

SECTION 3

RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND; LESS THAN TWO OUT

- 3.1 The first base umpire will position himself/herself 6-8 feet behind the first baseman with both feet in foul territory.
- 3.2 The third base umpire will position himself/herself halfway between the pitcher's mound and second base on the third base side of the mound in a position ready for plays at second or third.
- 3.3 With runners on first and second base, fly ball and line drive responsibilities remains the same as with a runner on first base only. The plate umpire will remain home. The tag up at second base and the possible play at third belongs to the infield umpire. The tag up at first belongs to the first base umpire, but the play at second base belongs to the infield umpire. Again, let the ball take you to your play.

An optional method of covering the tag up with runners on first and second is for the plate umpire to take the play at third on the runner tagging up at second. In this case, the third base umpire will slide over and take responsibility of the runner on first base, and the first base umpire will move home to cover a possible play at the plate. This would be a crew mechanic and should be clearly understood by each member of the crew.

- 3.4 With runners on first and second base, on any base hit the plate umpire will remain at **home**, and the first and third base umpires will assume responsibility for all plays on the bases. On a base hit, the first base umpire will pivot and take the batter-runner into second; he/she is responsible for any play made on the batter-runner at second base or back into first base.
- 3.5 With runners on first and second base, if the first base umpire goes out on a fly ball, the plate umpire will move up toward third base and the first base umpire will come into the center of the infield. If both runners are tagging up to advance, both tag-up responsibilities belong to the first base umpire, and the play at third base on the runner from second base belongs to the plate umpire. The play at second base on the runner from first base and the responsibility of the runner from first belong to the first base umpire.
- 3.6 With runners on first and second base, if the first base umpire goes out, you will revert back to the two-umpire system.
- 3.7 With runners on first and second base and an obvious bunting situation, the third base umpire will stay behind third, and the first base umpire will move into the center of the infield setting up on the first base side of the infield. This is optional; however, it is much easier to cover the first play at third should the defense decide to throw there.