



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.** Four 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 decision.
- 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 are not going out, hold your arm out to your partners with your palm facing them.
 5. If you do not go out, you still maintain responsibility for the catch.
 6. 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.

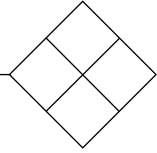
Runners on first and third, second and third, third base only or bases loaded.

Plate umpire has all overthrow responsibilities.

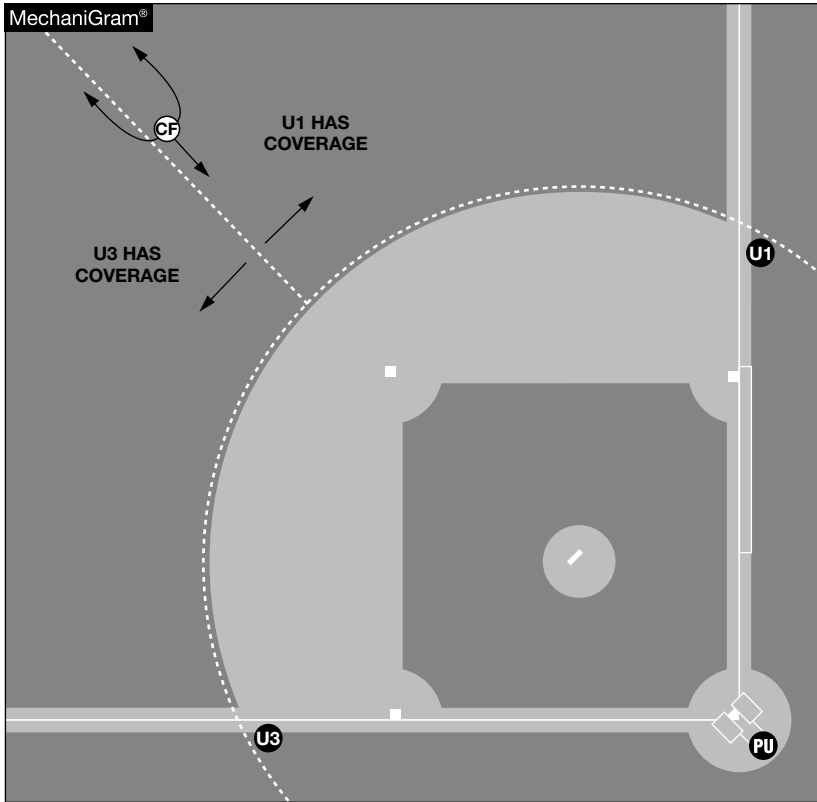




8.6.1 NO RUNNERS ON



Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

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

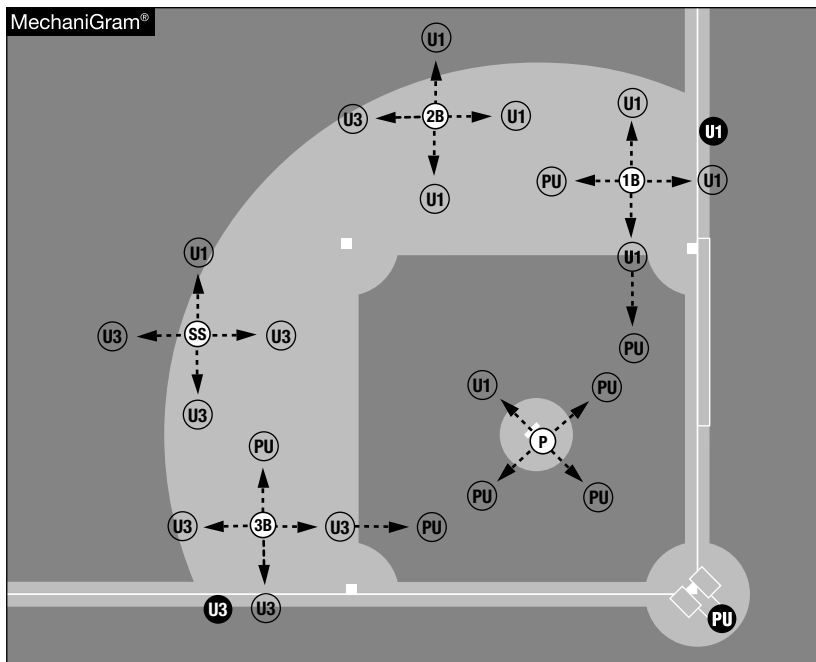
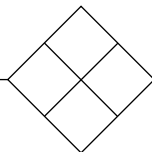
U1: Starts in the “A” position. U1 dictates coverage and has the center fielder straight in, when the center fielder turns to his left and goes straight back and when he moves toward right field. U1 also has all balls to the right fielder.

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.



8.6.2 NO RUNNERS ON

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.

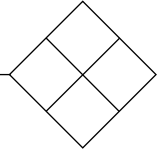
U3 has catches:

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.

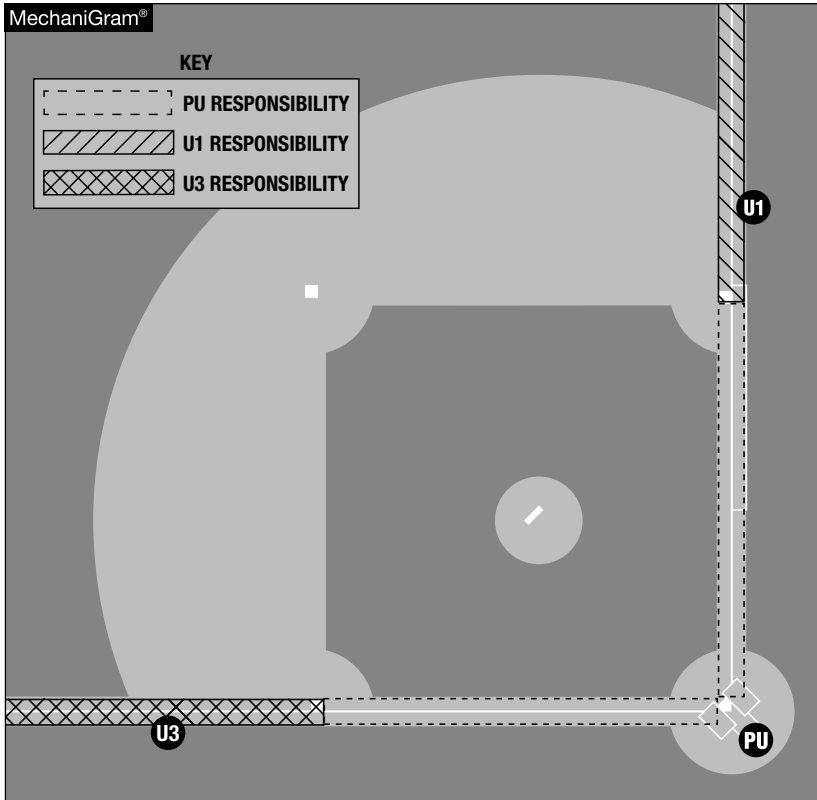




8.6.3 NO RUNNERS ON



Fair/Foul Coverage



Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

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

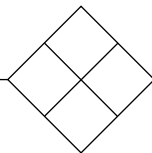
U1: Has responsibility for balls that hit first base and/or go beyond.

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

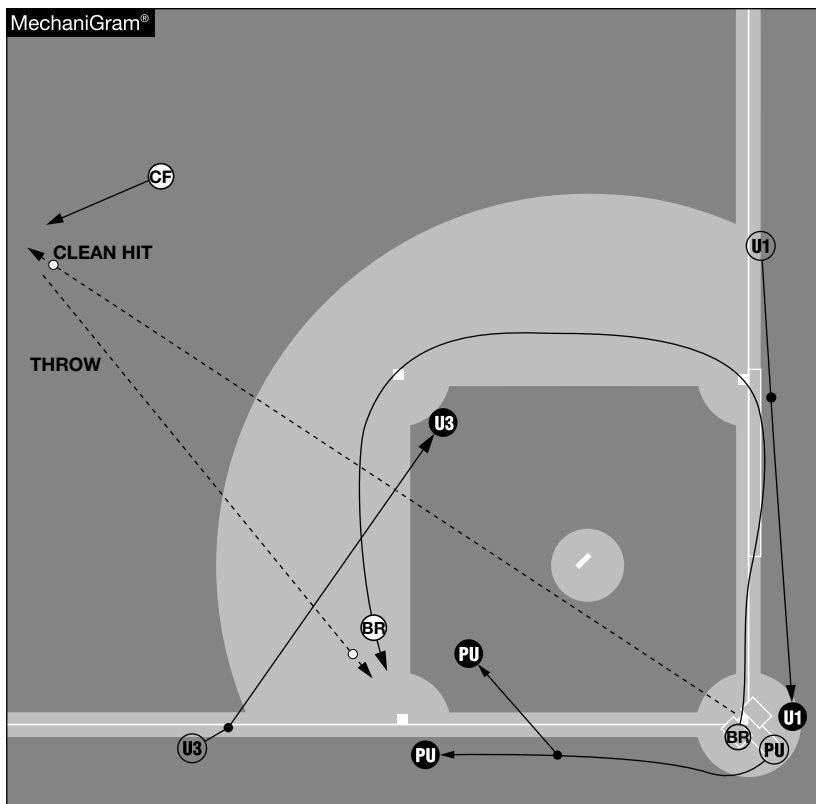




8.6.4 NO RUNNERS ON



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:

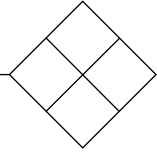
PU: Reads the ball and has any play on the batter-runner at third base.

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.

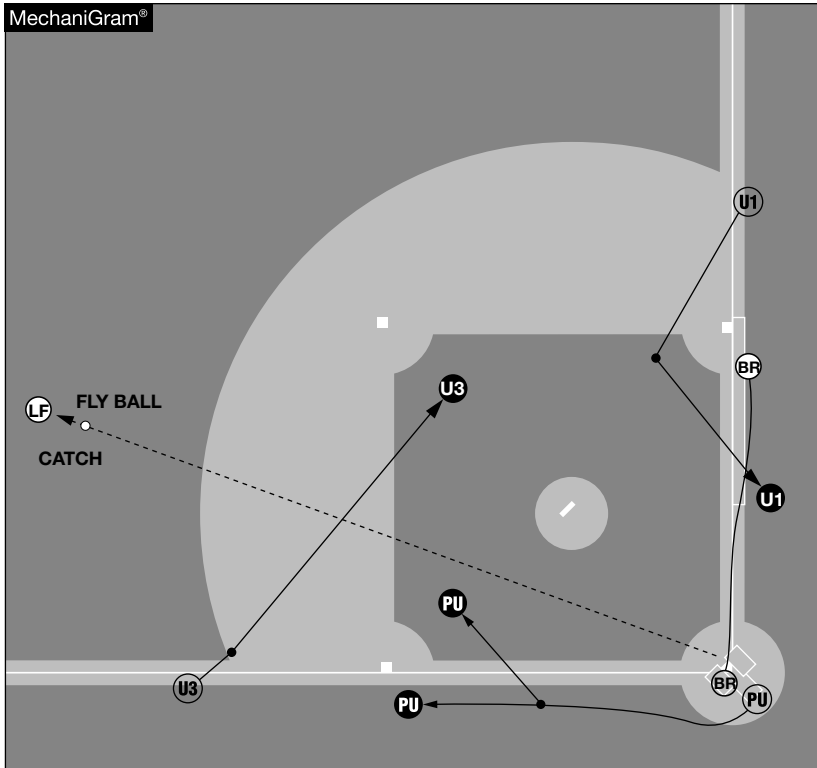
U3: Enters the infield and has all plays on the batter-runner at second base.



8.6.5 NO RUNNERS ON



Fly Ball to Left Field: Catch



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

Umpire responsibilities:

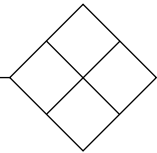
PU: Reads U3's movement and moves up the line for a play at third if the ball is not caught.

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.

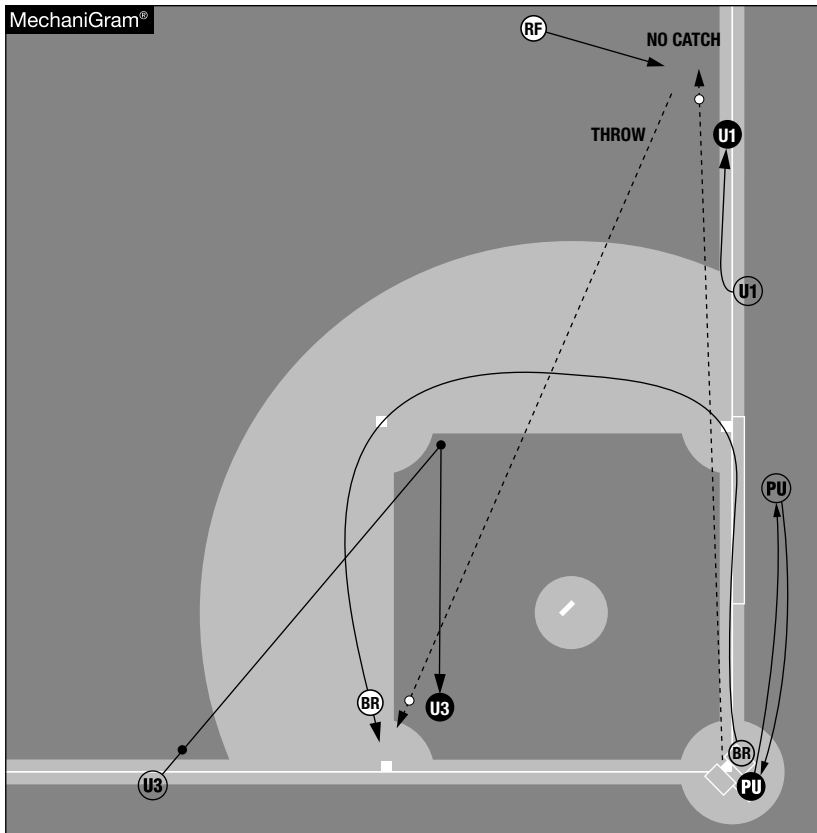
U3: Moves toward the infield since fair/foul and catch/no-catch are not an issue. U3 continues into the infield for a play at second in the event the ball is not caught.



8.6.6 NO RUNNERS ON



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.

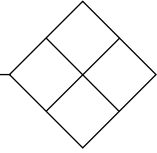
U1: Goes out on the fly ball to rule on fair/foul and then the catch/no-catch.

U3: Has all plays at second and third base.

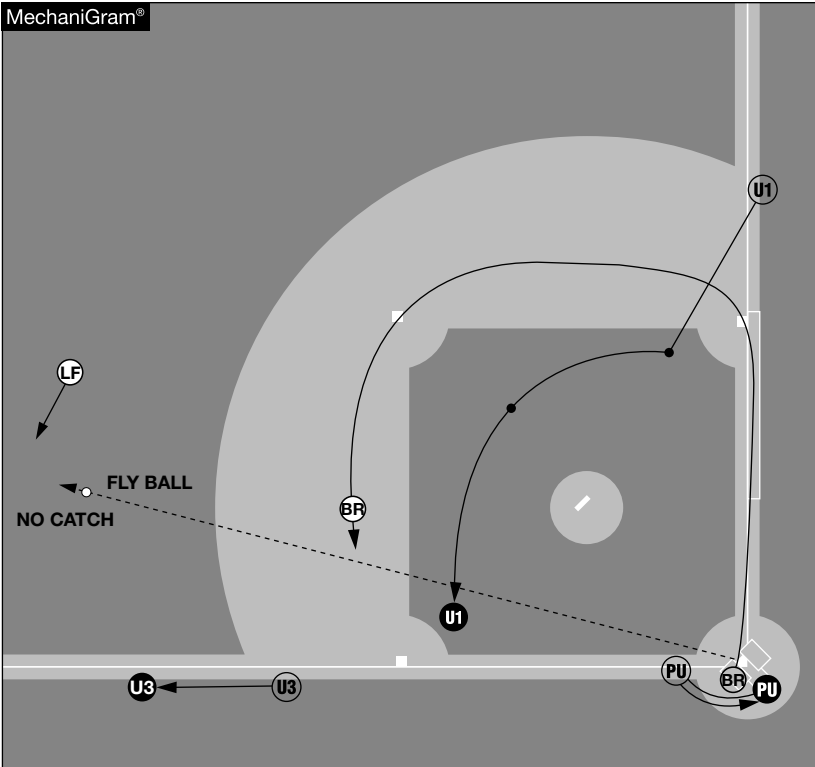




8.6.7 NO RUNNERS ON



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:

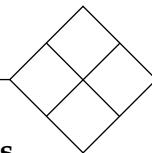
PU: Has any play on the batter-runner at the plate.

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

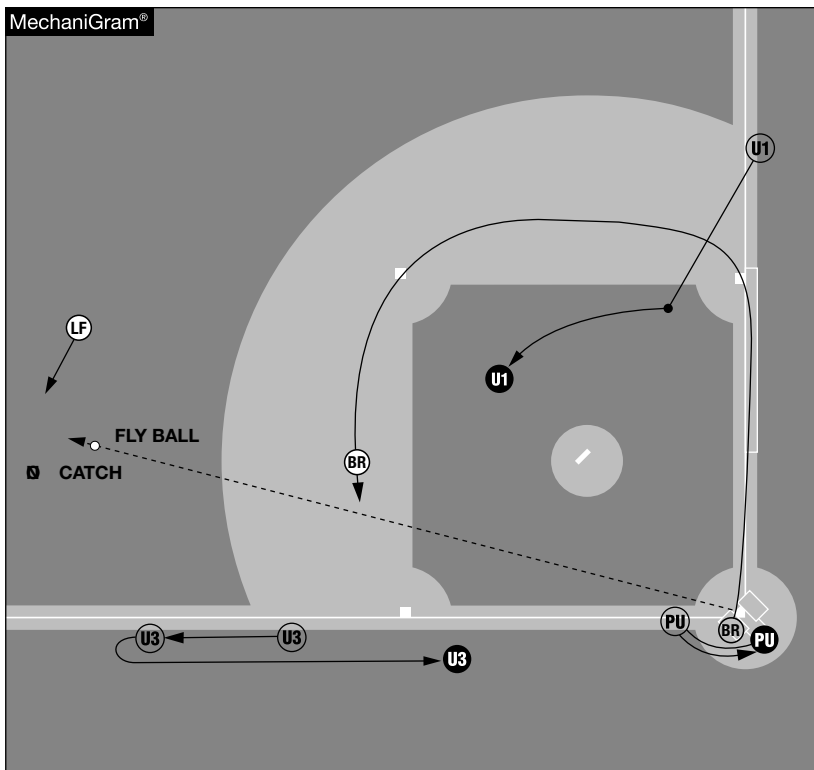
U3: Goes out on the fly ball to rule on fair/foul and the catch/no-catch.



8.6.8 NO RUNNERS ON



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.

By conference approval, any time a runner is positioned at first base only with two outs and the batter with a full count, the base umpires may reverse rotate on a base hit.

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.

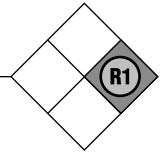
U1: Has responsibility for all balls that hit first base or go beyond first base.

U3: Has no foul-line responsibility.

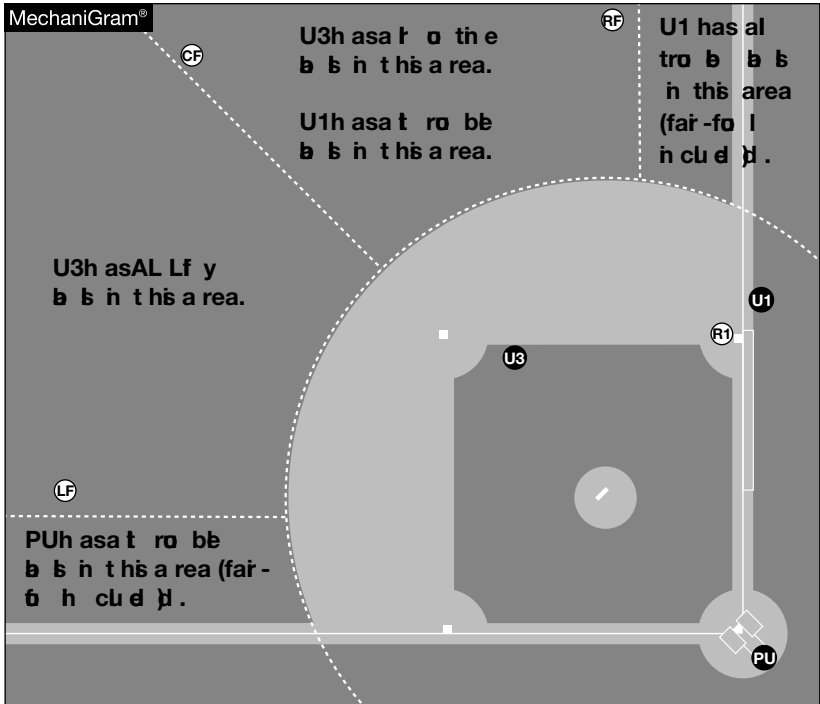




8.7.1 RUNNER ON FIRST



Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



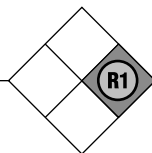
Action on the field: No action

Umpire responsibilities:

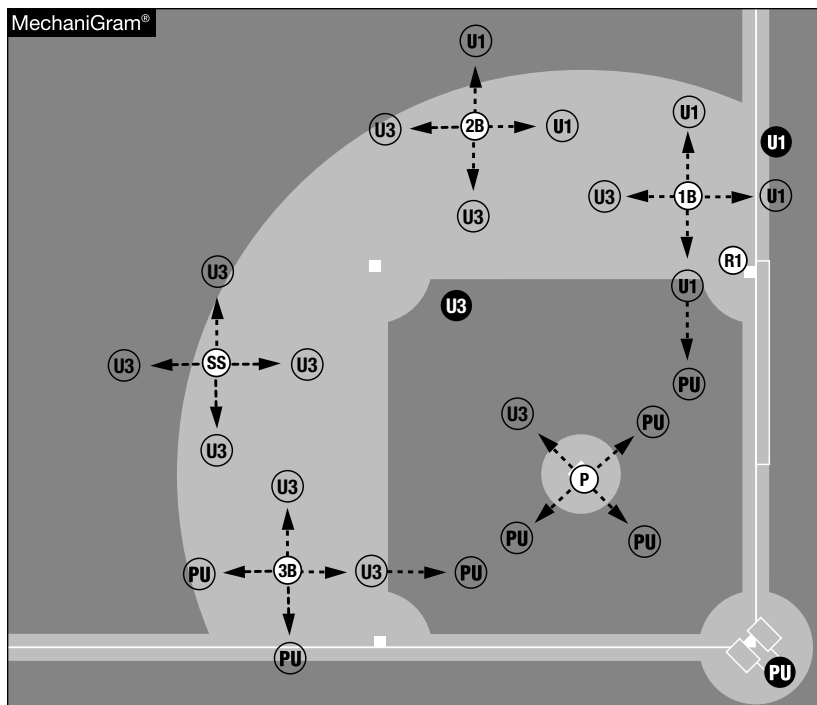
PU: Has catch/no-catch responsibility if the ball is hit where the left fielder moves any distance toward the foul line.

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 all responsibility for all routine catches from left field to right field, and all trouble catches in the left-center field wedge.



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:

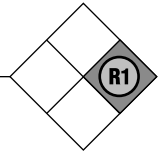
1. Immediately in front of the first baseman, out or toward the foul line.
2. By the second baseman moving back or toward first base.

U3 has catches:

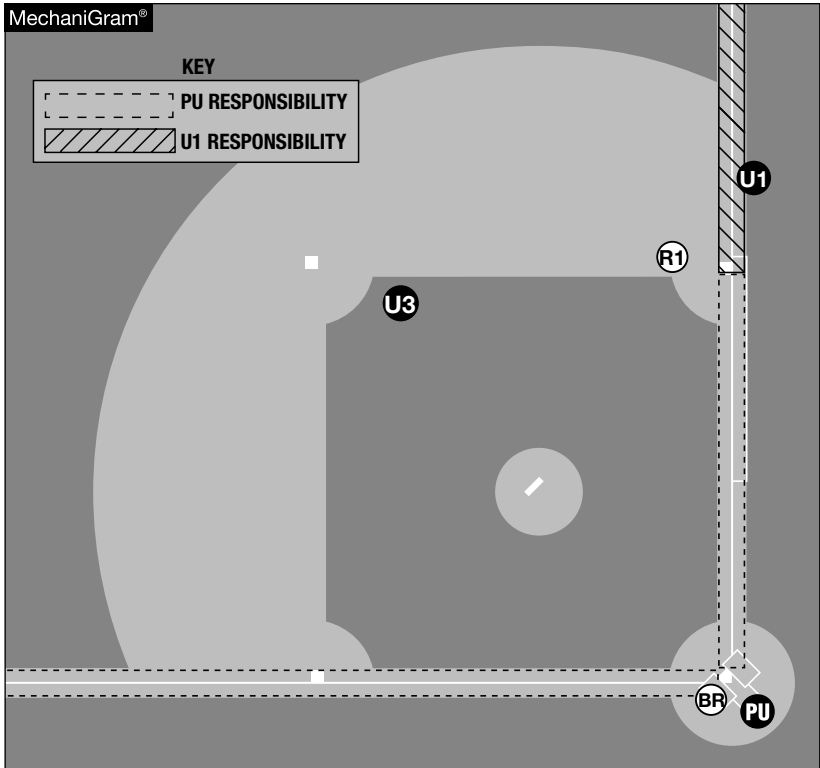
1. By all fielders moving toward the middle of the field.
2. By the pitcher moving back.
3. Immediately in front of the third baseman.
4. By the shortstop moving in all directions.
5. By the second baseman moving in.



8.7.3 RUNNER ON FIRST



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.

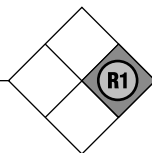
U1: Has responsibility for all balls that hit first base or go beyond first base.

U3: Has no foul-line responsibility.

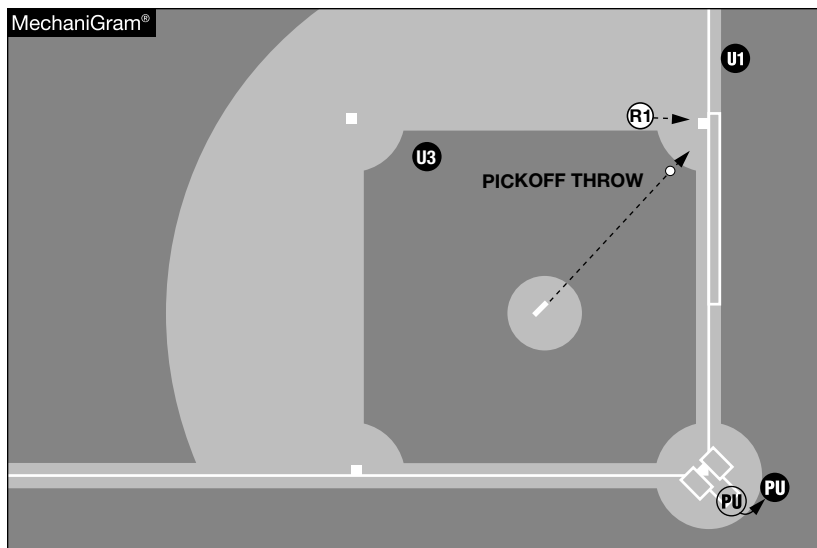




8.7.4 RUNNER ON FIRST



Pickoff at First



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

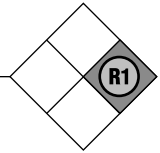
Umpire responsibilities:

P: Watches the pitcher for potential balks, then takes a step out from behind the catcher to observe the action or in case ball is overthrown.

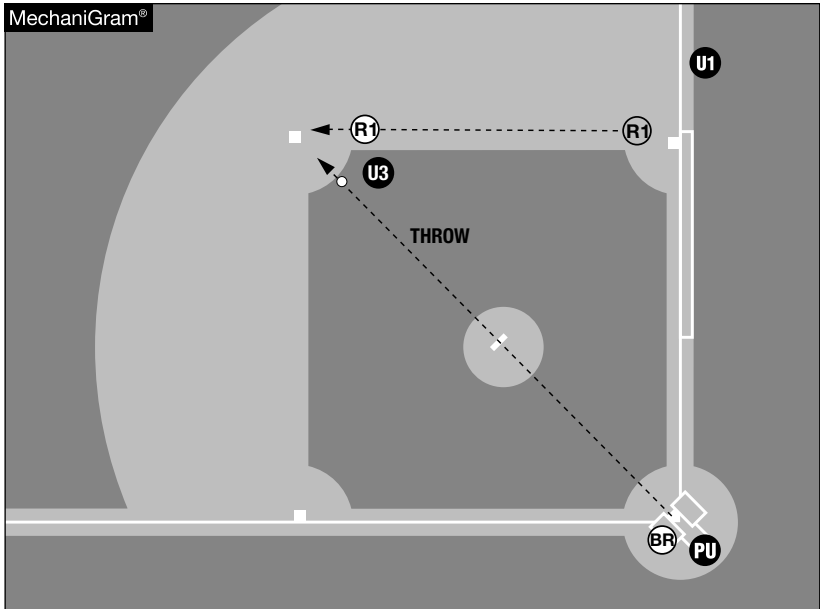
U1: Umpires shall start with their inside foot next to the foul line and NOT straddling the line. When the first baseman is holding the runner on first, U1 should be in a hands-on-knees set position immediately when the pitcher comes in contact with the rubber. U1's distance will be no more than 6-10 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.

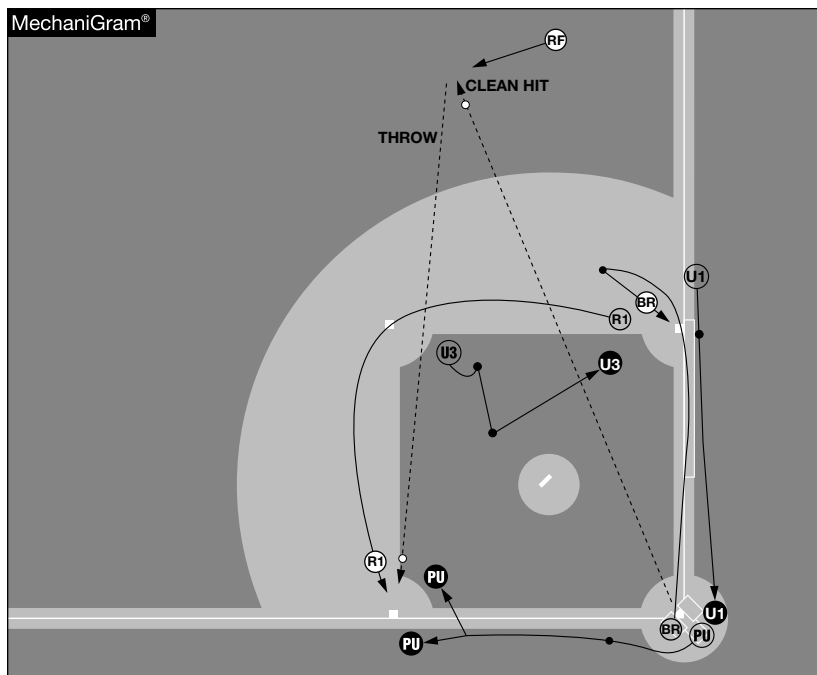
Umpire responsibilities:

P: 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.

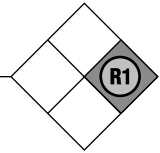
U1: Observes batter-runner's base touch at first base and begins to move toward the plate when R1 touches second base and commits to third base.

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.

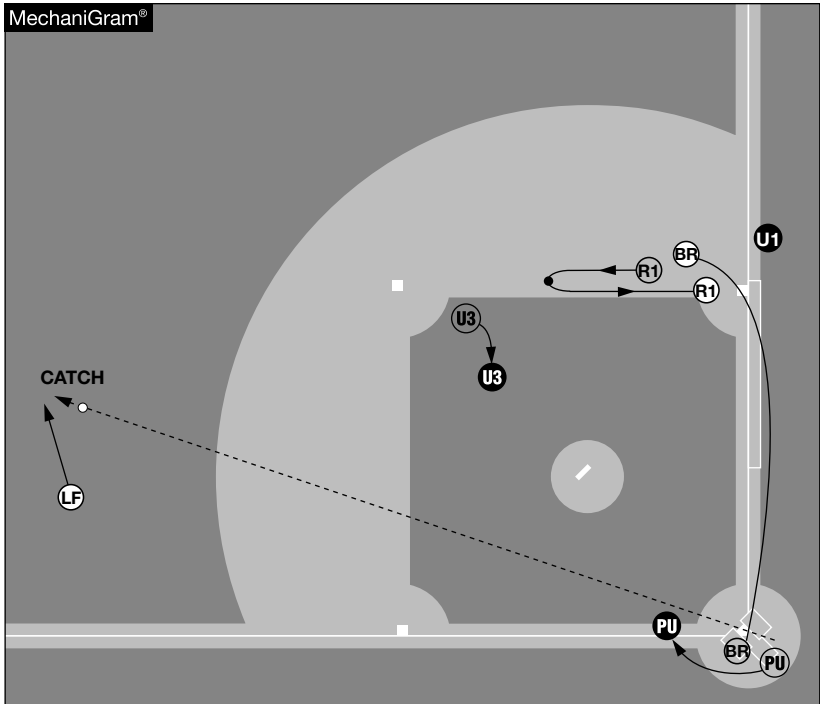
By conference approval, any time a runner is positioned at first base only with two outs and the batter with a full count, the base umpires may reverse rotate on a base hit.



8.7.7 RUNNER ON FIRST



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:

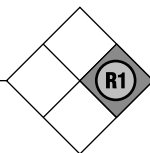
PU: Observes the action. If the ball is not caught, PU moves toward third base for any play on R1 there.

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.

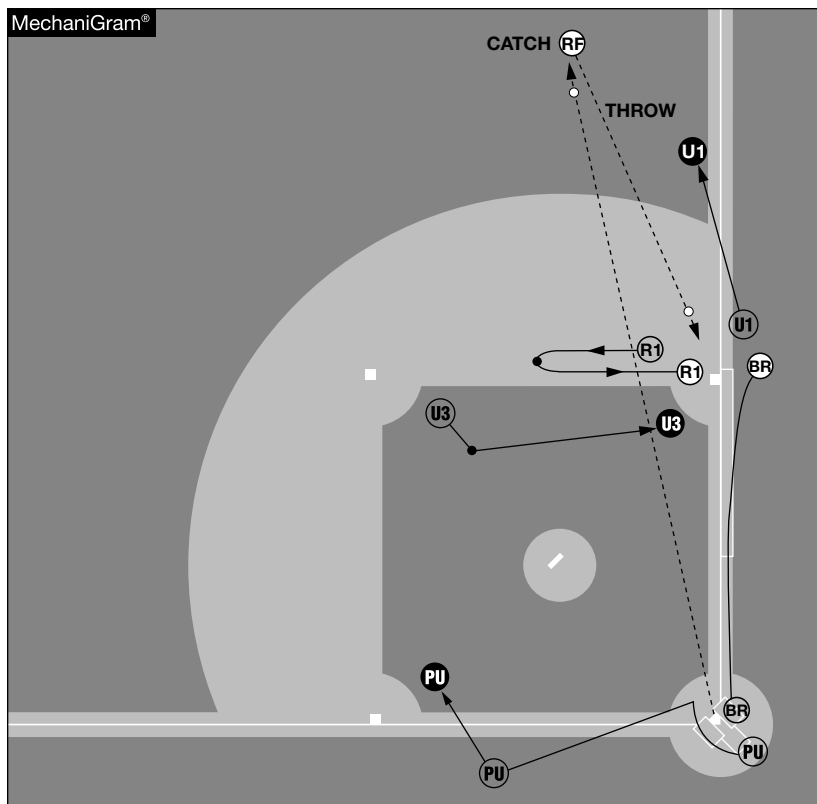
U3: Rules on the catch/no catch and has any play on R1 at second base. If the ball is not caught, once R1 has touched second base and has committed to third base, U3 assumes responsibility for the batter-runner.



8.7.8 RUNNER ON FIRST



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.

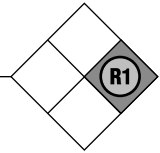
U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch.

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

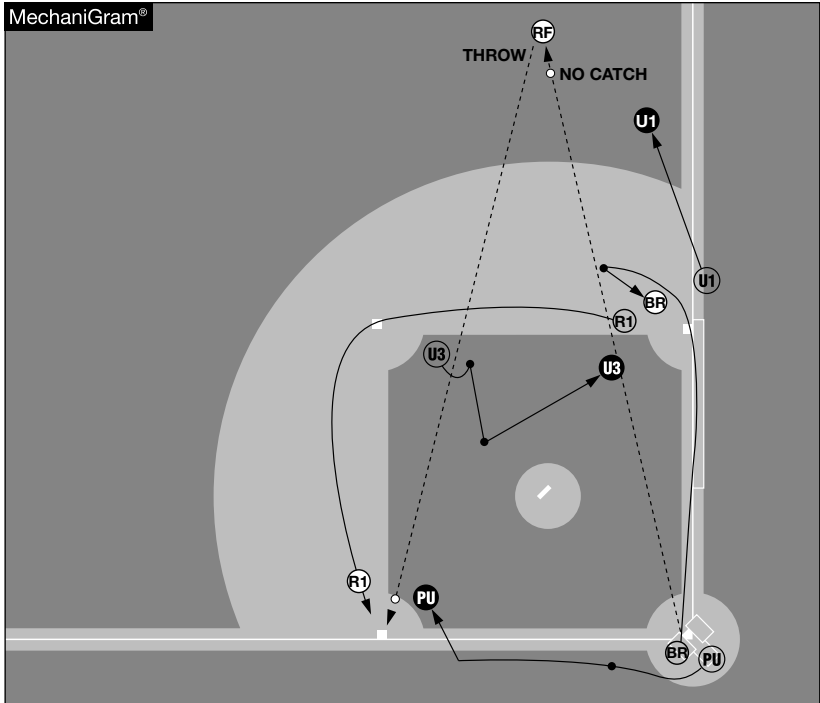




8.7.9 RUNNER ON FIRST



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.

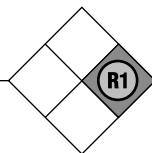
U1: Goes out on the fly ball.

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

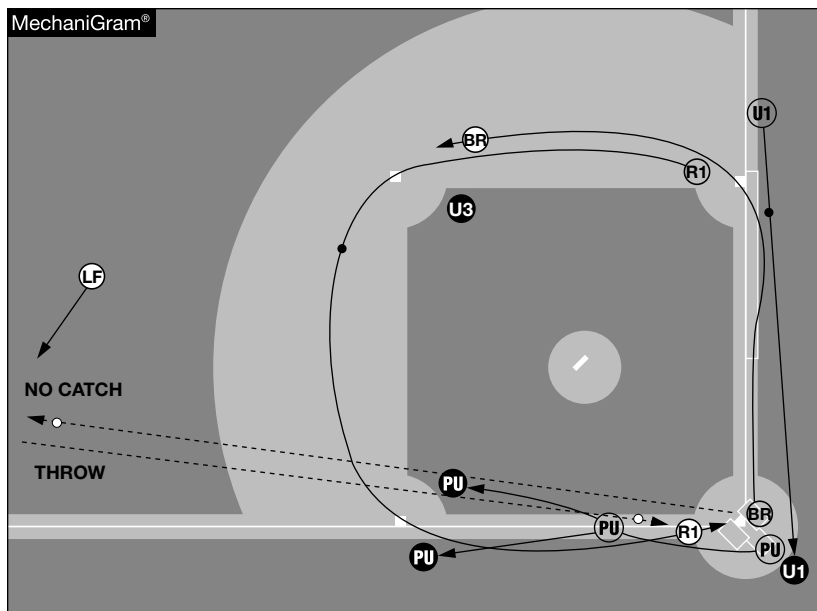




8.7.10 RUNNER ON FIRST



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: Rules on the fair/foul and catch/no-catch, observes the action and moves toward third base for any play on R1. If a play develops at third base, PU can take the play in either fair or foul territory. If the ball is caught, PU returns home.

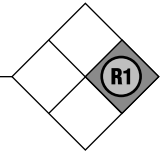
U1: Observes the action and base touch at first of the batter-runner. If R1 touches second and commits to third base, U1 moves to the plate for any play on R1. If the ball is caught, U1 observes R1's tag at and has any play back into first base.

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.

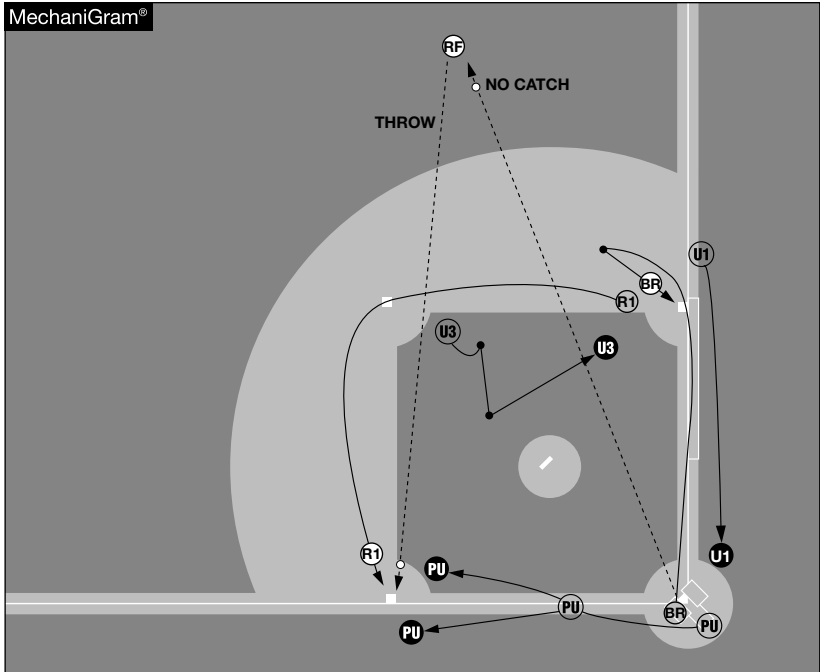




8.7.11 RUNNER ON FIRST



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

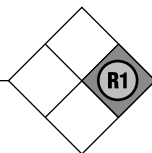
Umpire responsibilities:

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.

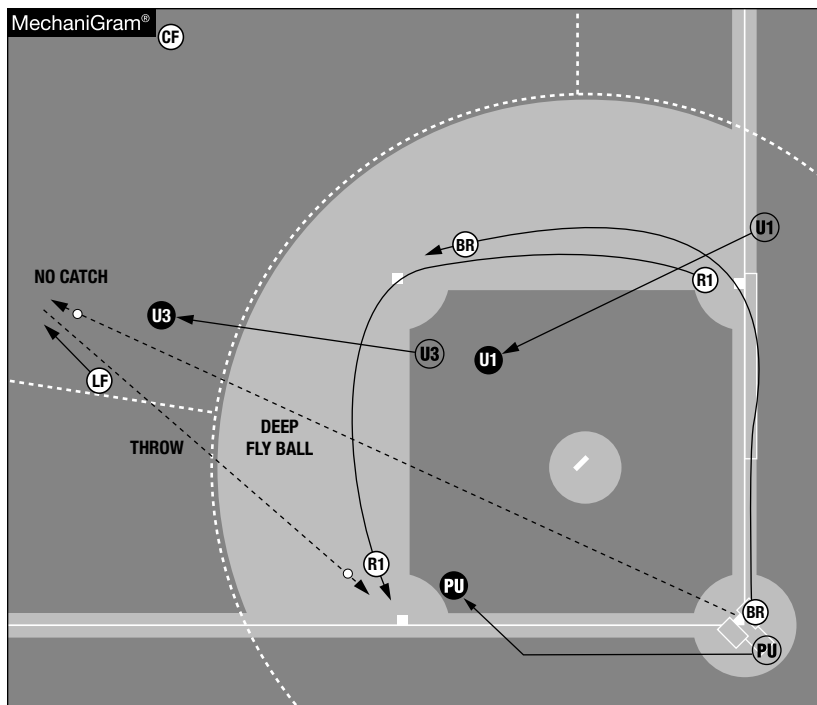
U1: Observes the action and base touch at first of the batter-runner. Once R1 touches second base and commits to third base, U1 moves to the plate for any play there.

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.





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.



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 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 only (see 8.7.3), with U3 in the “C” position.

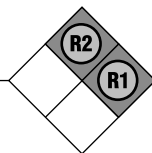
PU: Has responsibility for all balls on the third-base line and up to first base.

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

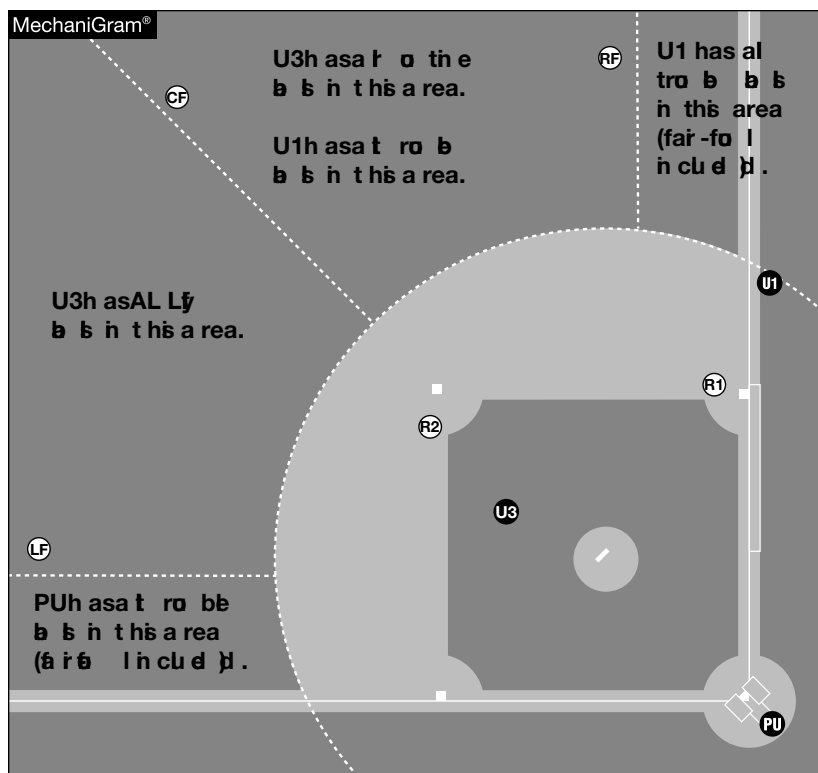
U3: Has no foul-line responsibility.



8.8.1 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND



Initial Position and Outfield Coverage



Action on the field: No action

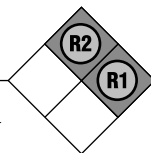
Umpire responsibilities: U1 is in the "A" position. U3 is in the "C" position.

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.

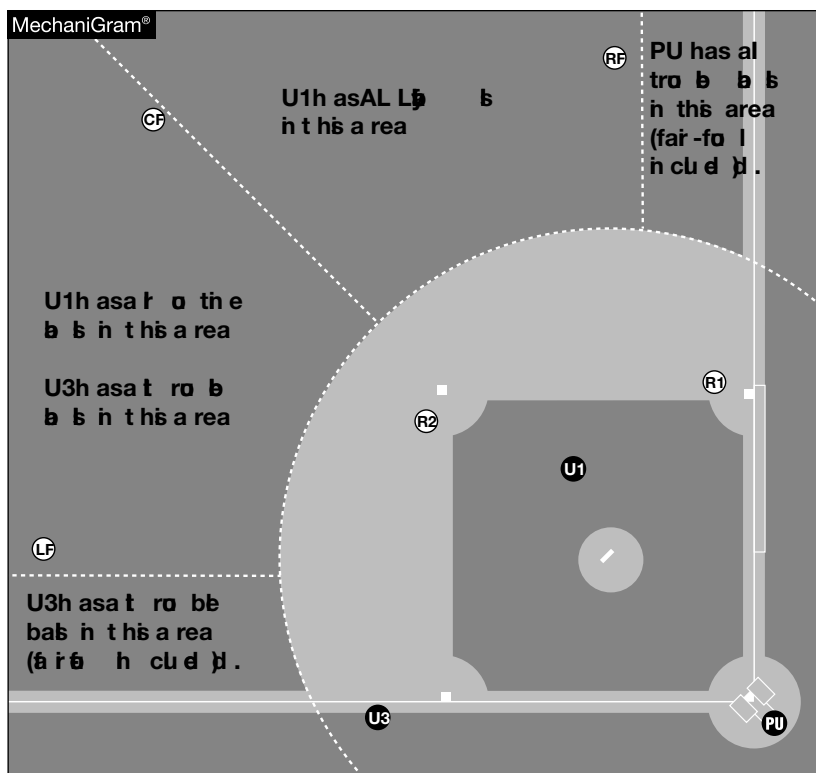




8.8.2 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND



Optional Initial Position and Outfield Coverage in Obvious Bunt Situation



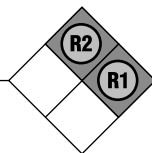
Action on the field: No action

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.

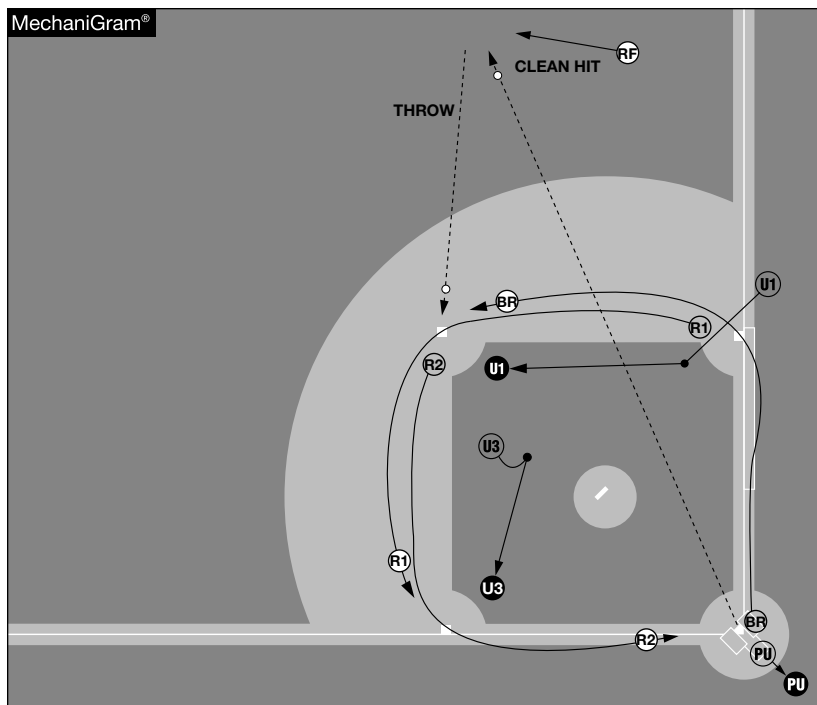
U3 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to left field out of play. If U3 goes out, the crew reverts to the two-umpire system. If the ball is hit where the right fielder moves any distance toward the foul line, then PU has the fair/foul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



8.8.3 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND



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.

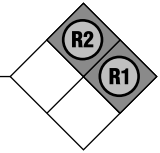
U1: Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

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.

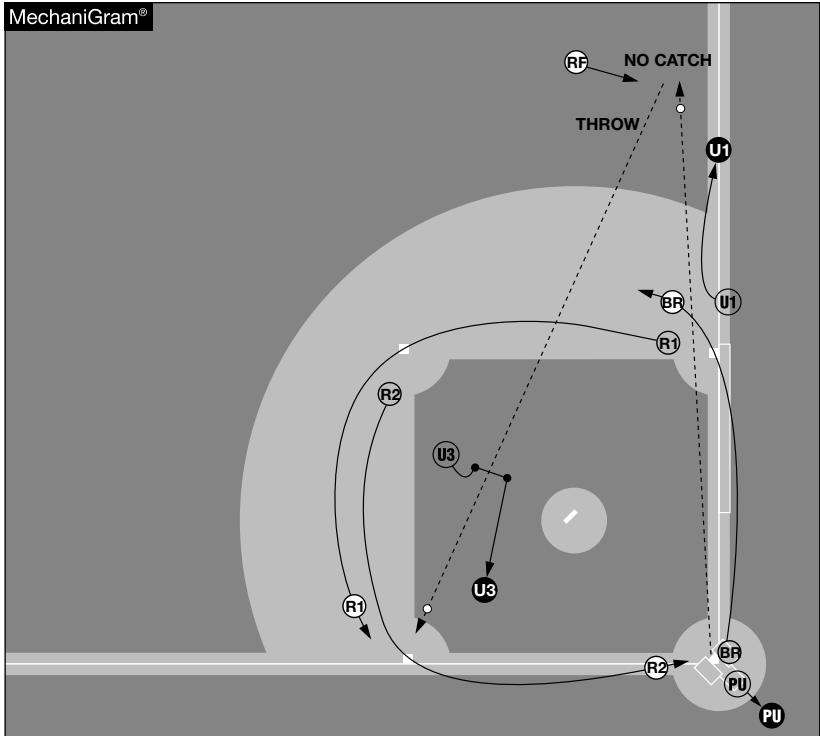




8.8.4 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND



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, 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.

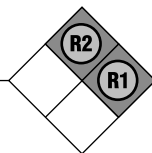
U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch.

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.

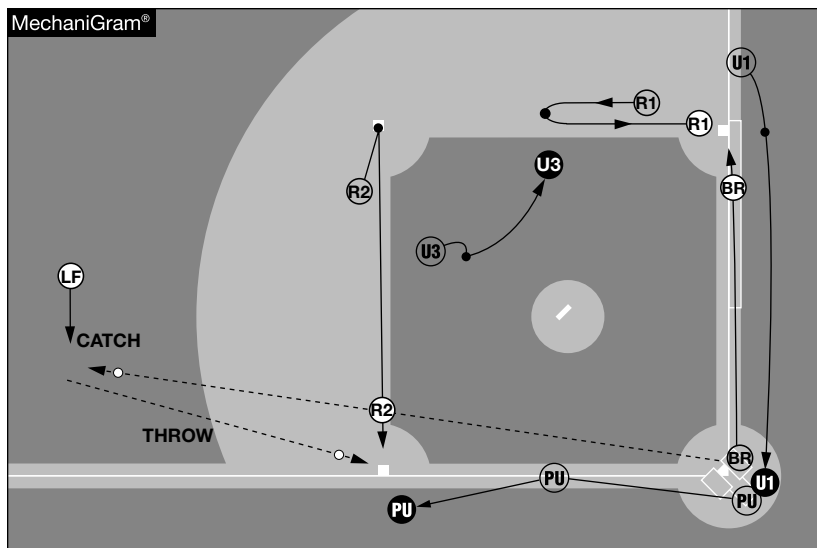




8.8.5 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND



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:

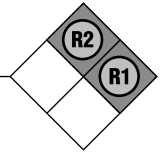
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch. PU reads the runners and the ball and moves into a position for any play on R2 if he “tags or advances” to third base. If a play develops at third base, PU can take the play in either fair or foul territory. If the ball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

U1: Observes R1 and if R2 commits to third base, U1 commits to the plate for any play there on R2. If the ball is not caught, 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 bases.

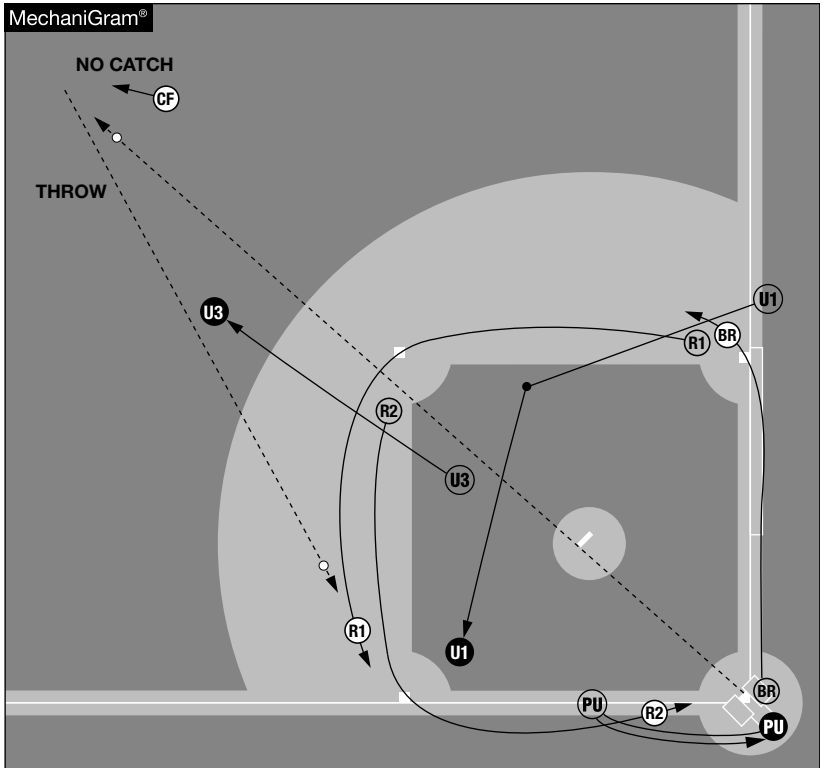
U3: Retreats and observes R2’s tag up. U3 moves into position for any play at first or second base on R1. If the ball is not caught, U3 observes the base touches of R1 at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third and R2 and the batter-runner at third base.



8.8.6 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND



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:

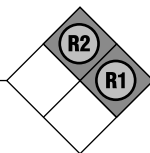
PU: Observes R2's touch at third and returns to the plate for all plays there.

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

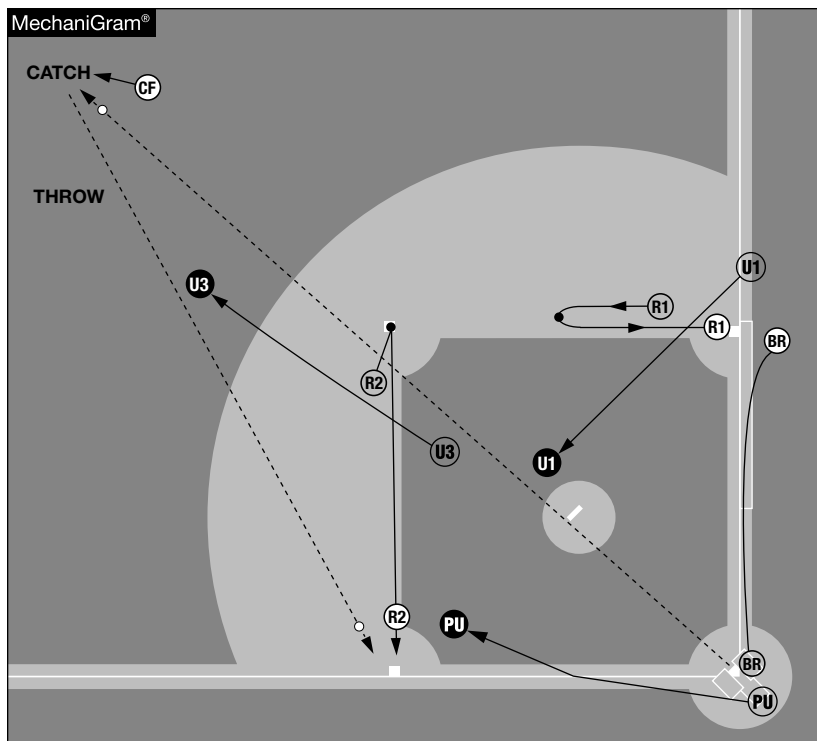
U3: Moves to the outfield to view the catch/no catch.



8.8.7 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND



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:

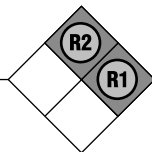
PU: Moves toward third base. PU reads the runners and the ball and moves into a position for any play on R2 if he “tags and advances” to third base. PU will take the play at third in fair territory near the cutout at third base. If a play develops at third base and R2 then attempts to advance to the 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.

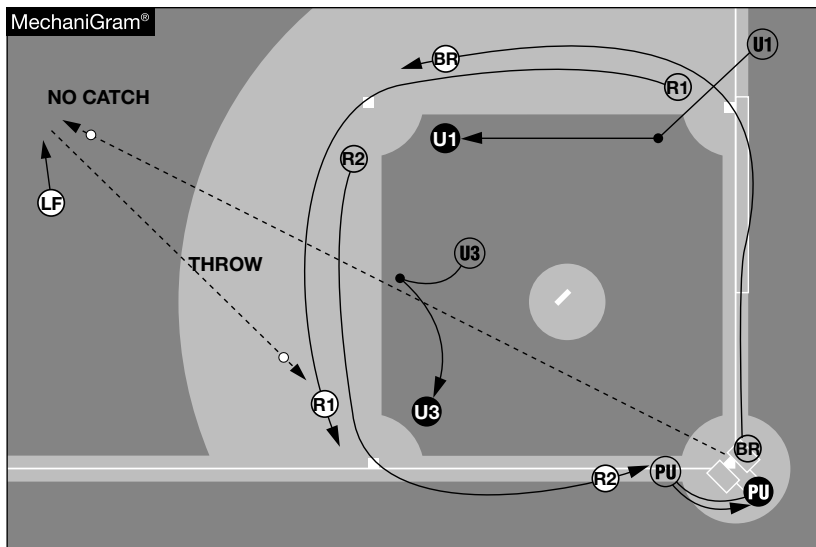
U3: Goes out on the deep fly ball to observe the catch/no catch.



8.8.8 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND



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.

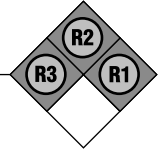
PU: Responsible for all balls on the third-base line and up to first base.

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

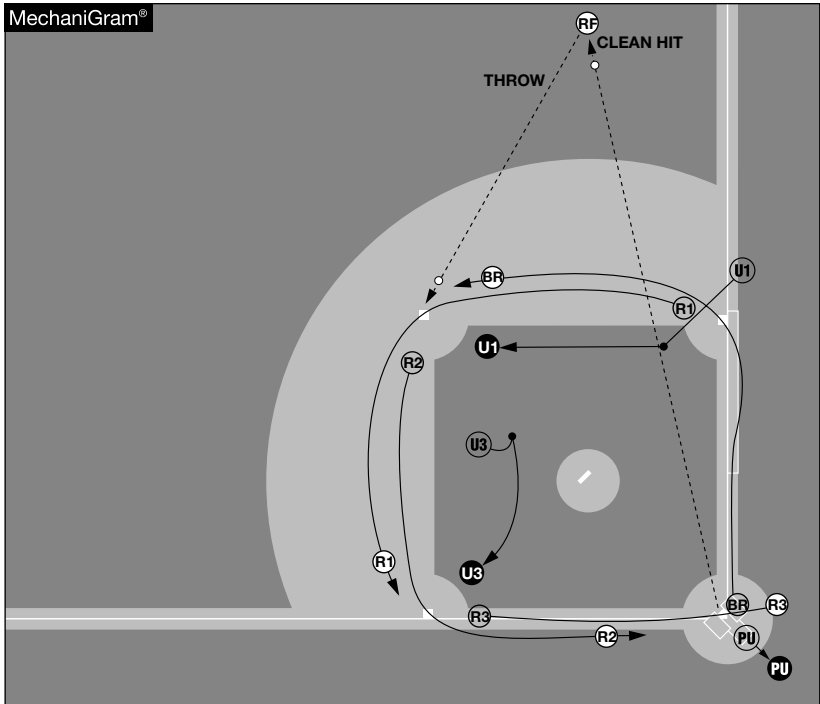
U3: Has no foul line responsibility.



8.9.1 BASES LOADED



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:

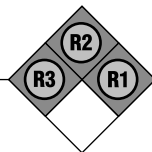
PU: Observes all touches at home and R2's touch of third. PU moves into position for any plays at the plate.

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.

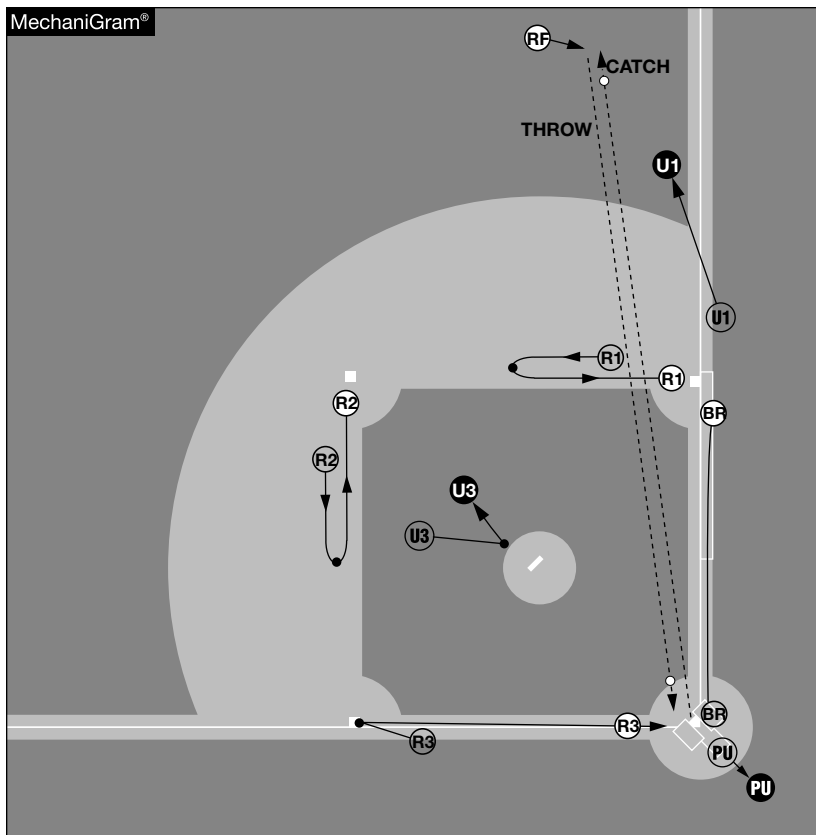
U3: Observes R1's touch of second and third and the batter-runner's touch of third. U3 has all plays on R1 at second and third, R2 at third and the batter-runner at third.



8.9.2 BASES LOADED



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:

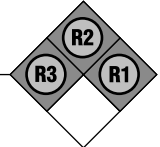
PU: Moves to a position to view R3's tag up at third base. PU then returns to the plate for any play there.

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

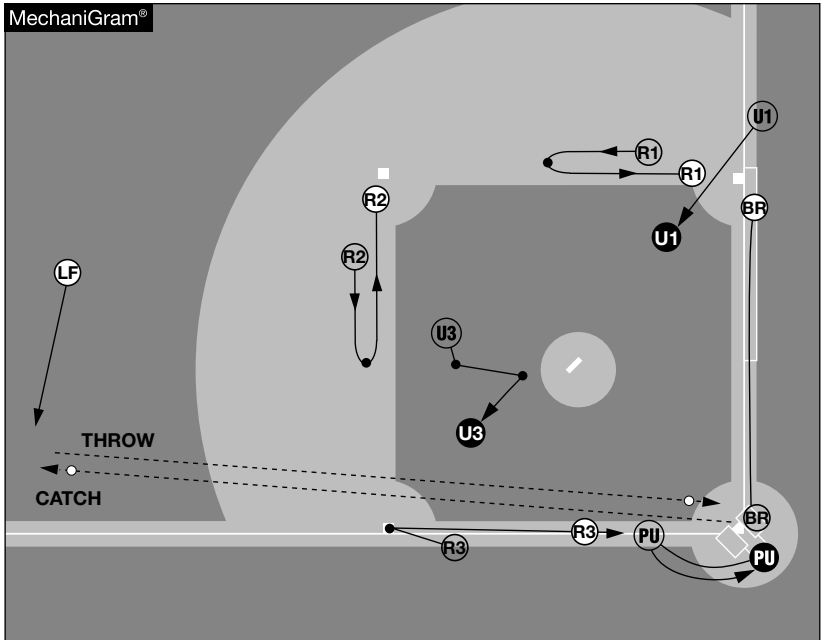
U3: Retreats and observes potential tag ups at first and second base. U3 reads the runners and moves into a position for all plays on the bases.



8.9.3 BASES LOADED



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.

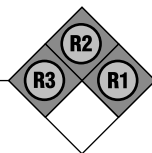
U1: Moves into the infield and observes R1's potential tag up at first base and has any secondary play at second base. If the ball is not caught, U1 has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

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.

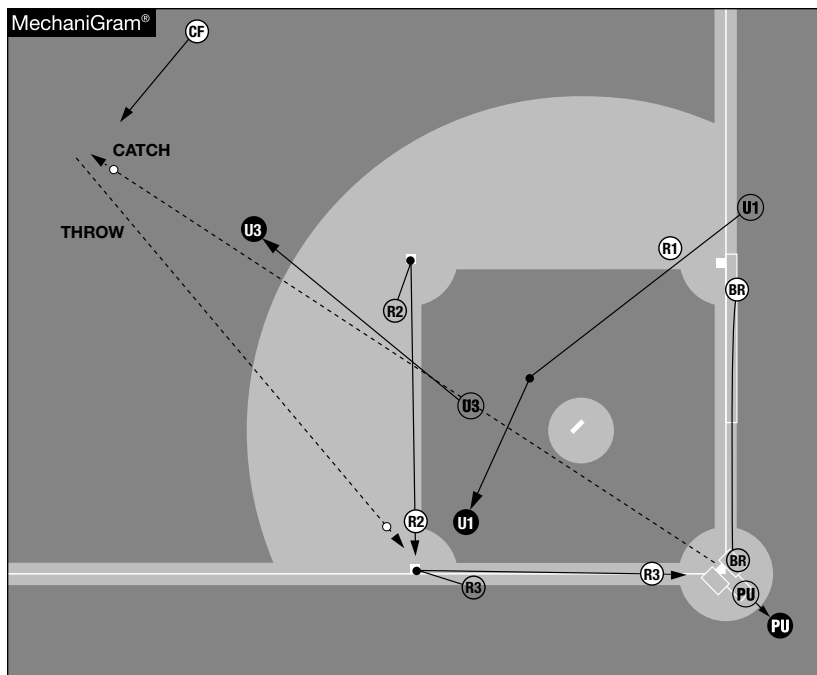




8.9.4 BASES LOADED



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

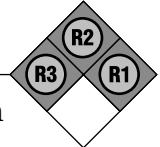
Umpire responsibilities:

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.

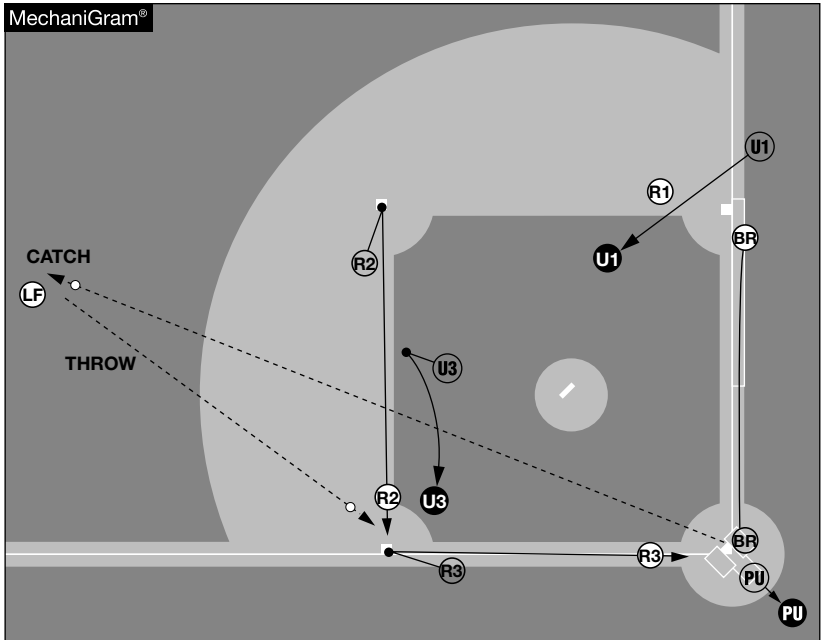
U1: Enters the infield immediately and observes R1's and R2's tag up. U1 has all plays on the bases. If the ball is not caught, U1 has all touches at first and second, the batter-runner's touch at third and all plays on the bases.

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.

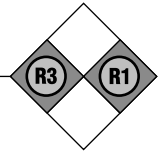
U1: Has responsibility for all balls that hit first base or go beyond first base.

U3: Has no foul line responsibility.

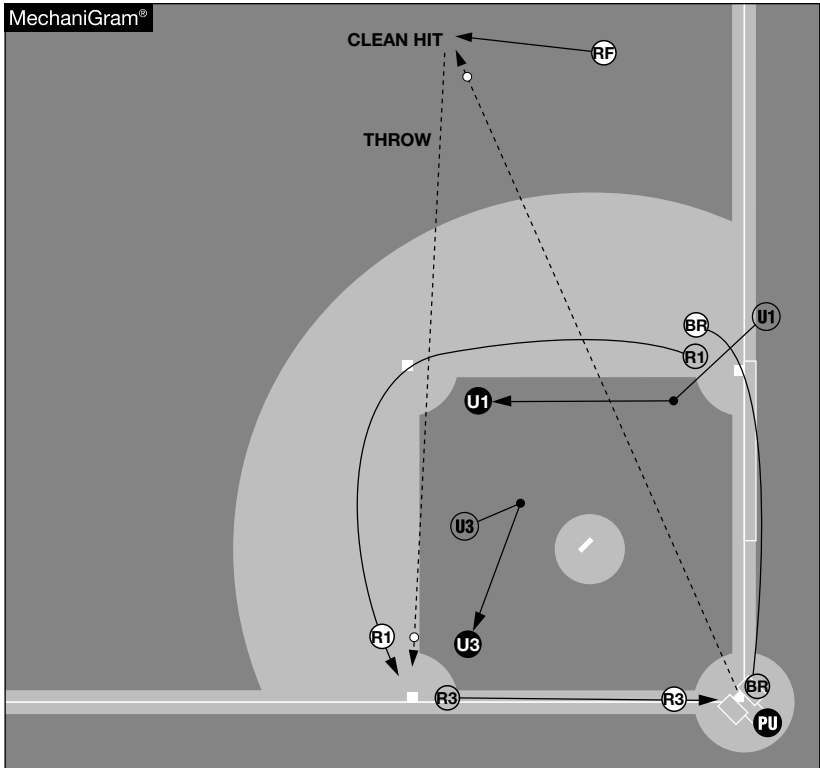




8.10.1 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD



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.

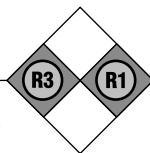
U1: Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

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.

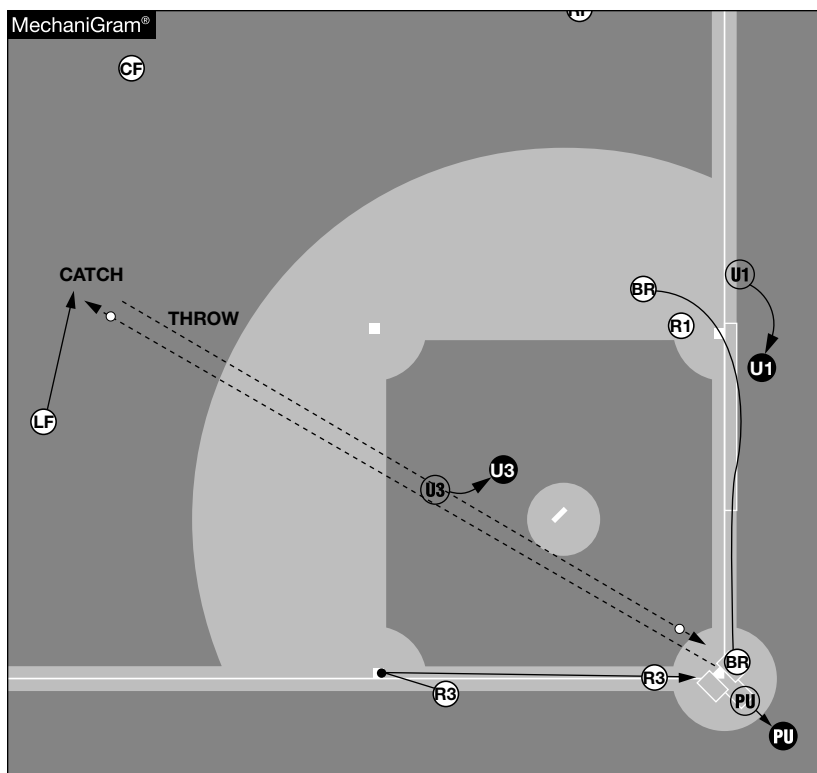




8.10.2 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD



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.

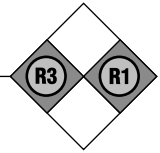
U1: Observes R1 and the batter-runner near first base.

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

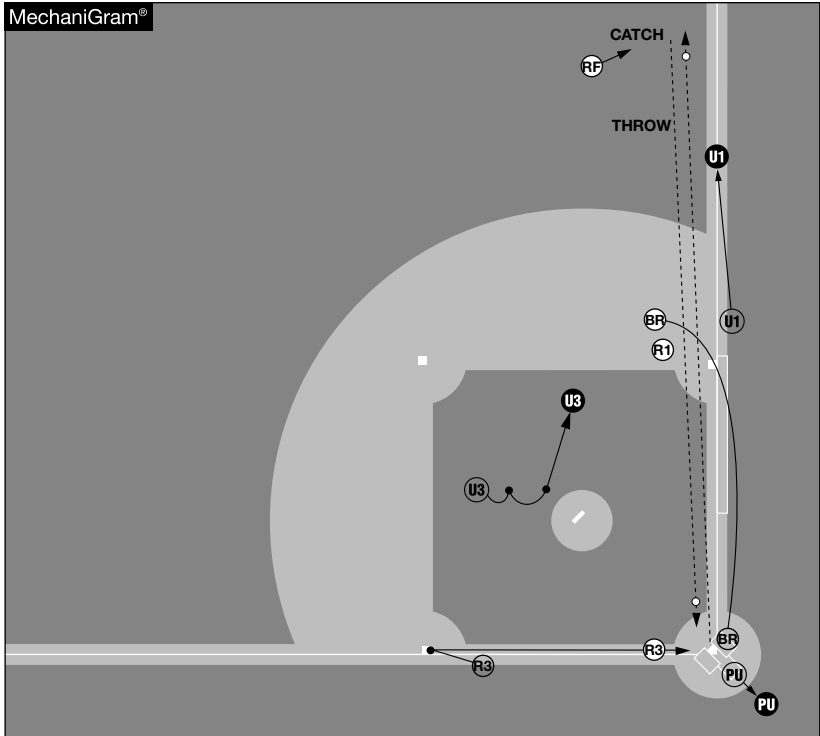




8.10.3 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD



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.

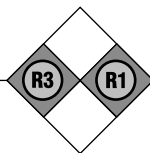
U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch.

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.

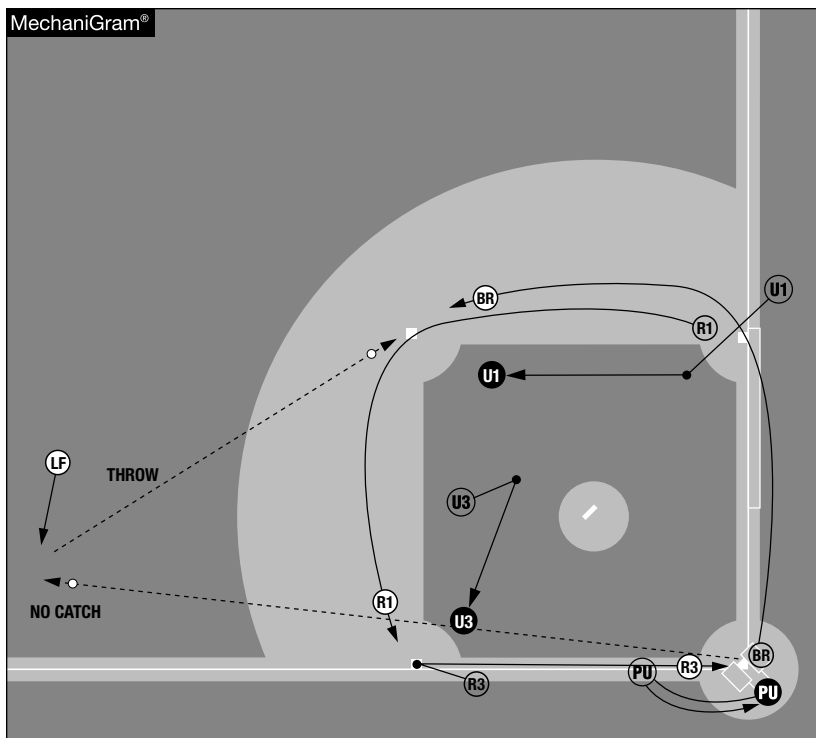




8.10.4 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD



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:

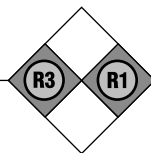
PU: Moves to the best position possible to view the fair/foul and catch/no catch. Returns home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

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.

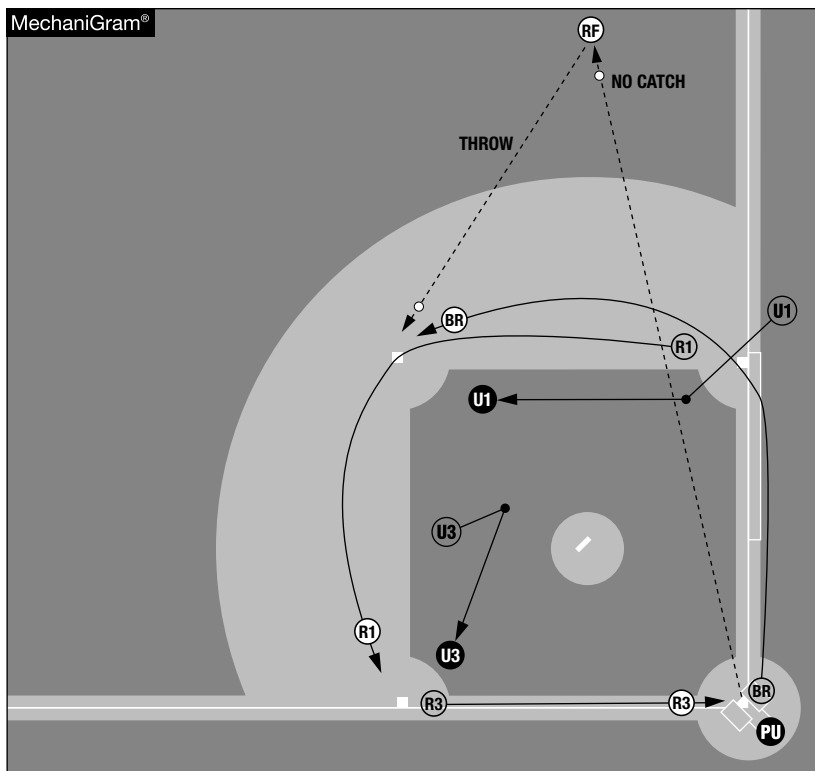
U3: Observes the base touches of R1 at second and third base and has all plays on R1 at second and third, plus the batter-runner at third base.



8.10.5 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD



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.

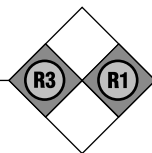
U1: Has catch/no catch responsibility. Moves into the infield and observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays on the batter-runner at first and second base.

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.

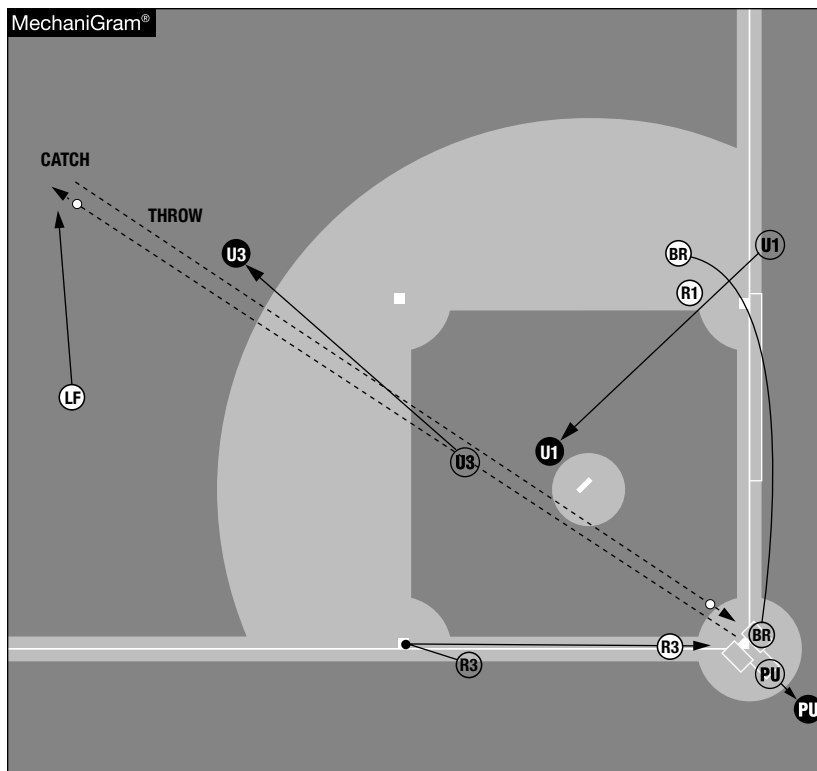




8.10.6 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD



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.

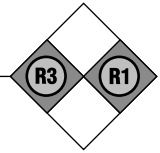
U1: Enters the infield immediately and has all plays on the bases.

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

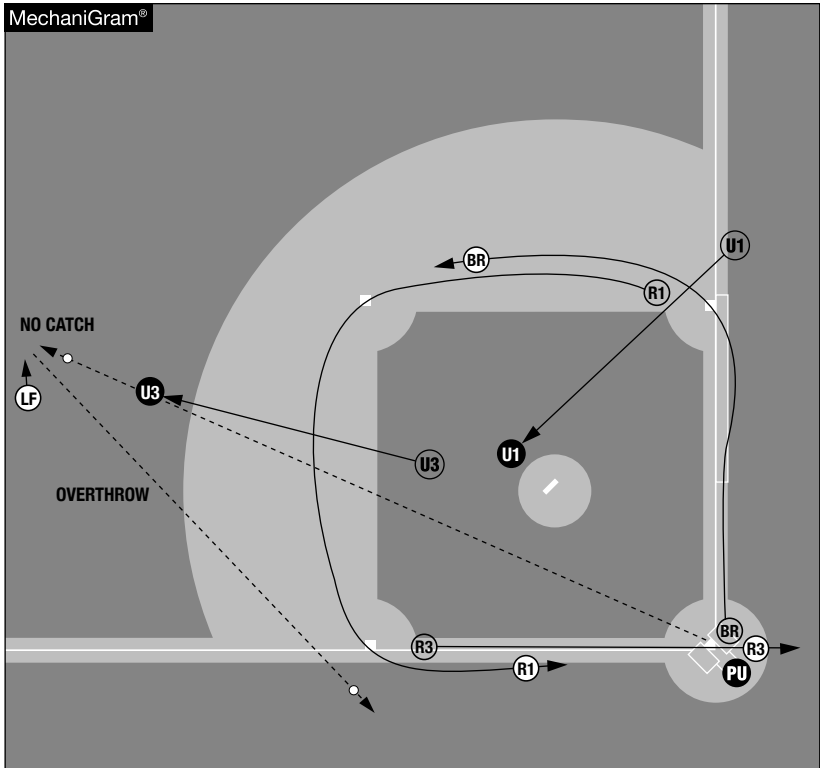




8.10.7 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD



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:

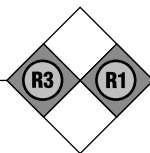
PU: Stays home, observes the plate touch of all runners. PU moves to a position to rule on all plays at the plate.

U1: Has all plays at first, second and third base on all runners.

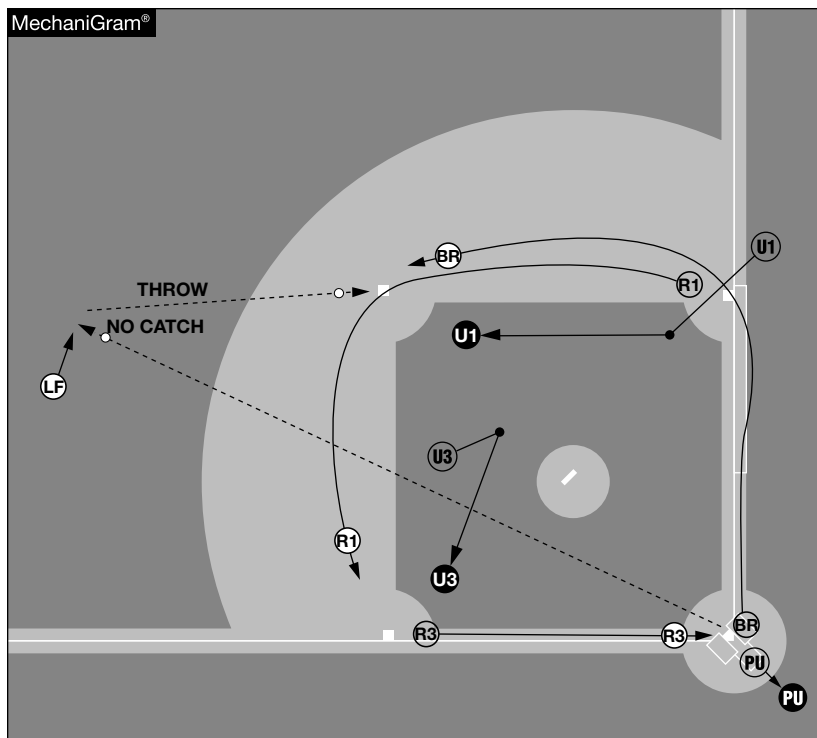
U3: Moves to the outfield to view the catch/no catch.



8.10.8 RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD



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 immediately 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.

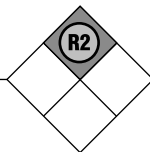
U3: Has responsibility for all balls that hit third base or go beyond third base.

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

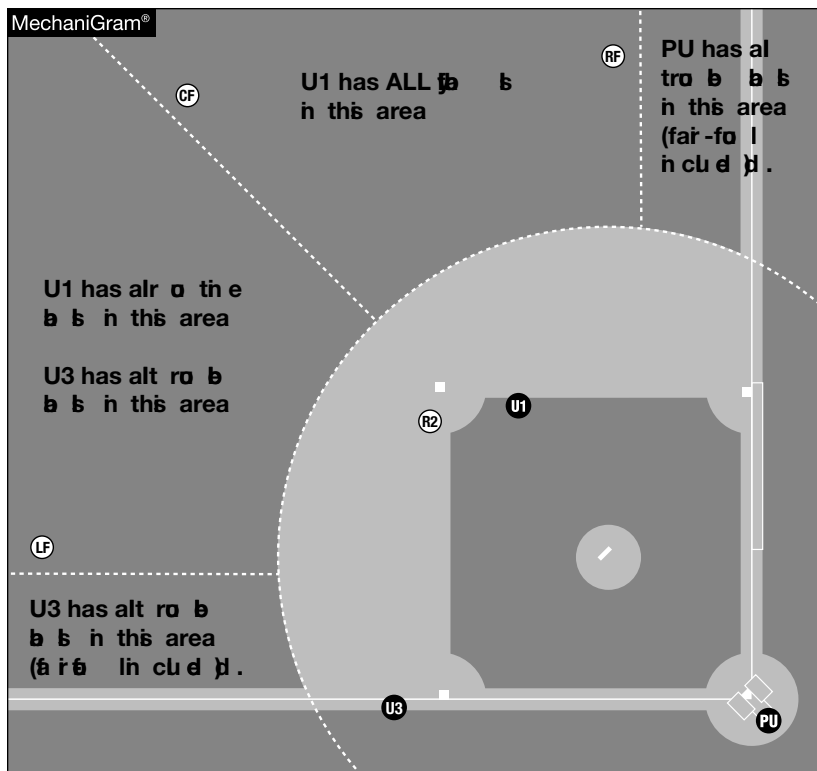




8.11.1 RUNNER ON SECOND LESS THAN TWO OUTS



Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



Action on the field: Less than two outs.

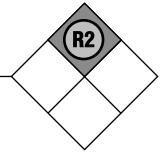
Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

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.

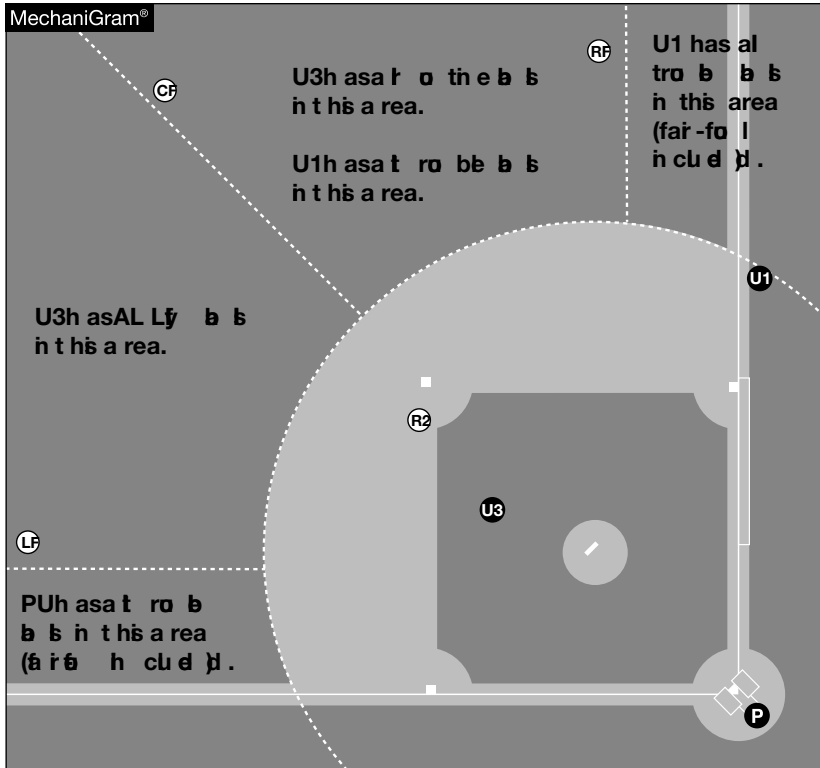




8.11.2 RUNNER ON SECOND TWO OUTS ONLY



Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage



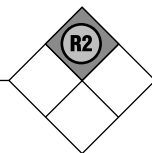
Action on the field: No action. Two outs.

Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

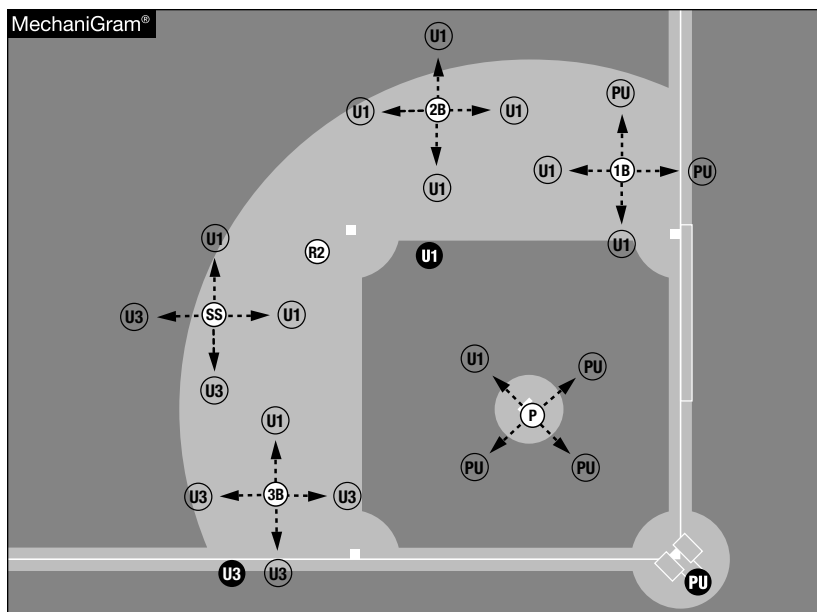
With two outs, U1 is in the “A” position and U3 is in the “C” position. The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U3. U1 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight back to the 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.



8.11.3 RUNNER ON SECOND



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:

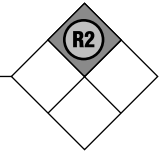
1. By the third baseman directly at or immediately in front, moving back or toward the foul line.
2. By the shortstop moving back or toward third base.

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

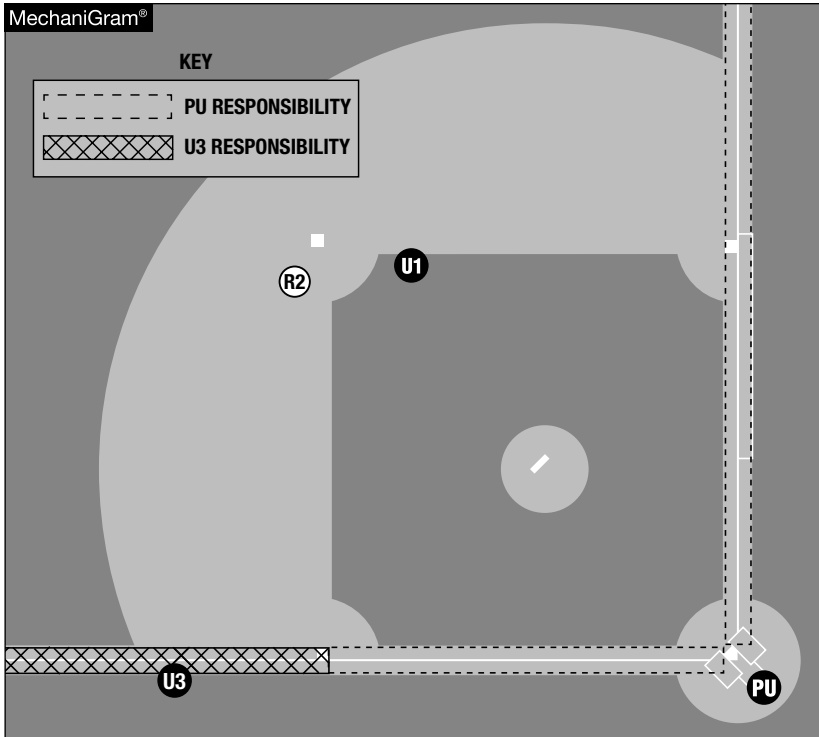




8.11.4 RUNNER ON SECOND



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.

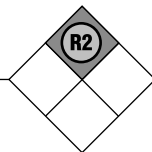
U1: Has no foul line responsibility.

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

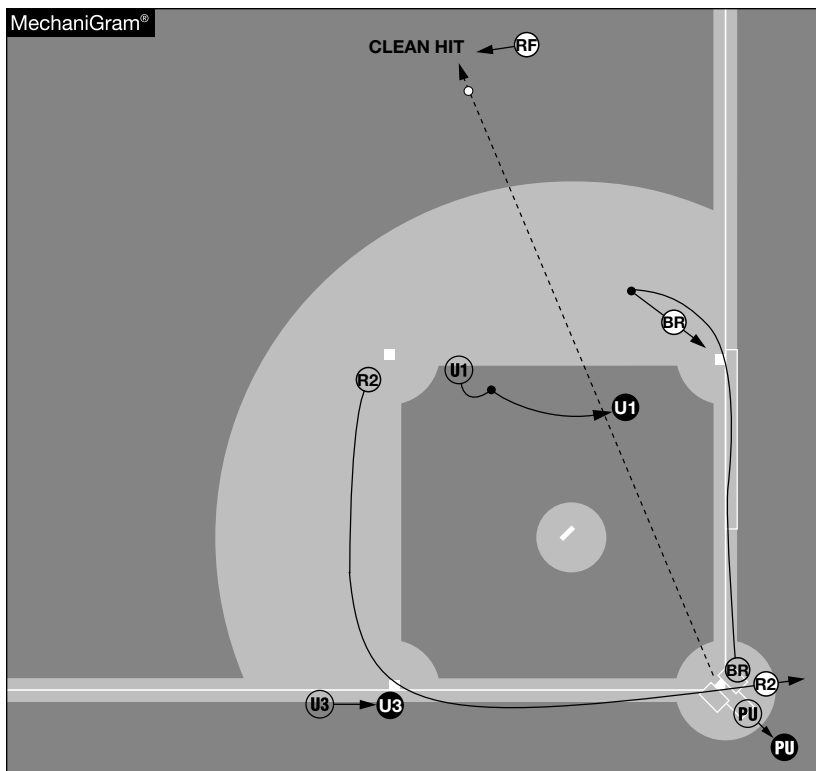
With two outs, the fair/foul responsibility is changed since the umpires have switched positions. For the proper responsibilities, see 8.7.3.



8.11.5 RUNNER ON SECOND LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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.

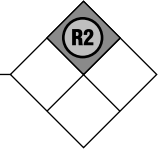
U1: Observes the batter-runner's base touch at first and has all plays at first and second base.

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

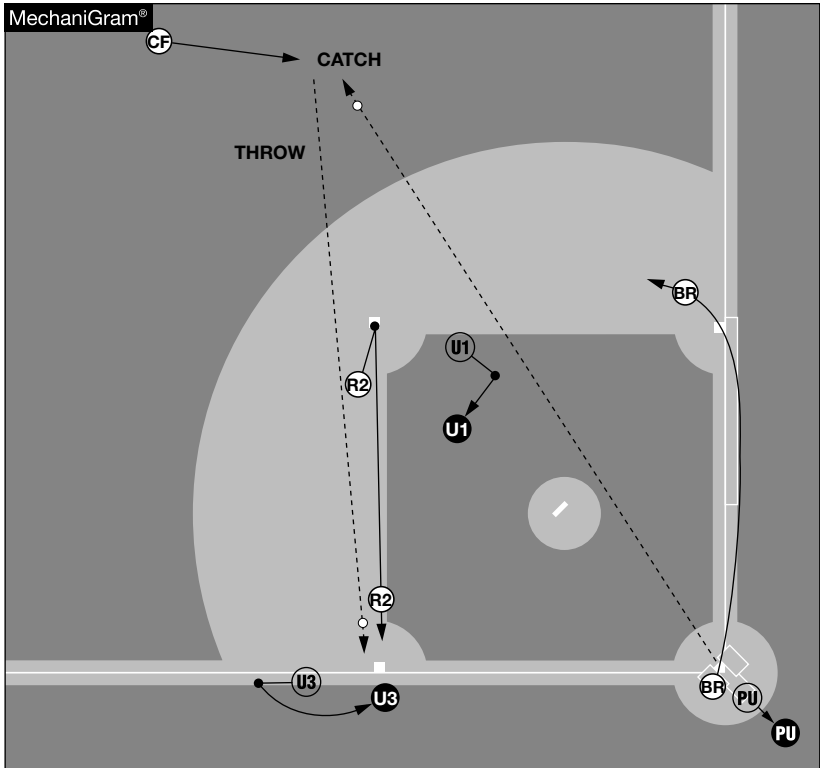




8.11.6 RUNNER ON SECOND LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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.

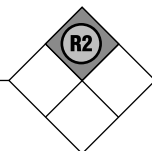
U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. If the ball is not caught, U1 observes base touches at first and second and has all plays at those bases.

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.

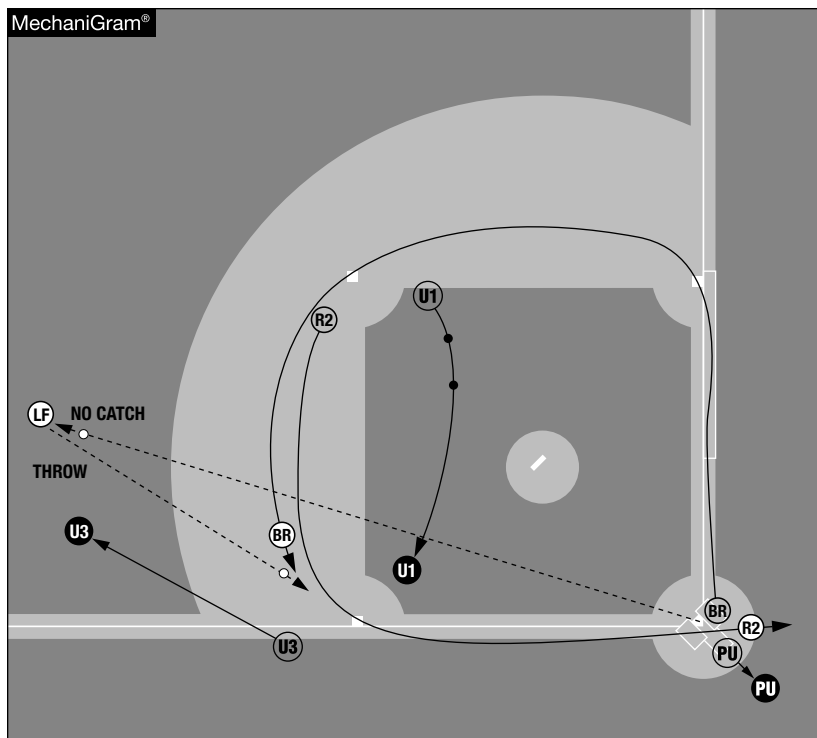




8.11.7 RUNNER ON SECOND LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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



Action on the field: Fly ball to left field, no catch; U3 goes out; 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.

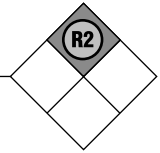
U1: Observes the batter-runner touch first base and moves into position for all plays on R2 and the batter-runner on the bases. If the ball is caught, U1 observes R2's potential tag up and has all plays at second and third base.

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

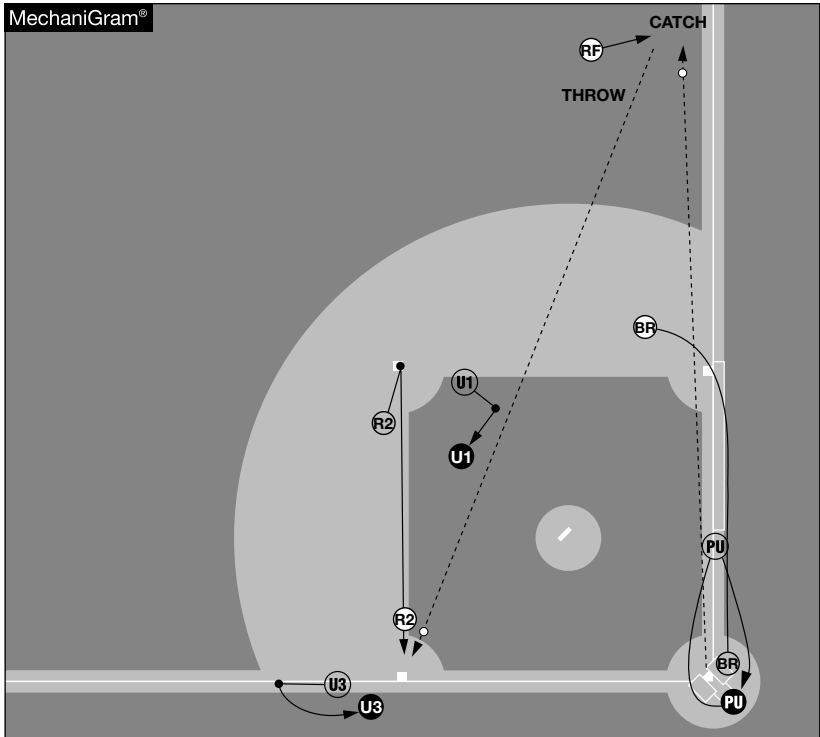




8.11.8 RUNNER ON SECOND LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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.

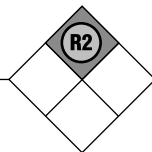
U1: Retreats and observes R2's tag up. If the ball is not caught, U1 observes base touches at first and second base and has all plays at those bases.

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.

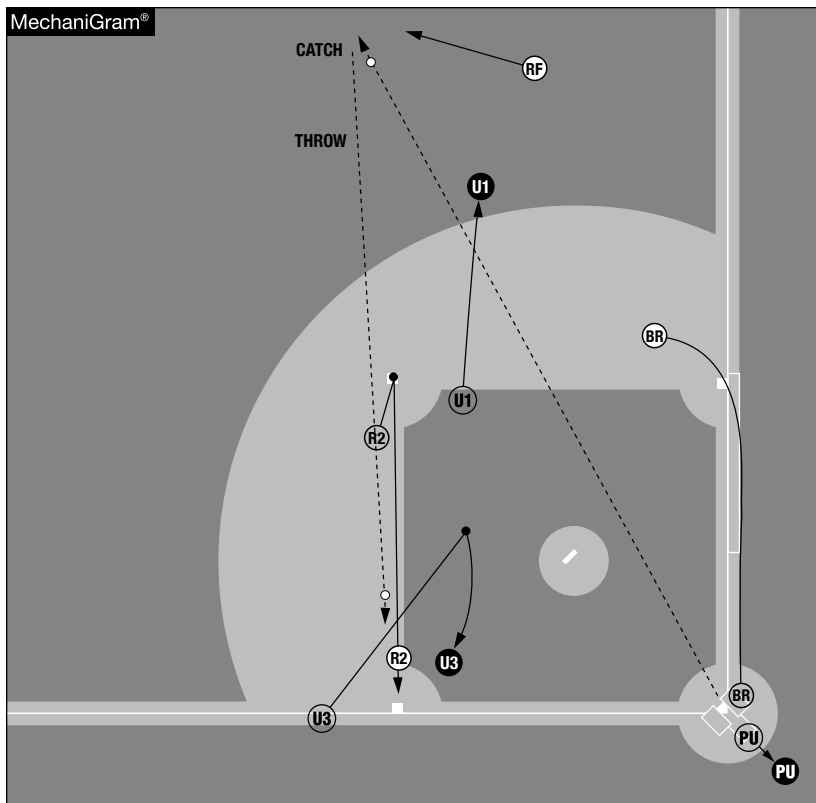




8.11.9 RUNNER ON SECOND LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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:

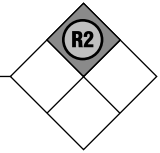
PU: Remains near the plate.

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

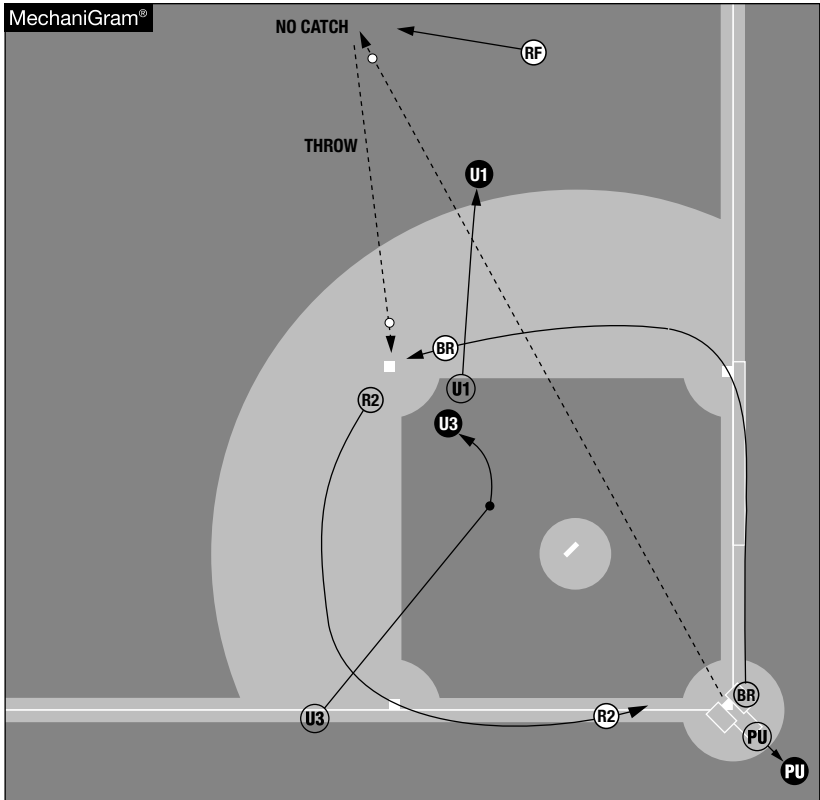
U3: Enters the infield immediately and lines up R2's tag. U3 then moves into position for any play at second or third base on R2.



8.11.10 RUNNER ON SECOND
LESS THAN TWO OUTS



**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

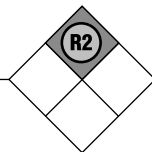
Umpire responsibilities:

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

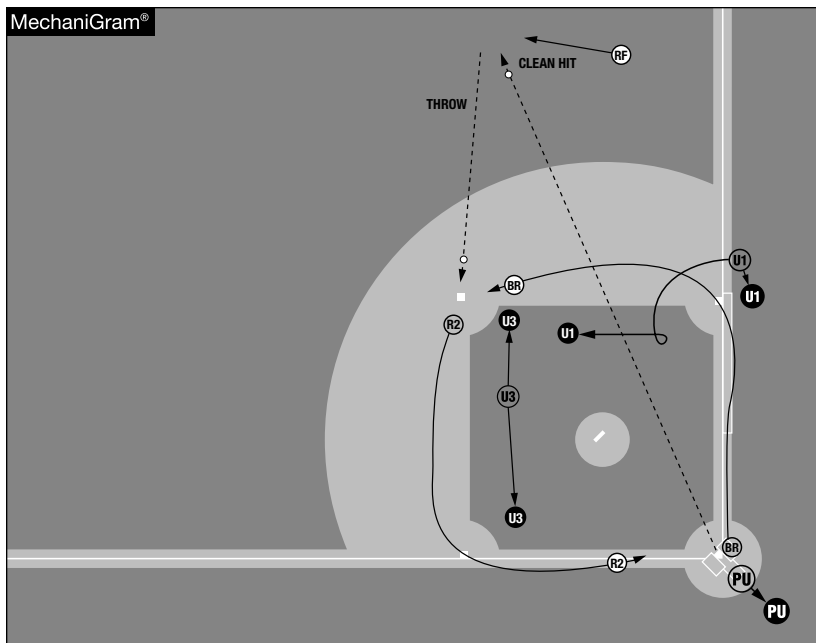
U1: Moves to the outfield and rules on the catch/no catch.

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. 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.

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.

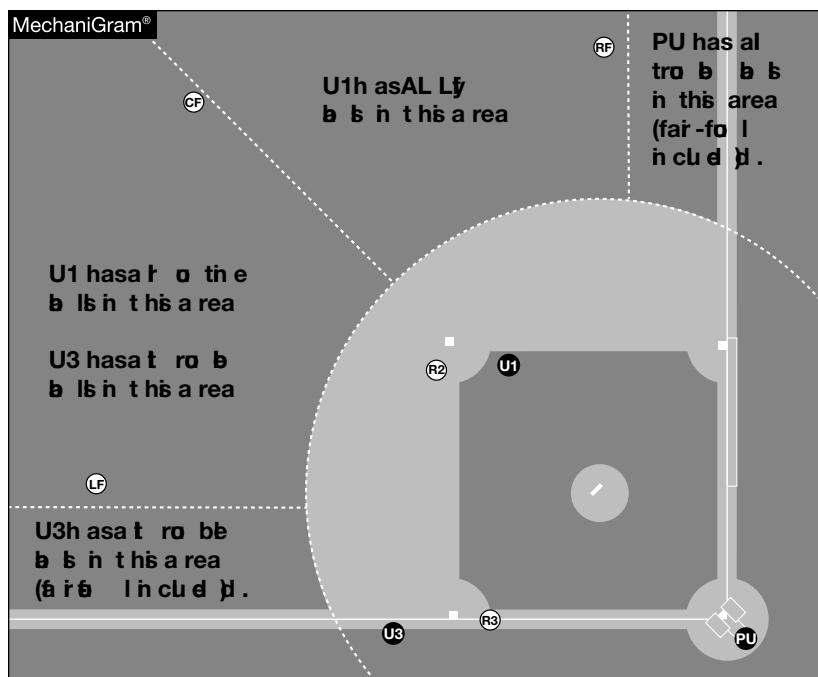
U1: Has no foul line responsibility.

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.

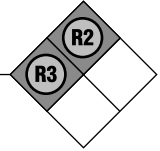
Initial Positions and Outfield Coverage

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.

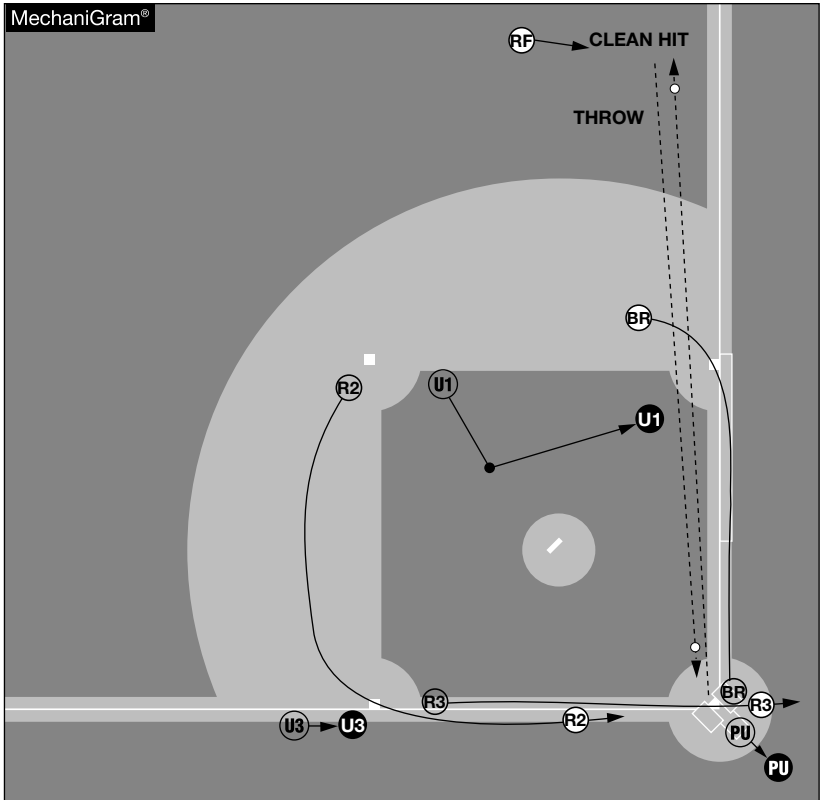
With two outs, U1 is in the “A” position and U3 is in the “C” position (See 8.11.2). The initial responsibility of all catch or no catch of fly balls and line drives to the outfield belongs to U3. U1 retains coverage on all trouble balls (See 8.4C) from the center fielder coming straight in or straight 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.



8.12.2 RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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.

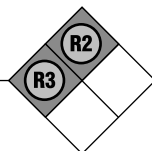
U1: Observes base touches and has all plays at first and second base.

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

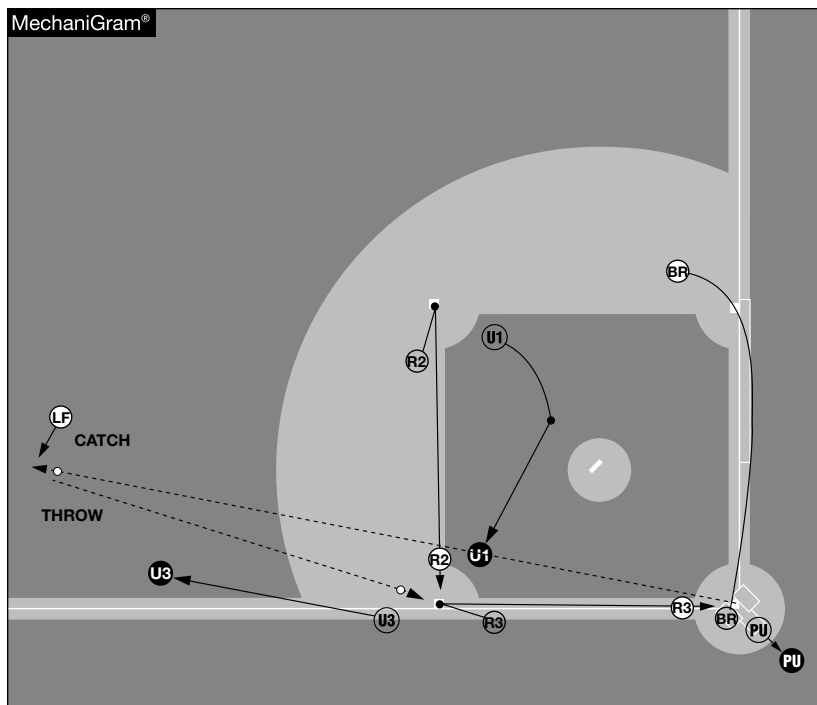




8.12.3 RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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.

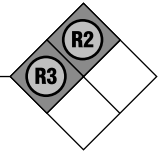
U1: Moves into position to observe tag up of R2. U1 moves into position for all plays on the bases. If the ball is not caught, U1 observes the base touches of the batter-runner.

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

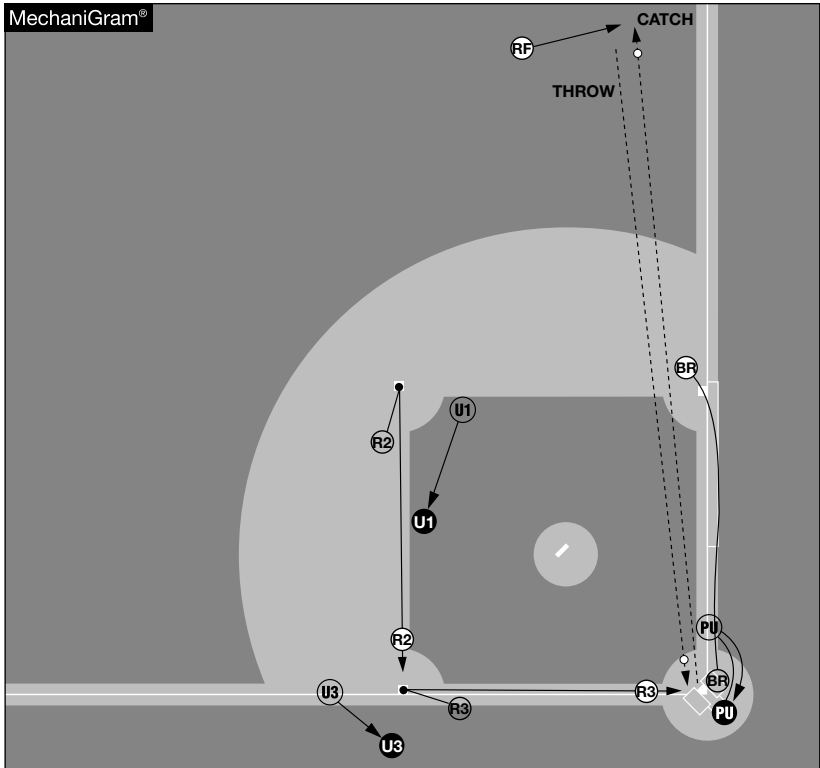




8.12.4 RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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.

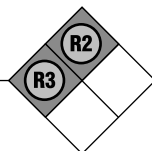
U1: Observes R2's tag up at second base. U1 moves into position for any play at second base. If the ball is not caught, U1 observes base touches at first and second base and has all plays at those bases.

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

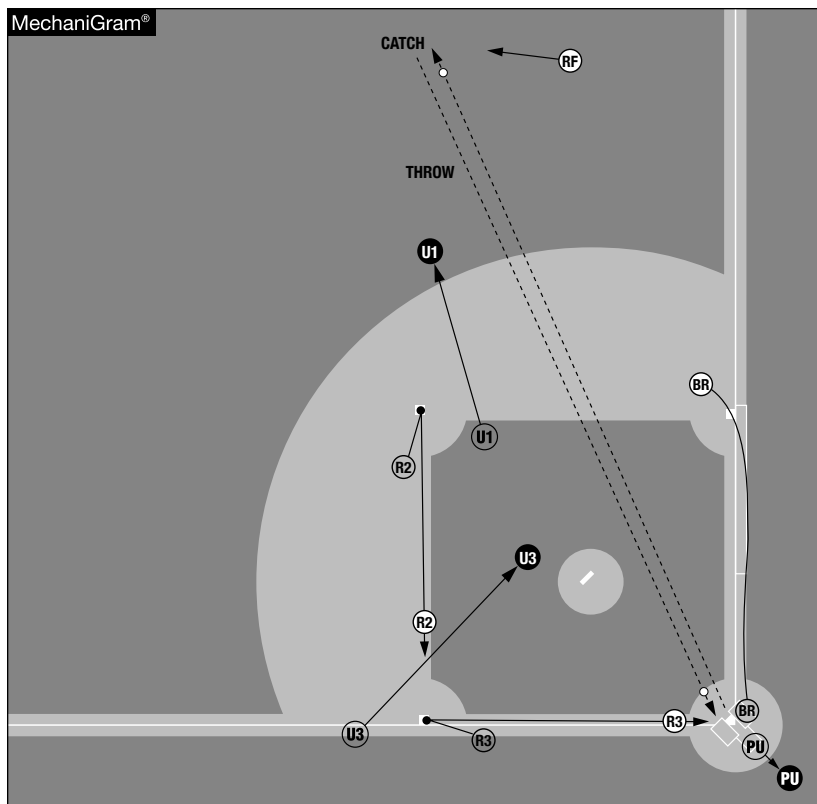




8.12.5 RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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.

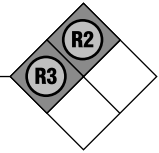
U1: Moves to the outfield to view the catch/no catch.

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

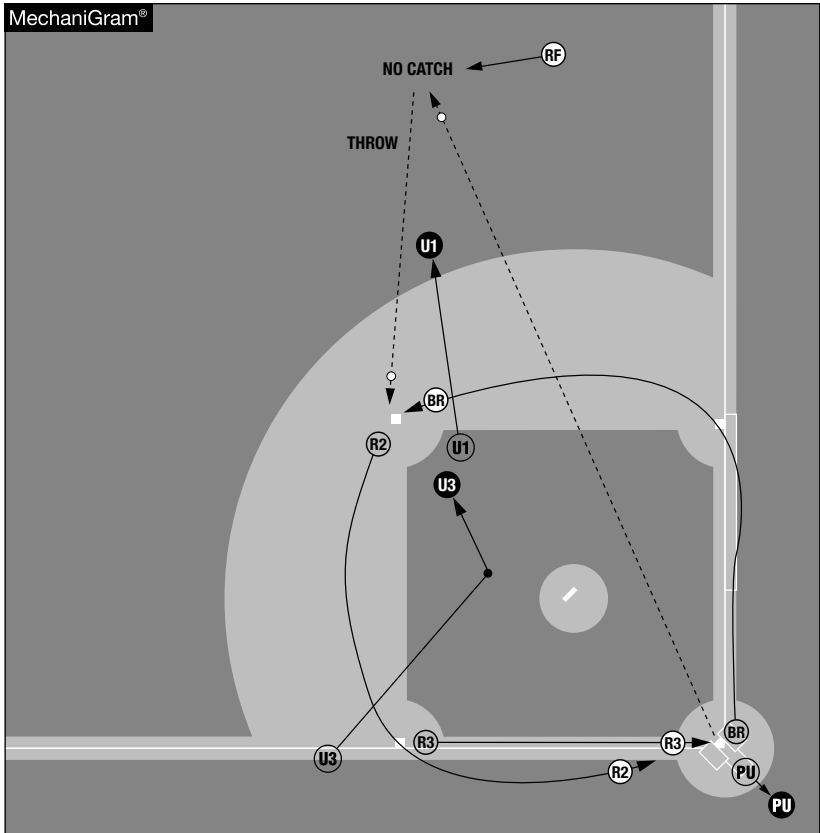




8.12.6 RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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.

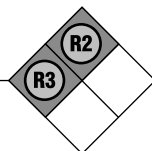
U1: Rules on the catch/no catch.

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

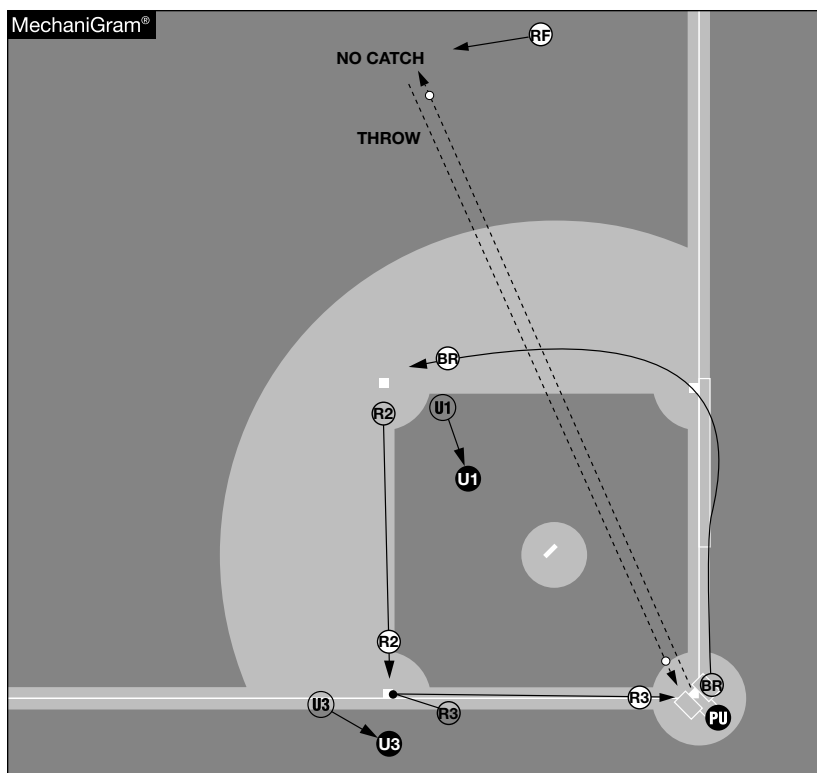




8.12.7 RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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.

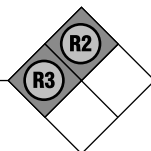
U1: Moves to the best position possible to view the catch/no catch. U1 has all plays at first and second base. If the ball is caught, U1 has any snap throw back into second base.

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

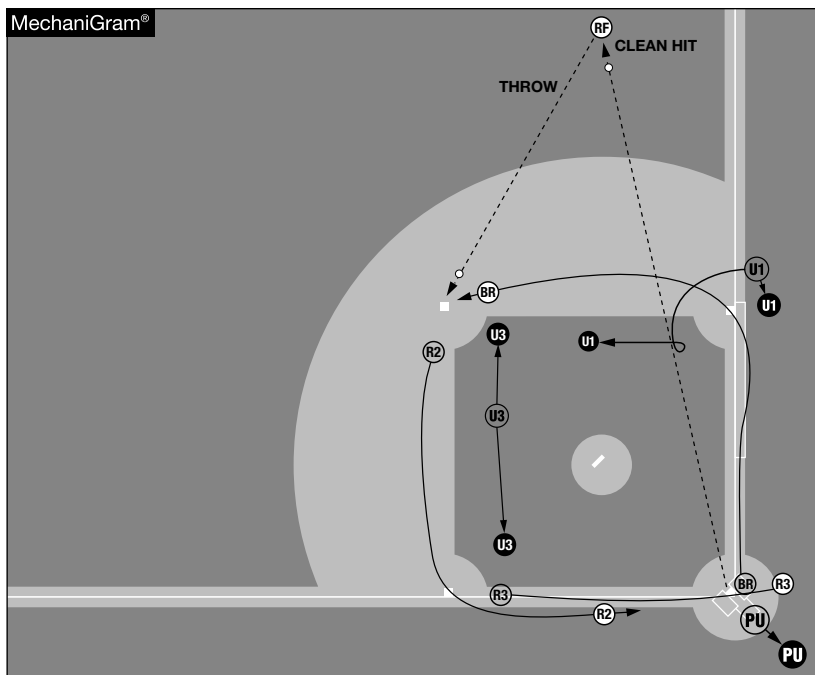




8.12.8 RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD TWO OUTS ONLY



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).

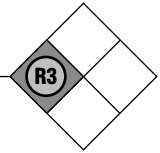
PU: Has responsibility for balls up to first base and third base.

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

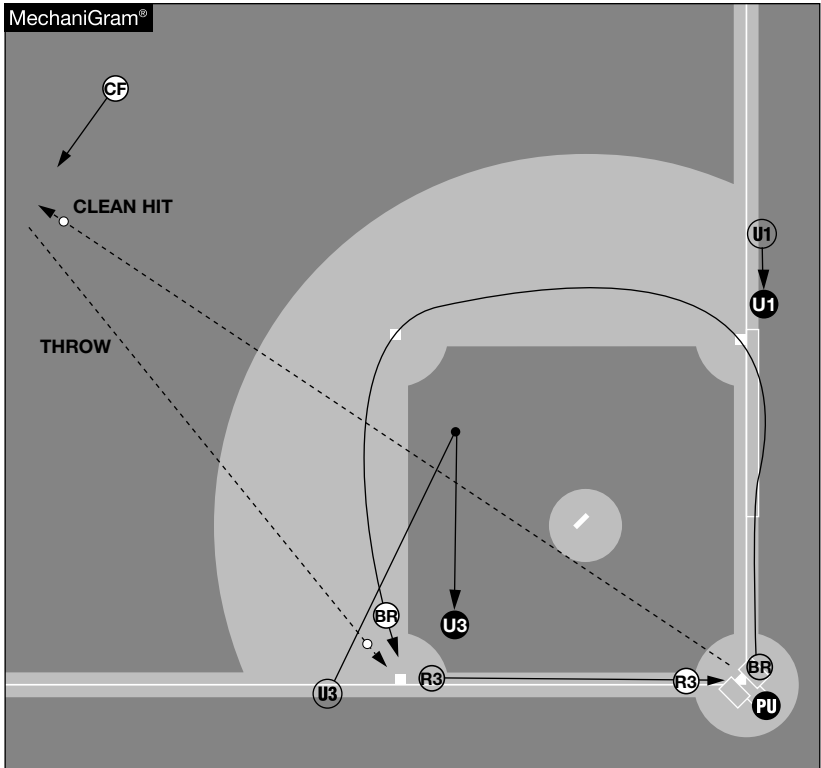
U3: Has responsibility for balls that hit third base and/or go beyond.



8.13.1 RUNNER ON THIRD



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.

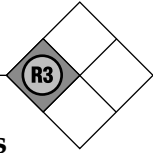
U1: Observes base touch at first base.

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

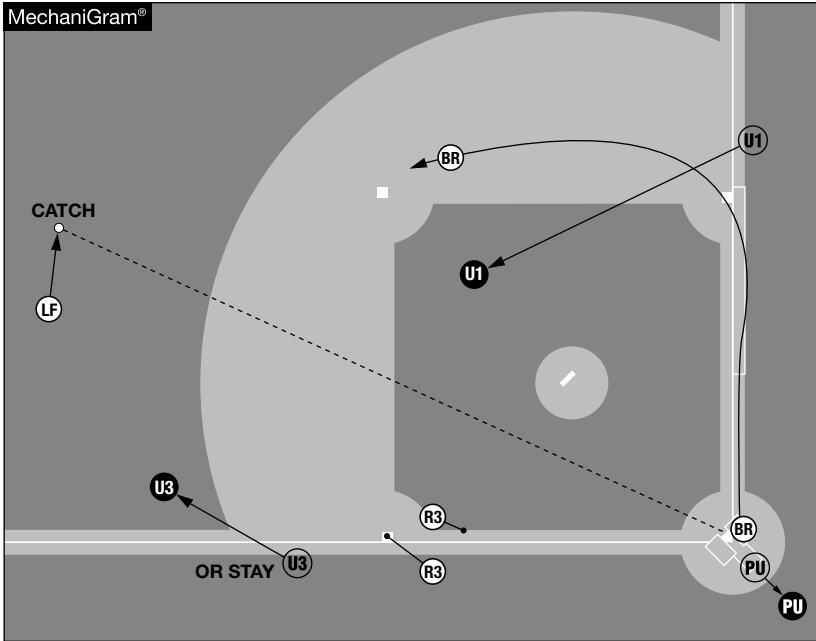




8.13.2 RUNNER ON THIRD LESS THAN TWO OUTS



Fly Ball to Left Field: 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.

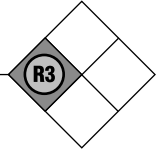
U1: Moves to the infield immediately. U1 moves into position for any play back into first involving BR. If U3 goes out on trouble, U1 moves into position for all plays and touches on the bases.

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.

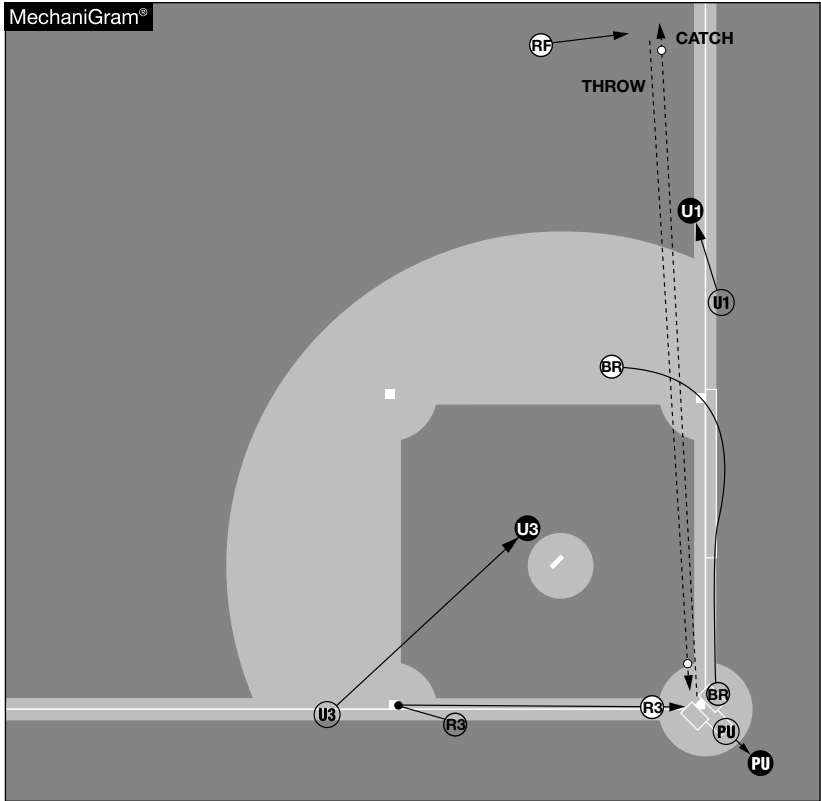




8.13.3 RUNNER ON THIRD LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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.

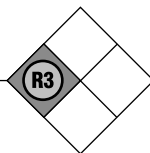
U1: Goes out and rules on the catch/no catch.

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.

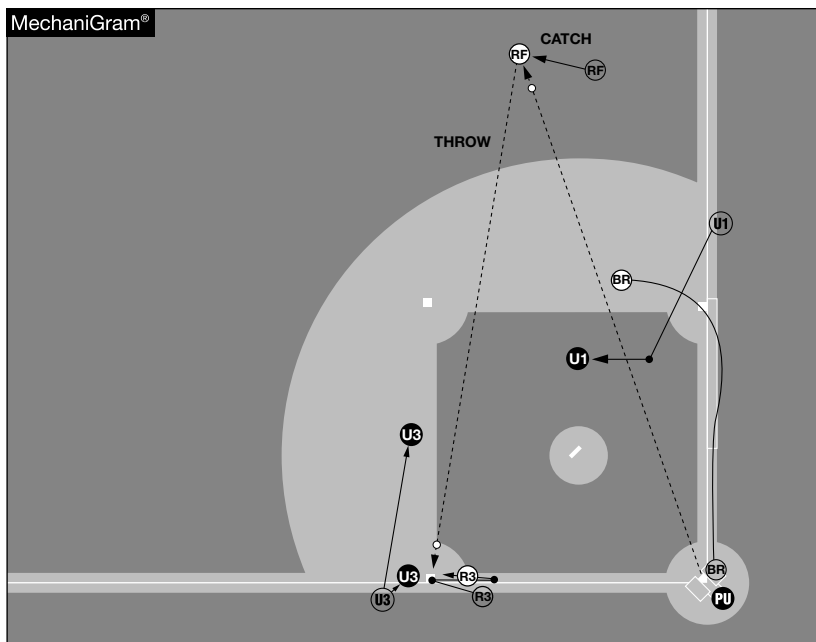




8.13.4 RUNNER ON THIRD LESS THAN TWO OUTS



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.

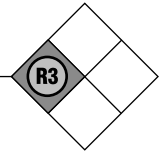
U1: Makes a quick decision on going out or coming into the infield. U1 moves into the middle of the diamond and takes all plays on the batter-runner at first or second should the ball get dropped. U1 may elect to stay outside of first base on a non-trouble fly ball to right field to be in a better position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

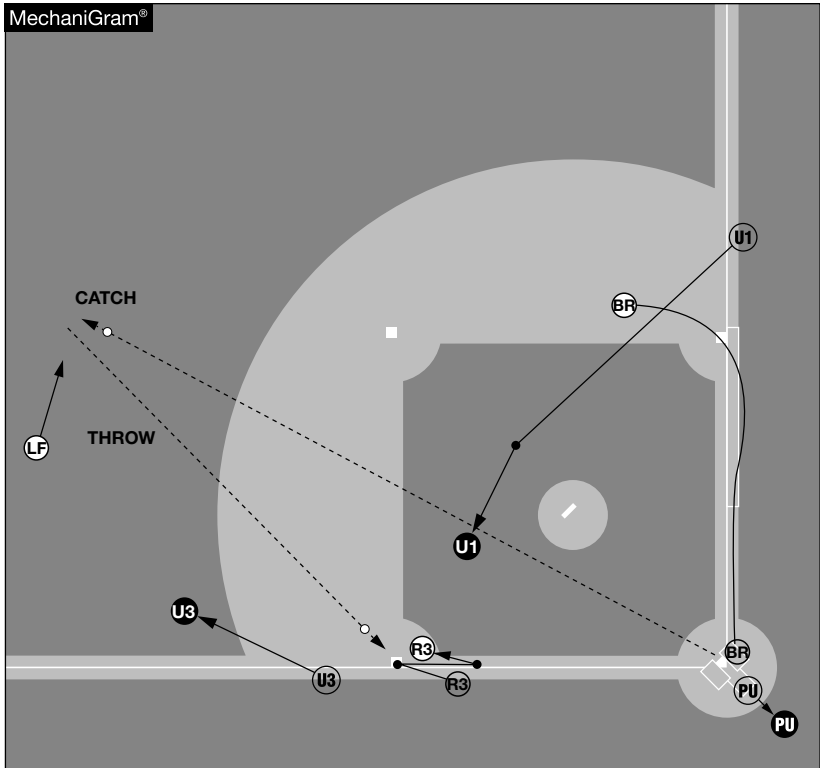




8.13.5 RUNNER ON THIRD



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.

