

Base Umpire Two Man Crew

Position

Set up half way between mound and second base, about 3 feet off the direct line. You should be in the upright position when the ball is dead or when the pitcher is off the rubber. Once the ball is live and the pitcher is on the rubber get in the set position, hands locked on thighs.

Fly balls

On fly balls back toward the mound until you can see the catch and the runners on 1b & 2b, take both base runners into their bases. You have the catch, both tags, and the plays in all bases.

Groundballs

When the ball is on the ground you should be drifting to your play at all times. Once fielder releases the ball follow it half way, turn, get set, and make the call. At NO time should your eyes come off the ball.

Base Hits

On all base hits you have all plays on the bases until the PU calls you off. First to third or first and second and plate man taking lead runner on tag up situation.

Steals of 2b

Drift as ball is in air until it gets half way then turn with ball, get set, and make the call. Once set as slide is happening if you can lean into baseline you might see the tag better.

Steals of 3b

On each pitch with a runner at 2b and possible steal of 3b possible once pitcher commits to the plate look over your right shoulder. If the runner is stealing he will come into your picture. Now drift towards 3b until you have to get set to see the play. Make the call as you are coming towards 3b to make it look like you are even closer.

Pickoffs

When pitcher makes his move take one step towards him then one or two to 1b, get set, and make the call.

Double Plays

When ball is on ground drift towards 1b, see the play at 2b (make the call), watch the release and follow the ball half way, turn, get set for play at 1b. If there is trouble at 2b stop, freeze, and go back into the play at 2b.

Rundowns

Cheat to lead base (2/3 and 1/3). Once PU is there and hollars he is there cheat more so you have both ends covered.

Check Swings

Always be aware that the PU may ask you for help. Be ready, honest, and firm with your call.

Ball going off batter

If you see it then signal and call foul ball immediately.

Pulled foot or not

Make the call and if sure stick with it do not put it on your partner. If not sure get together with your partner only so only you and him can hear. Person who made original call makes the final call.

NOTES:

- This clinic has you always following the throws approx. half way.
- This clinic has you set on all calls
- Asking fielder to show the ball before calls can help your timing.
- One ump always has the ball and the other has the runners
- PU signals rotations/outs first, base ump echo's situation.
- BU should always be set with pitcher on rubber with ball.
- No where in this does it ever say the BU needs an indicator, it's a crutch
- BU does not need to brush off bases/rubber, that's for players and softball.
- BU should never take his eyes off the ball, unless watching runners touch bases

Dan Deshaies
State Interpreter- Maine