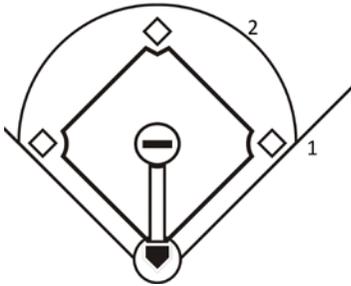


Primer for Field Umpires

The primary responsibility of the field umpire is to call all plays at 1st and 2nd bases

Rule changes for 2017 are in red

Positioning



The figure above shows the places for the field umpire to stand depending upon the situation. With no runners on 1st or 2nd base, umpire should be positioned behind first base in foul territory (1). With a runner on either 1st or 2nd base, the field umpire should be positioned behind second base on the first base side of the field (2).

Calling Plays

- Field umpire calls all plays at 1st and 2nd bases and calls fielded balls in the outfield.
- Umpire should shout “out” or “safe”
- Umpire should use hand signals for safe (both arms extended horizontally) and out (right fist in the air).

Fielder Obstruction

The only time that a fielder can get in the path of a baserunner is when he/she 1) has the ball and is attempting to make a tag or 2) is attempting to field a batted ball. If the fielder interferes in any other way, the runner is automatically granted the base to which he or she is going.

Runner Interference

If a baserunner interferes with a fielder attempting to field a ball, the baserunner is automatically out and the play is stopped.

Runner out of base path

If a fielder is attempting to tag a baserunner out, the baserunner will automatically be called out if he or she leaves the base path. The base path is defined as an area within three feet of a straight line between adjacent bases.

Overrunning 1st base

The runner can overrun 1st base, but if he or she makes any effort to advance to second base, the runner is subject to normal tag out rules.

Orange Bag at 1st base

- When a play is being made at first base, the runner should use the orange base and the fielder should use the white base.
- Orange base is considered a legal tag if fielder is attempting to avoid a collision with baserunner.

Encroachment line

The defending team cannot have more than 6 players within the encroachment line at the time the pitch crosses the plate. (Encroachment line is an arc in the outfield approximately 15 yards beyond the infield)

Other Base Running Rules

- Baserunners cannot leave the base until the ball is hit by the batter.
- Runners must avoid collisions. If there is a play to be made on them, they must either give themselves up, slide, or turn around and go to the previous base. If they do not, they must automatically be called out.

Infield Fly Rule

Necessary conditions:

- Runners on 1st & 2nd or bases loaded
- Less than 2 outs
- Batted ball is a fly ball or line drive
- Batted ball can be caught in a routine manner by an infielder
- Ball must be in fair territory

Outcome:

- Batter is automatically out, even if ball is dropped
- Runners can advance after catch by tagging up; if ball is dropped, they can advance at their own risk.

Umpire call:

- When ball is in the air, umpire yells, “Infield fly, batter is out.”
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Pitch Trajectory

The field umpire can appeal to the home plate umpire when he or she thinks the pitch trajectory was too high or too low. The home plate umpire has the final say in the call and can choose to accept or reject this appeal.