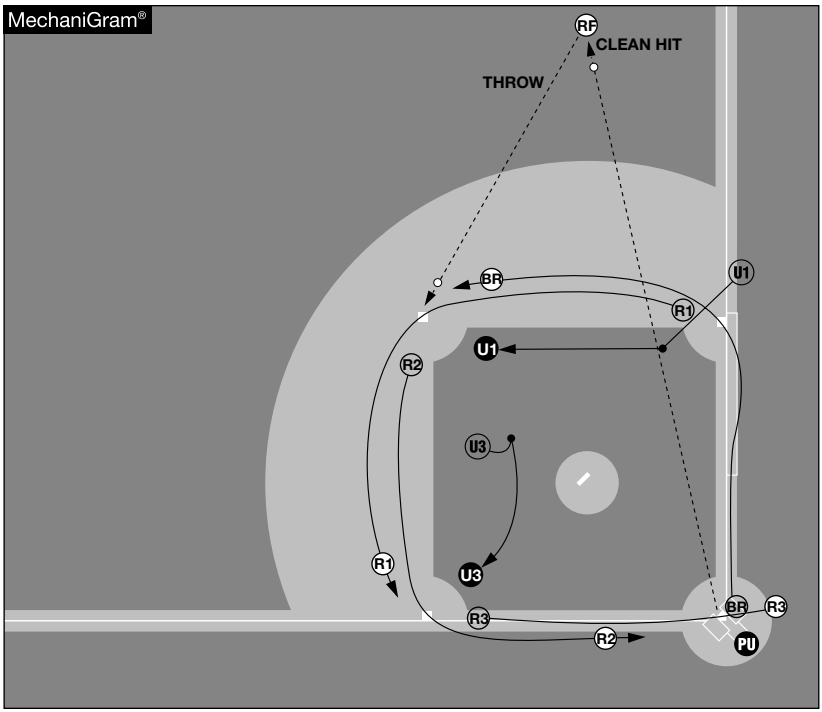
1. By the first baseman directly at or immediately in front, moving out or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U3 has catches:

1. By all fielders moving toward the middle of the field.
2. By the pitcher moving back.
3. By the third baseman directly at or immediately in front.
4. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
5. By the second baseman moving in.

Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 8.7.3), with U3 in the "C" position.
PU: Responsible for all balls on the third-base line and up to first base.
U1: Responsible for all balls that hit first base or go beyond first base.
U3: Has no foul line responsibility.

Clean Hit to Outfield



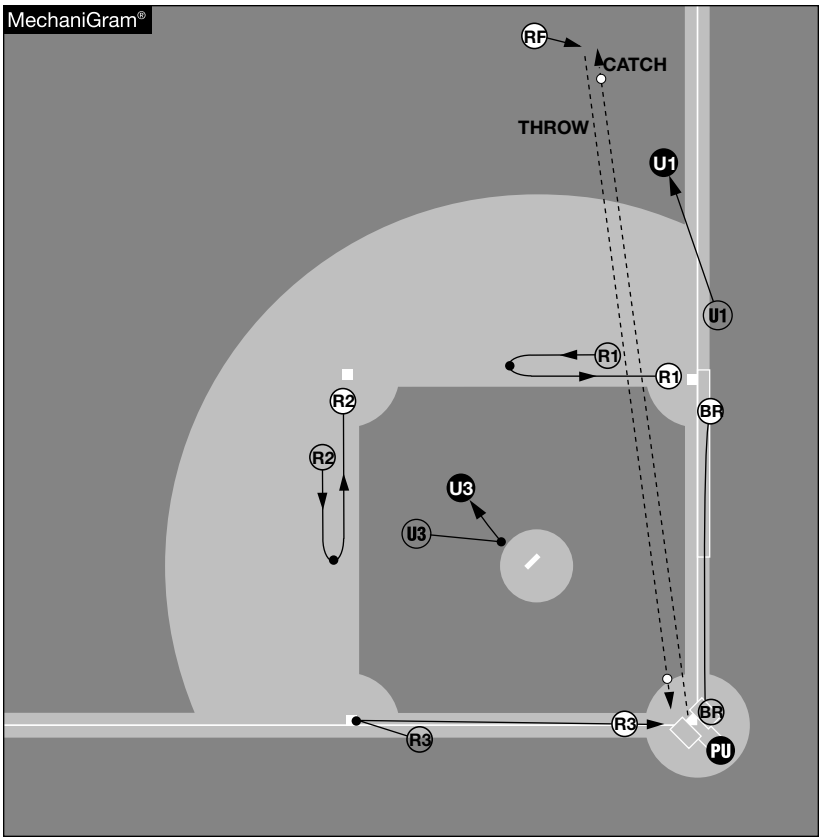
Action on the field: Clean hit to right field, U1 does not go out; R3 scores; R2 moves toward the plate; R1 moves toward third base; batter-runner moves toward second base and draws a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes all touches at home and R2's touch of third. PU moves into position for any plays at the plate.

U1: Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's touch of first and second. U1 has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

U3: Observes R1's touch of second and third and the batter-runner's touch of third. U3 has all plays on R1 at second and third, R2 at third and the batter-runner at third.

Fly Ball to Right Field: Catch, U1 Goes Out



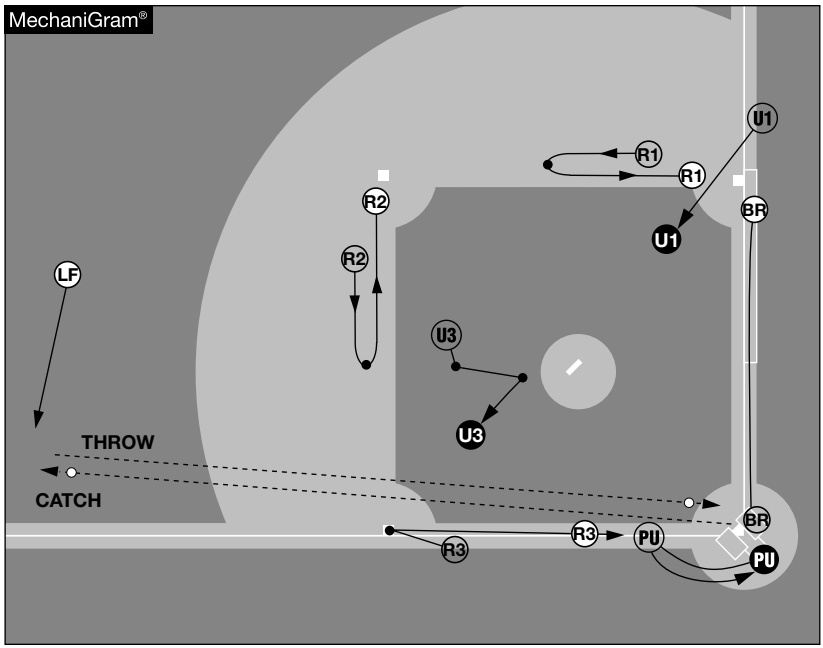
Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder, U1 goes out; R3 tags and moves toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 and R1 stay near their bases.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to a position to view R3's tag up at third base. PU then returns to the plate for any play there.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

U3: Retreats and observes potential tag ups at first and second base. U3 reads the runners and moves into a position for all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball Down the Left-Field Line: Catch



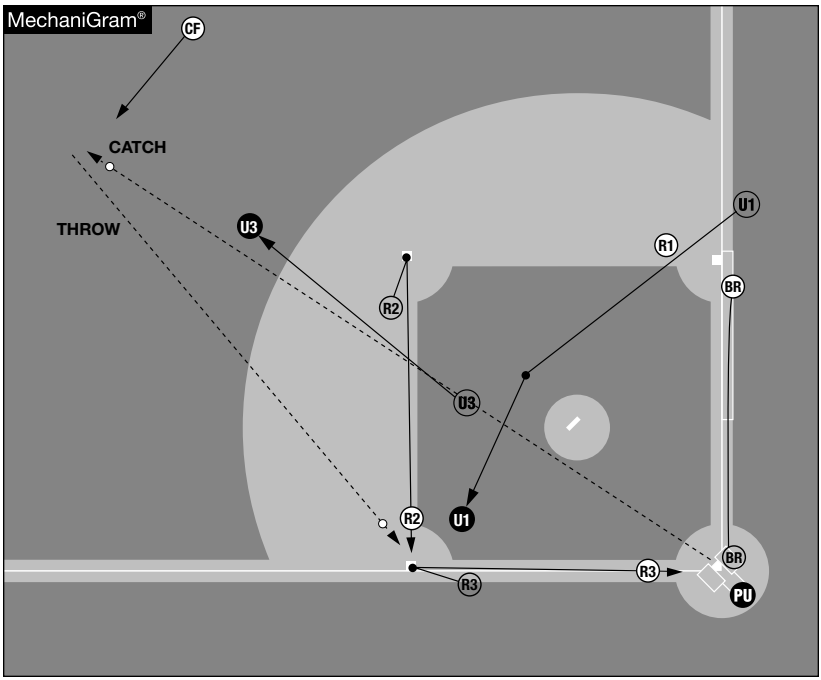
Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; R3 tags up and moves toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 and R1 stay near their bases.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch. PU must also view R3's tag up at third base. PU returns home for any play there.

U1: Moves into the infield and observes R1's potential tag up at first base and has any secondary play at second base. If the ball is not caught, U1 has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

U3: Retreats and observes R2's potential tag up. U3 moves into position for any initial plays at second or all plays at third base. If the ball is not caught, U3 observes the base touches at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third, R2 at third and the batter-runner at third.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: Catch, U3 Goes Out



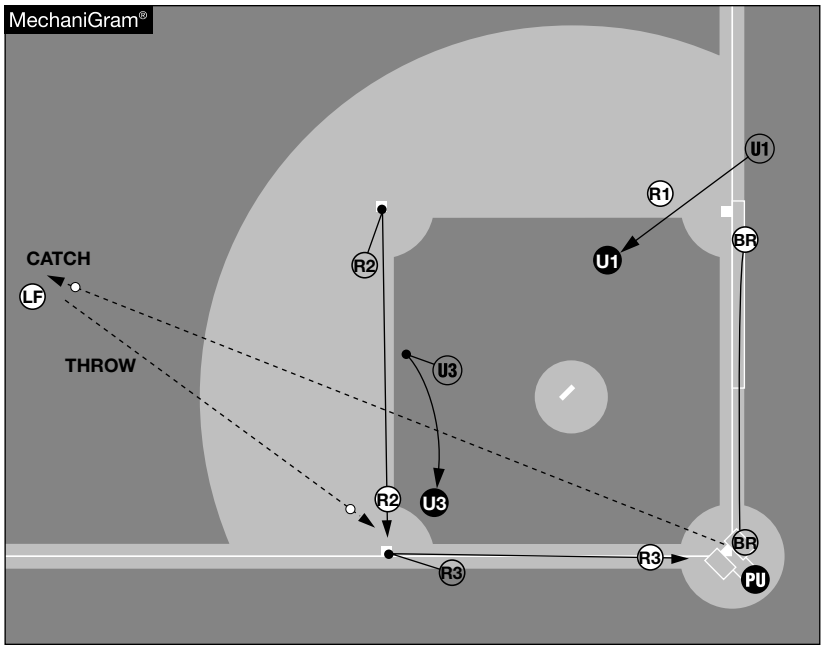
Action on the field: Deep fly ball to left-center field, caught by the center fielder; U3 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; R1 remains near first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into position to view R3's tag up at third base. PU returns home for any play there. If the ball is not caught, PU has all touches at third base except the batter-runner.

U1: Enters the infield immediately and observes R1's and R2's tag up. U1 has all plays on the bases. If the ball is not caught, U1 has all touches at first and second, the batter-runner's touch at third and all plays on the bases.

U3: Moves to the outfield to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: Catch



Action on the field: Fly ball to left-center field caught by the left fielder; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; R1 remains near first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into position to view R3's tag up at third base. PU returns home for any play there.

U1: Moves into the infield and observes R1's potential tag up and has any secondary play on R1 at second base. U1 would have all plays on the batter-runner at first and second if the ball is not caught.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch and tag up of R2. U3 moves for any plays at second or third base. If the ball is not caught, U3 observes the base touches at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third, R2 at third and the batter-runner at third.



SECTION 8.10

Runners on first and third

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
The coverage is the same as with runners on first and second bases (see 8.8.1).

U1 is in the "A" position. U3 is in the "C" position.

The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U3. U1 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to the right-field out of play. If U1 goes out, the crew reverts to the two-umpire system. If the ball is hit where the left fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has all catch/no-catch responsibility.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 8.7.2), with U3 in the "C" position.
PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By first baseman moving in.
3. By the third baseman moving in, back or toward the foul line.

U1 has catches:

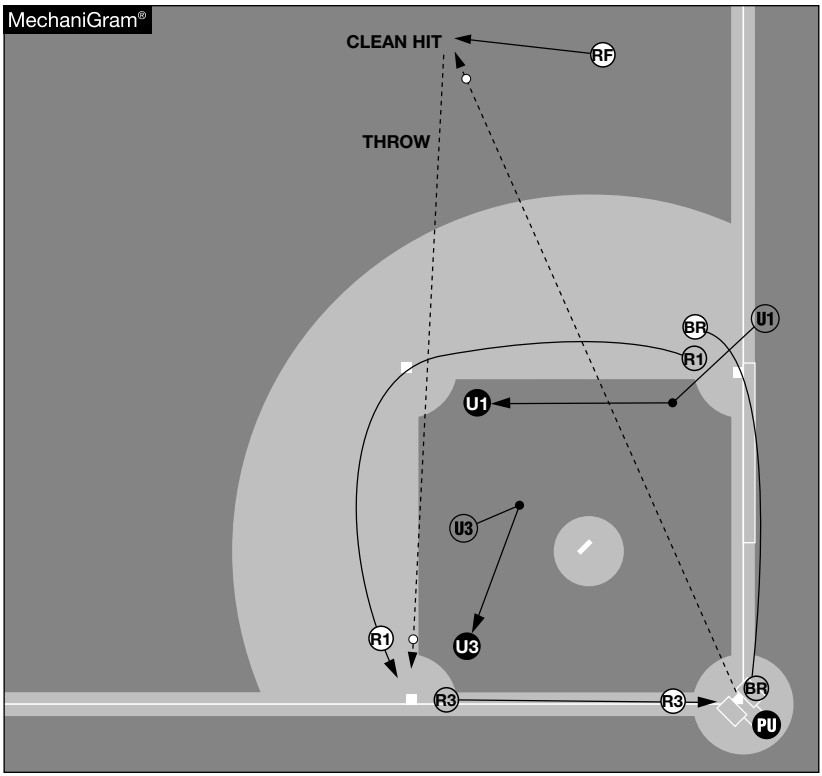
1. By the first baseman directly at or immediately in front, moving out or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U3 has catches:

1. By all fielders moving toward the middle of the field.
2. By the pitcher moving back.
3. By the third baseman directly at or immediately in front.
4. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
5. By the second baseman moving in.

Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 8.7.3), with U3 in the "C" position.
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the third-base line and up to first base.
U1: Has responsibility for all balls that hit first base or go beyond first base.
U3: Has no foul line responsibility.

Clean Hit to Outfield



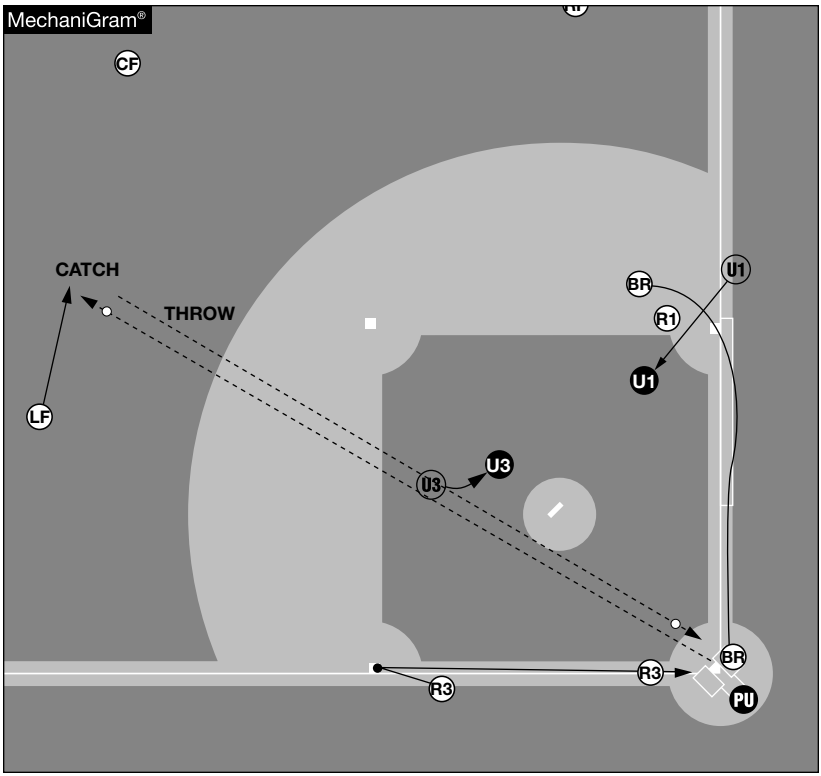
Action on the field: Clean hit to right field, no catch; R3 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base and draws a throw there; batter-runner rounds first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Stays home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

U3: Observes the base touches of R1 at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third, plus the batter-runner at third base.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: Catch



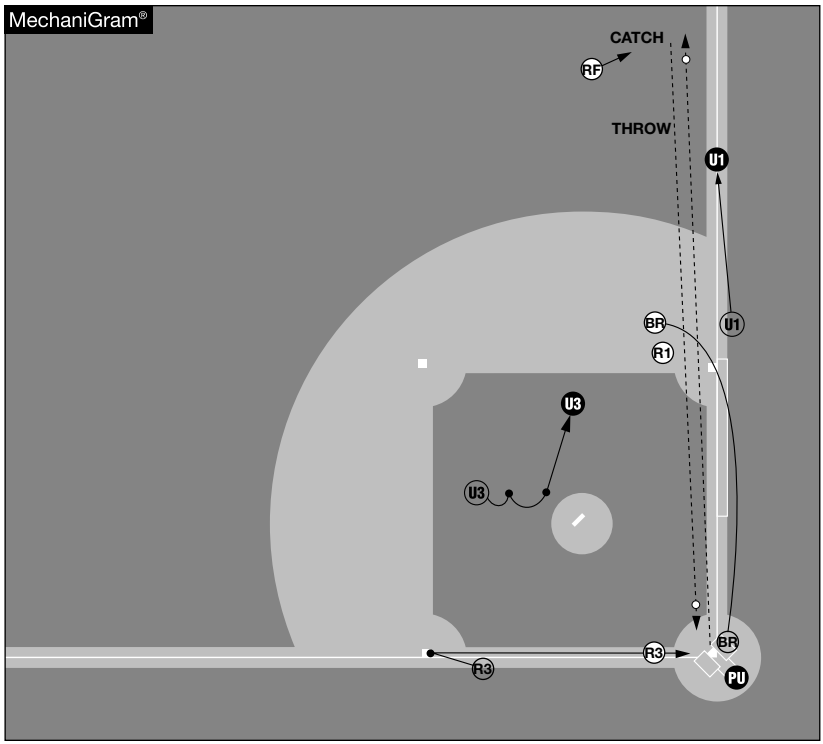
Action on the field: Fly ball to left-center field caught by the left fielder; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R1 remains near first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to a position to observe R3's tag up at third base. PU returns home for any play on R3 there.

U1: Immediately move into the cutout. This immediate move inside will protect U1 should U3 go out on the fly ball. From this position U1 can observe the batter-touch first base, and be prepared for any further play on the batter-runner or R1 if the ball drops.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: Catch



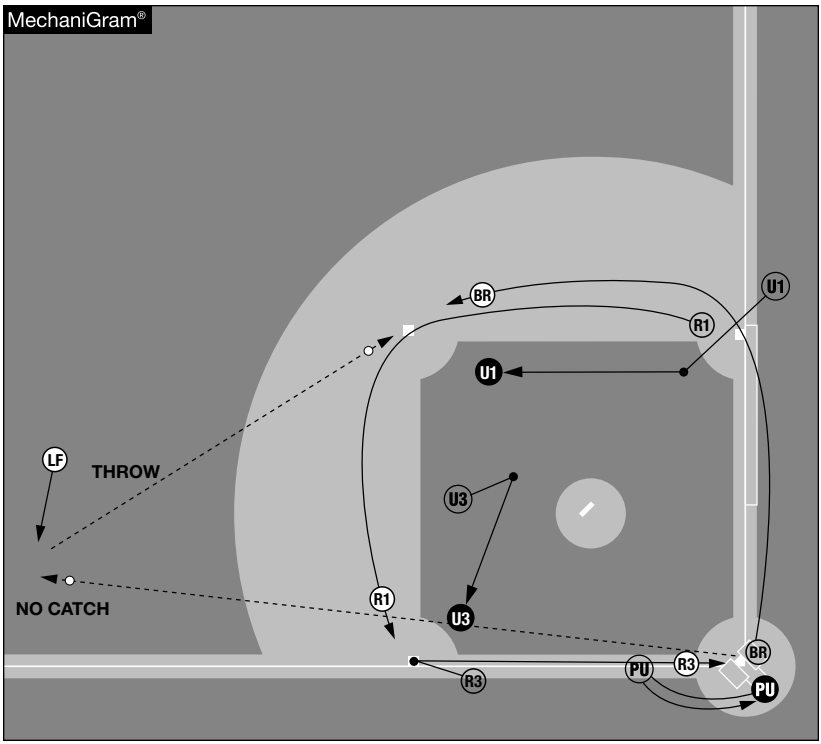
Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder; U1 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R1 stays near first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to a position to view R3's tag up at third base. PU returns to the plate for any play on R3.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch.

U3: Retreats and observes R1's potential tag up. U3 moves into position for all plays on the bases. If the ball is not caught, U3 has all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball Down Left-Field Line: No Catch



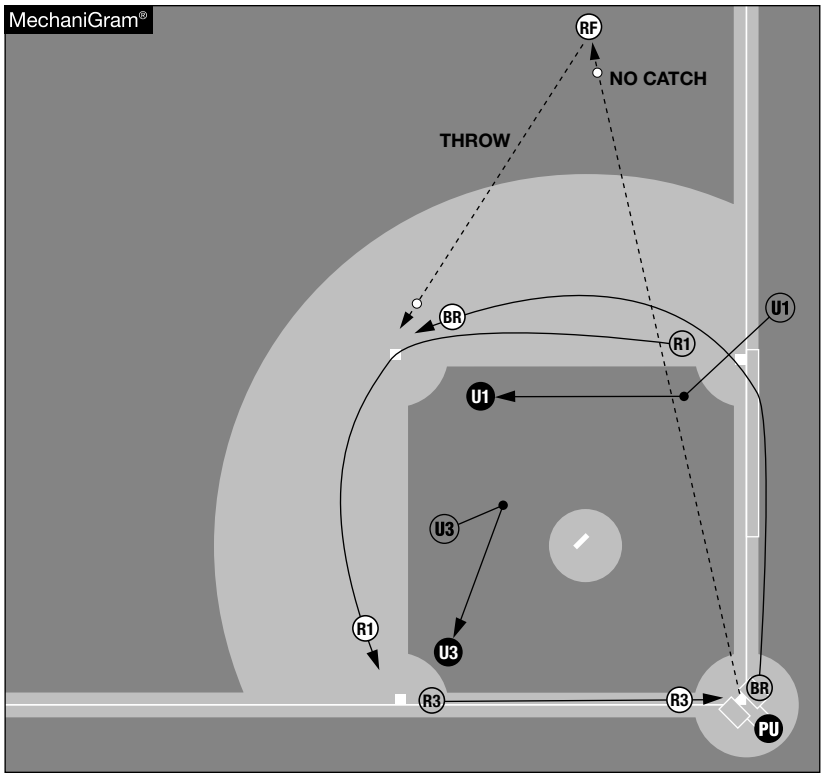
Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; R3 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch. Returns home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

U3: Observes the base touches of R1 at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third, plus the batter-runner at third base.

Routine Fly Ball to Right Field: 2 Out



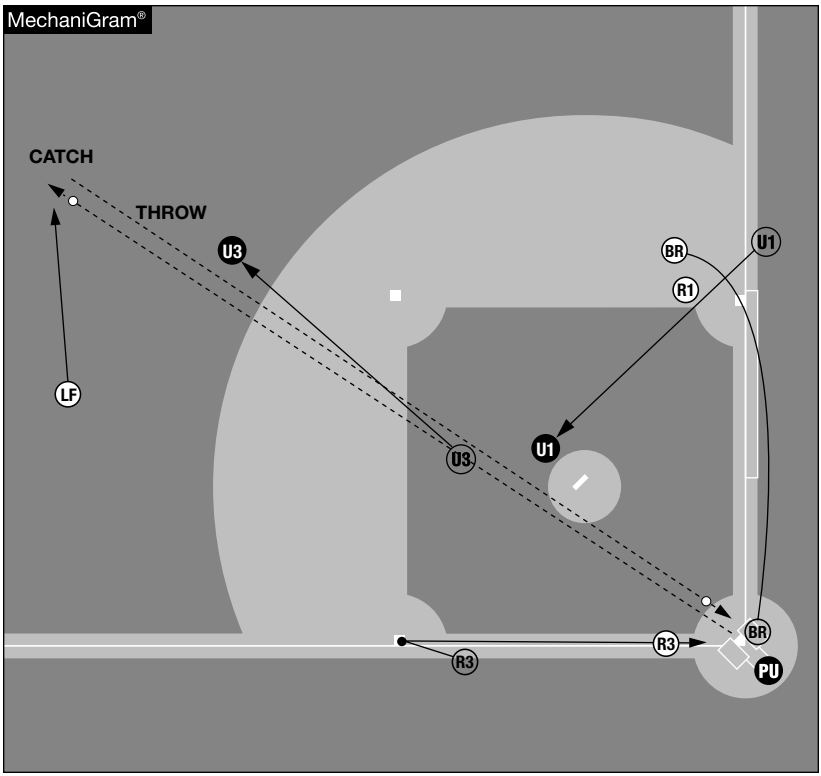
Action on the field: Routine fly ball to right field, two out, no catch; R3 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Stays home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Has catch/no catch responsibility. Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

U3: Observes the base touches of R1 at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third, plus the batter-runner at third base.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: Catch, U3 Goes Out



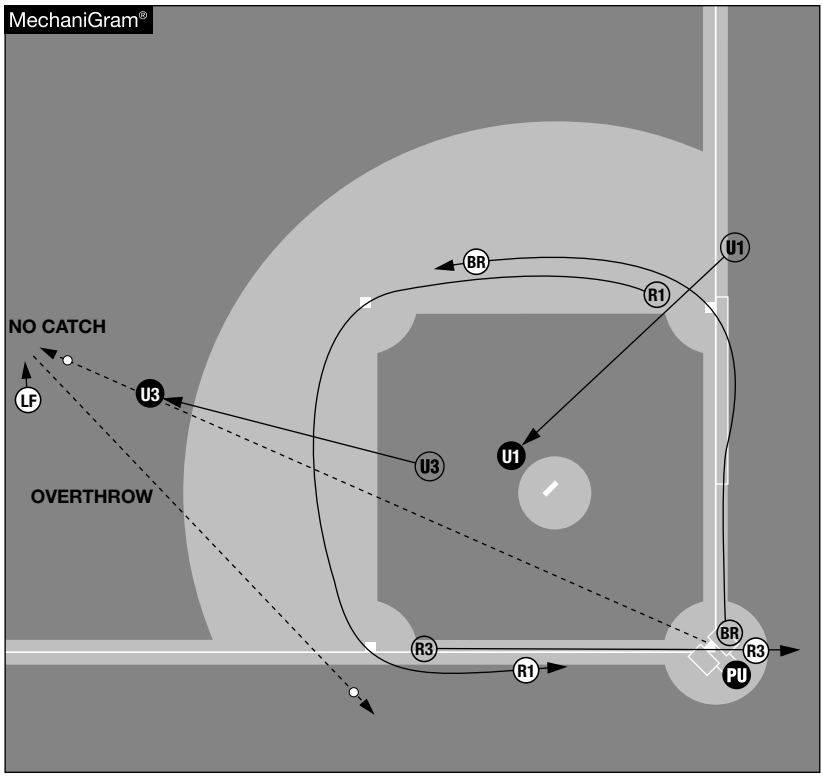
Action on the field: Deep fly ball caught by the left fielder in left-center field; U3 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R1 remains near first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into position to observe R3's tag up at third base. PU returns home for any play on R3.

U1: Enters the infield immediately and has all plays on the bases.

U3: Moves to the outfield to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



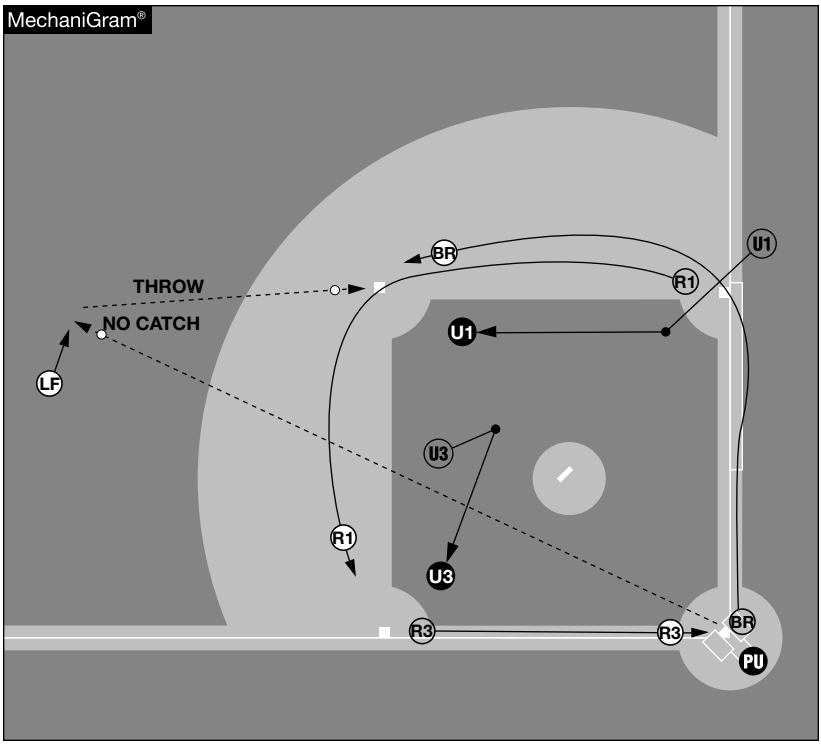
Action on the field: Deep fly ball to left-center field, no catch; U3 goes out; R3 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base and draws an overthrow there and R1 then advances toward the plate; the batter-runner advances toward second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Stays home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Immediately enters the infield and has all plays at first, second and third base on all runners.

U3: Moves to the outfield to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: No Catch



Action on the field: Fly ball to left-center field, no catch; R3 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Lines up the tag of R3 at third base until he is certain the ball will not be caught or R3 will not tag up. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

U3: Observes the base touches of R1 at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third, plus the batter-runner at third base.



SECTION 8.11
Runner on second

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

With less than two outs, U1 is in the "Deep B" position and U3 is in the "D" position. The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U1. U3 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to the left-field out of play. If the ball is hit where the right fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has all catch/no-catch responsibility.

With two outs, U1 is in the "A" position and U3 is in the "C" position. The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U3. U1 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to the right-field out of play. If the ball is hit where the left fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has all catch/no-catch responsibility.

Infield Catch Coverage

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first baseman moving in, back or toward the foul line.
3. By the third baseman moving in.

U1 has catches:

1. By all fielders moving toward the middle of the field.
2. By the pitcher moving back.
3. By the first baseman directly at or immeditely in front.
4. By the second baseman moving in all directions.
5. By the shortstop moving in.

U3 has catches:

1. By the third baseman directly at or immediately in front, moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

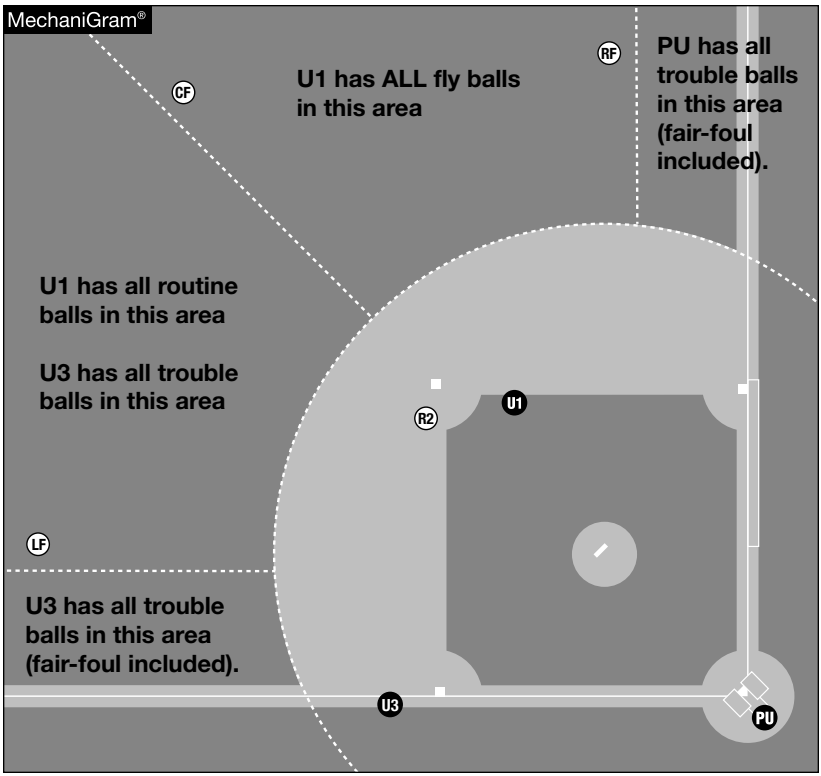
With two outs, the infield catch responsibility is changed since the umpires have switched positions. For the proper coverage, see 8.7.2.

Fair/Foul Coverage

PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the first-base line and up to third base.
U1: Has no fair-foul responsibility.
U3: Has responsibility for all balls that hit third base or go beyond third base.

With two outs, the fair/foul responsibility is changed since the umpires have switched positions. For the proper responsibilities, see 8.7.3.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

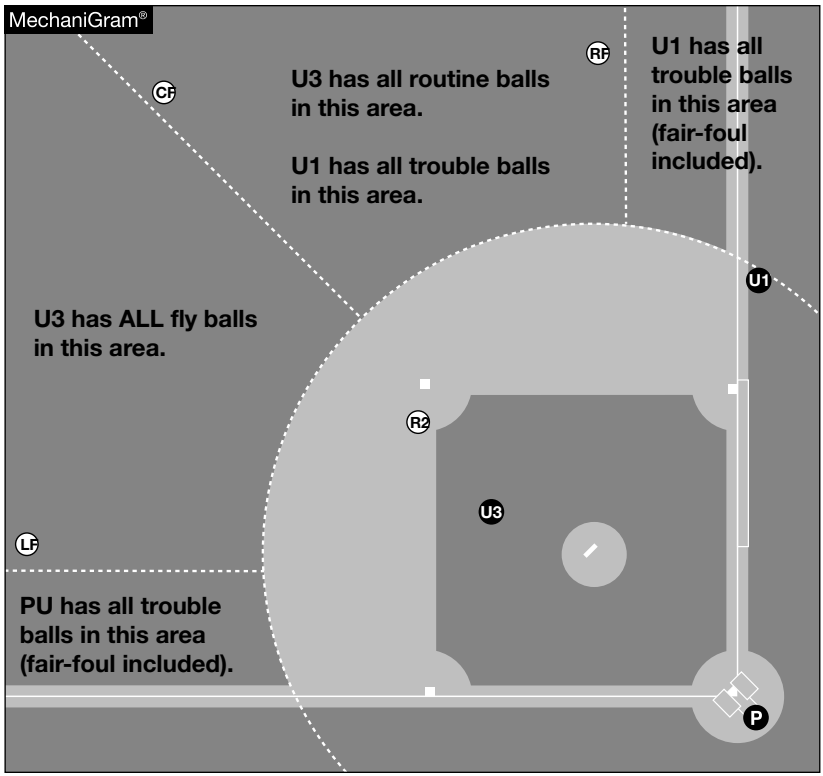


Action on the field: Less than two outs.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

With less than two outs, U1 is in the "Deep B" position and U3 is in the "D" position. The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U1. U3 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to the left-field out of play. If the ball is hit where the right fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has all catch/no-catch responsibility.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

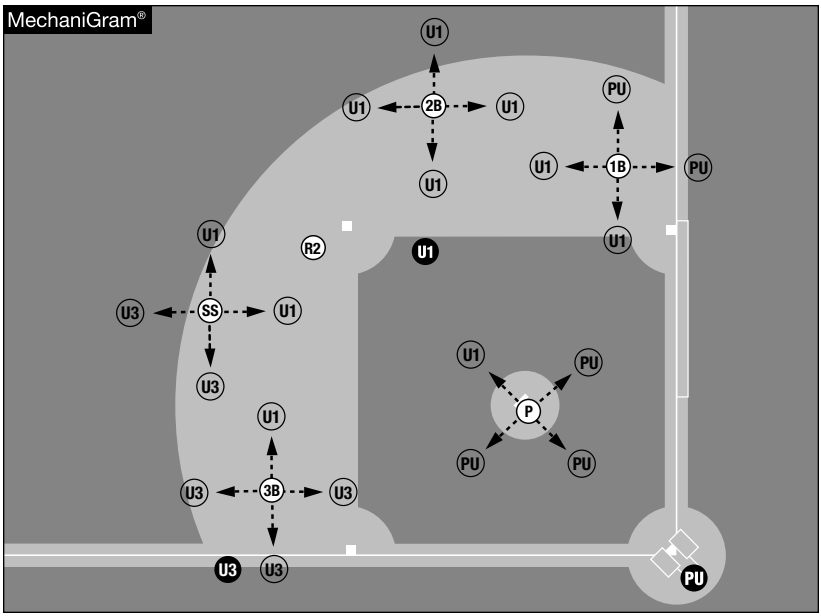


Action on the field: No action. Two outs.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

With two outs, U1 is in the "A" position and U3 is in the "C" position. The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U3. U1 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to the right-field out of play. If the ball is hit where the left fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has all catch/no-catch responsibility.

Infield Catch Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first baseman moving in, back or toward the foul line.
3. By the third baseman moving in.

U1 has catches:

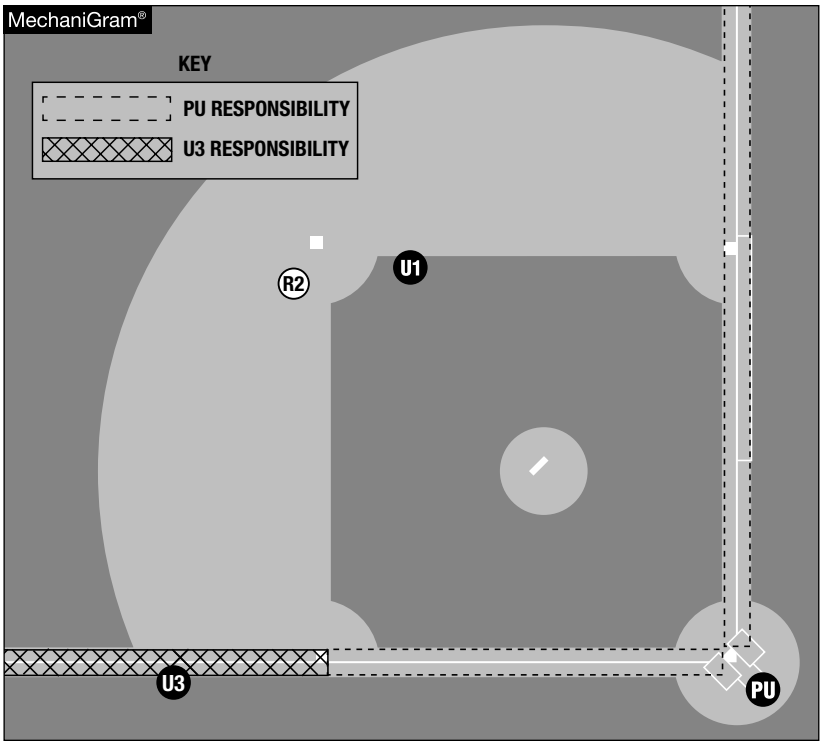
1. By all fielders moving toward the middle of the field.
2. By the pitcher moving back.
3. By the first baseman directly at or immediately in front.
3. By the second baseman moving in all directions.
4. By the shortstop moving in.

U3 has catches:

1. By the third baseman directly at or immediately in front, moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

With two outs, the infield catch responsibility is changed since the umpires have switched positions. For the proper coverage, see 8.6.2.

Fair/Foul Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

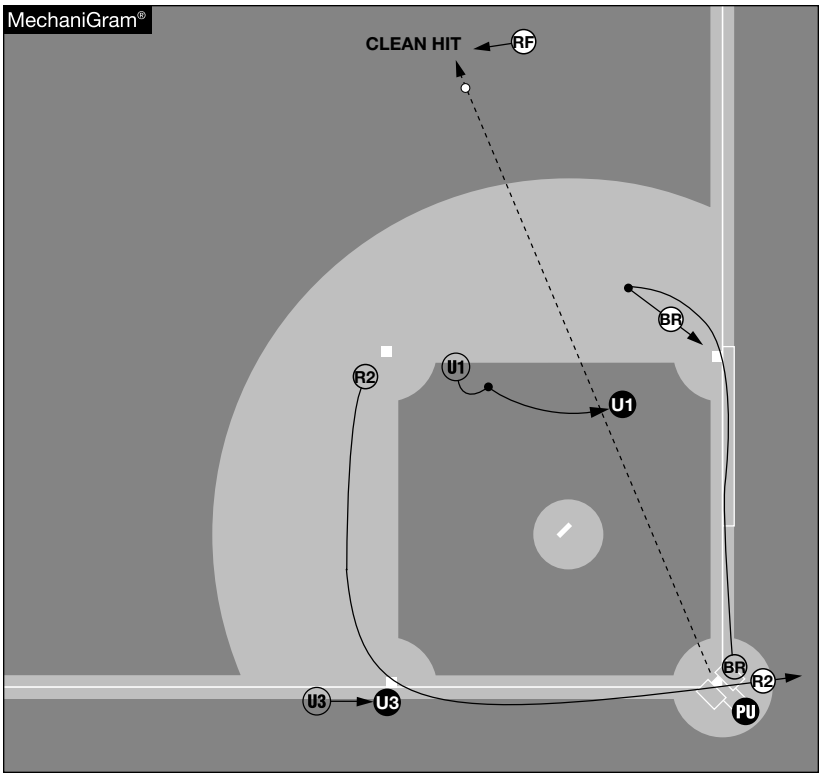
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has responsibility for all balls along the first-base line and up to third base.

U1: Has no foul line responsibility.

U3: Has responsibility for all balls that hit third base or that go beyond third base.

With two outs, the fair/foul responsibility is changed since the umpires have switched positions. For the proper responsibilities, see 8.7.3.

Clean Hit to Outfield



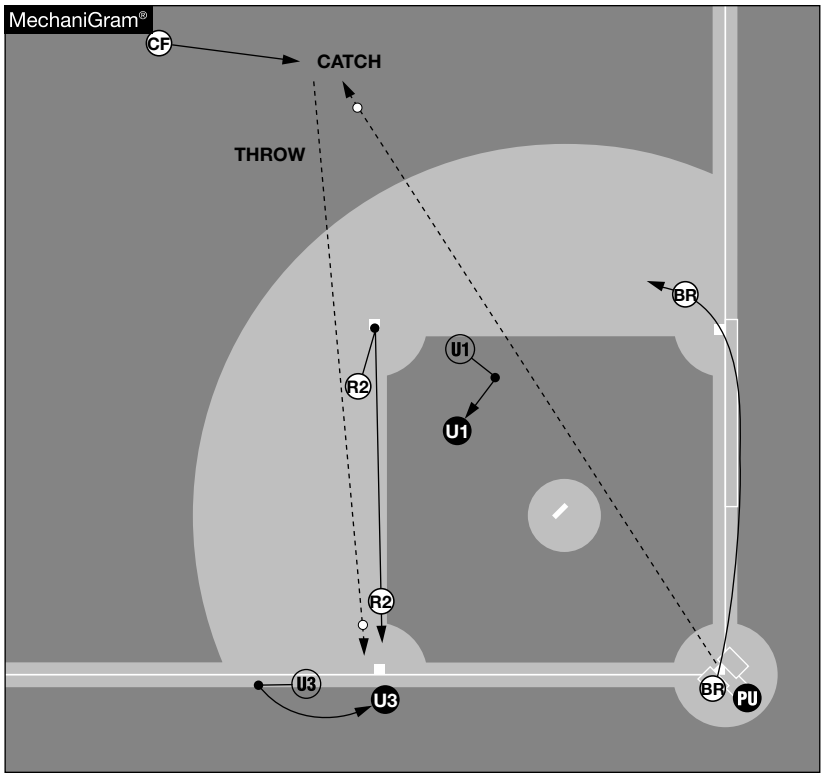
Action on the field: Clean hit to right field; R2 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner rounds first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes the plate touch of all runners and moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays at first and second base.

U3: Observes the base touches and has all plays at third base.

Fly Ball to Center Field: Catch



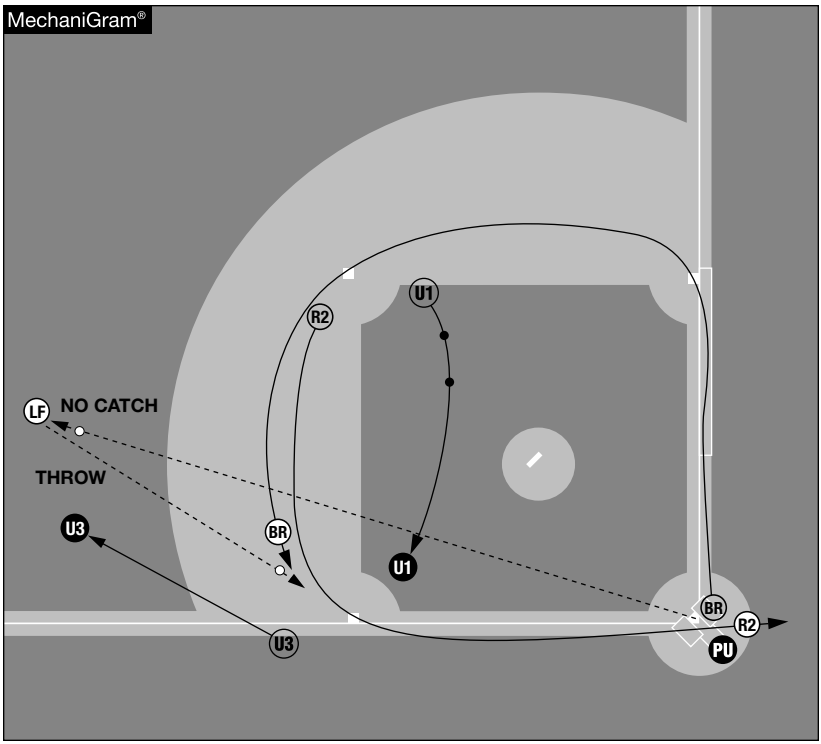
Action on the field: Fly ball to center field caught by the center fielder; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes the touch of first base and has all plays at home.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. If the ball is not caught, U1 observes base touches at first and second and has all plays at those bases.

U3: Moves into position for the tag up of R2 at second and any play at third base. If the ball is not caught, U3 observes base touches at third base and moves into position for all plays at third base.

Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



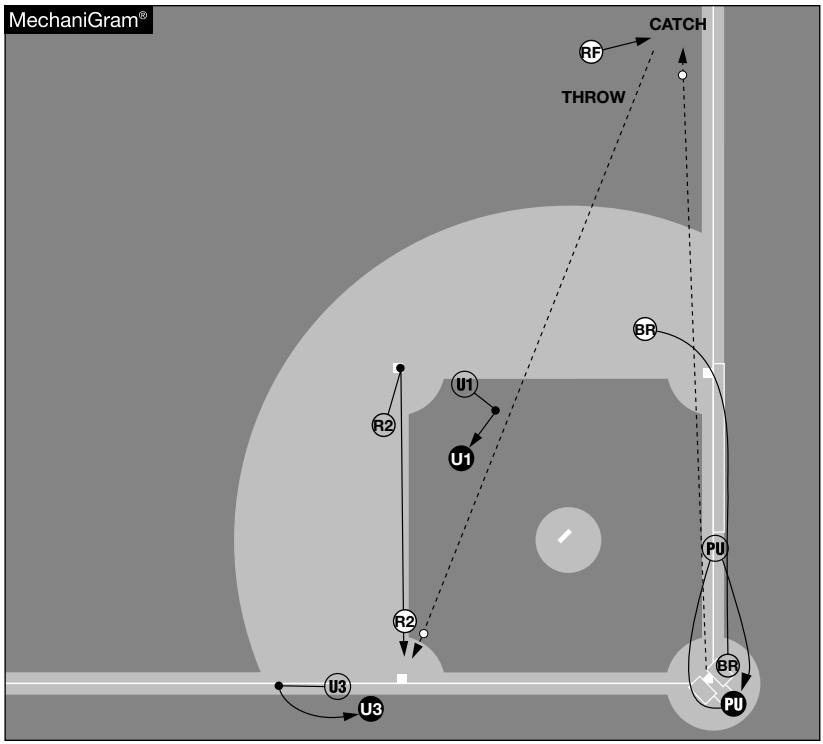
Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; R2 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner advances toward third base and draws a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Remains at the plate for all plays there and has the base touch of R2 at third and all base touches at the plate.

U1: Observes the batter-runner touch first base and moves into position for all plays on R2 and the batter-runner on the bases. If the ball is caught, U1 observes R2's potential tag up and has all plays at second and third base.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: Catch



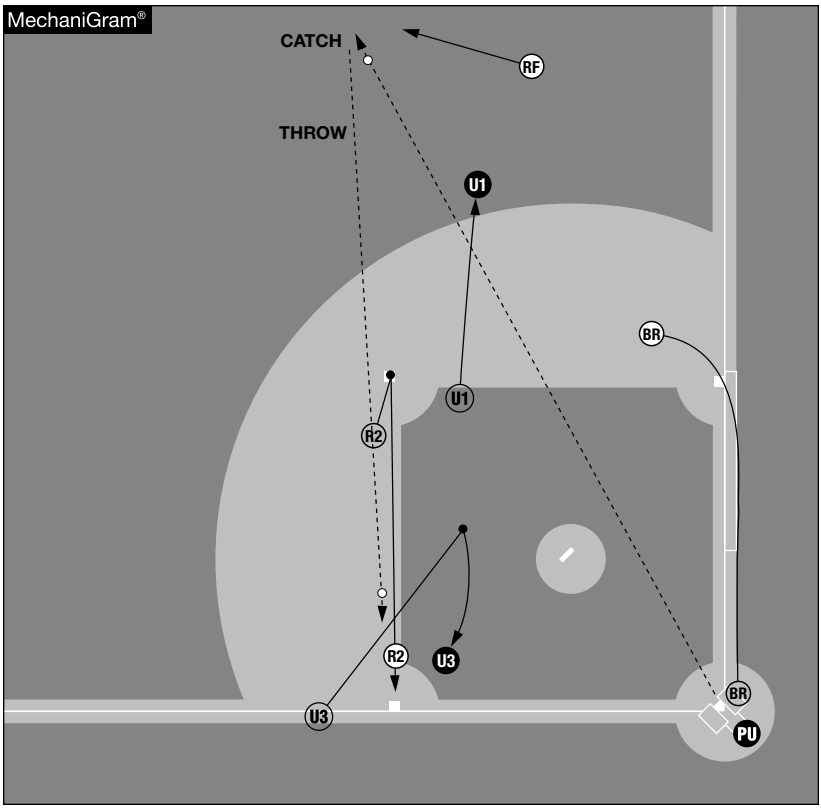
Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch. PU returns to the plate area.

U1: Retreats and observes R2's tag up. If the ball is not caught, U1 observes base touches at first and second base and has all plays at those bases.

U3: Moves into position for any play at third base on R2. If the ball is not caught, U3 observes base touches at third base and moves into position for all plays at third base.

Fly Ball to Right-Center Field: Catch: U1 Goes Out



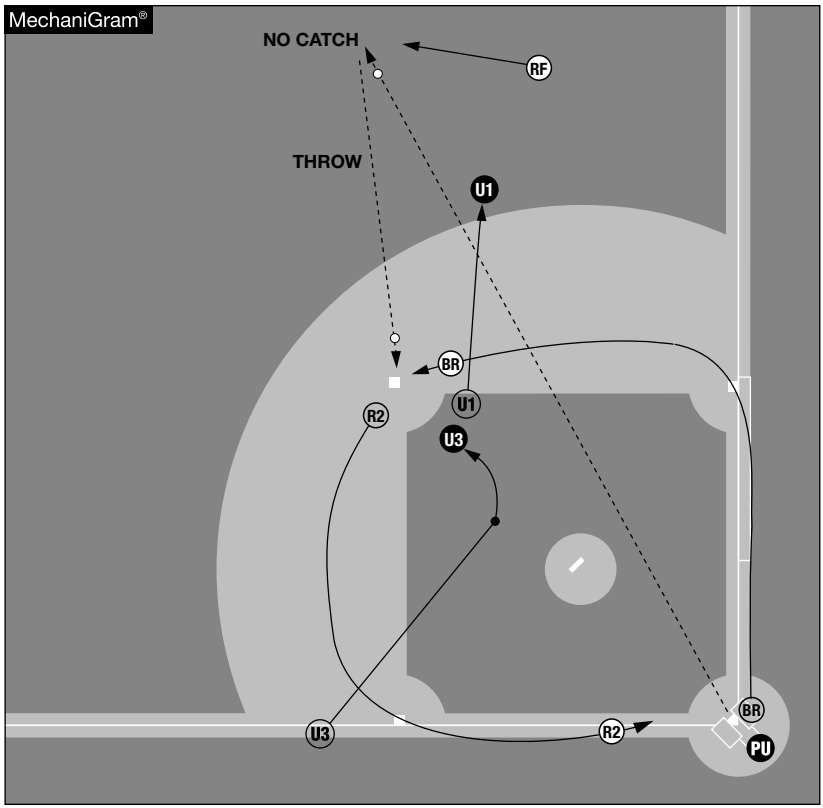
Action on the field: Deep fly ball to right-center field caught by the right fielder; U1 goes out; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Remains near the plate.

U1: Moves to the outfield to view the catch/no catch.

U3: Enters the infield immediately and lines up R2's tag. U3 then moves into position for any play at second or third base on R2.

Fly Ball to Right-Center Field: No Catch: U1 Goes Out



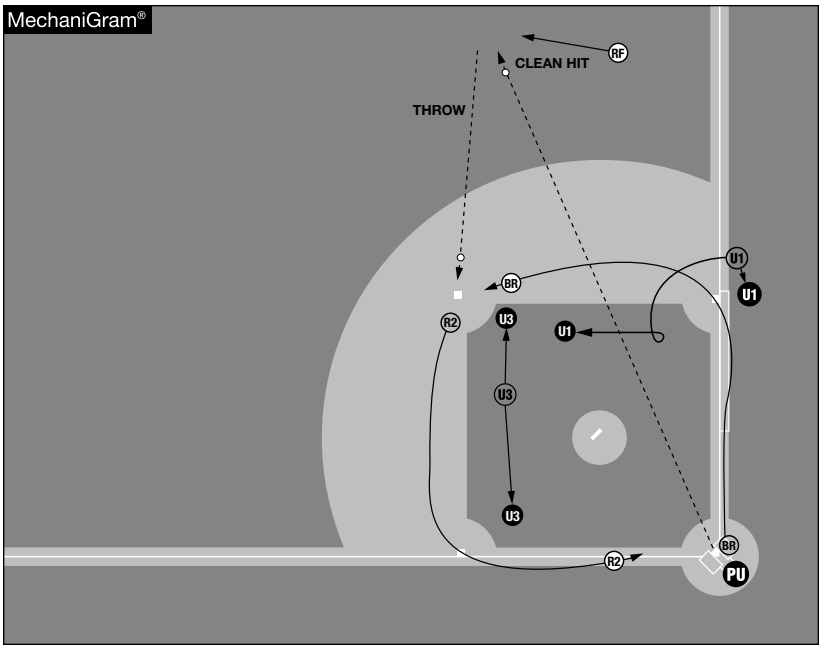
Action on the field: Deep fly ball to right-center field, no catch; U1 goes out; R2 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner advances toward second base and draws a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Remains at the plate and has all plays there and is responsible for R2's touch of third.

U1: Moves to the outfield and rules on the catch/no catch.

U3: Enters the infield immediately and observes all other base touches and has all plays on the bases.

Clean Hit to the Outfield



Action on the field: With two outs, a clean hit to right field. R2 advances toward home. BR advances toward second base.

Umpire responsibilities
PU: Stays home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes BR touching first base. There is no rotation on this play. By conference adoption, move in the direction of the coaches box down the first base line for plays on the batter runner back into first.

U3: Responsible for plays at second or third base which will be dictated by the movements of U1 on this play..

Note: By conference adoption, U1 has the option of either dropping down into foul territory in the direction of the first base coaches box or move into the diamond in the direction of second base. This decision should be made based on the likelihood of R2 scoring and the possible position of the BR at the end of the play either staying at first or advancing to second base. It is imperative that U1 communicate with U3 pre-pitch the two coverage options, and after the ball is put in play, which of the two coverage options U1 has decided on.



SECTION 8.12
Runners on second and third

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

With less than two outs, U1 is in the "Deep B" position and U3 is in the "D" position. The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U1. U3 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to the left-field out of play. If the ball is hit where the right fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has all catch/no-catch responsibility.

With two outs, U1 is in the "A" position and U3 is in the "C" position. The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U3. U1 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to the right-field out of play. If the ball is hit where the left fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has all catch/no-catch responsibility.

Infield Catch Coverage

The coverage is the same as a runner on second, with U1 in the "Deep B" position (see 8.11.3).

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first baseman moving in, back or toward the foul line.
3. By the third baseman moving in.

U1 has catches:

1. By all fielders moving toward the middle of the field.
2. By the pitcher moving back.
3. Bu the first baseman directly at or immediately in front.
3. By the second baseman moving in all directions.
4. By the shortstop moving in.

U3 has catches:

1. By the third baseman directly at or immediately in front, moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

Note: With two outs, the infield catch responsibility is changed since the umpires have switched positions. For the proper coverage, see 8.7.2.

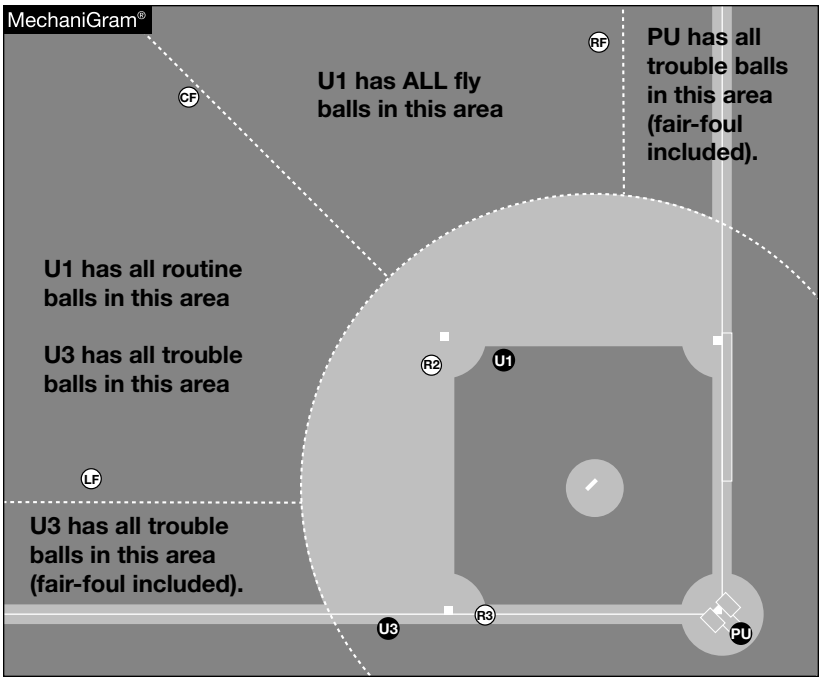
Fair/Foul Coverage

The coverage is the same as a runner on second, with U1 in the "Deep B" position (see 8.11.4).

PU: Has responsibility for all balls along the first-base line and up to third base.
U1: Has no foul line responsibility.
U3: Has responsibility for all balls that hit third base or that go beyond third base.

Note: With two outs, the fair/foul responsibility is changed since the umpires have switched positions. For the proper responsibilities, see 8.7.3.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



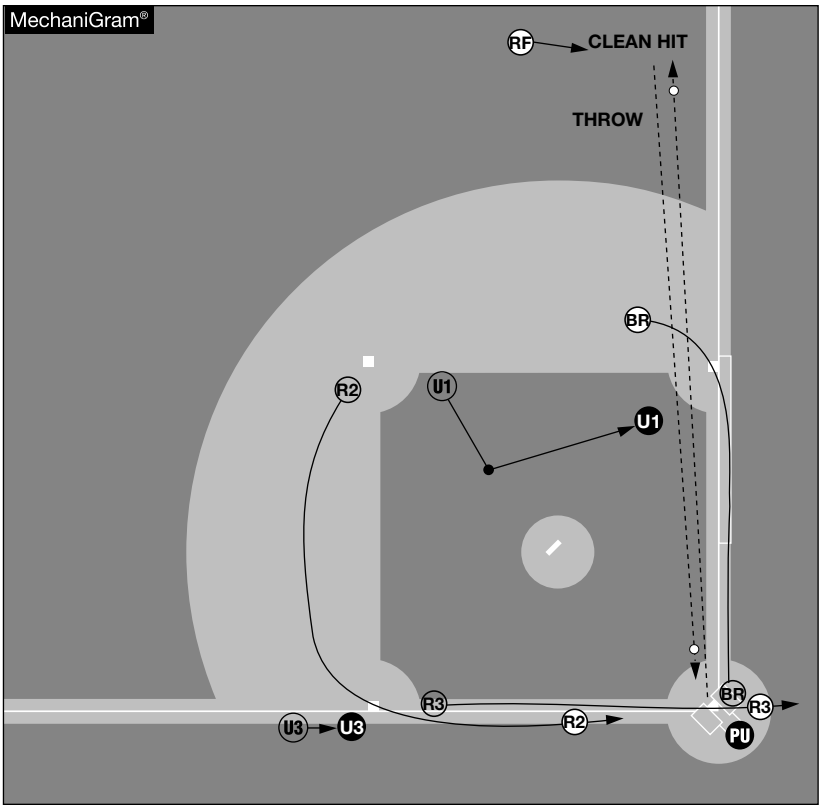
Action on the field: No action. Less than two outs.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

With less than two outs, as shown in the graphic above, U1 is in the "Deep B" position and U3 is in the "D" position. The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U1. U3 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to the left-field out of play. If the ball is hit where the right fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has all catch/no-catch responsibility.

With two outs, U1 is in the "A" position and U3 is in the "C" position (See 8.11.2). The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U3. U1 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to the right-field out of play. If the ball is hit where the left fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has all catch/no-catch responsibility.

Clean Hit to Outfield



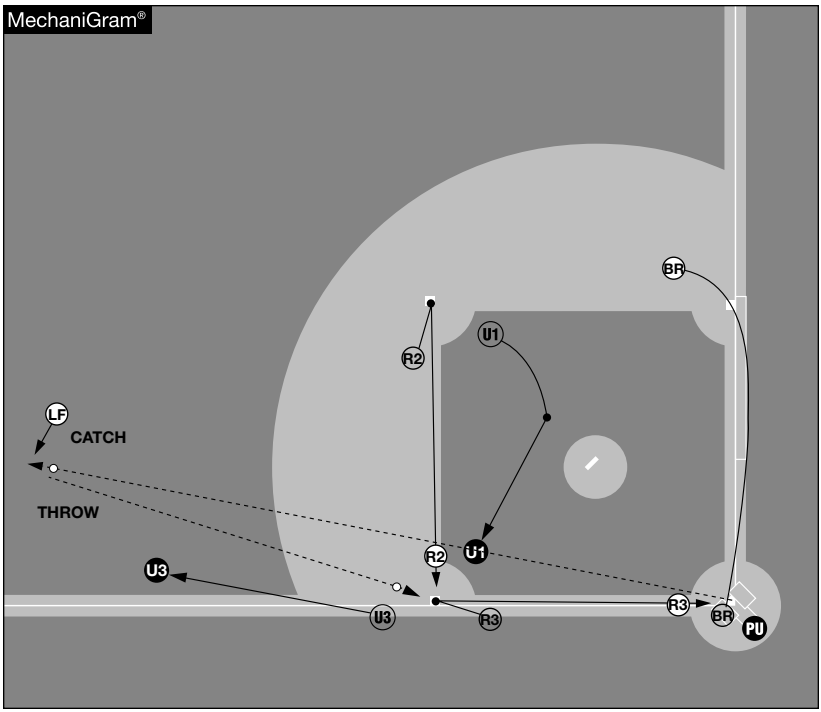
Action on the field: Clean hit to right field; R3 advances toward the plate; R2 advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; the batter-runner rounds first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes the plate touch of all runners and moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes base touches and has all plays at first and second base.

U3: Observes the base touches and has all plays at third base.

Fly Ball to Left Field: Catch: U3 Goes Out



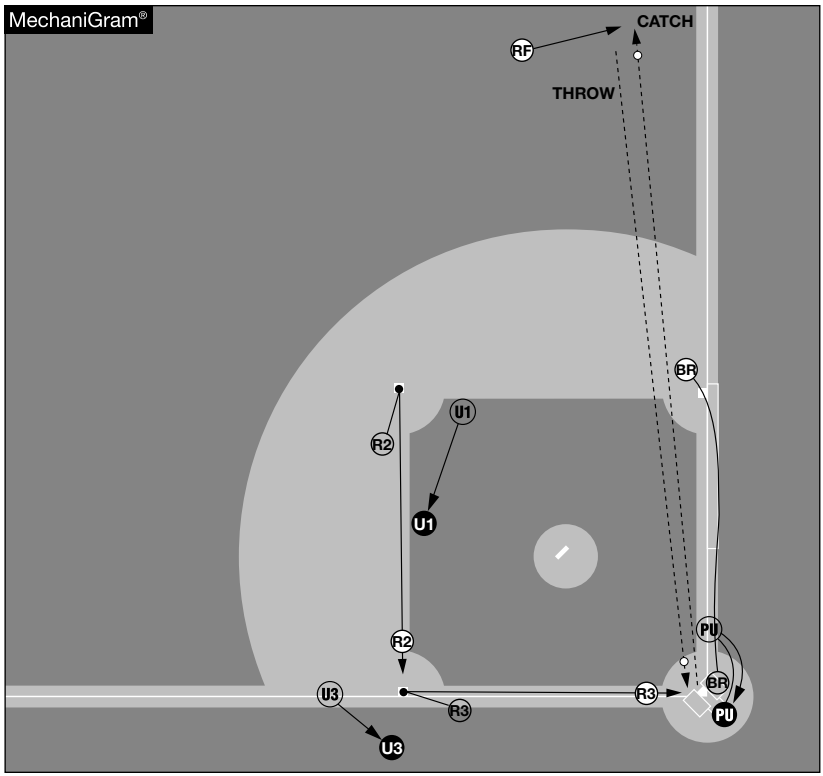
Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; U3 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate; R2 tags up and advances toward third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into position to observe R3's tag up at third base. PU returns to the plate for all plays there. If the ball is not caught, PU returns to the plate for all plays there and has the base touch for R2 at third and all base touches at the plate.

U1: Moves into position to observe tag up of R2. U1 moves into position for all plays on the bases. If the ball is not caught, U1 observes the base touches of the batter-runner.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball Down the Right-Field Line: Catch



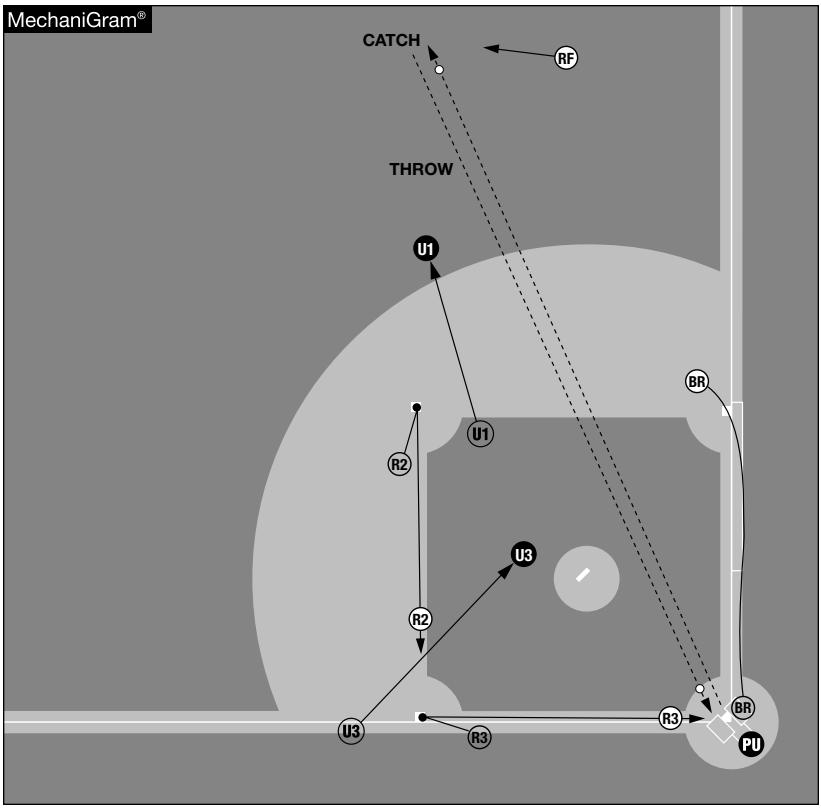
Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 tags up and advances toward third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch, then moves into position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes R2's tag up at second base. U1 moves into position for any play at second base. If the ball is not caught, U1 observes base touches at first and second base and has all plays at those bases.

U3: Observes R3's tag up. U3 moves into position for all base touches and any play at third base.

Fly Ball to Right-Center Field: Catch: U1 Goes Out



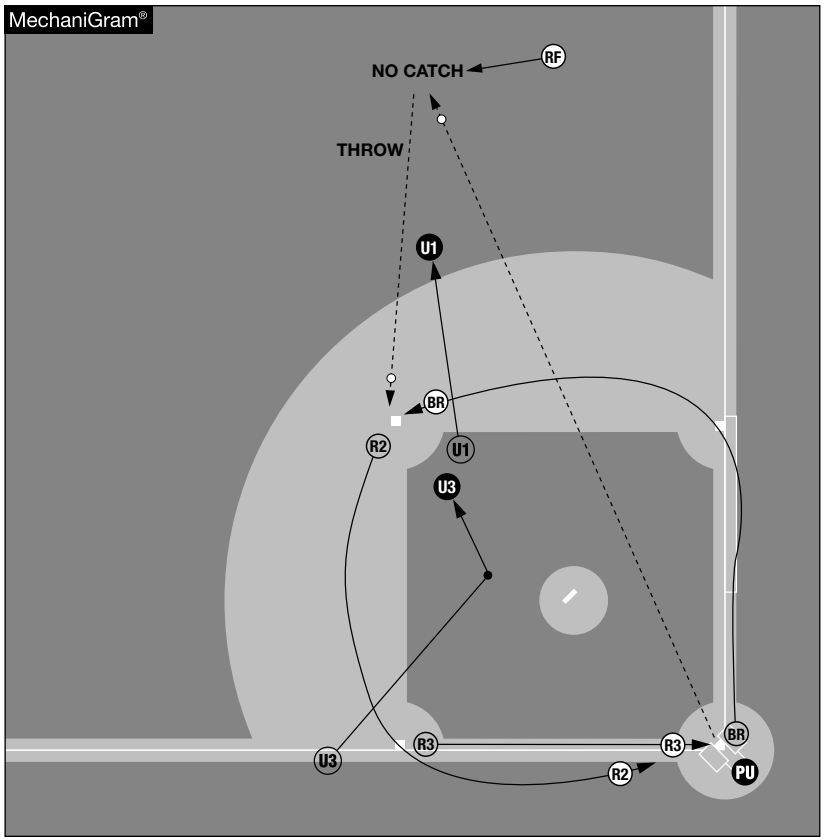
Action on the field: Deep fly ball to right-center field caught by the right fielder; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate and draws a throw there; R2 tags up and advances toward third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into position to observe R3's tag up at third base. PU returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves to the outfield to view the catch/no catch.

U3: Enters the infield immediately. U3 is responsible for R2's tag at second base and has all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball to Right-Center Field: No Catch: U1 Goes Out



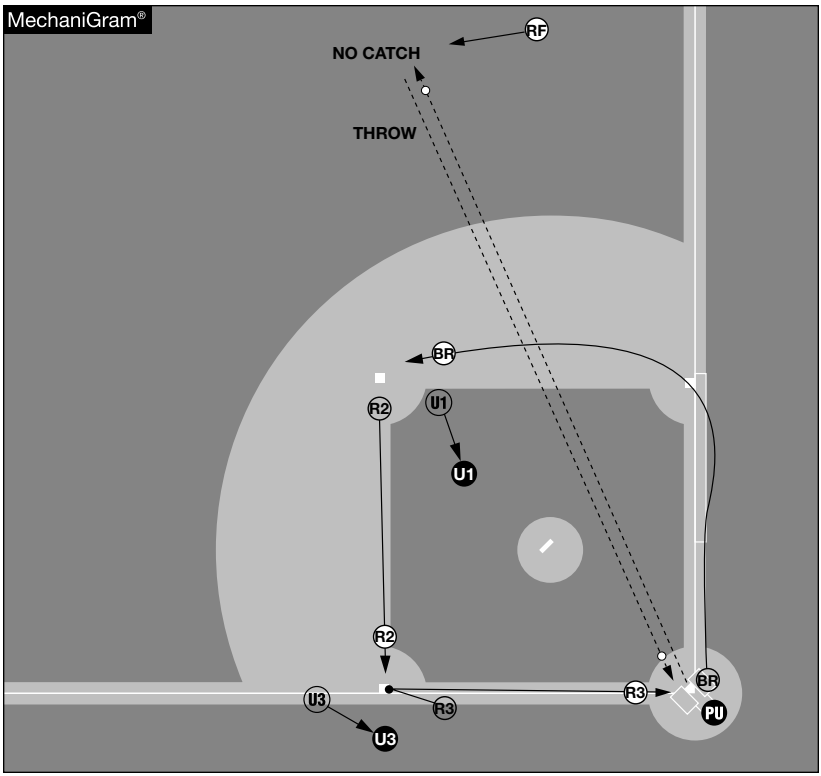
Action on the field: Deep fly ball to right-center field, no catch; R3 advances toward the plate; R2 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner advances toward second base and draws a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Returns to the plate for any play and has the base touch of R2 at third base, plus all base touches at the plate.

U1: Rules on the catch/no catch.

U3: Immediately enters the infield, observes all base touches of the batter-runner and has all plays on the bases.

Fly Ball to Right-Center Field: No Catch



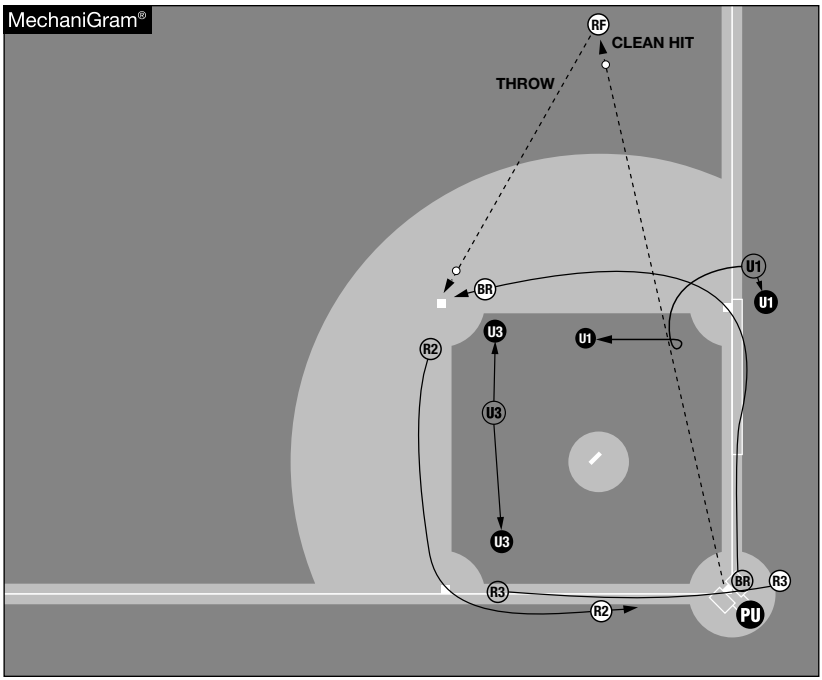
Action on the field: Fly ball to right-center field, no catch; R3, who returned to third base to tag up, advances toward the plate and draws a throw there; R2 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Moves to the best position to view the catch / no-catch. U1 will also have R2's tag-up. U1 has all plays at first and second base. If the ball is caught, U1 has any snap throw back into second base.

U3: Observes R3's potential tag up. U3 moves into position for all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to the Outfield



Action on the field: With two outs, a clean hit to right field. R2 and R3 advance toward home. BR advances toward second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Stays home, observes R2 touching third base and observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes BR touching first base. There is no rotation on this play. By conference adoption, U1 can reverse rotate and take the batter-runner into second base.

U3: Responsible for any play at third base on R2, plays on the BR at third base, and any play on the BR at second base when U1 decides to drop down in foul territory and stay on the outside of first base.

Note: By conference adoption, U1 has the option of either dropping down into foul territory in the direction of the first base coaches box or move into the diamond in the direction of second base. This decision should be made based on the likelihood of R2 scoring and the possible position of the BR at the end of the play either staying at first or advancing to second base. It is imperative that U1 communicate with U3 pre-pitch the two coverage options, and after the ball is put in play, which of the two coverage options U1 has decided on.



SECTION 8.13

Runner on third

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
The coverage is the same as with no runners on base (see 8.6.1).
U1: Starts in the "A" position. U1 dictates coverage and has the center fielder straight in and straight back and when he moves toward right field. U1 also has all balls to the right fielder.
U3: Starts in the "D" position. U3 has the center fielder moving toward left field and all balls to the left fielder.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with no runners on base (see 8.6.2).
PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third baseman moving toward the plate or toward the middle of the infield.

U1 has catches:

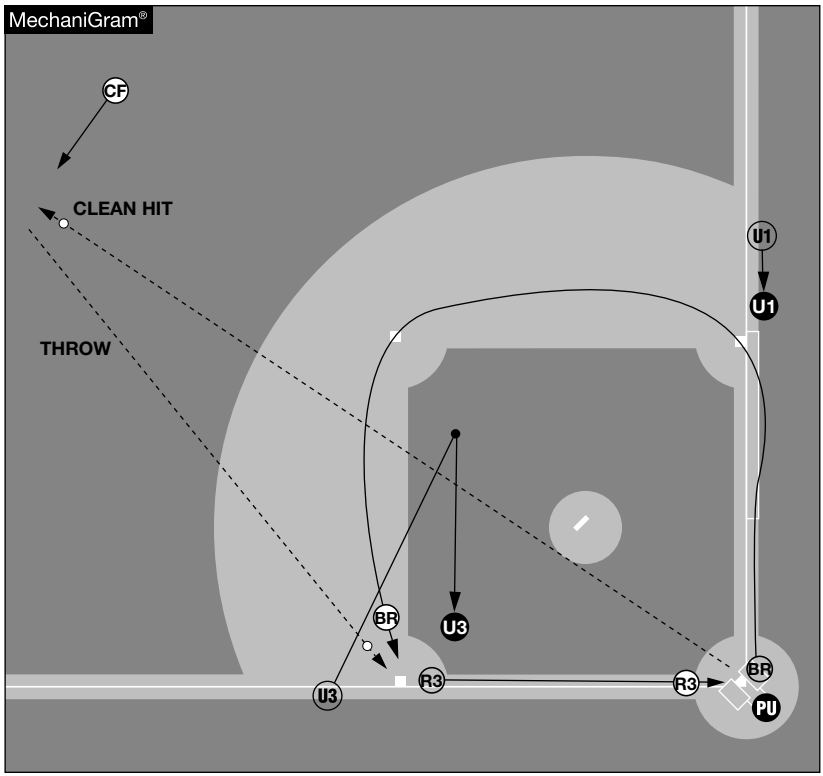
1. By the second baseman moving in, out or toward first base.
2. By the shortstop moving toward second base.
3. By the first baseman directly at or immediately in front, moving back or toward the line.
4. By the pitcher moving back.

U3 has catches:

1. By the shortstop moving in, back or toward third base.
2. By the second baseman moving toward second base.
3. By the third baseman directly at or immediately in front, moving back or toward the line.

Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with no runners on base (see 8.6.3).
PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.
U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base and/or go beyond.
U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base and/or go beyond.

Clean Hit to Outfield



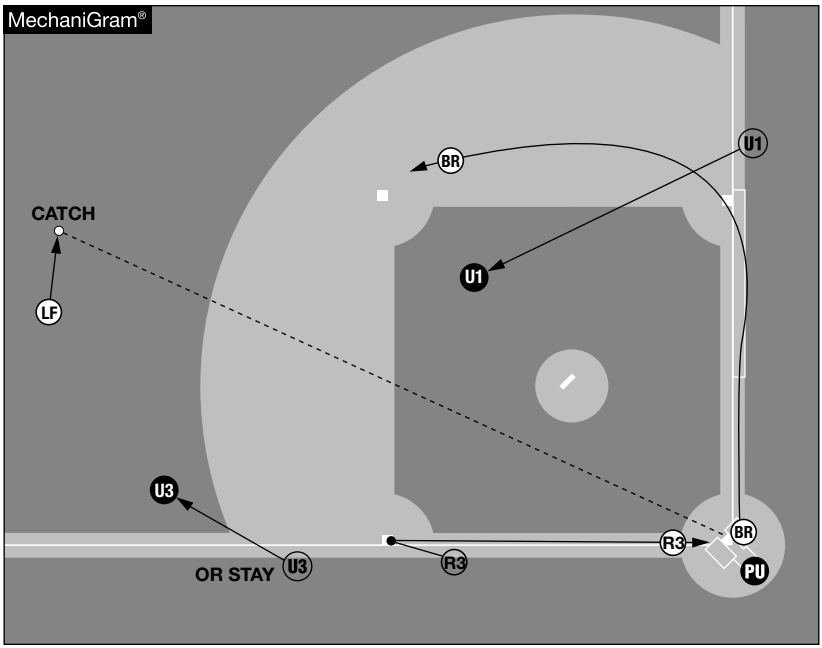
Action on the field: Clean hit deep to left-center field, no catch; R3 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner advances toward third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Stays home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes base touch at first base.

U3: Enters the infield and has all plays on the batter-runner at second and third base.

Fly Ball to LF or Foul Territory: Catch/No Catch, U3 Goes Out/Stays



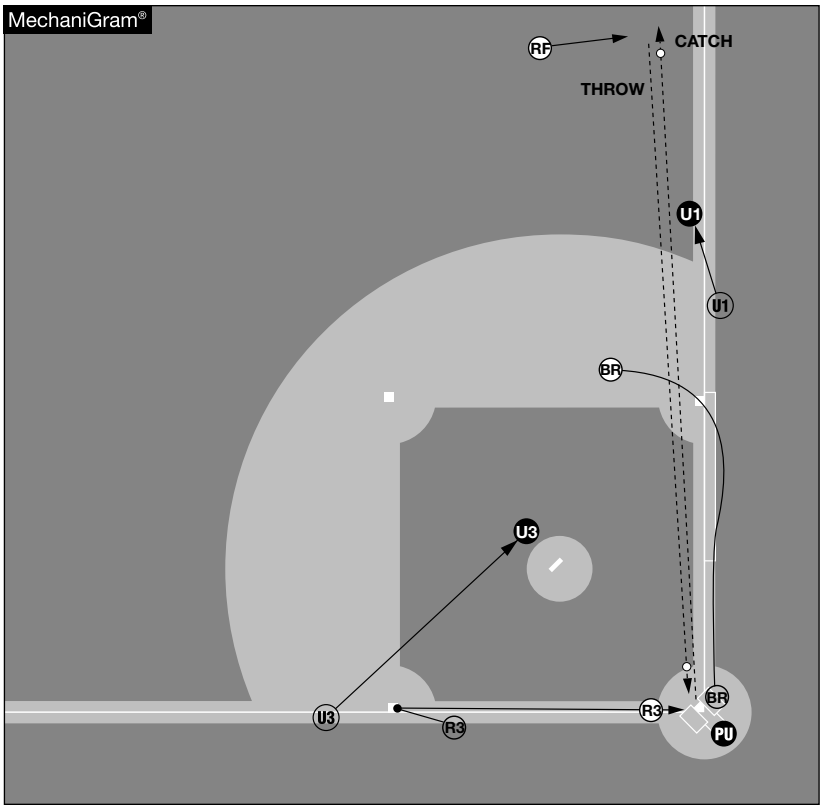
Action on the field: Fly ball caught or uncaught to left field in U3's fly ball coverage area.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into a position to observe R3's tag up at third base. PU returns to the plate for any play there.

U1: Moves to the infield immediately. U1 moves into position for any play back into first involving BR. If U3 goes out on trouble, U1 moves into position for all plays and touches on the bases.

U3: Has two options: move to the outfield if U3 views this fly ball as trouble, or stay positioned along the third baseline engaged with the fly ball through to the conclusion of the catch/no catch. If the ball is uncaught, U3 is responsible for any subsequent play on R3 at third and all plays on the BR at third base as well. U3 will have no tag up responsibilities of R3 on this play.

Fly Ball to Right Field: U1 Goes Out



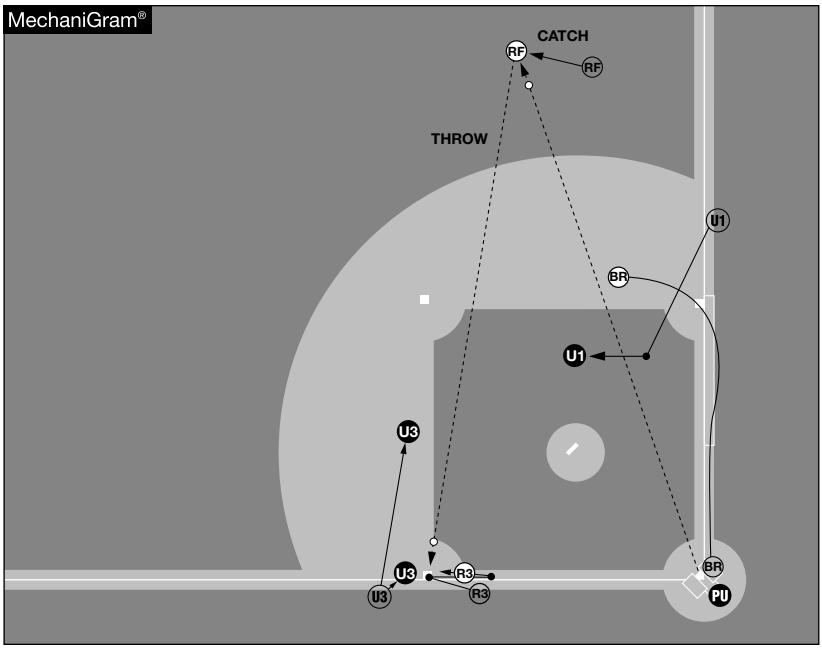
Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder; U1 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into a position to observe R3's tag up at third base. PU returns to the plate for any play there.

U1: Goes out and rules on the catch/no catch.

U3: Moves to the infield immediately. U3 moves into position for any play back into third involving R3. If the ball is not caught, U3 moves into position for all plays and touches on the bases.

Fly Ball to Right-Center Field: U1 Does Not Go Out



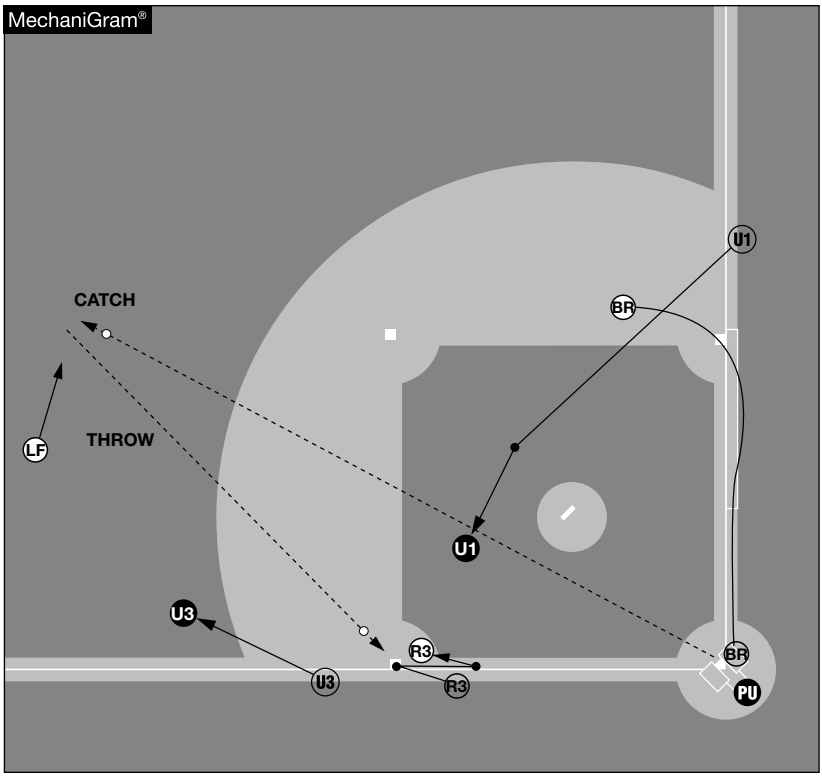
Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, caught by the right fielder; U1 does not go out; R3 tags up, advances a few steps toward the plate, then returns to third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into a position to observe R3's tag up at third base. PU returns to the plate for any play there.

U1: Makes a quick decision on going out or coming into the infield. U1 moves into the middle of the diamond and takes all plays on the batter-runner at first or second should the ball get dropped. U1 may elect to stay outside of first base on a non-trouble fly ball to right field to be in a better position for plays back into first base on batter-runner.

U3: Immediately moves into the infield to guard against U1 going out on trouble. Responsible for any play back into third involving R3, plays on the batter-runner at third, and at all bases including a play back into first base if U1 decides to go out on trouble.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to left-center field caught by the left fielder; U3 goes out; R3 tags up, advances a few steps toward the plate, then returns to third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into a position to observe R3's tag up at third base. PU returns to the plate for any play there.

U1: Moves into position directly behind the pitcher's mound. U1 moves into position for all plays and touches on the bases, including any play at third base on R3.

U3: Goes out and rules on the catch/no catch. U3 is responsible for the catch whether he goes out or stays in and lines up the tag.



Section 9

Mechanics for a Crew of Four Umpires



Mechanics for Four Umpires

9.1 Basic Principles

1. Better outfield coverage. Having four umpires allows for better angles on outfield coverage without sacrificing base coverage.

2. Know three-umpire mechanics. You must have a complete understanding of three-umpire mechanics to work with four umpires. Depending on who goes out on a fly ball, oftentimes the rest of the crew reverts to using three-umpire mechanics.

9.2 Balk Concentration

There are some balks that are more obvious from some positions.

A. PU should concentrate on:
1. Left-handed pitchers stepping to the plate
2. Left-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop
3. Right-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop
4. Right-handed pitchers gaining ground on the jump turn
5. Right-handed pitchers closing their shoulder before the jump turn

B. U1 should concentrate on:
1. Left-handed pitcher's step, or body movement to the plate
2. Left-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop
3. Right-handed pitchers breaking their front knee before the jump turn
4. Right-handed pitchers gaining ground on the jump turn

C. U2 (when inside) should concentrate on:
1. Left-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop
2. Right-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop

D. U3 should concentrate on:

1. Right-handed pitchers coming to a complete stop
2. Right-handed pitchers stepping to the plate on the third to first move
3. Left-handed pitchers stepping to the plate

9.3 Line Drive Responsibilities

A. Umpires will be held accountable to set their initial pre-pitch position with strong consideration given to line drive responsibilities.

B. Umpires shall start with their inside foot next to the foul line and shall NOT straddle the line.

C. U1 and U3 will position themselves no more than 6-8 feet behind the fielder with no runners on base. If the fielder is playing deep, U1 should cut this distance in half and be 3-4 feet behind the fielder. The umpire should never put himself in a position where a fielder could step into or dive into him on a line drive.

D. U1 and U3 should be well positioned to see line drives hit at the feet of the first or third baseman in their normal positions (with a step or two forward) and to make that call.

E. U1 and U3 will now take all line drives hit directly at and immediately in front of the first or third baseman. "Directly in front" refers to the immediate area in front of the fielder and in the immediate vicinity of his starting position. A fielder who moves a significant distance straight forward will remain the plate umpire's call.

F. When positioned in the outfield, U2 should always work over the inside shoulder (closest to second base) of the middle infielder to be in the best possible position to rule on line drives in his coverage area.

Point of Emphasis:

Within the contents of this manual, a diagram exists describing the infield catch and no-catch responsibilities for each umpire system. It is important to note that non-routine situations can arise, and a strict adherence to these responsibilities is not always prudent in the spirit of getting the call right. Complexities including, but not limited to, how the ball is hit, where the infielders and umpires are positioned, and how fielders converge can cause a need for improvisation.

The committee suggests, as a rule of thumb, the umpire to whom the glove is open takes the catch or no-catch decision. This should be discussed at length in the crew's pregame meeting. Extraordinary communication is needed in these gray-area, catch/ no-catch situations to ensure there is only one calling umpire as these types of calls often put runners in immediate jeopardy and/or fall into a category of plays which are not reviewable or correctable.

9.4 Basic Outfield Coverage

A. Umpires will not automatically go out on all fly balls with or without runners on base. Umpires are expected to read fly balls and only go out on a trouble ball. The philosophy adopted by the CCA mechanics committee is "if in doubt, go out." That philosophy is not meant to replace the reading of fly balls. Pause, read and react techniques should always be utilized.

B. Four conditions that require an umpire to go to the outfield from the "A" and "D" positions:

1. The outfielder turns and begins to run toward the outfield fence (possible home run)
2. Multiple players converging on a fly ball
3. A catch being made below the waist
4. Outfielder moving toward the foul line and possible fair/foul.
5. A tag-up situaiton that will have a quick transfer and throw to retire a runner.

Point of Emphasis: If U2 starts inside, then U2 will not have any responsibility for fly balls to the outfield. The outfield, on routine and trouble balls, will be split between U1 and U3.

C. If in doubt, go out on fly balls in your coverage area.

1. If you are going out — go out hard.
2. Leave no doubt in your partners' minds about whether or not you
are going out.
3. Signal your partner by raising your arm if you are going out.
4. If you do not go out, you still maintain responsibility for the catch.
5. Once you go out, do not return until the play is complete.
6. U2 positioned within the infield should never cross the base path to observe a catch/no catch.

D. When a home run is hit with no runners on base, it is not necessary to have the entire crew fully rotate.

1. U3 can go out down the line and then come back to third base for touches at that base. If U2 goes out, U3 can easily take all touches at second and third. If U1 goes out, either U2 or the home-plate umpire should have the touch of first as U1 will not be able to get back to first after going out to see the batter-runner touch first base.
2. The most important thing to remember is that the crew must communicate and read each other on this situation as the batter-runner is rounding the bases.

9.5 Overthrows

At the plate

Plate umpire (or the U1 if there is a rotation to home) has responsibility on all overthrows to the plate.

At first base (toward the plate)

Plate umpire has primary responsibility on all overthrows.

At first base (toward outfield)

First-base umpire (or any umpire rotating to first base) has the primary responsibility on all overthrows.

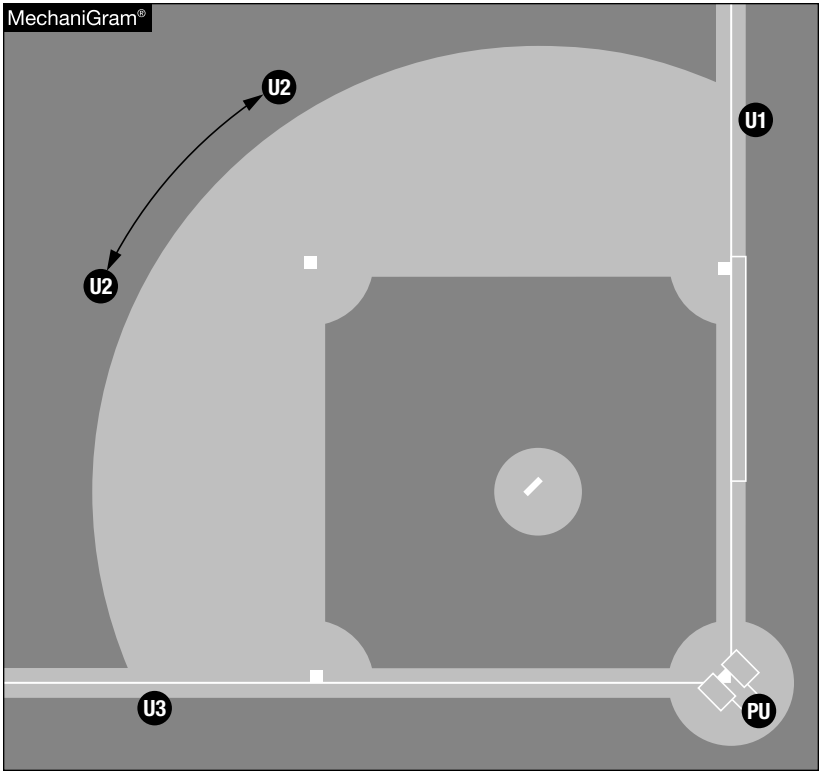
At third base (toward the plate)

Plate umpire (or the first-base umpire if there is a rotation to home) has primary responsibility on all overthrows. Exception: If the plate umpire has rotated to third base to rule on a play the plate umpire will have the responsibility of the overthrow at third base.

At third base (toward outfield)

Third-base umpire (or any umpire rotating to third base) has the primary responsibility on all overthrows.

Initial Positions



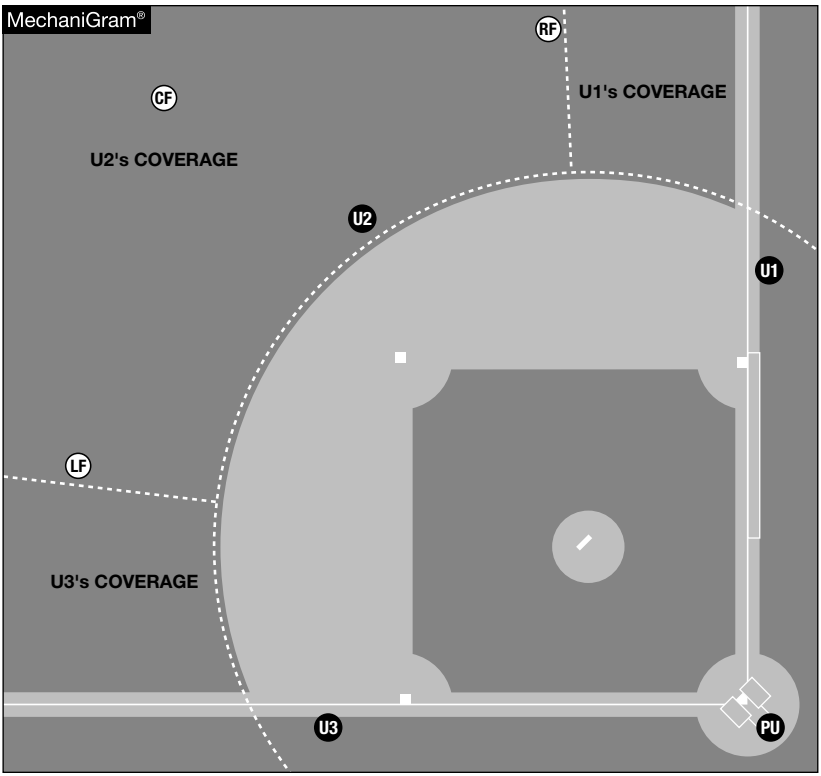
Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
U1: Starts in the "A" position.

U2: Should always work over the inside shoulder of the middle infielder to be in the best possible position to rule on line drives in his coverage area. Be aware of not starting too far up the middle and in the batter's eye or in line with the pitcher's release point.

U3: Starts in the "D" position.

Outfield Catch Coverage



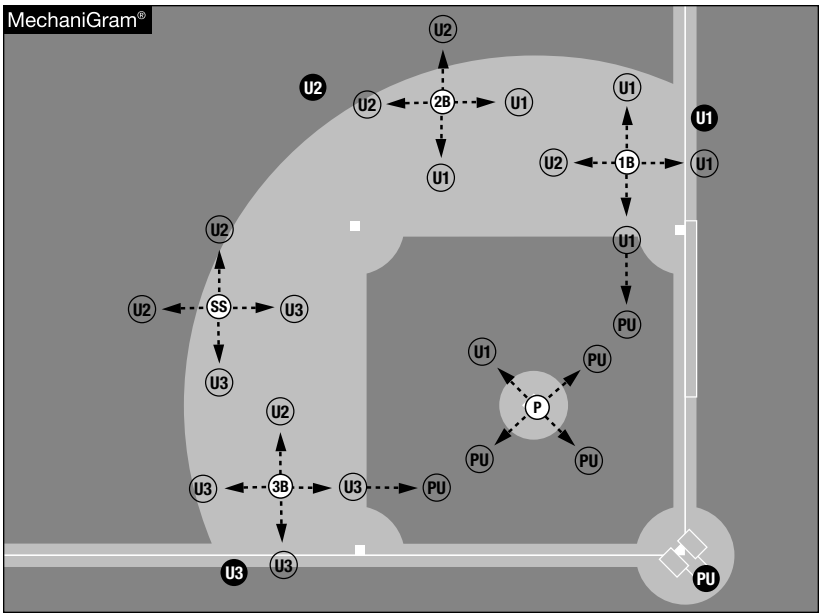
Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
U1: Has the right fielder moving toward the right-field foul line.

U2: Dictates coverage and has the left fielder straight in and straight back to the right fielder straight in and straight back.

U3: Has the left fielder moving toward the left-field foul line.

Infield Catch Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving significantly in.

U1 has catches:

1. By the second baseman moving in or toward first base.
2. By the first baseman on line drives directly at or directly in front, moving back or toward the line.
3. By the pitcher moving back.

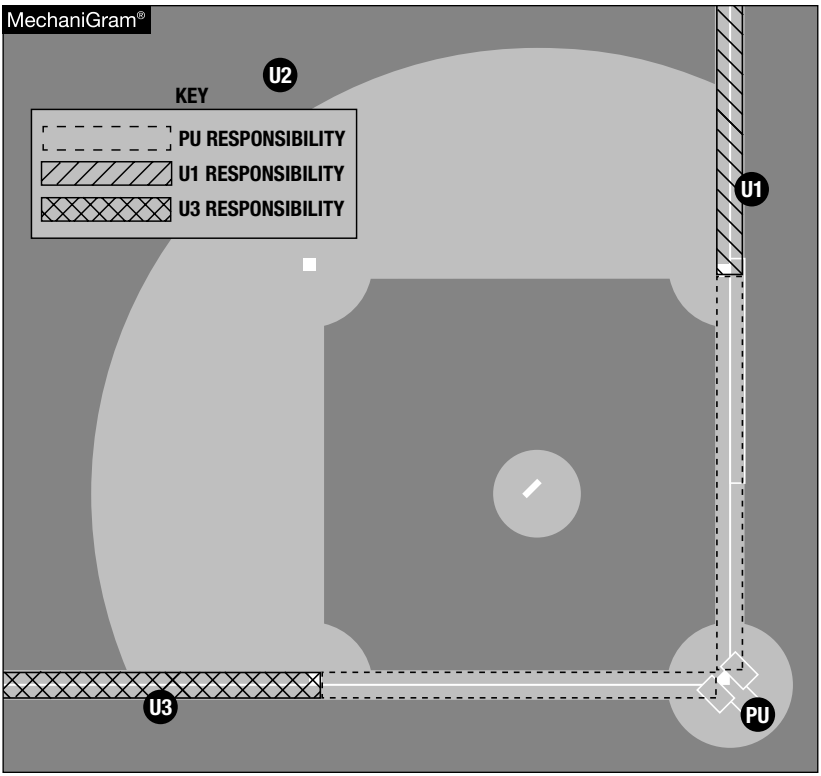
U2 has catches:

1. By the second baseman moving out or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving out or toward second base.
3. By the first baseman moving right.
4. By the third baseman moving left.

U3 has catches:

1. By the shortstop moving in or toward third base.
2. By the third baseman on line drives directly at or directly in front, moving back or toward the line.

Fair/Foul Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

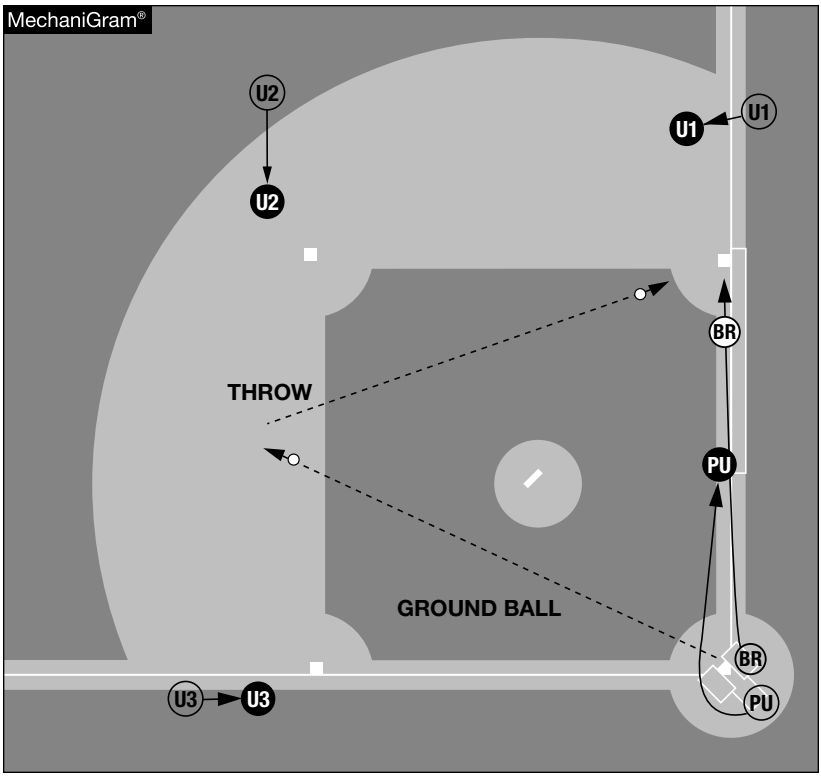
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Responsible for balls up to first base and third base.

U1: Responsible for balls that hit first base or go beyond.

U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.

U3: Responsible for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield



Action on the field: Ground ball to the shortstop, who throws to first base.

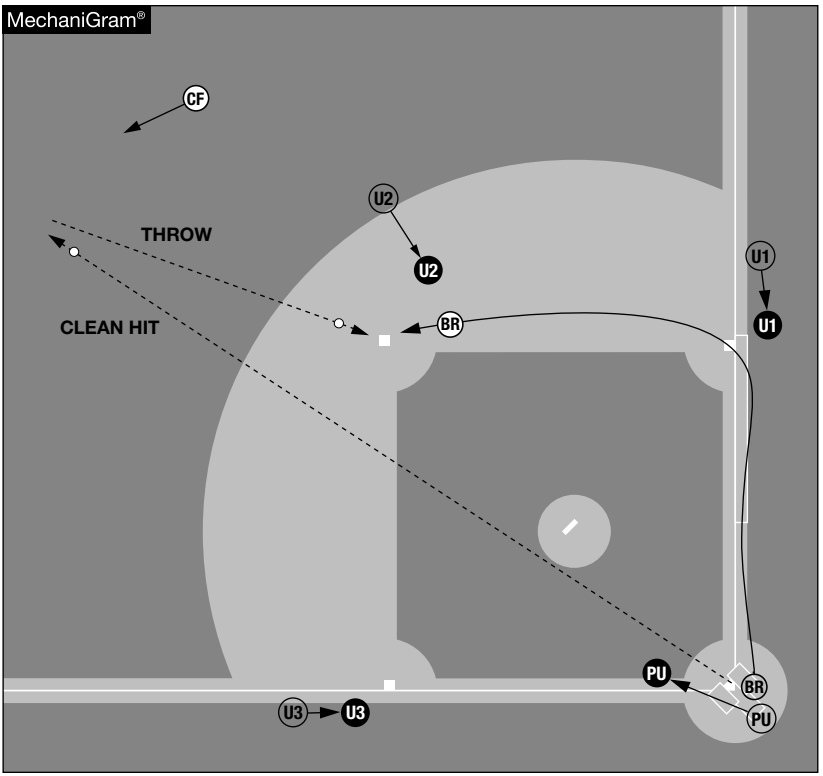
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.

U2: Moves toward second base. It is acceptable for U2 to take the play from the outfield side of second base.

U3: Observes.

Clean Hit to Outfield



Action on the field: Clean hit to center field, no catch; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there.

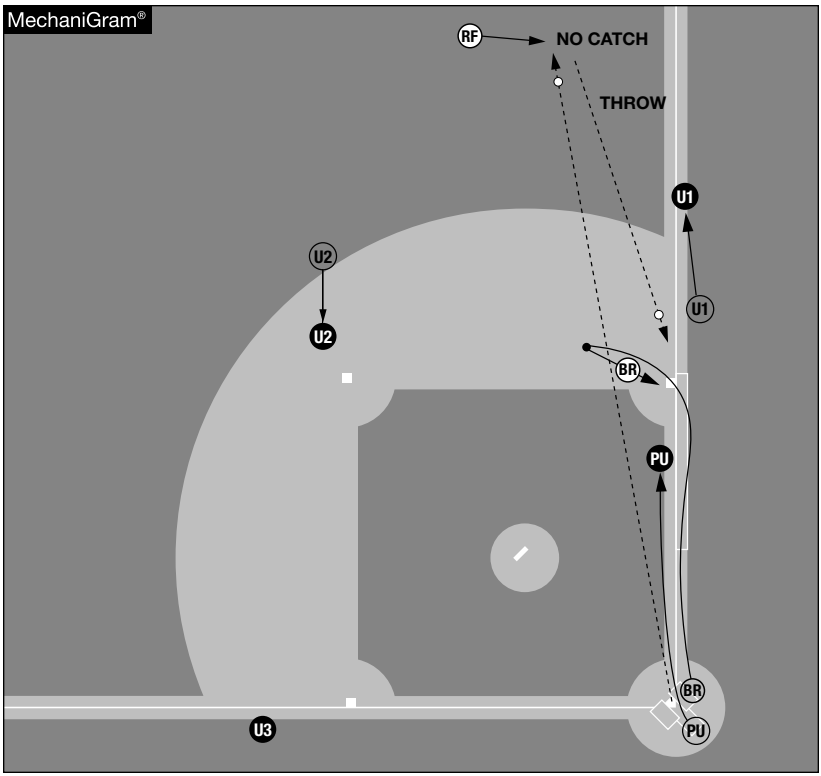
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes and has all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes the batter-runner touch first base.

U2: Moves toward second base and prepares for all plays on the batter-runner at second base. It is acceptable for U2 to take the play from the outfield side of second base.

U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Fly Ball to Right Field: No Catch, U1 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, no catch; U1 goes out; the batter-runner rounds first base and returns, drawing a throw there.

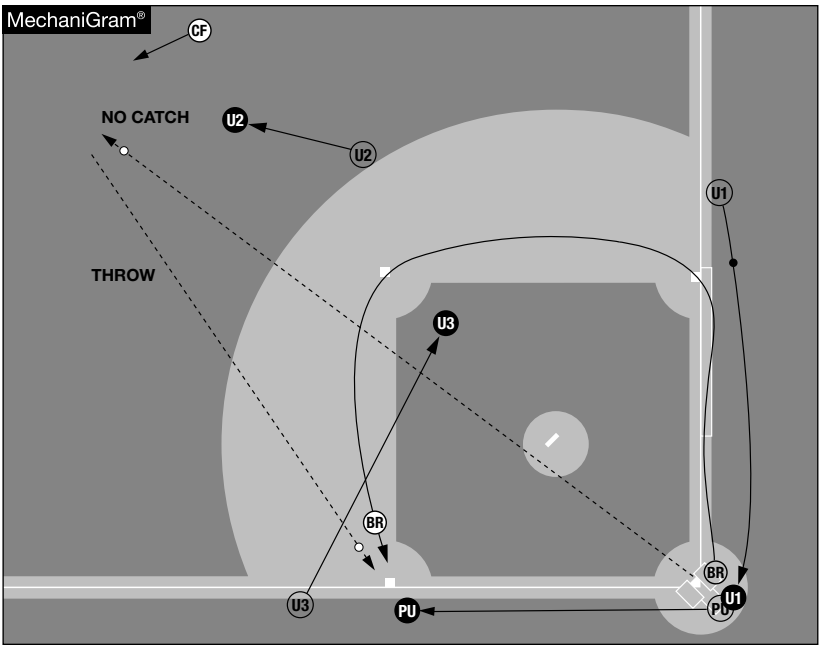
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves down the line toward first base for any possible throwback at first base on the batter-runner.

U1: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

U2: Moves into the infield at second base. It is acceptable for U2 to take the play from the outfield side of second base.

U3: Observes and has any play at third base.

Fly Ball to Center Field: No Catch, U2 Goes Out



Action on the field: Deep fly ball to center field, no catch; U2 goes out; batter-runner advances toward third base and draws a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward third base and has any play there on the batter-runner.
If a play develops at third base, PU can take the play in either fair or foul territory.

U1: Observes the base touch at first base and if the batter-runner commits to third base, U1 moves toward the plate for any play there on the batter-runner.

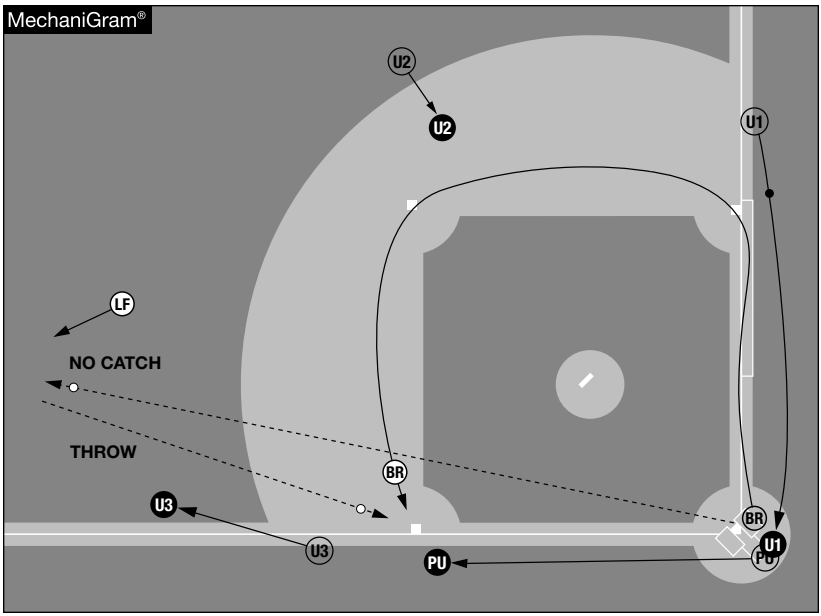
U2: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

U3: Has all plays at second base and observes the base touch there.

Note: This coverage also applies to home runs.

Note: On a routine fly ball to the outfield in U2's coverage area, U2 will remain responsible for the catch/no catch decision while he moves toward 2nd base on the outside of the diamond to be in position at 2nd base on a play should the center fielder drop the ball. When U2 is reading the fly ball on this play - U3 should start toward 2nd in case U2 decides to go out.

Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; batter-runner advances toward third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward third base and has any play or base touch at third base by the batter-runner. If a play develops at third base, PU can take the play in either fair or foul territory.

U1: Observes the batter-runner touch first base and, if the batter-runner commits to third base, U1 moves toward the plate for any play there on the batter-runner.

U2: Moves into position to cover plays at second base. It is acceptable for U2 to take the play from the outfield side of second base.

U3: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

Note: This coverage also applies to home runs.



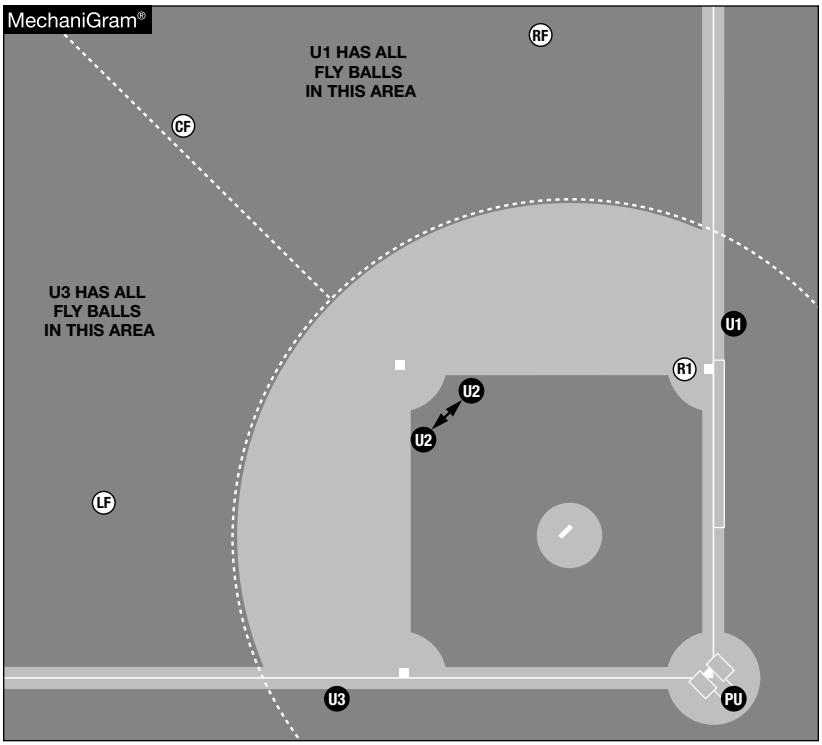
SECTION 9.7

Runner on first

Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with no runners on (see 9.6.4), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.
U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base or go beyond.
U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.
U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield
The coverage is similar to plays with no runners on (see 9.6.5), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.
U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.
U2: Has all plays at second base.
U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



Action on the field: no action.

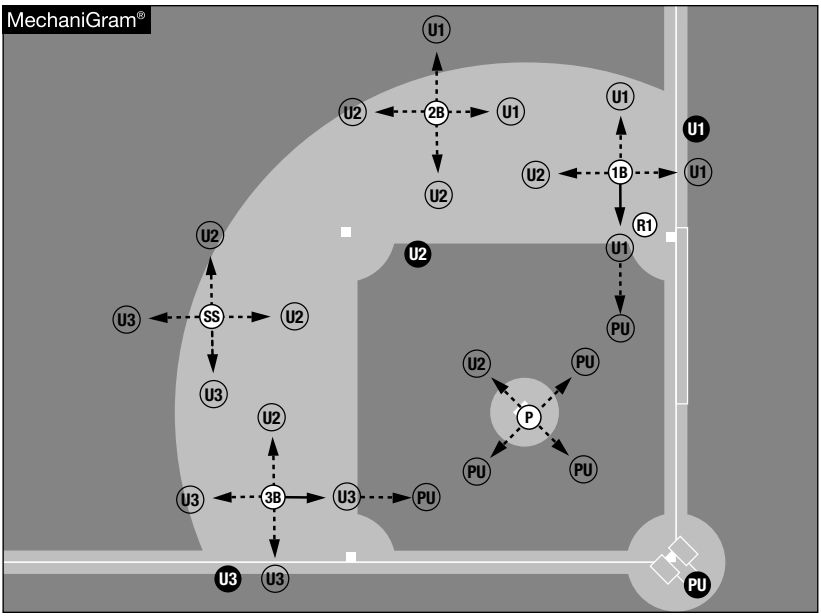
Umpire responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position.

U1: Has all fly balls on which the center fielder moves straight in, straight back or toward right field. U1 also has all fly balls to the right fielder.

U2: Has no fly-ball coverage.

U3: Has all fly balls on which the center fielder moves toward left field. U3 also has all fly balls to the left fielder.

Infield Catch Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:

PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving significantly toward the plate.

U1 has catches:

1. Immediately in front of the first baseman, out or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

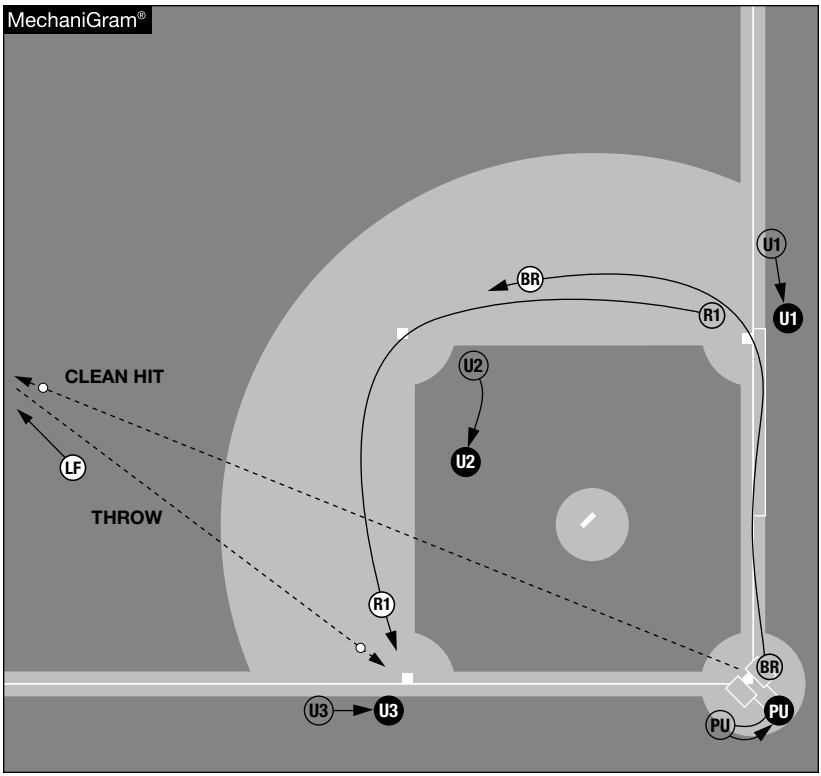
U2 has catches

1. By the second baseman moving in or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving in or toward second base.
3. By the third baseman moving toward second base.
4. By the first baseman moving toward second base.
5. By the pitcher moving back.

U3 has catches:

1. Immediately in front of the third baseman, out or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield



Action on the field: Clean hit to left field; R1 advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; the batter-runner rounds first base.

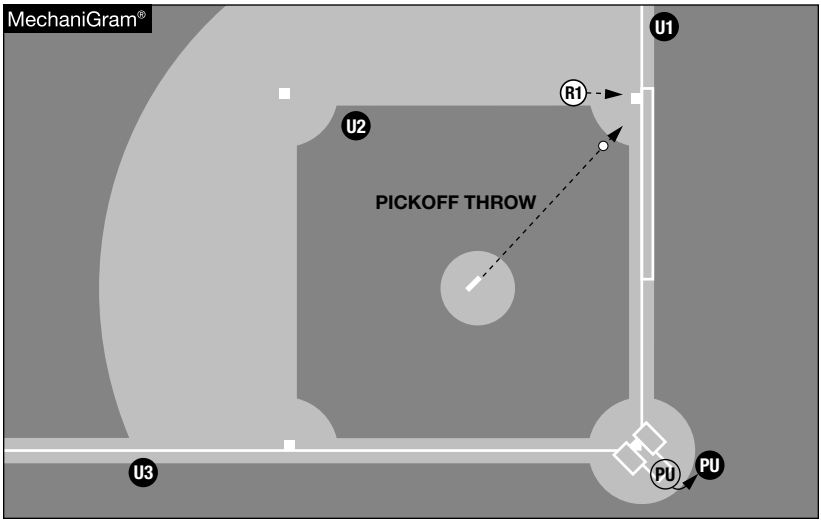
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has all plays at the plate.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base.

U2: Observes R1's and the batter-runner's base touch at second base and has all plays there.

U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Pickoff at First



Action on the field: Before pitching, the pitcher attempts to pick off the runner at first base.

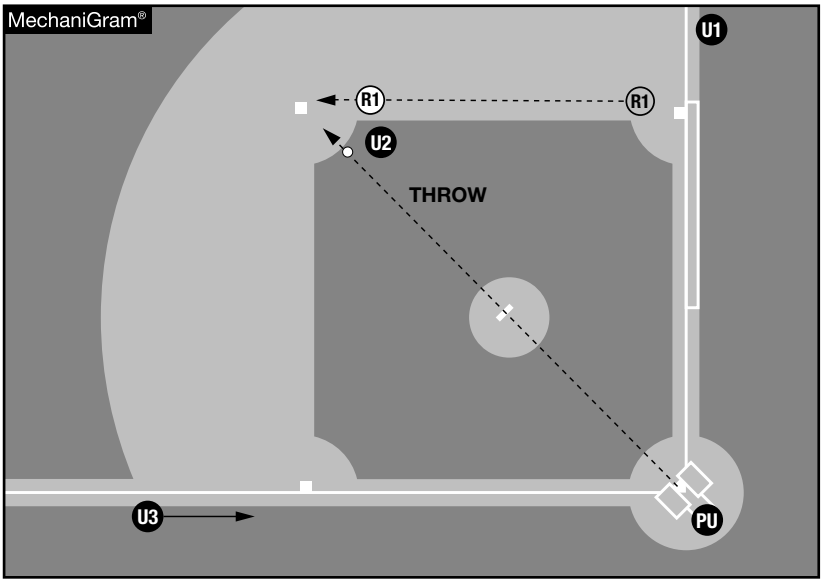
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Stays focused on the pitcher until the pick-off throw is complete, making sure the pitcher does not balk. Then has responsibility for any overthrow at first base.

U1: Umpires shall start with their inside foot next to the foul line and NOT straddling the line. When the first baseman is holding the runner on first, U1 should be in a hands-on-knees set position immediately when the pitcher comes in contact with the rubber. U1's distance will be no more than 6-10 feet from the bag. U1's line of sight should be to the inside of the runner leading off with a clear view of the pitcher. On a pickoff, U1 should remain set throughout the entire critical action of the play. U1 should never move into foul territory on a pickoff from the pitcher. Umpires are not to start in foul territory for a pickoff (off the line) and then quickly move back to the foul line as the pitch is being delivered. When the first baseman is NOT holding the runner on first, U1 will position himself no more than 6-8 feet behind the fielder. If the fielder is playing deep, U1 should cut this distance in half and be no more than 3-4 feet behind the fielder. The umpire should never put himself in a position where a fielder could step or dive into him on a line drive. For all back picks at first base, an umpire should always anticipate this pick from the catcher and be ready to quickly move as far as the play will allow. Umpires are not to take a back pick by moving from their initial starting position into FAIR territory.

U2: Watches the pitcher for potential balks before throwing. Is responsible for all plays at second base, including if R1 ends up in a rundown.

U3: Watches the pitcher for potential balks before throwing. Is responsible for all plays at third base, including if R1 ends up in a rundown.

Steal of Second



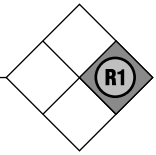
Action on the field: The batter swings and misses at the pitch as R1 attempts to steal second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Signals the swinging strike without taking his focus off the play at hand. Ensures the batter does not interfere with the catcher's throw. Observes the play.

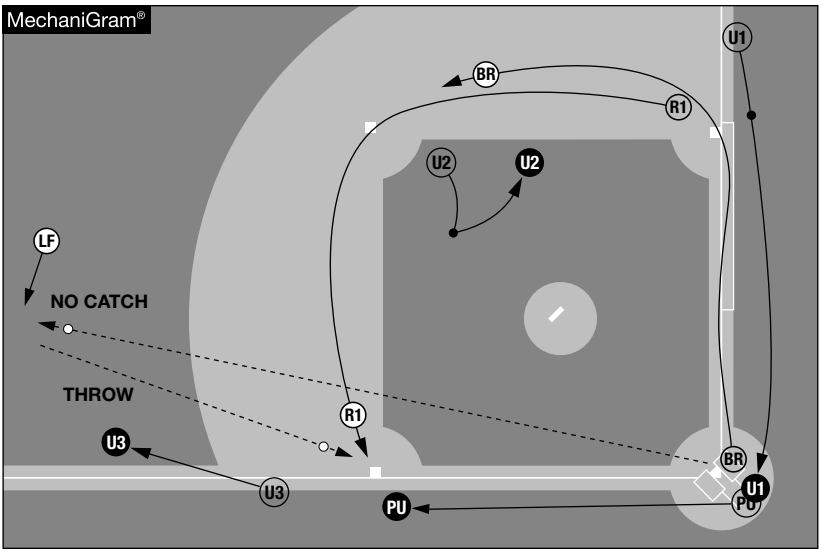
U1: Observes the pitch and the initial throw to second.

U2: Starting with the 2020 season, umpires are not allowed to start in the infield and then run into a position out in the dirt looking straight down the baseline toward second base during a steal play. All steal plays must be taken between the B and C starting positions. Take a crossover step toward the corner of the cutout, once you determine that you are not in the throwing lane, turn your focus to the base.

U3: Should move toward the direction of third base on the throw to second. This will protect U3 should there be an overthrow at second and a subsequent play at third allowing the runner to advance to third base.



Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; R1 advances toward third base and draws a throw there; the batter-runner advances toward second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward third base and, if R1 commits to third, PU rotates into position to rule on all plays there. If a play develops at third base, PU can take the play in either fair or foul territory.

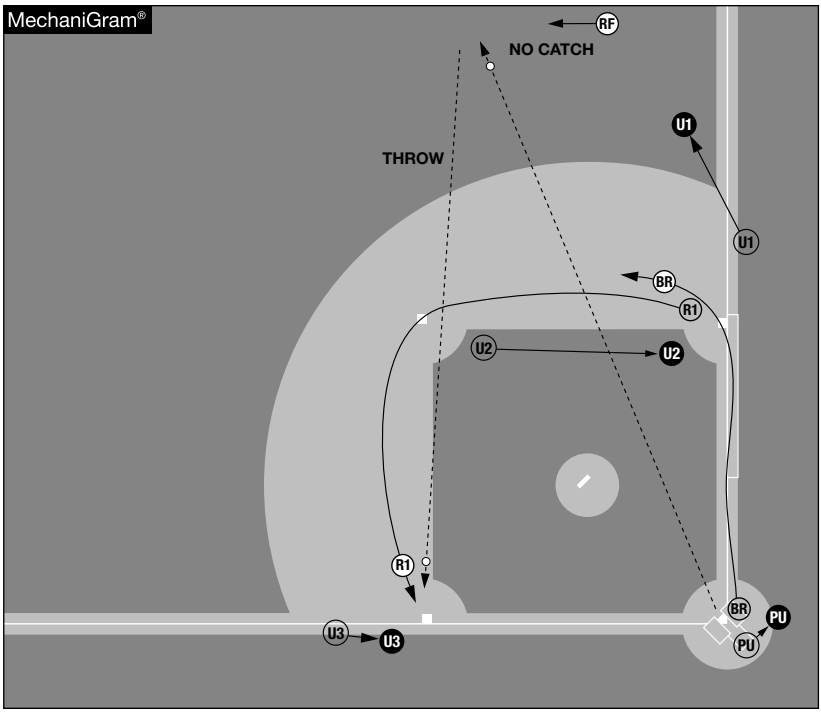
U1: Observes all base touches at first base and begins to move toward the plate. If R1 commits to third base, U1 rotates to the plate for all plays there. If applicable, U1 observes R1's tag up.

U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there on R1. If R1 commits to third base, U2 assumes responsibility for the batter-runner and should move to a position to rule on any plays at first or second base.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

Note: With two outs, PU may remain at home rather than rotate to third base, provided this coverage is communicated to the base umpires before the pitch. U2 would take R1 into third and U1 would take BR into second.

Fly Ball to Right Field: No Catch, U1 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, no catch; U1 goes out; R1 advances toward third base and draws a throw there; the batter-runner rounds first base.

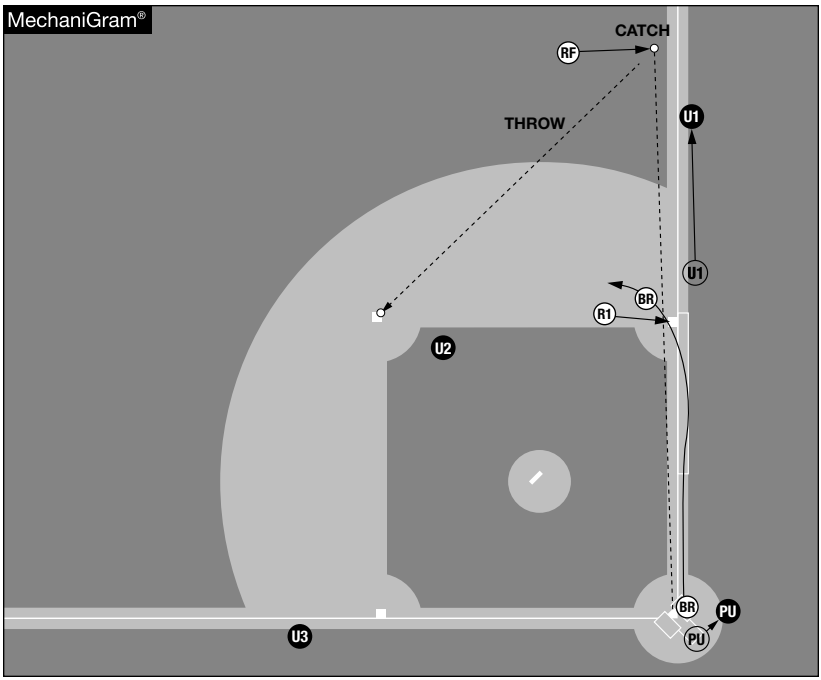
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to observe the potential tag-up of R1 at first base. Then moves back to the plate for any potential play.

U1: Observes the no catch.

U2: Observes all base touches at first and second base and has all plays there. U2 has all plays involving the batter-runner and R1 at first or second base.

U3: Observes all base touches at third base and rules on all plays there.

Fly Ball to Right Field: Catch, U1 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, catch; U1 goes out; R1 retreats to first base; batter-runner rounds first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes the play and is responsible for the tag up of R1. PU's are encouraged to gain distance toward first base and be set at the time of the catch and potential tag up of R1.

U1: Moves to the outfield for the best position to observe fair/foul and catch/no catch responsibilities.

U2: Responsible for batter-runner touch of first base and all initial plays on batter-runner at first and second base.

U3: Observes play from the D position and is responsible for any secondary plays at second base on a rundown between first and second following an overthrow of first.



SECTION 9.8
Runners on first and second

Initial Positions
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.1), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.2), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU has catches:
1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving toward the plate.

U1 has catches:
1. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U2 has catches:
1. By the second baseman moving in or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving in or toward second base.
3. By the third baseman moving toward second base.

U3 has catches:
1. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

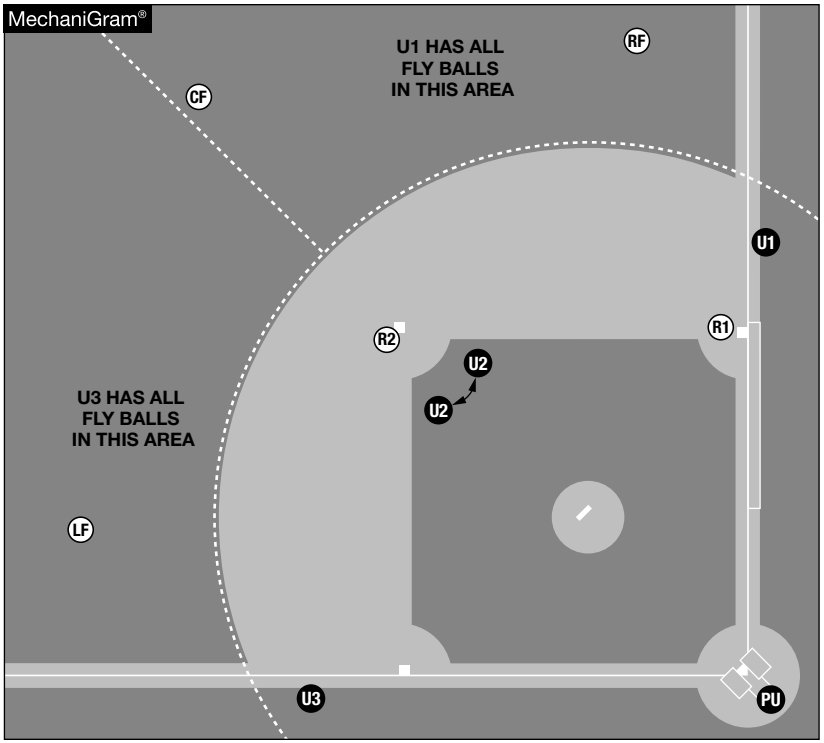
Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with no runners on (see 9.6.4), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.
U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base or go beyond.
U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.
U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield
The coverage is similar to plays with no runners on base (see 9.6.5), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1, if asked, on a swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.
U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.
U2: Has all plays at second base.
U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield
When no base umpire goes out, the coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.3), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU: Observes all touches at the plate and has all plays there.
U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base.
U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there.
U3: Observes all base touches at third and has all plays there.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

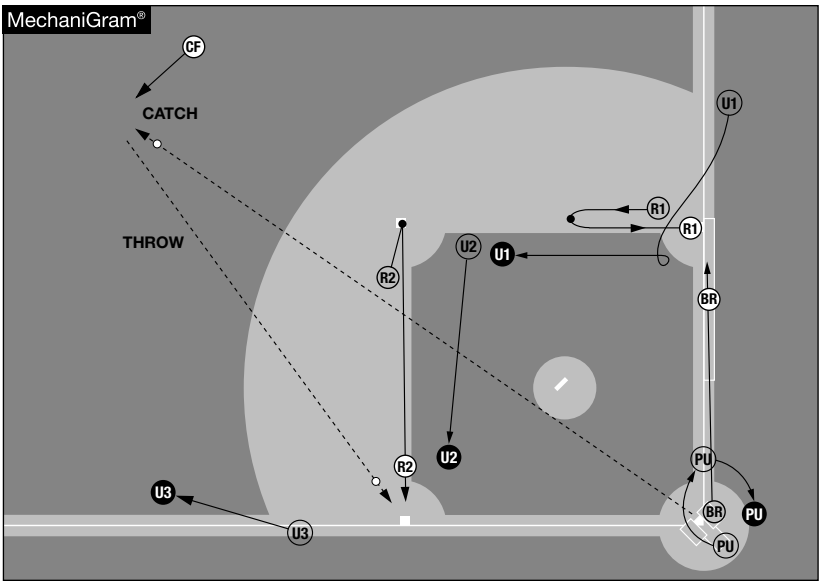
Umpire responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position.

U1: Has all trouble AND ROUTINE fly balls from the center fielder straight in and straight back and when he moves toward right field.

U2: Has no fly-ball coverage.

U3: Has all trouble AND ROUTINE fly balls from the center moving toward the leftfield line.

Fly Ball to Center Field: Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Deep fly ball caught by the center fielder; U3 goes out; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there; R1 returns to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Is responsible for the tag-up at first base and any play that develops at home plate. PU should initially move in a position to observe R1's tag-up. Once the ball is caught, the PU will return to home plate area for any play that may develop there.

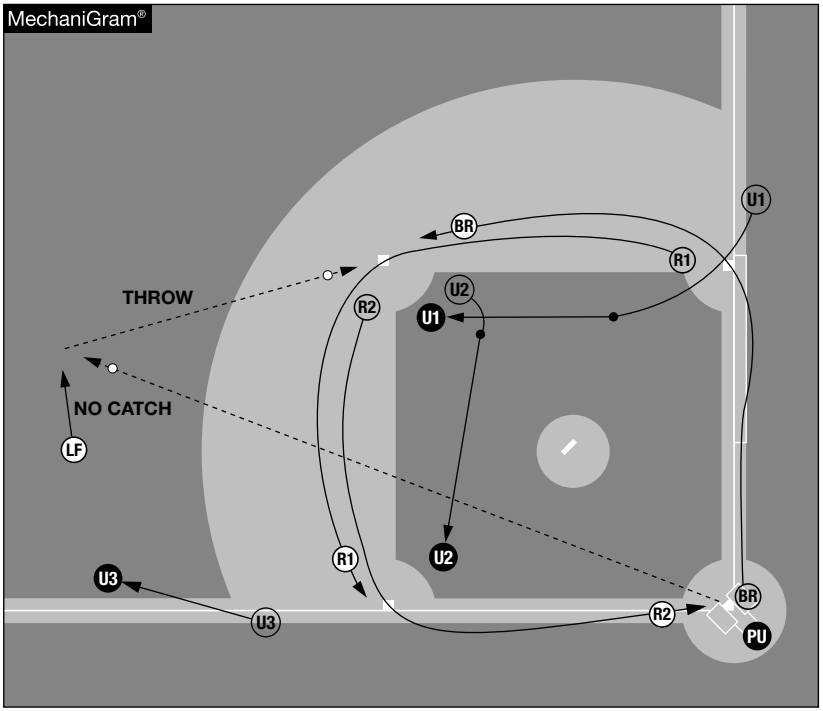
U1: Should be moving quickly towards second base while observing R2's tag-up at second base. U1 will take any play that may develop at either first or second base.

U2: Will work towards the area of third base (inside or outside of the diamond) and will be responsible for any play that develops at third base.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch in the outfield.

Point of Emphasis
U2 should immediately split the difference between second and third base when U3 goes out. If R2 goes back to tag-up, U3 should release toward third base to be in a position for any play on R2. After R2 tags-up, if there is a play on them back into second base, U1 will be responsible for the call.

Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; R2 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there.

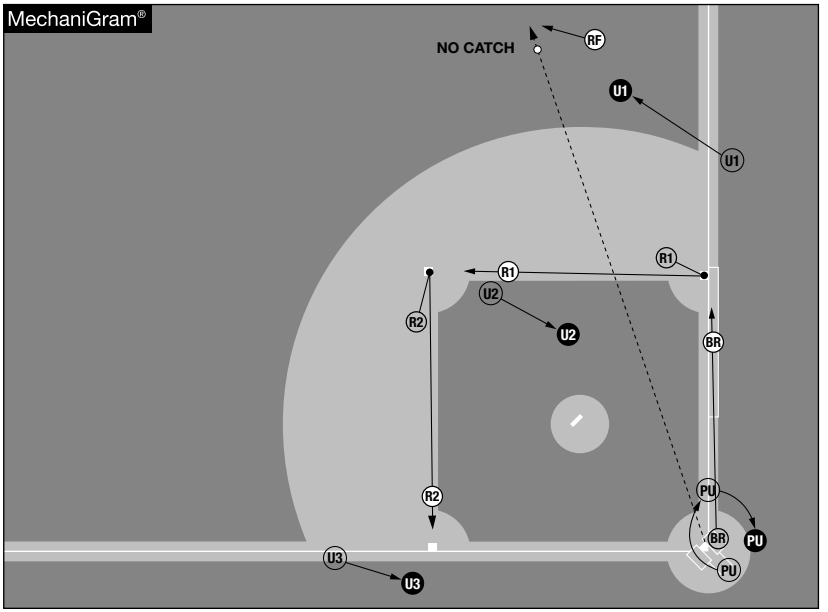
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has R2's base touch of third base, then retreats to the plate and moves into position for all plays there.

U1: Enters the infield and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

U2: Observes R1's base touch at second base and has all plays there on R1 and all plays at third base.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

Trouble Ball to Right Field: No Catch, U1 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to right-center gap, no catch; U1 goes out; R2 and R1 initially tag up before advancing.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Is responsible for the tag-up at first base and any play that develops at home plate. PU should initially move in a position to observe R1's tag-up. Once the ball is caught, the PU will return to home plate area for any play that may develop there.

U1: Moves to the outfield for the best position to observe fair/foul and catch/no catch responsibilities.

U2: Moves into the best position possible to observe the tag up of R2 and is responsbile for all plays on R1 and the batter-runner at first and second base.

U3: Observes the play and is responsible for all plays at third base.



SECTION 9.9

Bases loaded

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position. The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.1).

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.2).
PU has catches:
1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving toward the plate.

U1 has catches:
1. By the first baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U2 has catches:
1. By the second baseman moving in or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving in or toward second base.
3. By the third baseman moving toward second base.
4. By the first baseman moving toward second base.
5. By the pitcher moving back.

U3 has catches:
1. By the third baseman moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

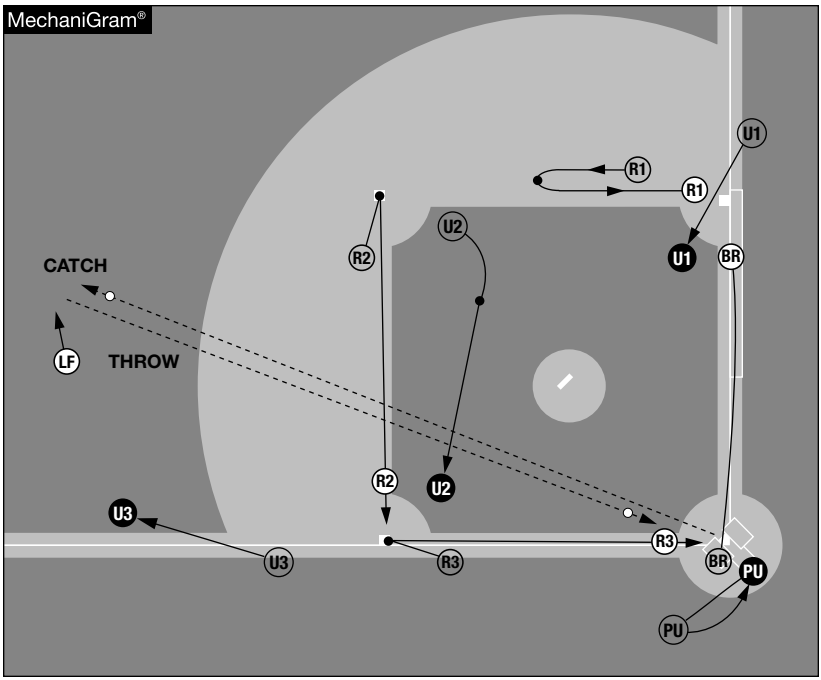
Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with no runners on base (see 9.6.4).
PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.
U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base or go beyond.
U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.
U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield
The coverage is similar to plays with no runners on base (see 9.6.5).
PU: Has all plays at the plate and, if possible, moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman if

there is no play on R3 at home.
U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.
U2: Has all plays at second base.
U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield
When no base umpire goes out, the coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.3).
PU: Observes all touches at the plate and has all plays there.
U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base and has all plays there.
U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there.
U3: Observes all base touches at third and has all plays there.

Fly Ball to Left Field: Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; U3 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 tags up and advances toward third base; R1 remains near first base.

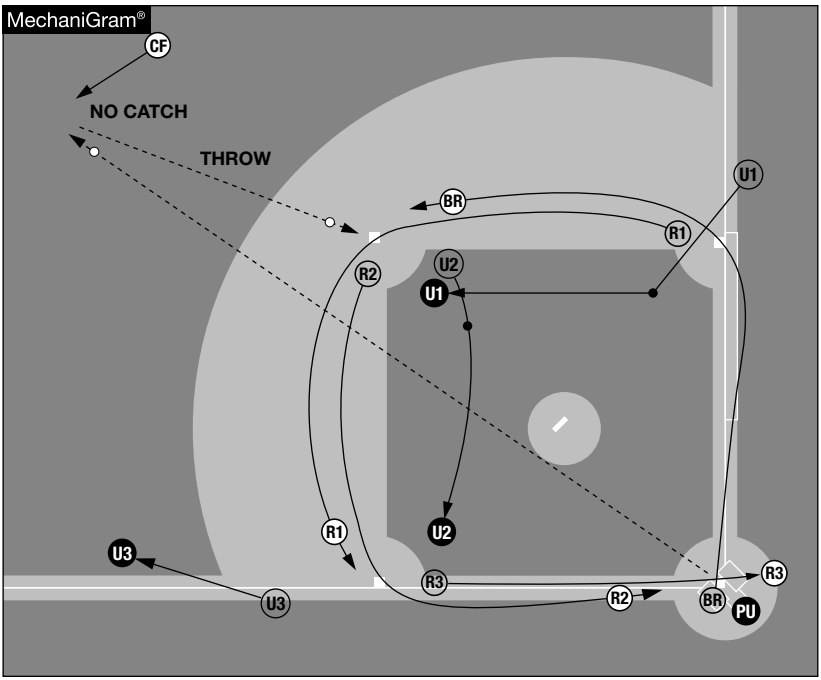
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to a position to observe R3's tag up. PU retreats to the plate immediately for any play there.

U1: Observes R1's tag up and has all plays involving R1 at first base. Should the initial throw go to third base or home plate, U1 would be responsible for all subsequent plays at first and second base.

U2: Retreats and observes R2's tag up. U2 will read the throw and move in the direction of the throw taking the initial play at second or third.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Center Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to center field, no catch; U3 goes out; R3 advances toward the plate; R2 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there.

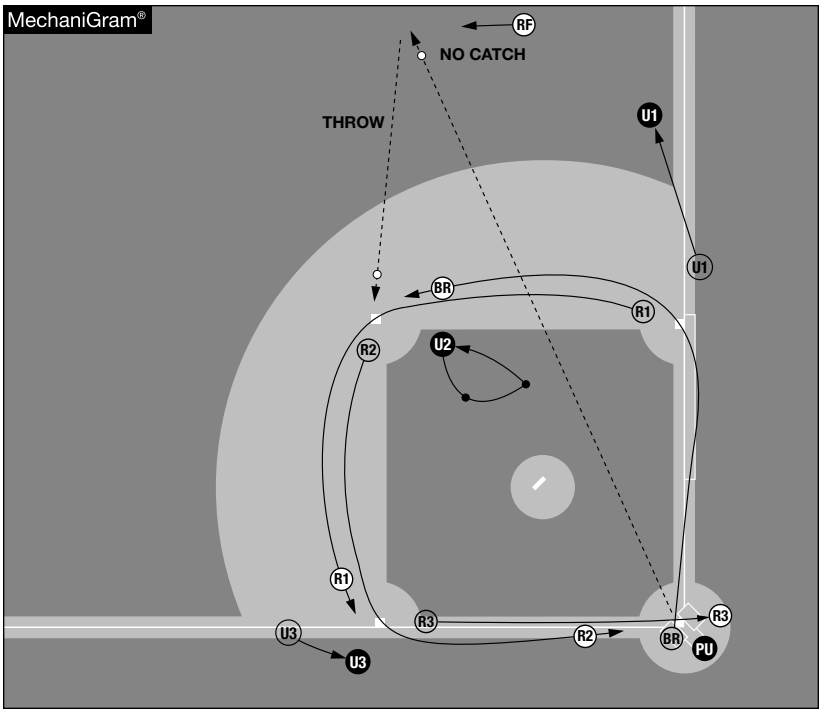
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has R2's base touch of third and all touches and plays at the plate.

U1: Enters the infield, observes the base touch of the batter-runner at first base and has all plays on the batter-runner at first or second base. U1 is also responsible for any secondary play at second base.

U2: Observes base touches at second base and has any play there on R1. U2 also has all plays at third base.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Right Field: No Catch, U1 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to right-center field, no catch; U1 goes out; R3 advances toward the plate; R2 advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Is responsible for the tag-up at first base and any play that develops at home plate. PU should initially move in a position to observe R1's tag-up. Once the ball is caught, the PU will return to home plate area for any play that may develop there.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

U2: Has all plays at first and second base, including R2's tag-up at second base if the ball is caught.

U3: Has all plays at third base, including R3's tag up at third base if the ball is caught.



SECTION 9.10

Runners on first and third

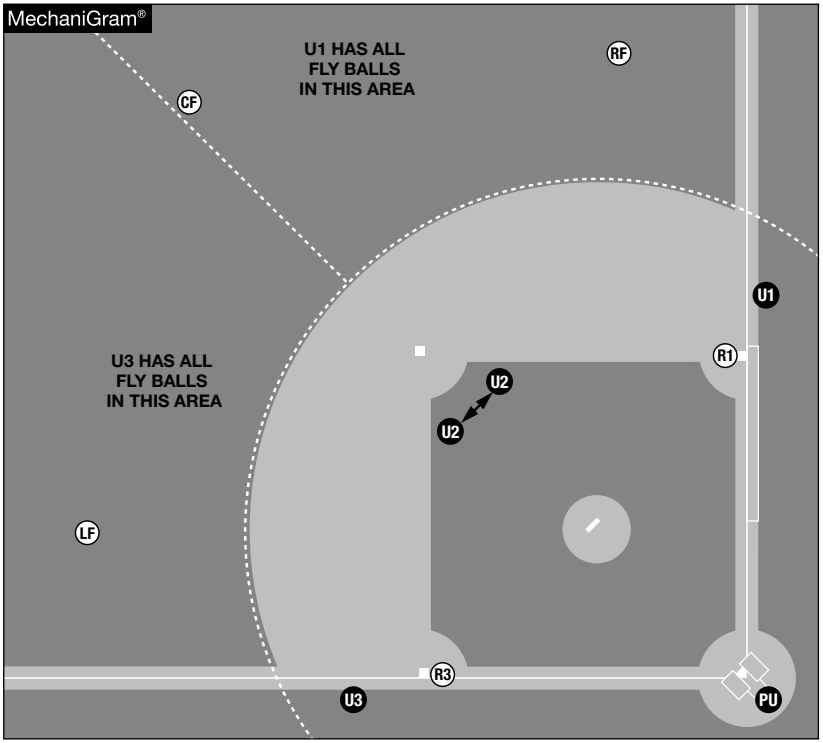
Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base only (see 9.7.2), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.

Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with no runners on (see 9.6.4), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.
U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base or go beyond.
U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.
U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield
The coverage is similar to plays with no runners on (see 9.6.5), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman if there is no play on R3 at home.
U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.
U2: Has all plays at second base.
U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.3), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU: Observes all touches at the plate and has all plays there.
U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base.
U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there.
U3: Observes all base touches at third and has all plays there.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

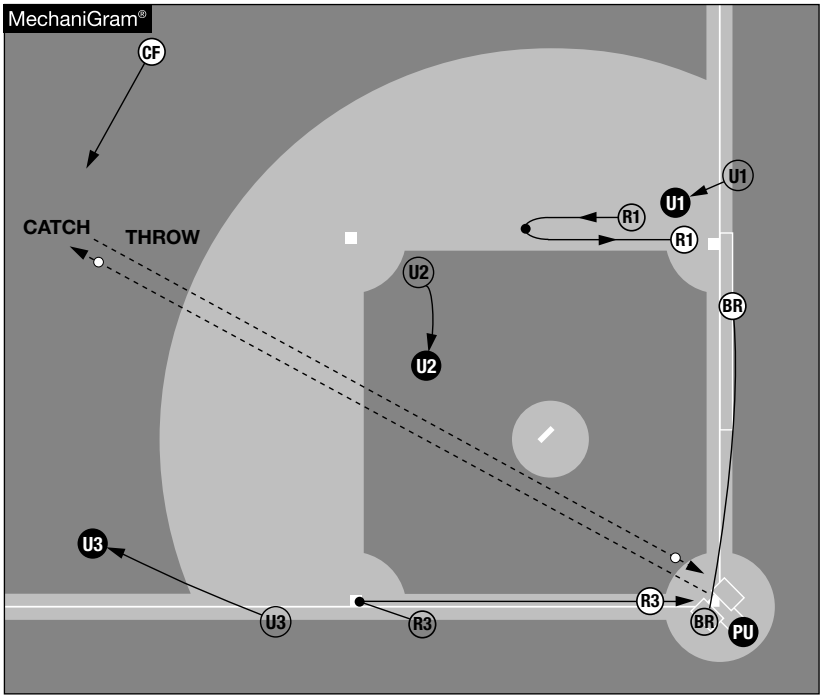
Umpire responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position.

U1: Has all trouble AND ROUTINE fly balls from the center fielder straight in and straight back and when he moves toward right field.

U2: Has no fly-ball coverage.

U3: Has all trouble AND ROUTINE fly balls from the center moving toward the leftfield line.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the center fielder; U3 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R1 returns to first base.

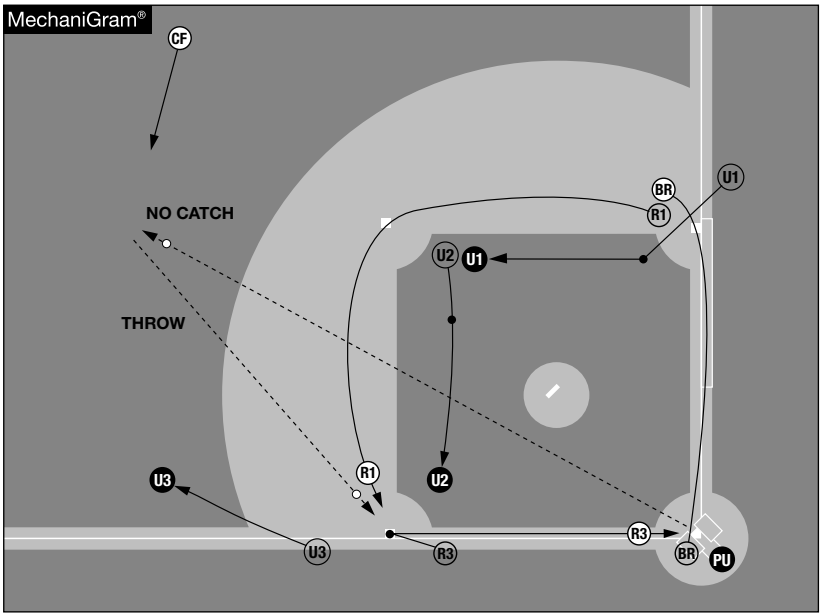
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to a position to observe R3's tag up. PU retreats to the plate immediately for all plays there.

U1: Should immediately move into the infield toward the cutout to protect against the ball dropping in the outfield and to allow U2 the opportunity to commit to third on any potential play into third base on R2. Observer's R1's tag if applicable.

U2: Retreats and observes and has all plays at second and third base.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Left-Center Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to left-center field, no catch; U3 goes out; R3, after going back to tag up, advances toward the plate; R1 advances toward third base and draws a throw there; the batter-runner rounds first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves in a position to line up the tag of R3 at third base. Then moves back to the plate for any potential play there.

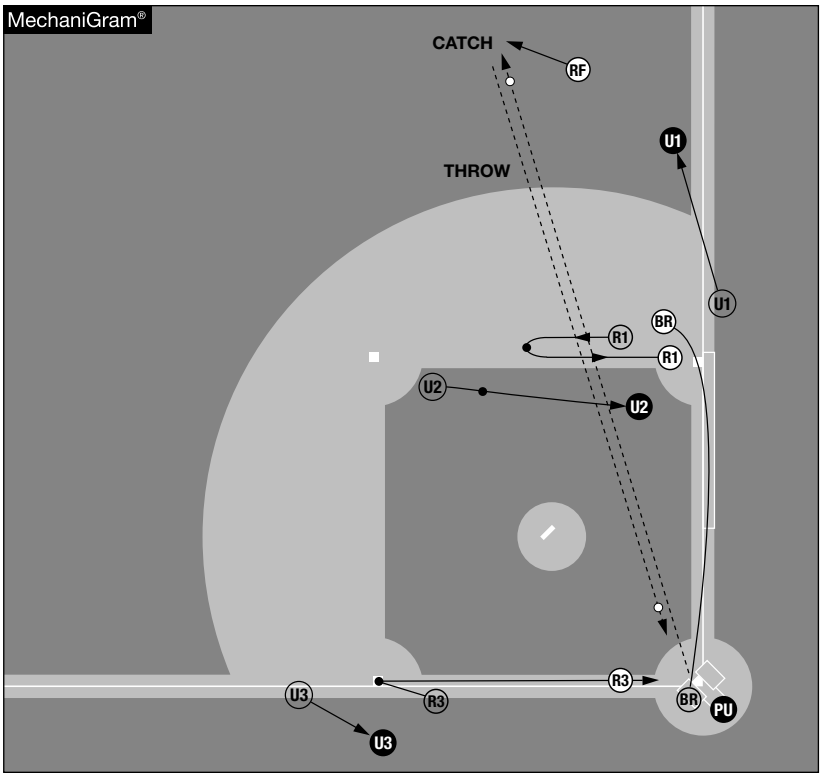
U1: Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

U2: Observes the base touches of R1 at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third, plus the batter-runner at third base.

U3: Moves to the best position to view the catch/no catch.

Note: This coverage also applies to home runs.

Fly Ball to Right Field: Catch, U1 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder; U1 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R1 remains near first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into a position to observe R1's possible tag-up at first base. Then moves back to the plate for any potential play there.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

U2: Splits the difference between first and second base, being prepared for any play on R1 (and the batter-runner if the ball drops).

U3: Moves to a position to observe R3's tag up and has all plays at third base.



SECTION 9.11

Runner on second

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.1).
U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.2).

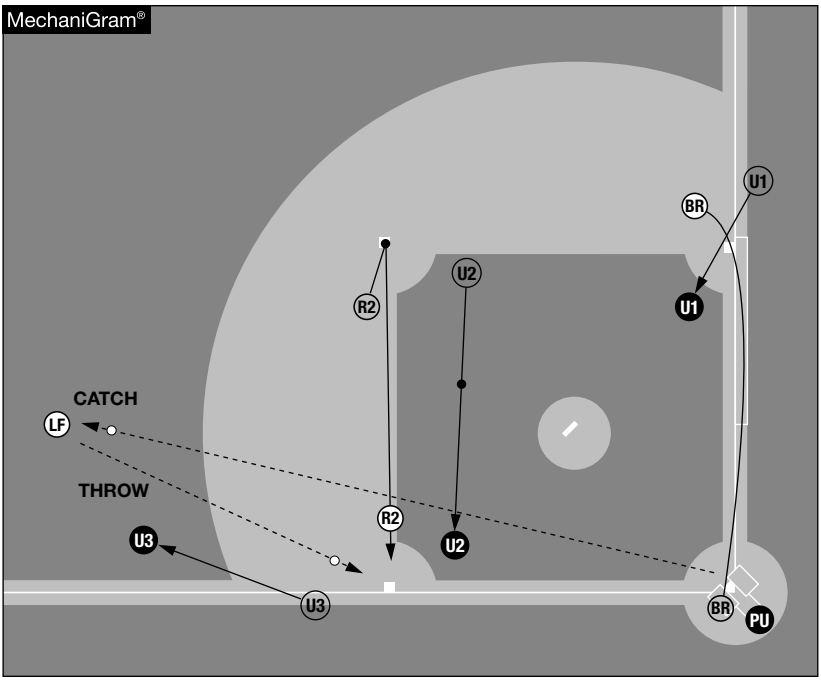
Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with no runners on (see 9.6.4).
PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.
U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base or go beyond.
U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.
U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield
The coverage is similar to plays with no runner on (see 9.6.5).
PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.
U2: Has all plays at second base.
U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.3).
PU: Observes all touches at the plate and has all plays there.
U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base.
U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there.
U3: Observes all base touches at third and has all plays there.

Fly Ball to Left Field: Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; U3 goes out; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there.

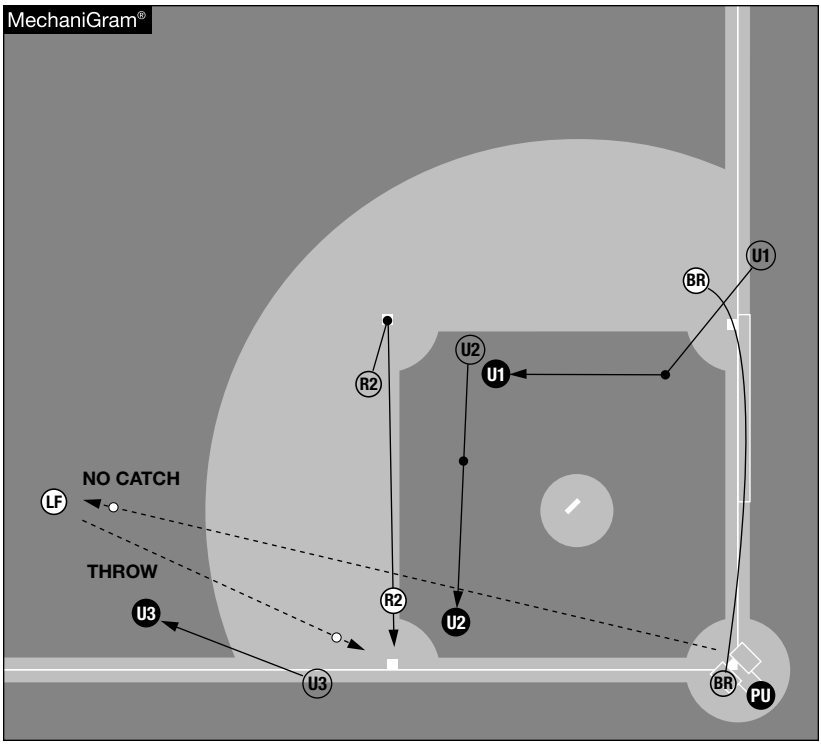
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Remains near the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves toward second base to observe R2's tag up and is responsible for any play that develops at first or second base.

U2: Immediately releases toward third base and moves into the best possible position for any play that may develop there.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch.

Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; R2, anticipating possible catch, tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there, BR advances toward second.

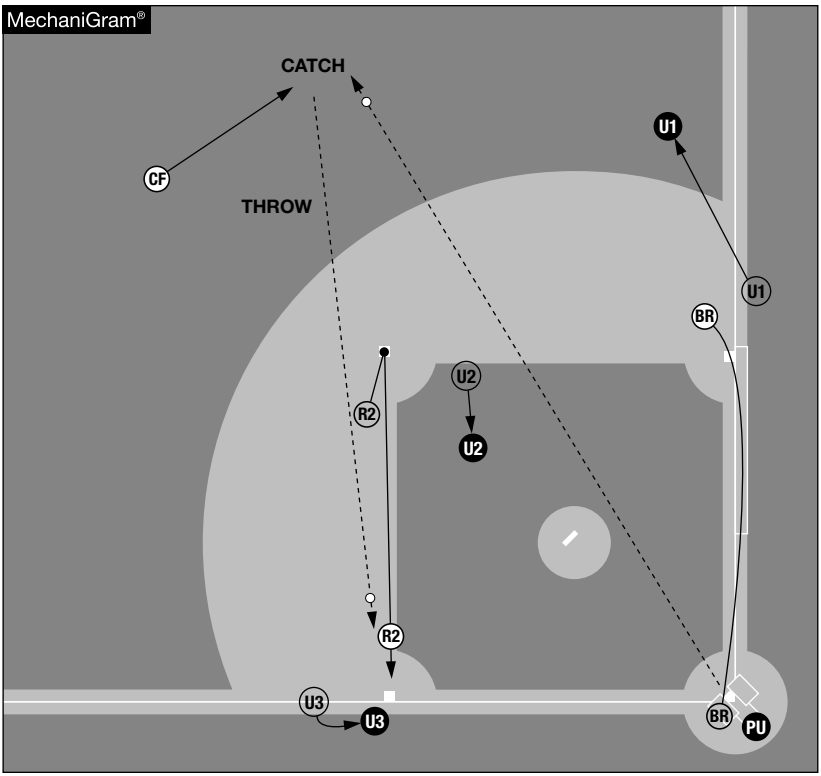
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Remains near the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves toward second base to observe R2's tag up and is responsible for any play that develops at first or second base.

U2: Immediately releases toward third base and moves into the best possible position for any play that may develop there.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no-catch.

Fly Ball to Right-Center Field: Catch, U1 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the center fielder in right-center field; U1 goes out; R2 tags up and advances toward third base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Remains near the plate and has any play there.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

U2: Observes R2's tag-up and has all plays at first base. Also has the touch of first by the batter-runner if the ball drops.

U3: Has all plays at third base.



SECTION 9.12

Runners on second and third

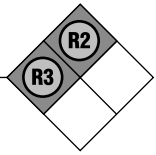
Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.1). U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.2).

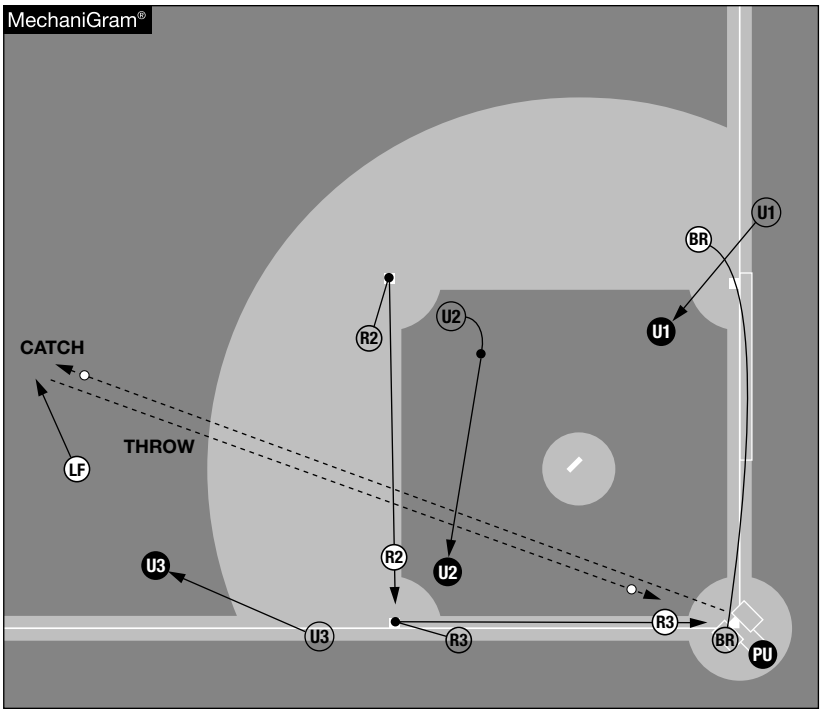
Fair/Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as with no runners on (see 9.6.4).
PU: Responsible for balls up to first base and third base.
U1: Responsible for balls that hit first base or go beyond.
U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.
U3: Responsible for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield
The coverage is similar to plays with no runner on (see 9.6.5).
PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman if there is no play on R3 at home.
U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.
U2: Has all plays at second base.
U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to Outfield
The coverage is the same as with a runner on first base (see 9.7.3).
PU: Observes all touches at the plate and has all plays there.
U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first base.
U2: Observes all base touches at second base and has all plays there.
U3: Observes all base touches at third and has all plays there.



Fly Ball to Left Field: Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the left fielder; U3 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 tags up and advances toward third base.

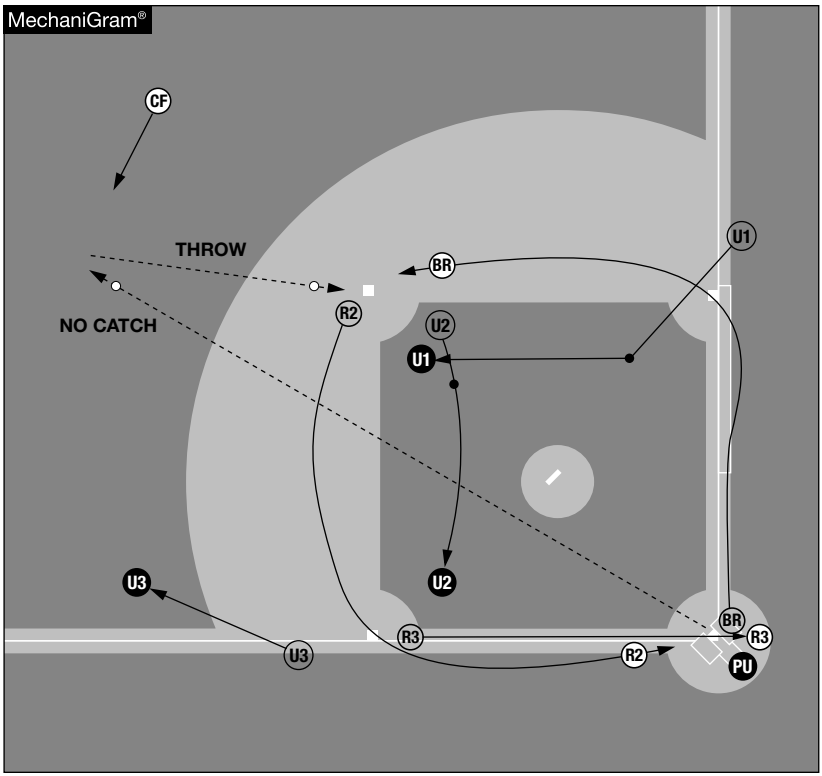
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves to a position to observe R3's tag up. PU immediately returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves toward second base to observe R2's tag up and is responsible for any play that develops at first or second base.

U2: Immediately releases toward third base and moves into the best possible position for any play that may develop there.

U3: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to left-center field, no catch; U3 goes out; R3 advances toward the plate; R2 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there.

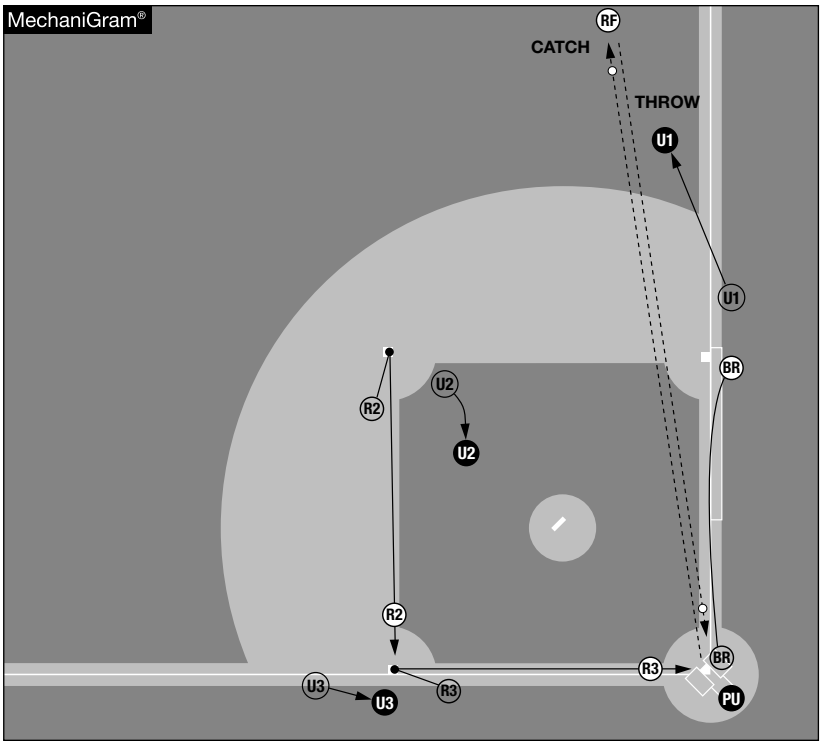
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes R3's tag up and returns to the plate for all plays there.

U1: Moves toward second base to observe R2's tag up if the ball is caught. When the ball is not caught, U1 is responsible for all plays involving the batter-runner at first and second base.

U2: Immediately releases toward third base when R2 returns to tag. U2 observes R2's touch of third base and is responsible for any play that develops there.

U3: Moves to the best possible position to view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Right Field: Catch, U1 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball caught by the right fielder; U1 goes out; R3 tags up and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there; R2 tags up and advances toward third base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has all plays at the plate.

U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

U2: Retreats and observes R2's tag up and has all plays at first and second base.

U3: Moves into position to observe R3's tag up and has all plays at third base.



SECTION 9.13

Runner on third

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage
U1: Starts in the "A" position. U1 has all fly balls hit directly at the center fielder, all fly balls on which the center fielder moves back or toward right field, and all fly balls to the right fielder.
U2: With fewer than two outs, starts in shallow left-center field on the left-field side of second base. With two outs, starts on the right hip of the second baseman when the second baseman is in his normal position.

U2 has all fly balls on which the center fielder moves straight in, all fly balls on which the left fielder moves straight in or straight back, and all fly balls between the left fielder and center fielder. This area forms a small "V." U2 serves as the "quarterback" on fly balls in gray areas and dictates coverage by either going out or moving into the infield.
U3: Starts in the "D" position. U3 has all fly balls on which the left fielder moves toward the left-field foul line.

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is the same as with no runners on base (see 9.6.3), with U2 in the applicable starting position described above.
PU has catches:
1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving in.

U1 has catches:
1. By the second baseman moving in or toward first base.
2. By the first baseman moving out or toward first base.
3. By the pitcher moving back.

U2 has catches:
1. By the second baseman moving out or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving out or toward second base.
3. By the first baseman moving right.
4. By the third baseman moving left.

U3 has catches:

1. By the shortstop moving in or toward third base.
2. By the third baseman moving out or toward third base.

Fair/Foul Coverage

The coverage is the same as with no runners on base (see 9.6.4), with U2 in the applicable starting position described above.
PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.
U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base or go beyond.
U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.
U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base or go beyond.

Plays Within the Infield

The coverage is the same as with no runners on base (see 9.6.5), with U2 in the applicable starting position described above.
PU: Has all plays at the plate. If there is no potential play on R3 at home, PU moves toward first base to assist U1, if asked, on a swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.
U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.
U2: Moves toward second base and is responsible for all plays there.
U3: Observes R3 and is responsible for all plays at third base.

Clean Hit to the Outfield

When no base umpire goes out, the coverage is the same as with no runners on base (see 9.6.6), with U2 in the applicable starting position described above.
PU: Observes all touches at the plate and has all plays there.
U1: Observes the batter-runner's touch of first base.
U2: Moves toward second base and prepares for all plays involving the batter-runner at second base.
U3: Observes all touches at third base and has all plays there.

With fewer than two outs, if U3 goes out, U2 moves toward third base for any potential play on R3. If U1 goes out, U2 moves toward first base for any potential play involving the batter-runner.

With two outs, if U1 goes out, U2 assumes responsibility for all plays involving the batter-runner at first and second base. U3 remains at third base for any potential play there.

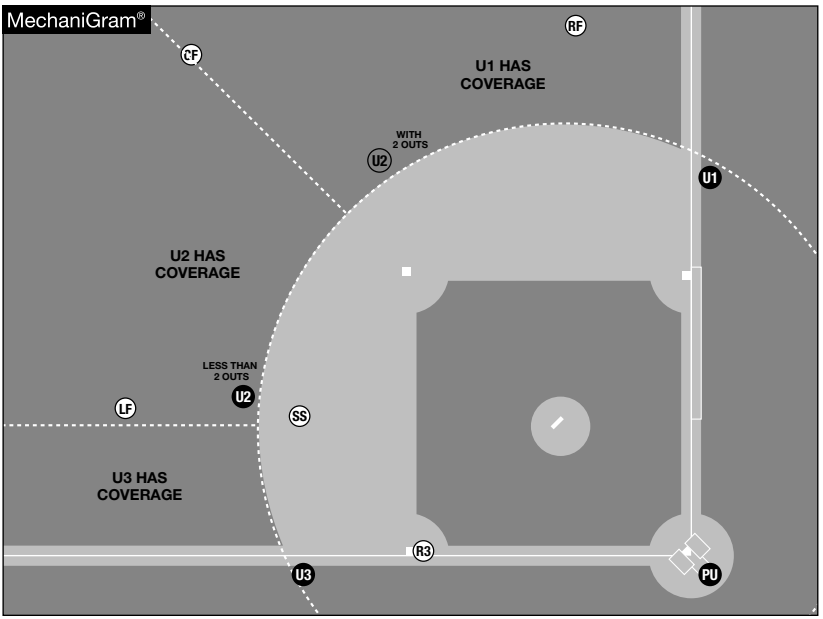
With two outs, if U2 goes out on a deep trouble ball, U1 observes the batter-runner's touch of first base and takes the batter-runner at first and second base. U1 may move inside the infield or rim outside. U3 remains at third base for any potential play there.

With two outs, if U2 goes out on a shallow trouble ball, U1 observes the batter-runner's touch of first base and is responsible

for any play back into first base. U3 moves across the infield toward second base and is responsible for any play involving the batter-runner at second or third base.

In each of those two-out coverages, PU remains at the plate and is responsible for all plays there.

Initial Positions



Action on the field: No action.

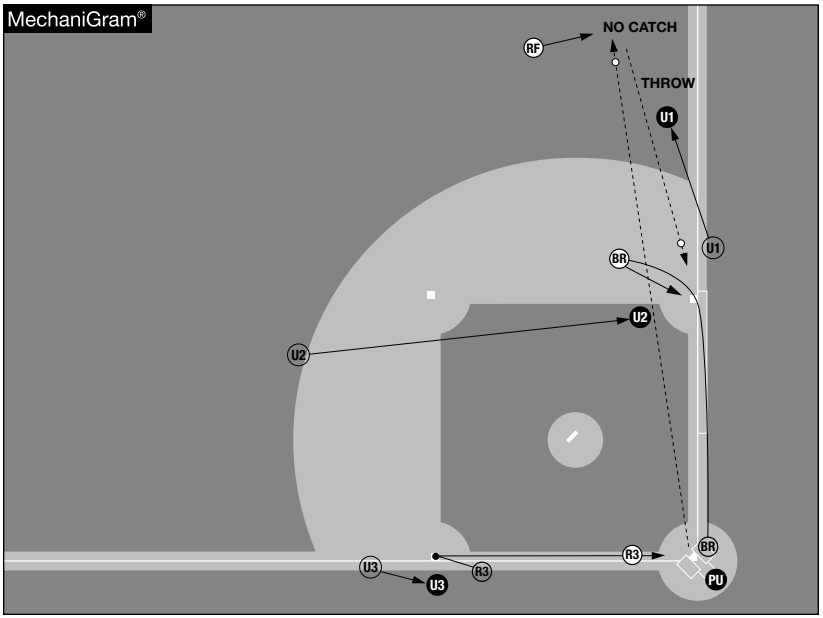
Umpire responsibilities:
U1: Starts in the "A" position. Has all fly balls hit directly at the center fielder, all fly balls on which the center fielder moves back or toward right field, and all fly balls to the right fielder.

U2: With less than two outs, starts in shallow left-center field on the left-field side of second base. With two outs, starts on the right hip of the second baseman when the second baseman is in his normal position. U2 has all fly balls on which the center fielder moves straight in, all fly balls on which the left fielder moves straight in or straight back, and all fly balls between the left fielder and center fielder. This area forms a small "V." U2 serves as the "quarterback" on fly balls in gray areas and dictates coverage by either going out or moving into the infield.

U3: Starts in the "D" position. Has all fly balls on which the left fielder moves toward the left-field foul line.

Note: With two outs, U2 starts on the right hip of the second baseman. If U1 goes out on a fly ball, U2 is responsible for all plays involving the batter-runner at first and second base. U3 remains at third base for any potential play there.

Fly Ball to Right Field: No Catch, U1 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to right field, no catch; U1 goes out; R3, after going back to tag up, advances toward the plate; the batter-runner rounds first base and returns, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Has all plays at the plate.

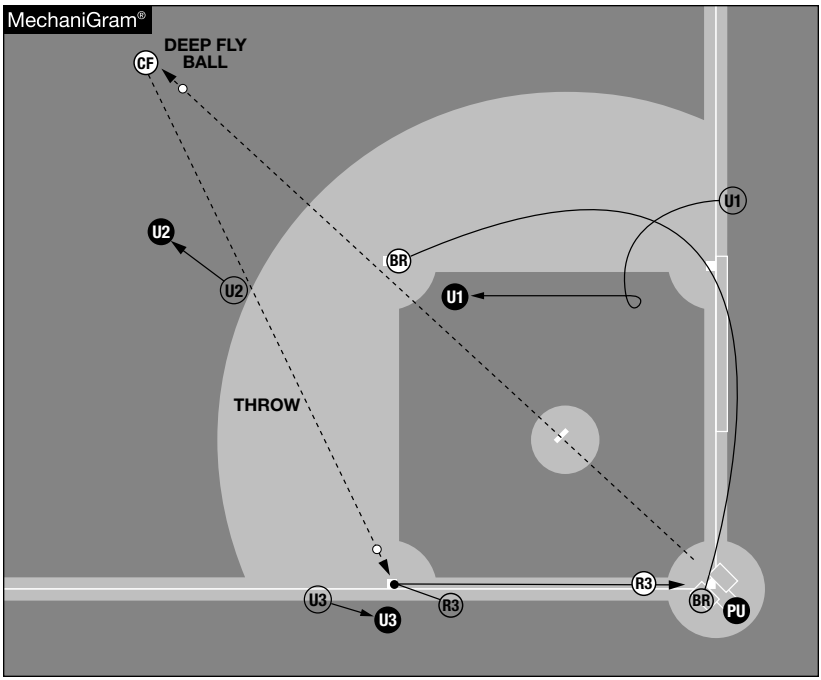
U1: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

U2: Moves into the infield at second base. U2 has all plays at first and second base.

U3: Observes R3's tag up and has all plays at third base.

Point of Emphasis
With two outs, U2 should move into the infield in the direction of first base splitting the difference between first and second for all plays on the batter runner at both bases. Read the entire situation to determine how far to move toward first base. (e.g., shallow hit, move closer to first base. Deep ball over the outfielder's head shade second base more).

Fly Ball to Center Field: Catch, U2 Goes Out



Action on the field: With fewer than two outs, a fly ball is caught by the center fielder and U2 goes out. R3 tags at third base and advances toward the plate, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Remains at the plate, observes R3's touch of home and moves into position to rule on any play there.

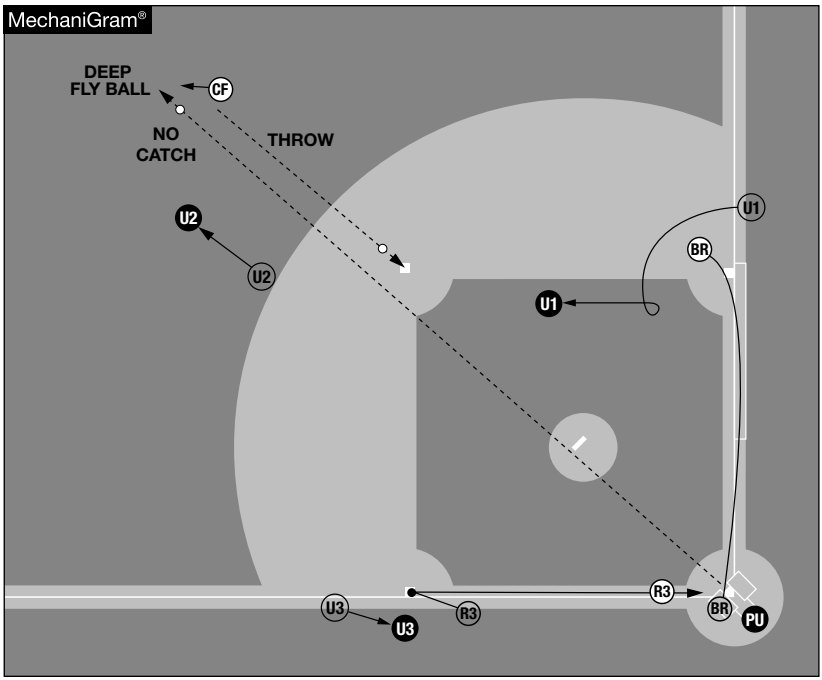
U1: Moves into the infield and reads the catch/no-catch decision. If the ball is not caught, U1 observes the batter-runner's touch of first base and is responsible for all plays involving the batter-runner at first and second base.

U2: Moves to the best position possible to rule on the catch/no catch.

U3: Lines up R3's tag at third base and is responsible for any play or throw back there.

Point of Emphasis
With a runner on third base only and fewer than two outs, if U2 goes out, U3 remains at third base to observe R3's tag and rule on any play or throw back there. If the ball is not caught, U1 is responsible for the batter-runner at first and second base.

Fly Ball to Center Field: No Catch (Deep), U2 Goes Out



Action on the field: Deep fly ball with two outs is uncaught; U2 goes out; R3 advances home and BR advances to second.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Stays home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

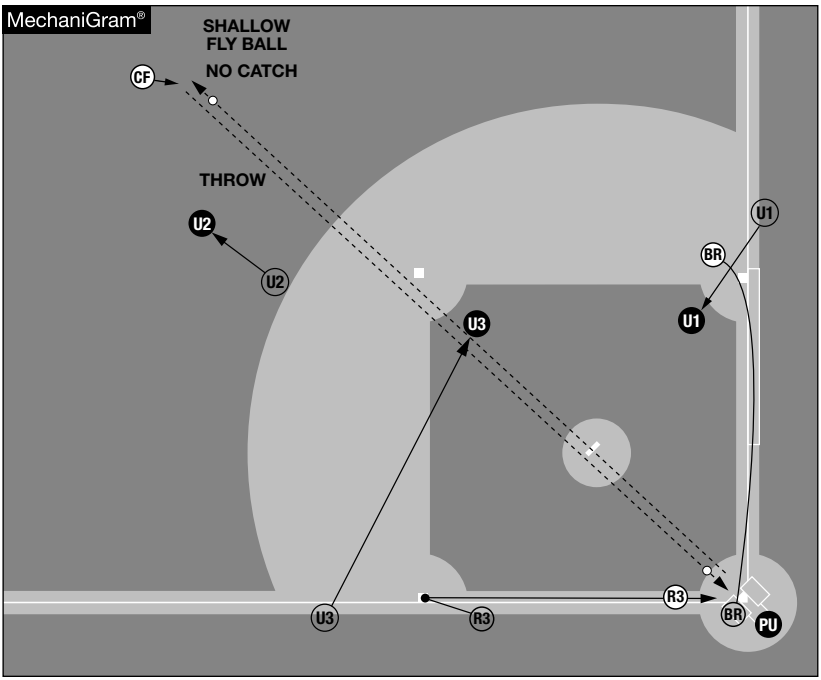
U1: Observes the batter-runner's touch of first and takes the batter-runner into second.

U2: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

U3: Stays at third for a potential play on BR.

Point of Emphasis
With two outs and U2 going out on a trouble ball. U1 and U3 adjust to the play based on how far the ball is hit and if there is a greater likelyhood of a play on the batter-runner at first base or third base.

Fly Ball to Center Field: No Catch (Shallow), U2 Goes Out



Action on the field: Shallow fly ball with two outs is uncaught; U2 goes out; R3 advances home and BR holds at first.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Stays home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

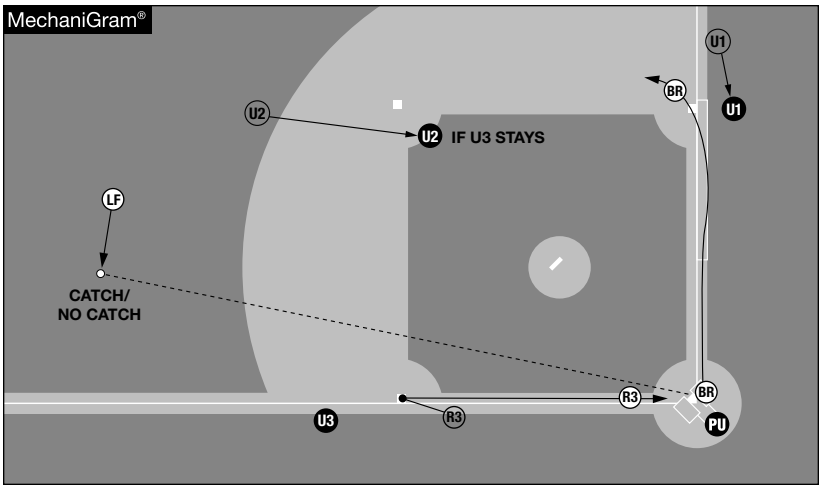
U1: Observes the batter-runner's touch of first.

U2: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

U3: Moves towards second base and has all plays on the batter-runner at second or third.

Point of Emphasis
With two outs and U2 going out on a trouble ball. U1 and U3 adjust to the play based on how far the ball is hit and if there is a greater likelyhood of a play on the batter-runner at first base or third base.

Fly Ball to Left Field: Catch/No Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball caught or uncaught taking the left fielder towards the line.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into a position to observe R3's tag up at third base. PU returns to the plate for any play there.

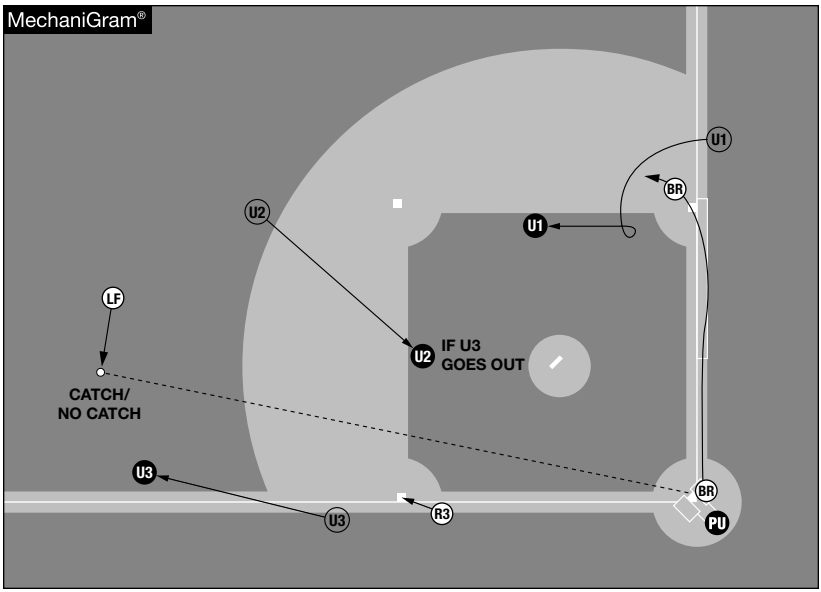
U1: Observes the batter-runner's touch of first and is responsible for all plays on the batter-runner at first base.

U2: Starts in the outfield (shallow left-center field w/ less than 2 outs). Responsible for any plays at second base.

U3: Stays positioned along the third baseline engaged with the fly ball through to the conclusion of the catch/no catch. If the ball is uncaught, U3 is responsible for any subsequent play on R3 at third and all plays on the BR at third base as well. U3 will have no tag up responsibilities of R3 on this play.

Point of Emphasis
Plate umpires are encouraged to step up and take immediate responsibility for these tag ups by stepping out a few steps in front of home plate making themselves visible to the field when ruling on these tag up appeal plays.

Fly Ball to Left Field: Catch/No Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball caught or uncaught taking the left fielder towards the line.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves into a position to observe R3's tag up at third base. PU returns to the plate for any play there.

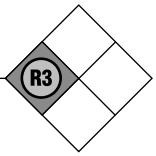
U1: Move into the infield and take batter-runner to second base. Responsible for all plays on the batter-runner at first base.

U2: Starts in the outfield (shallow left-center field w/ less than 2 outs). Responsible for any playback into third base on R3 and all plays on the batter-runner at second.

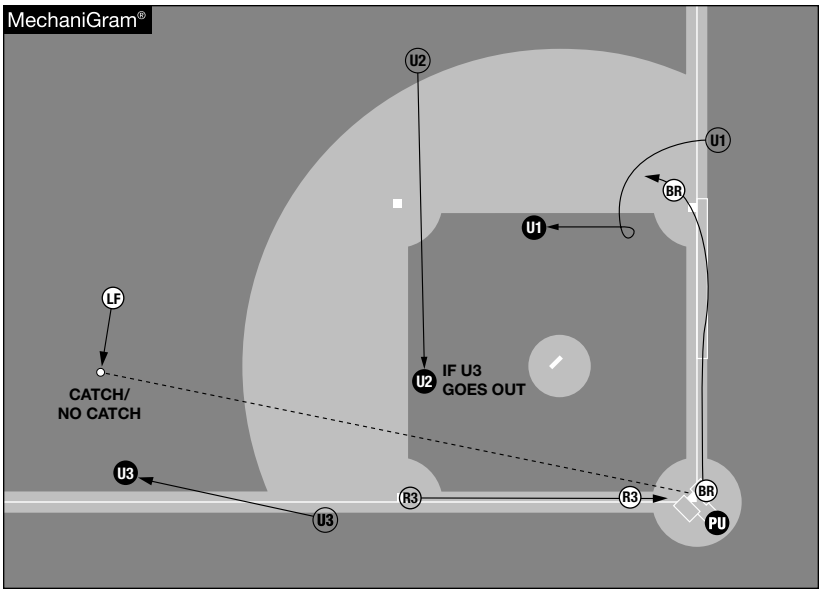
U3: Moves to the best position possible to rule on the catch/no catch.

Point of Emphasis
Plate umpires are encouraged to step up and take immediate responsibility for these tag ups by stepping out a few steps in front of home plate making themselves visible to the field when ruling on these tag up appeal plays.

9.13.5 RUNNER ON THIRD
TWO OUTS



Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch, U3 Goes Out



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; R3 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner advances toward second base.

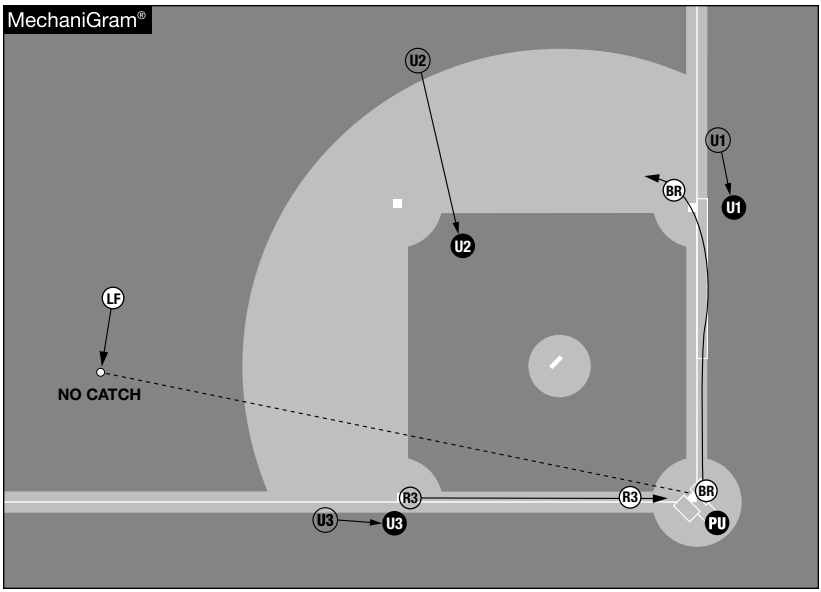
Umpire responsibilities:
PU: PU observes R3's touch of the plate and remains at the plate for any potential play there on the batter-runner.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's touch of first and takes the batter runner into second. In cases where U1 reads this batted ball as a sure double, by conference adoption, it is permissible to take the batter runner into second on the outside.

U2: Enters the infield immediately and moves into position to cover any play at third base.

U3: Moves to a position to best view the catch/no catch.

Fly Ball to Left Field: No Catch, U3 Stays



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 stays; R3 advances toward the plate; the batter-runner advances toward second base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: PU observes R3's touch of the plate and remains at the plate for any potential play there on the batter-runner.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's touch of first.

U2: Enters the infield immediately and moves into position to cover any play at second base.

U3: Stays positioned along the third baseline engaged with the fly ball through to the conclusion of the catch/no catch. If the ball is uncaught, U3 is responsible for any play at third.



Section 10

Mechanics for a Crew of Six Umpires



Mechanics for Six Umpires

10.1 Basic Principles

1. Extra outfield coverage. Having two outfield umpires allows many tough outfield calls to be viewed by two umpires. Remember, one is primary, one is secondary.

2. The second-base umpire can help guide the crew. With U2's position in the middle of the field, U2 can act as "traffic cop" and aid communication before each play.

3. Know four-umpire mechanics. You must have a complete understanding of four-umpire mechanics to work with six umpires.

Two Additional Positions
"ULF" stands for "umpire: left field": Positioned approximately 100 feet behind third base in fair territory.

"URF" stands for "umpire: right field": Positioned approximately 100 feet behind first base in fair territory.

10.2 Balk Concentration

The coverage is the same as with four umpires (ULF and URF have no responsibility). See 9.2 for a breakdown of responsibilities.

10.3 Umpire Responsibilities

A. With no runners on base and a ground ball to the infield, the right-field umpire moves towards foul territory in case the ball is overthrown at first base. URF watches for possible spectator interference and/or the ball going out of play..

B. When U2 goes out, the line umpire on the side the ball is hit also drifts to the outfield in that direction.

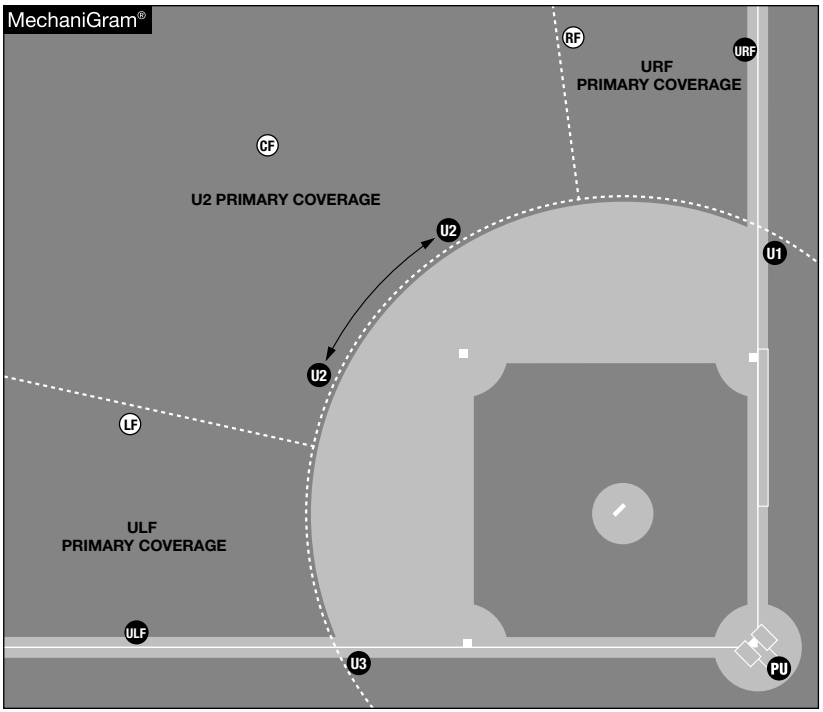
C. Umpires continue to rotate according to the CCA Mechanics manual. The only time PU rotates to third base is with no runners on base and U2 goes out. In all other cases, PU stays home. Line umpires do not rotate to cover a base.

D. With runners on base and U2 on the inside:
1. Both line umpires go out in the direction the ball is hit. For example, if the ball is hit to right-center field, URF goes in the direction of the ball. ULF also moves in the direction of the ball in the case the fielder turns toward left field (and away from URF).

2. If the ball is hit to straight center field, both line umpires go out, and whichever side the ball is caught, that umpire has the call. Line umpires should make eye contact with each other before making the decision, if possible.

E. Fair-Foul calls: Fair and foul balls are handled in a manner that the U1 and U3 will have all fair/foul ball calls on a ball that ends up going beyond their respective base. The line umpires call fair/foul only on balls that land behind them.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

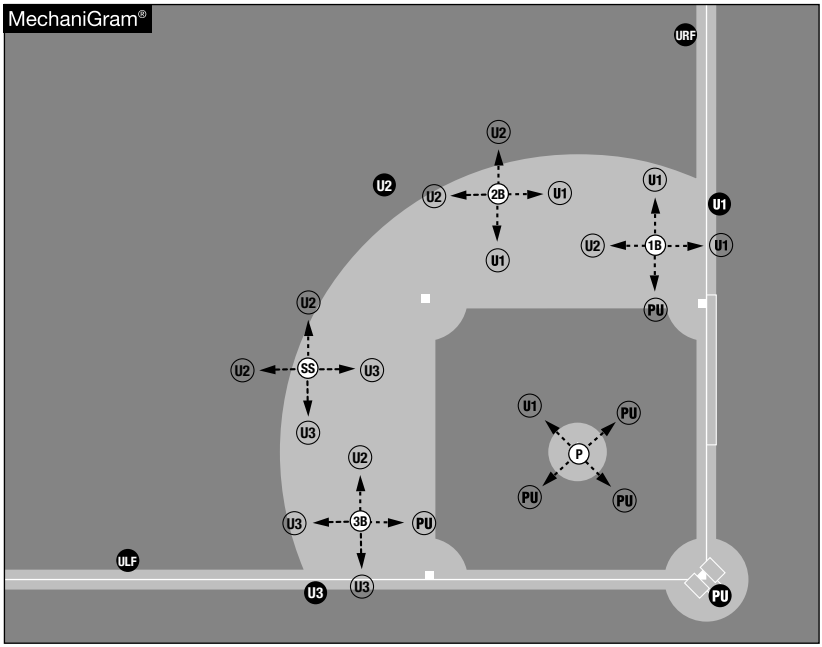
Umpire responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the either shallow left-center or shallow right-center field. U3 is in the "D" position. ULF is in the "LF" position in fair territory. URF is in the "RF" position in fair territory.

U2: Dictates coverage. Has the left fielder moving to his left, the right fielder moving to his right and all fly balls in between.

URF: Has the right fielder moving straight in, straight back and toward the right-field foul line.

ULF: Has the left fielder moving straight in, straight back and toward the left-field foul line.

Infield Catch Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

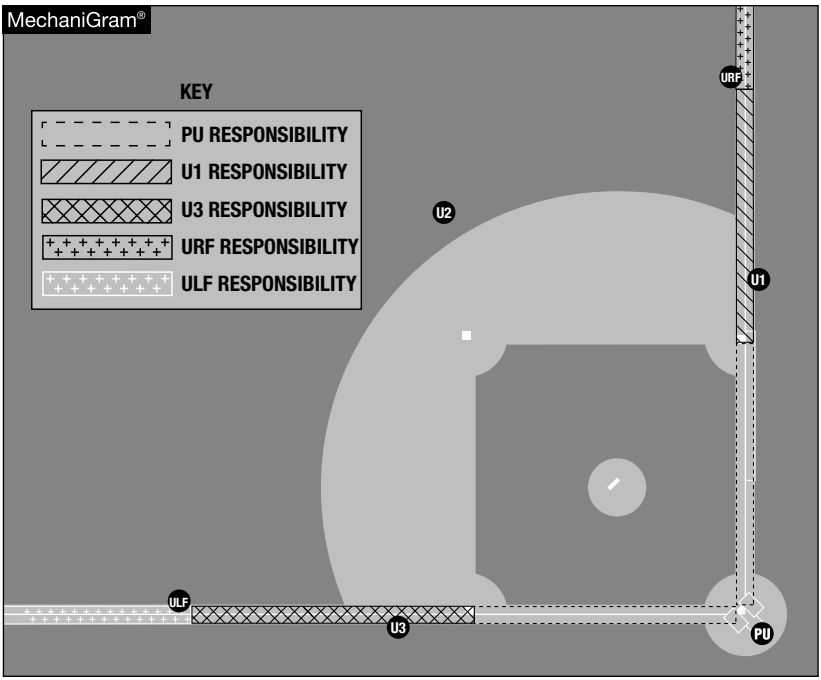
Umpire responsibilities:
PU has catches:
1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving in.

U1 has catches:
1. By the second baseman moving in or toward first base.
2. By the first baseman moving out or toward first base.
3. By the pitcher moving back.

U2 has catches:
1. By the second baseman moving out or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving out or toward second base.
3. By the first baseman moving toward second base.
4. By the third baseman moving toward second base.

U3 has catches:
1. By the shortstop moving in or toward third base.
2. By the third baseman moving out or toward third base.

Fair/Foul Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Responsible for balls up to first base and third base.

U1: Responsible for balls that hit first base, are in the area between first base and URF or are fielded above first base.

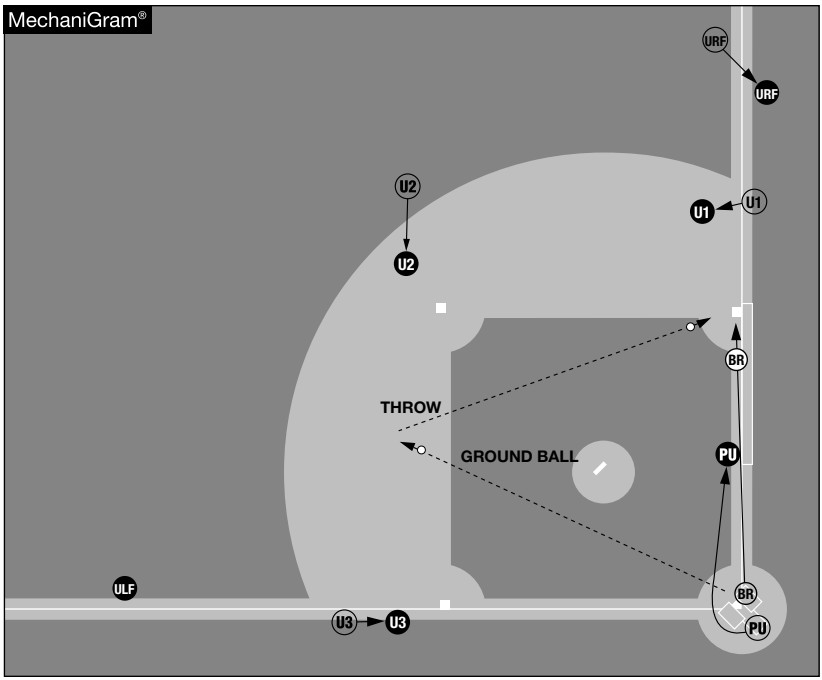
U2: Has no fair-foul responsibility.

U3: Responsible for balls that hit third base, are in the area between third base and ULF or are fielded above third base.

ULF: Responsible for balls past ULF in the outfield.

URF: Responsible for balls past URF in the outfield.

Plays Within the Infield



Action on the field: Ground ball to the shortstop, who throws to first base.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.

U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.

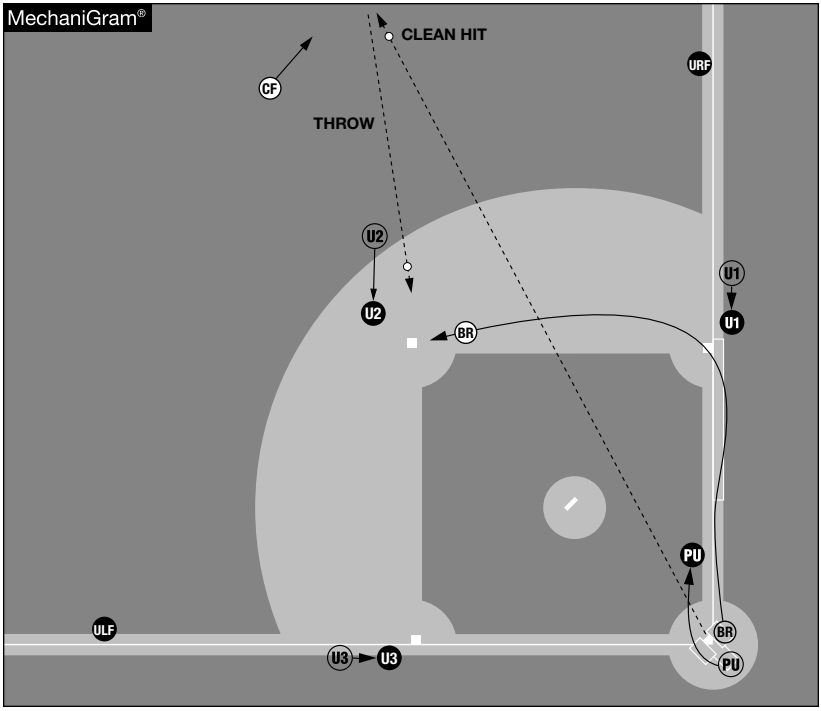
U2: Moves toward second base. It is acceptable for U2 to take the play from the outfield side of second base.

U3: Observes.

URF: Moves toward the out-of-play area to assist on possible overthrow.

ULF: Observes.

Clean Hit to the Outfield



Action on the field: No runners on, clean hit to right-center field; batter-runner advances toward second base, drawing a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes and has all plays at the plate.

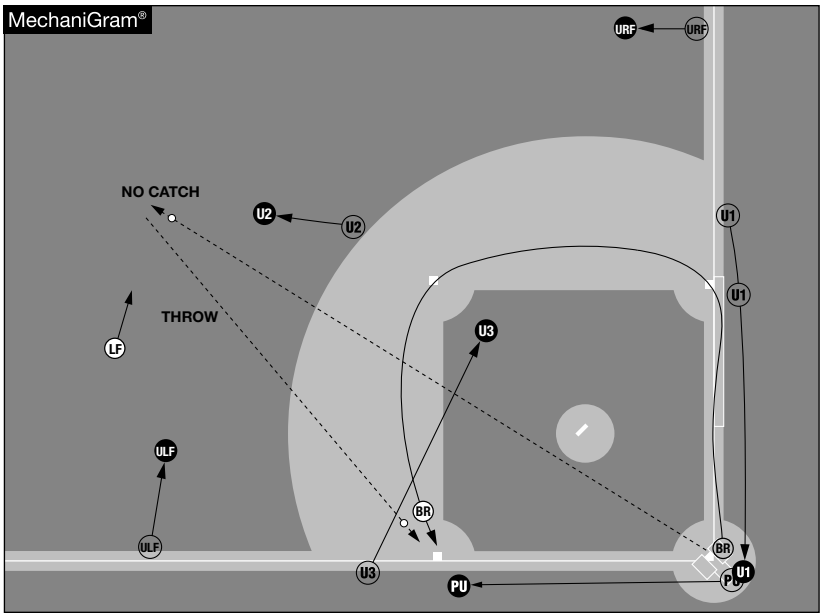
U1: Observes the batter-runner touch first base.

U2: Moves toward second base and prepares for all plays on the batter-runner at second base. It is acceptable for U2 to take the play from the outfield side of second base.

U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.

ULF and URF: Observe.

Base Hit to the Outfield; U2 Goes Out



Action on the field: No runners on, fly ball to left-center field, no catch; the batter-runner advances toward third base and draws a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Moves toward third base and has any play there on the batter-runner.

U1: Observes the base touch at first base and has any play there on the batter-runner. If the batter-runner commits to third base, U1 rotates to the plate for any play there on the batter-runner.

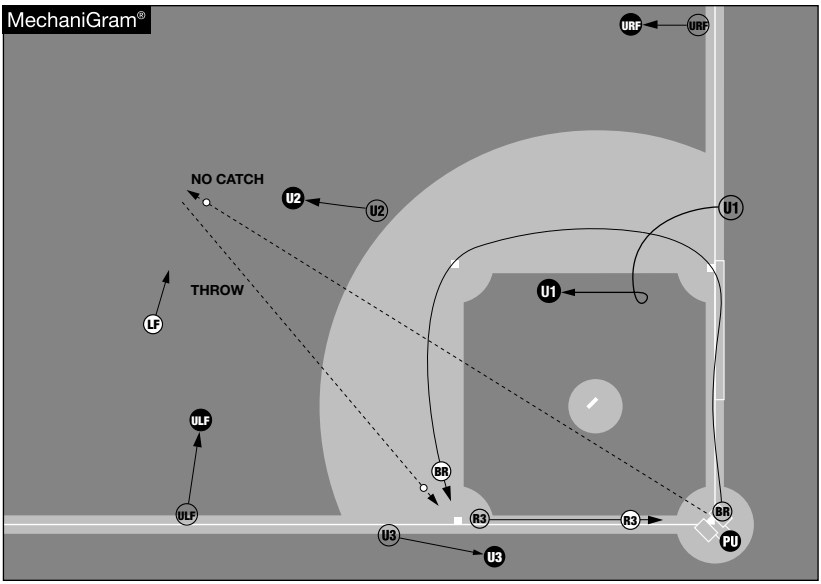
U2 and **ULF:** Move to a position to best view the catch/no catch (U2 has primary coverage, ULF has secondary coverage).

U3: Has all plays at second base and observes the base touch there.

URF: Observes.

Note: This coverage also applies to home runs.

Base Hit to the Outfield; U2 Goes Out



Action on the field: Runner on third base only, fly ball hit to right-center field, no catch; R3 scores and the batter-runner advances toward third base and draws a throw there.

Umpire responsibilities:
PU: Observes R3 tagging at third and returns to the plate for any possible play there.

U1: Observes the batter-runner's touch of first and second bases and calls any plays at those bases.

U2 and **ULF:** Move to a position to best view the catch/no catch (U2 has primary coverage, ULF has secondary coverage).

U3: Stays at third base and lines up the tag. Also has any throw back at third base.

URF: Observes.

Note: This coverage also applies to home runs.



SECTION 10.5

All other runner combinations

Infield Catch Coverage
The coverage is similar to no runners on or runner on third only (see 10.4.2), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU has catches:

1. By the pitcher moving in, left or right.
2. By the first and third basemen moving in.

U1 has catches:

1. By the second baseman moving in or toward first base.
2. By the first baseman moving out or toward first base.
3. By the pitcher moving back.

U2 has catches:

1. By the second baseman moving out or toward second base.
2. By the shortstop moving out or toward second base.
3. By the first baseman moving toward second base.
4. By the third baseman moving toward second base.

U3 has catches:

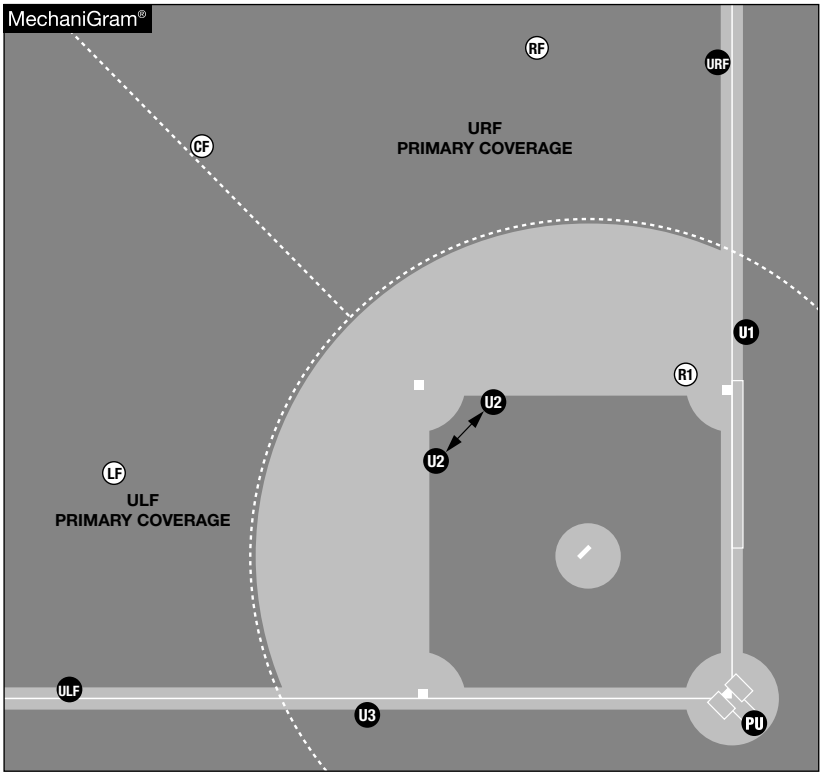
1. By the shortstop moving in or toward third base.
2. By the third baseman moving out or toward third base.

Fair / Foul Coverage
The coverage is the same as no runners on or runner on third only (see 10.4.3), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU: Responsible for balls up to first base and third base.
U1: Responsible for balls that hit first base, are fielded above first base or hits between U1 and URF.
U2: Has no fair/foul responsibility.
U3: Responsible for balls that hit third base, are fielded above third base or hits between U3 and ULF.
ULF: Responsible for balls past ULF in the outfield.
URF: Responsible for balls past URF in the outfield.

Plays Within the Infield
The coverage is similar to no runners on or runner on third only (see 10.4.4), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU: Moves toward first base to assist U1 if asked on swipe tag or pulled foot by the first baseman.
U1: Moves into the best position to rule on plays at first base.
U2: Has all plays at second base.
U3: Observes.
URF: Moves toward the out-of-play area to assist on possible overthrow.
ULF: Observes.

Clean Hit to the Outfield
The coverage is similar to no runners on or runner on third only (see 10.4.5), with U2 in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position.
PU: Observes and has all plays at the plate.
U1: Observes the batter-runner touch first base.
U2: Observes R1's and the batter-runner's touch at second base and has all plays there.
U3: Observes and has all plays at third base.
ULF and **URF:** Observe.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



Action on the field: No action.

Umpire responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U2 is in the "Deep B" or "Deep C" position, based on personal preference. U3 is in the "D" position. ULF is in the "LF" position. URF is in the "RF" position.

URF: Dictates outfield coverage and has the center fielder straight in and straight back. URF also has all balls to the right fielder.

ULF: Has the center fielder moving toward the left-field foul line and has all balls to the left fielder.



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