



**AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL
OFFICE FOR UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT**

MECHANICS FOR THE FOUR-UMPIRE SYSTEM

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

NO RUNNERS ON BASE

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory.	Approximately 20' on grass in outfield, left or right of centre. Same side as batter.	10' to 12' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Hustles in and takes possible play at 2 nd base.	Remains at 3 rd base.	Has ANY PLAY of batter-runner at 1 st base and then plays at home plate.
2 nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st and 2 nd bases on stand up double.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Has play at 2 nd and 3 rd bases, ball and runner. If stand up double, remains at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st base then home plate.	Has touch and play at 2 nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3 rd base.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNER ON 1ST BASE ONLY

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Inside diamond edge of dirt first base side of diamond	10' to 12' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag	All fly balls, from centre fielder straight in and out, to his left and all of right field.	Centre fielder to his right, left field to his left	Left fielder straight in and out and to the line	
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1 st base and has play at 2 nd base on runner from 1 st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases. Ball and runner.	Remains at 3 rd base.	Has tag of runner at 1 st base and then plays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st base and into 2 nd base if runner on 1 st base commits to 3 rd base.	Has the touches and plays at 2 nd and 3 rd bases of the runner on 1 st base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Home plate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 2ND BASES – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	10' to 12' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1 st base and has play at 2 nd base on runner from 1 st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3 rd base.	Remains at the plate
2 nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st and 2 nd bases on stand up double. Responsible for runner at 2 nd base leaving early on fly ball to left fielder and centre fielder to his right.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3 rd base. Responsible for runner at 2 nd base leaving early on fly ball to right fielder and centre fielder coming in and to his left.	Stays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has tag at 1 st base and possible play at home plate of runner from 2 nd base.	Has tag at 2 nd base and play at 2 nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3 rd base and runner's touch of 3 rd base. Communicate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 2ND BASES – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	10' to 12' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1 st base and has play at 2 nd base on runner from 1 st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2 nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st and 2 nd bases.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st base and play at 2 nd base on batter-runner.	Has all touches and plays at 2 nd base except the batter-runner and all plays at 3 rd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Stays at home plate and has runner's touch of 3 rd base.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD BASES – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Inside diamond edge of dirt first base side of diamond	6' to 8' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1 st base and has play at 2 nd base on runner from 1 st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases. Ball and runner	Has tag of runner at 3 rd base and any play at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has tag at 1 st base and possible play at home plate.	Has all plays at 2 nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3 rd base and runner's touch and tag of 3 rd base. Communicate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD BASES – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Inside diamond edge of dirt first base side of diamond	6' to 8' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1 st base and has play at 2 nd base on runner from 1 st base and calls of batter / runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3 rd base.	Remains at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st base and possible extension to 2 nd base.	Has play and touches at 2 nd base of runner at 1 st base and plays on that runner and batter-runner at 3 rd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Remains at home plate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

BASES LOADED – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	6' to 8' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1 st base and has play at 2 nd base on runner from 1 st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2 nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st and 2 nd bases on stand up double. Responsible for runner at 2 nd base leaving early on fly ball to left fielder and centre fielder to his right.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3 rd base. Responsible for runner at 2 nd base leaving early on fly ball to right fielder and centre fielder coming in and to his left.	Stays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has tag at 1 st base and possible play at home plate of runner from 2 nd base.	Has tag at 2 nd base and play at 2 nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3 rd base or home plate and runner's touch and tag up of 3 rd base. Communicate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

BASES LOADED – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	10' to 12' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1 st base and has play at 2 nd base on runner from 1 st base and calls of batter / runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2 nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st and 2 nd bases and any play on those bases.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st and 2 nd bases and any play on those bases.	Has first play at 2 nd base and second play at 3 rd base. Hustle.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and first runner at 3 rd base or home plate and first runner's touch of 3 rd base. Subsequent plays at home plate. Communicate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS 2ND AND 3RD – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	6' to 8' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1 st base and has play at 2 nd base on runner from 1 st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3 rd base and has tag up.	Stays at home plate.
2 nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st and 2 nd bases. Responsible for runner at 2 nd base leaving early on fly ball to left fielder and centre fielder to his right.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3 rd base. Responsible for runner at 2 nd base leaving early on fly ball to right fielder and centre fielder coming in and to his left. Also tag up at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has tag at 1 st base and possible play at home plate of runner from 2 nd base.	Has tag at 2 nd base and play at 2 nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3 rd base or home plate and runner's touch and tag up of 3 rd base. Communicate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS 2ND AND 3RD – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	6' to 8' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1 st base and has play at 2 nd base on runner from 1 st base and calls of batter / runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2 nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st and 2 nd bases.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has tag at 1 st base and possible play at home plate of runner from 2 nd base.	Has play at 2 nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3 rd base or home plate and runner's touch of 3 rd base. Communicate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNER ON 2ND BASE ONLY – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	10' to 12' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory, alert for steal.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1 st base and has play at 2 nd base on runner from 1 st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2 nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st and 2 nd bases on stand up double. Responsible for runner at 2 nd base leaving early on fly ball to left fielder and centre fielder to his right.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3 rd base. Responsible for runner at 2 nd base leaving early on fly ball to right fielder and centre fielder coming in and to his left.	Stays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st base and possible play at home plate.	Has tag at 2 nd base and play at 2 nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3 rd base or home plate and runner's touch of 3 rd base. Communicate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNER ON 2ND BASE ONLY – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	10' to 12' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory, alert for steal.	Home plate
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1 st base and has play at 2 nd base on runner from 1 st base and calls of batter / runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2 nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st and 2 nd bases on stand up double.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st base and possible play at home plate. Possible time play.	Has play at 2 nd base and 3 rd base once plate commits to home.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3 rd base or home plate and runner's touch of 3 rd base. Communicate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNER 3RD BASE ONLY – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory.	Approximately 20' on grass in outfield, left field side, must be over further than usual.	6' to 8' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Home plate
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Hustles in and takes possible play at 2 nd base.	Remains at 3 rd base and has tag up.	Has ANY PLAY of batter-runner at 1 st base and then plays at home plate.
2 nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1 st and 2 nd bases.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3 rd base. Responsible for tag up at 3 rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	All plays at 1 st base on batter-runner.	Has any play at 2 nd and 3 rd bases on batter-runner. Also plays on runner back into third, tough play, hustle	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has tag at 3 rd base and plays at home plate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNER ON 3RD BASE ONLY – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1 ST BASE UMPIRE	2 ND BASE UMPIRE	3 RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1 st baseman in foul territory.	Approximately 20' on grass in outfield, left or right centre. Same side as batter.	6' to 8' behind 3 rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1 st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Hustles in and takes possible play at 1 st and 2 nd bases.	Remains at 3 rd base.	Has touch of batter-runner at 1 st base and then plays at home plate.
2 nd Base umpire goes out.	Has all calls on batter-runner at 1 st and 2 nd bases on stand up double.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Has batter-runner at 2 nd base when 1 st base umpire doesn't take him.	Has ball and runner at 3 rd base or home plate and runner's touch of 3 rd base. Communicate.
3 rd Base umpire goes out.	Has all calls on batter-runner at 1 st base.	Has play at 2 nd and 3 rd base on batter-runner.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Stays at home plate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1 st base.	All plays at 2 nd base.	All plays at 3 rd base.	All plays at home plate.