

# TWO UMPIRE SYSTEM

## ESSENTIAL CONCEPTS

- Work ahead of the play
- Keep the elements of the play in front of you
- Adjust to individual play
- Efficient movement
- Pre-pitch preparation
- Wait – Interpret – Choose
- All concepts and philosophies (angle, distance, primary position, parallel movement, professionalism, body language, signals, game management)

# PLATE UMPIRE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Calls balls and strikes
- Determine if batter is in batter's box before each pitch and when contact is made with ball
- All plays at home plate
- Seeing runners touch third and home
- With multiple runners, all plays on the lead runner at third base except if the first play on the batted ball is by an infielder
- All fair and foul calls except on the first base line when the base umpire chases a fly ball
- All catch/no-catch on fly balls unless base umpire chases
- Seeing all runners touch all bases when base umpire chases
- All tag-ups at third base and the runner at second base with runners on first and second base
- ALL tag-ups at all bases if base umpire chases

# IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, BE PREPARED FOR THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS

1. An illegal pitch
2. The pitch: Ball or Strike
3. Checked swings and defensive appeals
4. Slow rolling ball down either base line: fair/foul from home plate to either bag
5. Fair or foul call down third or first base line
6. A “troubled ball” in the outfield
7. A bunted ball when infield converge – interference/obstruction

# BASE UMPIRE RESPONSIBILITIES

- All Plays at first and second base, unless you chase
- Seeing runners touch first and second
- The first play in the infield by an infielder at first, second or third base
- Plays on the batter-runner at third base
- Stealing base plays
- All pick-off attempts
- All runners leaving before the pitch is released
- Batter- runner to third base
- All tag-ups at first base and the runner at second base with runners on second and third bases or second base when bases are full
- If you chase, remember plate umpire has all plays in infield. Slowly move back towards infield and watch

Basic position is 18 to 21 feet behind first base, walking the line, square to the plate

## IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, BE PREPARED FOR THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS

1. An illegal pitch
2. Help plate umpire on checked swings
3. A “troubled ball” in your area of the outfield – beginning with any ball hit directly to F8 and extending through right field to dead-ball territory outside the right-field line
4. A ground ball in the infield: you have the play at first base and any initial play at first, second or third, and any secondary play at first and second
5. A batted or bunted ball with F3, F1 and B1 converging at the base
6. A clean hit, or any batted ball to area of the outfield

Remember to always have a Pre-game discussion with your partner, this starts the day prior to play

## BETWEEN INNING MECHANICS

**PLATE:** Facing the team that is coming to bat. 8-10 feet from the line on a perpendicular line from where the foul line meets the plate.

**BASE:** Facing the plate no more than about 15 feet off the foul line at approximately where the grass starts in front of outfielders

Always attempt to have a Post-game discussion with your partner!

- This was a brief responsibility concept for the Base and Plate official, there are many more concepts and factors to consider, we will discuss some of the responsibilities with runners on base as we continue.

