**Base Umpire A, B and C Positioning**

**A Position-No One on Base**

**B Position-R1 or R1 and R3**

**C Position-All Other Bases Occupied Situations**

**A Position**

1. Distance from first baseman
* 5-6 feet behind him
* If he is playing deep, even with him or at most, a step behind him
1. Infield catch responsibility
* Shortstop towards the middle of the field
* Second baseman every way except towards the middle of the field
* First baseman toward the line and back
* Pitcher back
1. Fly ball coverage
* Trouble ball only from center fielder straight in or back to right field line. Trouble ball is:
* Fielder racing back to the fence-possible home run
* Fly ball taking right fielder to the line-fair/foul possible call-straddle the foul line
* Possible diving catch or one below the waist
* Fielders converging (possible collision)
1. Plays at first
	* + Get the proper angle, distance and position based upon which fielder is fielding the ground ball
		+ Read the throw until it’s about halfway from fielder to first baseman
		+ Bring head down to watch runner’s foot touch the bag and listen for pop of ball in first baseman’s glove
		+ Timing: no out call until you look up and see first baseman with secure ball possession and then taking the ball out of his glove
		+ Tag plays at first- “on the tag”, then the out sign. If safe, first the safe sign, then verbalize no tag
2. Pivot in on base hit and watch batter-runner touch

**B Position**

1. Be situated in the vicinity of the left end of the pitching rubber, splitting the distance between the rubber and the base line between first and second
2. Signal rotation coverage with plate umpire

**B Position (Continued)**

1. Infield catch responsibility
* Third baseman toward you
* Second baseman and shortstop every which way
* First baseman toward you
* Pitcher back
1. Fly ball coverage
* Everything in the “U” from left fielder to right fielder including both coming straight in
1. Verbalize and signal a catch/no catch **only** if it was a trouble ball
2. Always chest to the ball -Open-up to the ball wherever it is hit. Never turn your back on the ball
3. Drop to the working circle, if possible, for making calls, including double play balls. However, do not be in the line of fire of a throw. For example, dropping down to the working circle will likely put you in the line of fire if the throw is from third to first.
4. On fly balls, drift back toward first after the catch in case of an attempt on R1 heading back to first
5. Be set on all calls-**Do not be moving**
6. On a steal play, drop step with your right foot and let the ball take you to the base. You should be able to get a few steps toward second from your drop step. Most importantly, **stop and be set when the play on the runner is made**. If an out, make the call only when you see secure possession of the ball and body control of fielder or, if safe, the runner is touching the base and his momentum has stopped
7. On pickoffs at first, take a step-in toward the plate or the 45-foot line and then turn to see the play. That will widen your angle and you will not then be looking up the butt-end of the runner diving back. Pause a second before calling safe or out on a close play letting your brain process what you just saw on the pick play

**C Position**

1. Starting position is between second and third half-way between the pitcher’s plate and the baseline between second and third
2. Signal rotations coverage with plate umpire
3. Infield catch responsibility- same as in B position
4. Fly ball coverage- same as in B position
5. Use the working circle for calling plays with multiple runners on base. However, stay out of line of fire on throw from third to first
6. On a throw from third to first, come in behind the throw stepping in and towards first to get the best angle
7. Steal of third-Two options
* Come straight in 3-4 steps from starting position and then open-up to third. You sacrifice distance but it provides a very wide angle to see all aspects of the play
* Step in and towards the 45-foot mark of the third base foul line
1. On watching a tag-up, work to get the runner and the fielder catching the ball in your direct sight line so you don’t have to move your head and eyes from the catch to runner