

GHSA UMPIRE MECHANIC MANUAL

2 & 3 Man



GHSA UMPIRES UNIFORM

- **Cap – Navy Blue fitted (*GHSA*) embroidered on front of the crown. (Mandatory 2015-2016)**
- **Shirt - Navy blue or powder blue collared long or short sleeve.**
 - **GHSA Logo on Left Chest (Dye-sublimated or embroidered). (Mandatory 2015-2016)**
 - **2” X 3” American Flag trimmed in gold on left sleeve 2” above the sleeve hem. (Mandatory 2015-2016)**
 - **Under Shirt – Navy Blue or Black if visible.**
- **Jackets/Pullover**
 - **Base color Black or Navy Blue – (Striping OK)
Umpires wear same base color**
- **Pants – Heather gray (pleated or non- pleated)**
 - **Plate Style**
 - **Base Style**
 - **Combo Style**
 - **Same Shade of Gray to be worn**
- **Belt – Black**
- **Socks – Navy Blue or Black**
- **Shoes – Predominantly Black with black laces. White Striped approved. Crew of 3 or more the base umpires MUST match. Shoes must be shined.**

PLATE UMPIRES EQUIPMENT

- **Mask**
 - **Regular or hockey - one piece style**
- **Chest protector**
 - **Inside or Outside**

Note: Although GHSA does not mandate specific chest protectors, they strongly recommend inside protectors due to umpire mobility.
- **Leg guards**
- **Plate shoes**
 - **Solid Black with steel toe and plate protection**
- **Indicator**
- **Ball bag**
 - **Navy blue or black**
 - **One or two**
- **Lineup card with pencil**
- **Plate brush**
- **Protective Gear**

PLATE UMPIRE'S POSITIONING

- **Position yourself at a comfortable distance behind catcher.**
- **Must be able to see both edge's of home plate by moving your eyes, not your body, keep body still and straight, facing the pitcher.**
- **Using the scissors or box mechanic – whichever is more comfortable**
- **Position yourself in the slot between the catcher's inner shoulder and the batter, with the bottom of your chin at the top of catcher's mask and your eyes at the top of strike zone.**
- **Do not touch the catcher.**

PLATE UMPIRE'S EMPHASIS

- **Timing**

- Let the play happen.
- Watch the ball into the catcher's mitt.
- Do not make a decision until the ball is caught by the catcher.
- Count to one if you need to.

- **Strike zone**

- Midpoint of chest to the knees over home plate when assuming natural stance.
- Know what you are calling and stay with it.
- Try to keep one ball width inside and one ball width outside of home plate.
 - **DO NOT GO OVERBOARD**

- **Professionalism**

- Be professional – you are measured on how you look and conduct yourself on and off the field.

PLATE UMPIRE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Perform Plate Meeting**

- **Introductions.**
- **Exchange Lineup Cards.**
- **Sportsmanship Statement.**
- **Identify Game Manager**
- **Lighting Detector**
- **Have home team go over ground rules.**
- **All players are properly equipped and all equipment is legal.**
- **NO CHECKING OF EQUIPMENT NECESSARY.**

PLATE UMPIRE'S 2 MAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- **No runners on**

- **Fair or foul ball up to the front edge of first base bag.**
- **Fair or foul ball down the third base line to the fence.**
- **Remove mask and move out from behind home plate left of plate (MASK IN LEFT HAND) and move down first base line following batter/runner.**
- **Looking for a swipe tag of batter/runner up to the beginning of running the lane. Any running lane violation interference**
- **Assist the first base umpire (if requested) on pulling of foot at first base.**
- **Take batter/runner to second and/or third if base umpire has to go out down the first base foul line on a fly ball.**
- **All fly balls to outfield – right fielder to left field line, “V” area of the out field.**

• **Runner on First**

- **Fair or foul ball down the first and third base line to the fence.**
- **Move out from home plate, left of plate**
 - **Mask in left hand**
- **Go halfway to third base.**
- **Do not over commit to third until you see what's going to happen.**
- **Watch for interference at second base where the base runner slides and goes beyond the bag in a double play situation.**
- **Be prepared for play at third base, if play develops.**

Move out from home plate, left of plate

- **Mask in left hand**
- **Go halfway to third base.**
- **Do not over commit to third until you see what's going to happen.**
- **Watch for interference at second base where the base runner slides and goes beyond the bag in a double play situation.**
- **Be prepared for play at third base, if play develops.**

• **Runner on Second**

- **Fair or foul ball down the first and third base line to the fence.**
- **Move out from behind home plate, at a 45 degree angle in direction of dugout.**
 - **Mask in left hand**
- **Watch runner touch third base coming home.**
- **Watch for over throws at third base**
- **Help out with runner tagging at second coming to third – if needed.**
- **Prepare yourself for play at home plate.**

• **Runner on Third**

- **Fair or foul ball down the first and third base line to the fence.**
- **Move out from behind home plate, at a 45 degree angle in direction of dugout.**
 - **Mask in left hand**
- **Watching tag at third base on fly ball to outfield.**
- **Staying back at a 45 degree angle from home plate toward third base dugout.**
 - **Getting an angle is the most important.**
- **Prepare for call at home plate.**
- **See the whole play, not just the tag.**

• **Runners on First and Second**

- **Fair or foul ball down the first and third base line to the fence.**
- **Move out from behind home plate, extending the foul line. (Mask in left hand)**
- **Can help out partner with tag up at first on fly ball to outfield as you make your way up to third. (on request)**
- **Watch runner on second touch third.**
- **Prepare for call at home plate.**
- **Prepare to move to third base after runner clears home plate (if necessary)**
- **Do not camp out at home plate.**

• **Runners on Second and Third**

- **Fair or foul ball down the first and third base line to the fence.**

- **Move out from behind home plate, (MASK IN LEFT HAND) extending the foul line watching the possible tag at third.**
 - **First responsibility**
- **Prepare for call at home plate.**
 - **Second responsibility**
- **Watch runner on second touch third**
 - **Third responsibility (if necessary)**
- **Prepare to move to third base after all runners have cleared home plate**

- **Do not camp out at home plate**

• **Runners on First, Second and Third**

- **Fair or foul ball down the first and third base line to the fence.**

- **Move out from behind home plate, (MASK IN LEFT HAND) extending the foul line watching the possible tag at third.**
 - **First responsibility**
- **Prepare for call at home plate.**
 - **Second responsibility**
- **Watch runner on second touch third.**
 - **Third responsibility (if necessary)**
- **Move toward third for a possible play after all runners have cleared home plate.**

- **Simultaneously accompany runner to home plate for play – if necessary.**

• **Runners on First and Third**

- **Fair or foul ball down the first and third base line to the fence.**
- **Move out from behind home plate, at a 45 degree angle for tag a third.**
 - **Mask in left hand**
- **Watch for play at home plate.**
- **Move toward third for a possible play after all runners have cleared home plate.**
- **Simultaneously accompany runner to home plate for play – if necessary.**

BASE UMPIRES 2-MAN POSITIONING

- **No runners on**

- **10 to 12 feet behind base and behind fielder in foul territory (A Position)**

- **Runner on first**

- **In the slot on the first base side of pitcher's mound with body parallel to pitcher's rubber facing batter (B Position)**

- **Runner on second**

- **In the slot on the third base side of pitcher's mound with body parallel to pitcher's rubber facing batter (C Position)**

- **Runner on third**

- **In the slot on the third base side of pitcher's mound with body parallel to pitcher's rubber facing batter (C Position)**

- **Runners on first and second**

- In the slot on the third base side of pitcher's mound with body parallel to pitcher's rubber facing batter (C Position)

- **Runners on second and third**

- In the slot on the third base side of pitcher's mound with body parallel to pitcher's rubber facing batter (C Position)

- **Runners on first, second and third**

- In the slot on the third base side of pitcher's mound with body parallel to pitcher's rubber facing batter (C Position)

- **Runners on first and third**

- In the slot on the first base side of pitcher's mound with body parallel to pitcher's rubber facing batter (B Position)

BASE UMPIRES 2-MAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- **No runners on**

- **Foul ball from the front edge of first base to the fence.**
- **Fly ball to the right fielder if it takes the right fielder toward the first base line.**
- **Moving from the foul line to the slot on first base side of the pitcher's mound, pivot while watching the batter/runner touch first base.**
- **Take batter/runner into second, if needed and continue with runner to third, if necessary.**

• **Runner on first**

- **From the slot on the first base side of the pitcher's mound (B Position)**
- **All fly balls from the batter to the outfield from the left fielder to the right fielder. (The 'V' area of the outfield)**
- **From the first base slot, (an area between the pitcher's mound and first base, parallel to the mound facing home plate), from the set position, be ready for any pickoff play from the pitcher to first base**
 - **Take one step toward first – keep your eye on the ball.**
- **From the first base slot, calling the play on a runner stealing from first to second**
 - **Watching throw from the catcher**
 - **Follow the ball from the catcher to the base, keep your eye on the ball**
 - **See the whole play**
- **Watch runners touch the bases**
- **Tag up plays from first**

• **Runner on second**

- **From the slot on the third base side of the pitcher's mound (C Position) parallel to the mound facing home plate**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the left fielder and right fielder (The 'V' area of the outfield)**
 - **Remember not to cross the base line on making calls on catch/no catch by the outfielders**
- **Responsibility for tag up plays at second when fly ball is to the outfield, also watching runners touch bases**
- **Responsibility is the play at first and the play at third on ground ball to infield**

• **Runner on third**

- **From the slot on the third base side of the pitcher's mound (C Position) parallel to the mound facing home plate**
- **Responsibility is all calls at first, second and third, if needed, watching runners touch bases**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the left fielder and the right fielder (The 'V' area of the outfield)**
 - **Remember not to cross the base line on making calls on the catch/no catch by the outfielders**

• **Runners on first and second**

- **From the slot on the third base side of the pitcher's mound (C Position) parallel to the mound facing home plate**
- **Responsibility is all calls at first and second watching runners touch bases**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the left fielder and the right fielder**
 - **Remember not to cross the base line**
- **Catch/No Catch fly balls to outfield**
- **Tag up plays at second and look back at first**

- **Runners on second and third**

- **From the slot on the third base side of the pitcher's mound (C Position) parallel to the mound facing home plate**
- **Responsibility is all calls at first, second and third – if necessary - watching runners touch bases**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the left fielder and the right fielder**
 - **Remember not to cross the base line on making calls on the catch/no catch by the outfielders**
- **Tag up plays from second**

- **Runners on first, second and third**

- **From the slot on the third base side of the pitcher's mound (C Position) parallel to the mound facing home plate**
- **Responsibility is all calls at first, second and third – if necessary - watching runners touch bases**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the left fielder and the right fielder**
 - **Remember not to cross the base line on making calls on the catch/no catch by the outfielders**
- **Tag up plays from first and second**

• **Runners on first and third**

- **From the slot on the first base side of the pitcher's mound (B Position) parallel to the mound facing home plate**
- **Responsibility is all calls at first and second watching runners touch bases, throw backs at third, helping out at third any other time – if needed.**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the left fielder and the right fielder**
 - **Remember not to cross the base line on making calls on the catch/no catch by the outfielders**
- **Tag up plays from first**

3 MAN MECHANIC

PLATE UMPIRE

BASE UMPIRE

PLATE UMPIRE'S 3 MAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- **No runners on**
 - **Fair or foul ball up to the front edge of first and third base bag.**
 - **Must move out from behind home plate**
 - **Mask in left hand**
 - **Move out left of plate and move down first base line following batter/runner.**
 - **Assist the first base umpire (if requested) on pulling of foot, interference of batter/runner from home plate to first.**
 - **Looking for a tag of batter/runner up to the running the lane.**
 - **Cover first base if first base umpire goes out**
 - **Throw back to first**
 - **Helping with run downs from first to second**
 - **Batter/runner coming back to first**

• **Runner on First**

- **Fair and foul ball up to the front edge of the first base bag.**
- **Fair and foul balls down the third base line to the fence.**
- **Must move out from plate, left of plate, down third base line**
 - **Mask in left hand**
- **Go half way to third base**
- **Be prepared for play at third base**
- **Do not over commit to third until you see what is going to happen**
- **Helping with run downs from second to third on runners coming toward third**

• **Runner on Second**

- **Fair and foul balls down the first base line to the fence.**
- **Fair and foul balls up to the front edge of the third base bag.**
- **Move out from home plate at a 45 degree angle**
 - **Mask in left hand**
- **Watch runner touch third base coming home.**
- **Stay close to home plate.**
- **Prepare yourself for play at home plate.**

• **Runner on Third**

- **Fair and foul balls up to the front edge of first and third base bag.**
- **Move out from behind home plate – prepare for call at home plate.**
 - **Mask in left hand**
- **Stay back at a 45 degree angle 3 to 4 feet from plate.**
 - **Getting an angle is very important**
- **See the whole play, not just the tag.**

• **Runners on First and Second**

- **Fair and foul balls up to the front edge of the first base bag.**
- **Fair and foul balls down the third base line to the fence.**
- **Move out from behind home plate at a 45 degree angle.**
 - **Mask in left hand**
- **All fly balls down the third base line to the fence.**
- **Watch runner on second touch third.**
- **Prepare for call at home plate.**
- **Help with run down from third to home plate with runner coming toward home plate.**

• **Runners on First, Second and Third**

- **Fair and foul balls up to the front edge of the first base bag.**
- **Fair and foul balls down the third base line to the fence.**
- **Move out from behind home plate at a 45 degree angle.**
 - **Mask in left hand**
- **All fly balls down the third base line to the fence.**
- **Watch play at home plate.**
- **Help with run down from third to home plate with runners coming toward home plate.**
- **Helping with run down from second to third with runners coming toward third.**

• **Runners on First and Third**

- **Fair and foul ball up to the first base bag.**
- **Fair and foul balls down the third base line to the fence.**
- **Move out from behind home plate at a 45 degree angle.**
 - **Mask in left hand**
- **All fly balls down the third base line to the fence.**
- **Watch play at home plate.**
- **Help with run down from third to home plate with runner coming toward home plate.**

BASE UMPIRE'S 3 MAN POSITIONING

- **No runners on**

- **First base umpire – 4 to 6 feet behind first base in foul territory.**
- **Third base umpire – 4 to 6 feet behind third base in foul territory.**

- **Runner on first**

- **First base umpire – 4 to 6 feet behind first base in foul territory.**
- **Third base umpire – on edge of grass on the third base side of pitcher's mound (C POSITION) – body parallel to base line facing first.**

- **Runner on second**

- **First base umpire – in the slot on the first base side of the pitcher's mound (B POSITION) – body parallel to pitcher rubber facing batter.**
- **Third base umpire – 4 to 6 feet behind third base in foul territory.**

- **Runner on third**

- **First base umpire – 4 to 6 feet behind first base in foul territory.**
- **Third base umpire – 4 to 6 feet behind third base in foul territory.**

- **Runner on first and second**

- **First base umpire – 4 to 6 feet behind first base in foul territory.**
- **Third base umpire – on edge of grass on the third base side of pitcher's mound (C POSITION) – body parallel to base line facing first.**

- **Runner on second and third**

- **First base umpire – on edge of grass on the first base side of the pitcher's mound (B POSITION) – body parallel to base line facing third**
- **Third base umpire – 4 to 6 feet behind third base in foul territory.**

- **Runners on first, second and third**

- **First base umpire – 4 to 6 feet behind first base in foul territory.**
- **Third base umpire – in the slot on the third base side of the pitcher's mound (C POSITION) – body parallel to pitcher rubber facing batter.**

- **Runner on first and third**

- **First base umpire – 4 to 6 feet behind first base in foul territory.**
- **Third base umpire – in the slot on the third base side of the pitcher's mound (C POSITION) – body parallel to pitcher's rubber facing batter.**

BASE UMPIRE'S 3 MAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- **No runners on**

- **First base umpire**

- **Fair or foul ball from the front edge of first base bag down the first base line to the fence.**
- **Watch for pick-off plays at first.**
- **Help check swing of a right-handed batter – if requested.**
- **Calling balk's which occur from pitcher's motions.**
- **All fly balls from the centerfielder to the first base foul line (ALWAYS GOING OUT ON FLY BALLS, STAY OUT)**
- **Watch the batter/runner touch first base on a ground ball to an infielder or to the outfield.**

- **No runners on**

- **Third base umpire**

- **Fair and foul ball from the front edge of third base bag down the third base line to the fence.**
- **All fly balls from the centerfielder to the third base foul line (ALWAYS GOING OUT ON FLY BALLS, STAY OUT)**
- **Moving toward second base on a BASE HIT for play at second if runner reaches second.**
- **Calling balks which occur from the pitcher's motions.**
- **Help check on swing on a left-handed batter – if requested.**

- **Runner on first**

- **First base umpire**

- **Fair and foul balls from the front edge of first base bag down the first base line to the fence.**
- **Pick-offs at first base.**
- **Fly balls from the centerfielder to the first base foul line (ALWAYS GOING OUT ON FLY BALLS, STAY OUT)**
- **Help check swing of a right-handed batter – if requested.**
- **Calling balk's which occur from pitcher's motions or stepping toward first.**
- **Covering of home plate when home plate umpire goes to third.**

- **Runner on first**

- **Third base umpire**

- **From the slot on third base side all fly balls from the centerfielder to the third base foul line – remember not to cross the base line when making calls on the catch/no catch by the outfielders.**
 - **Help check swing on a left- handed batter – if requested.**
 - **Calling balks which occur from the pitcher's motions.**
 - **Watch tag up on first when the first base umpire goes out and second.**

- **Runner on second**

- **First base umpire**

- **From the slot on the first base side of the pitcher's mound, parallel to the mound facing home plate.**
- **Watch for pick-offs at first base – taking step toward first.**
- **All calls at first and second – watch runners touch bases.**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the center fielder to the right fielder.**
- **Tag up of runner at second base – fly ball to right or center.**
- **Help check swing of a right-handed batter – if requested.**
- **Helping with run downs between first and second coming toward first.**

- **Runner on second**

- **Third base umpire**

- **From the foul line behind third base in foul territory, fair and foul balls from the front edge of the third base bag down the third base line to the fence.**
- **All calls at third base.**
- **Fly balls to the outfield between the centerfielder and third base foul line – (ALWAYS GO OUT ON FLY BALLS, STAY OUT)**
- **Watch runner tag third if not going out on fly balls.**
- **Help check swings from left-handed batter – if requested.**
- **Help with run downs between second and third coming toward third or third and home plate coming toward third.**

- **Runner on third**

- **First base umpire**

- **From behind first base in foul territory, fair or foul ball from the front edge of the first base bag down the first base line to the fence.**
 - **Taking runner into second if third base umpire goes out on a fly ball.**
 - **Help check swing of a right-handed batter – if requested.**
 - **Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the center fielder to the first base foul line (ALWAYS GO OUT, STAY OUT).**

- **Runner on third**

- **Third base umpire**

- **From behind third base in foul territory, fair or foul ball from the front edge of third base bag down the third base line to the fence.**
- **Moving toward second base on a hit on the ground through the infield.**
- **Help check swings from left-handed batter – if requested.**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area from the centerfielder to the third base foul line (ALWAYS GO OUT, STAY OUT).**

- **Runners on first and second**

- **First base umpire**

- **From behind first base in foul territory, pick offs at first base.**
- **Fair and foul balls down the first base line from the front edge of first base bag down the first base line to the fence.**
- **All fly balls from the centerfielder to the first base foul line (ALWAYS GOING OUT ON FLY BALLS, STAY OUT)**
- **Help check swings on a right-handed batter – if requested.**
- **Call balk's which occur from the pitcher's motions or stepping toward first.**

• Runners on first and second

○ Third base umpire

- From the slot on the third base side of the pitcher's mound, parallel to the mound, facing home plate.
- Responsibility is all calls at second and third (**FIRST PLAY BY AN INFIELDER**), watching runners touch bases.
- Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the left fielder and the center fielder – remember not to cross the base line when making calls on the catch/no catch by the outfielders.
- Help check swings on a left-handed batter – if requested.
- Tag up plays from first (**IF FIRST BASE UMPIRE GOES OUT**) and second.
- Call balk's which occur from the pitcher's motions.

• **Runners on second and third**

○ **First base umpire**

- **From the slot on the second base side of the pitcher's mound, parallel to the mound, facing home plate.**
- **Responsibility is all calls at first and second, watching runners touch bases.**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the center fielder and the right fielder – remember not to cross the base line when making calls on the catch/no catch by the outfielders.**
- **Help check swings on a right-handed batter – if requested.**
- **Call balk's which occur from the pitcher's motions.**
- **Tag up plays from second base.**

- **Runners on second and third**

- **Third base umpire**

- **From behind third base in foul territory, fair or foul ball from the front edge of third base bag down the third base line to the fence.**
- **Responsibility is all calls at third, watching runners touch bases.**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area from the centerfielder to the third base foul line (ALWAYS GO OUT, STAY OUT).**
- **Help check swings on a left-handed batter – if requested.**
- **Call balk's which occur from the pitcher's motions.**
- **Tags from third base if fly ball is hit to center fielder or right fielder.**

- **Runners on first, second and third**

- **First base umpire**

- **From behind first base in foul territory, pick offs at first base.**
- **Fair or foul balls down the first base line from the front edge of first base bag down the first base line to the fence.**
- **Tag up plays from first – if not going out.**
- **Taking runner into second if third base umpire carries runner or has a call at third.**
- **All fly balls from the centerfielder to the first base foul line.(ALWAYS GOING OUT ON FLY BALLS, STAY OUT)**
- **Call balk's which occur from the pitcher's motions or stepping motion.**
- **Help check swings on a right-handed batter – if requested.**

- **Runners on first, second and third**

- **Third base umpire**

- **From the slot on the third base side of the pitcher's mound, parallel to the mound, facing home plate.**
- **Responsibility is all calls at first (IF FIRST BASE UMPIRE GOES OUT), second and third, watching runners touch bases.**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the center fielder and the left fielder – remember not to cross the base line when making calls on the catch/no catch by the outfielders.**
- **Help check swings on a left-handed batter – if requested.**
- **Tag up plays from first (IF FIRST BASE UMPIRE GOES OUT) and second.**

- **Runners on first and third**
 - **First base umpire**
 - **From behind first base in foul territory, watching pick offs at first base.**
 - **Fair or foul balls down the first base line from the front edge of first base bag down first base line to the fence.**
 - **All fly balls from the centerfielder to the first base foul line (ALWAYS GOING OUT ON FLY BALLS, STAY OUT).**
 - **Help check swings on a right-handed batter – if requested.**
 - **Call balk's which occur from the pitcher's motions.**

- **Runners on first and third**

- **Third base umpire**

- **From the slot on the third base side of the pitcher's mound, parallel to the mound, facing home plate.**
- **Responsibility is all calls at first (IF FIRST BASE UMPIRE GOES OUT), second watching runners touch bases. Be prepared for calls at third – if necessary.**
- **Fly balls to the outfield in the area between the left fielder and the center fielder – remember not to cross the base line when making calls on the catch/no catch by the outfielders.**
- **Help check swings on a left-handed batter – if requested.**
- **Tag up plays from first.**