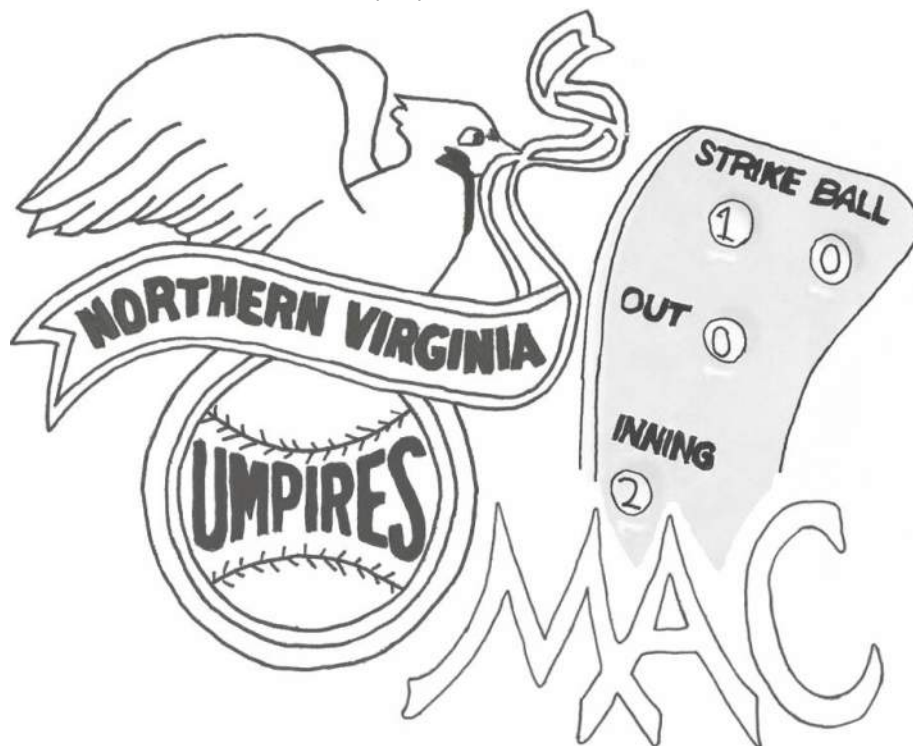




Amended Two Man Umpire Mechanics:

**Mid-Atlantic Officials
Northern Virginia Umpires Association**
© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

Summer 2020





OFFICIAL BATTING ORDER

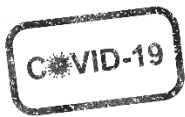
NORTHERN VIRGINIA UMPIRES
VS
MID ATLANTIC OFFICIALS

Thursday, July 2, 2020

1	General Principles	Page 1
2	No Runners On Base	Pages 2 to 6
3	First Base Only	Pages 7 to 13
4	Runners On First Base and Third Base	Pages 14 to 20
5	Runners On First Base and Second Base	Pages 21 to 27
6	Bases Loaded	Pages 28 to 34
7	Runner on Second Base Only	Pages 34 to 39
8	Runners On Second Base and Third Base	Pages 40 to 45
9	Runner on Third Base Only	Pages 46 to 51

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

MANAGER'S SIGNATURE: John Porter



General Principles



One MAJOR mechanics change from traditional two man mechanics:

With **NO RUNNERS ON BASE**, the base umpire is positioned in the B position and is therefore responsible for any pop-up to the infield that does not require a fair/foul decision. As the plate umpire does not have any other responsibilities during this play, he will run to first base to have the primary call in the rare instance that a popup is not caught, the batter-runner rounds first base too far and the throw goes to first base. The plate umpire **WILL HAVE TIME** to get there because this ball is a popup and will be in the air **LONG ENOUGH** to allow for the plate umpire reach first base for this rare play.

BASE UMPIRE

- Call pitches from the B position with no runners on base. With runners on base, the base umpire will call pitches from either B or C depending upon the location of the runners
- Be sure to carry an indicator and keep the ball and strike count
- Still has all the normal duties and responsibilities of the base umpire
- Since the base umpire is calling pitches, they have primary responsibility for check swings and hit by pitch
- The base umpire can still appeal check swings to the plate umpire upon request
- Do NOT go out from the middle
- No fair/foul responsibility with the exception of a batted ball that hits the batter in the batter's box

PLATE UMPIRE

- You are strongly encouraged to still wear plate umpire protective gear
- Should carry a ball and strike indicator and a plate brush
- There is no need for ball bags as each defensive team is responsible for their own baseballs while they are on defense
- Echo the count every time the base umpire gives the count
- Is responsible for batter interference calls on steal and pickoff plays
- You have ALL fair and foul calls at all times on both foul lines
- Has primary call on catcher's interference

AS A CREW

- Go over the above things in pregame.
- Maintain social distancing in as many situations as you possibly can. You may, but are not required, to wear a cloth facemask
- Plate conference should be socially distanced. Make sure coaches know they are responsible for baseballs when they are on defense.
- Umpires do not handle baseballs.
- Covid-19 guidelines for player, coach, fan conduct is NOT your responsibility. Coaches, and in travel ball a 'Covid Coach,' are responsible for enforcing the guidelines each league imposed.
- If you need to gently remind someone about distancing, no seeds, no spitting, do so, but that is NOT a priority. Do NOT be overly concerned with behavior that the teams themselves are supposed to monitor.
- In most leagues, if a pitcher licks his fingers in any situation, we are to award a ball. If he is in contact with the pitching plate, with runners on, call a balk. Replace the baseball.
- Don't get hung up on the type of baseballs used, certification stamps, etc. Do make sure safety equipment is worn by catchers, appropriate bats are used (just like we do in 'normal' games). They are trying to play, and they are responsible for providing appropriate baseballs. Don't 'pick boogers.'



Starting Position: No Runners On Base



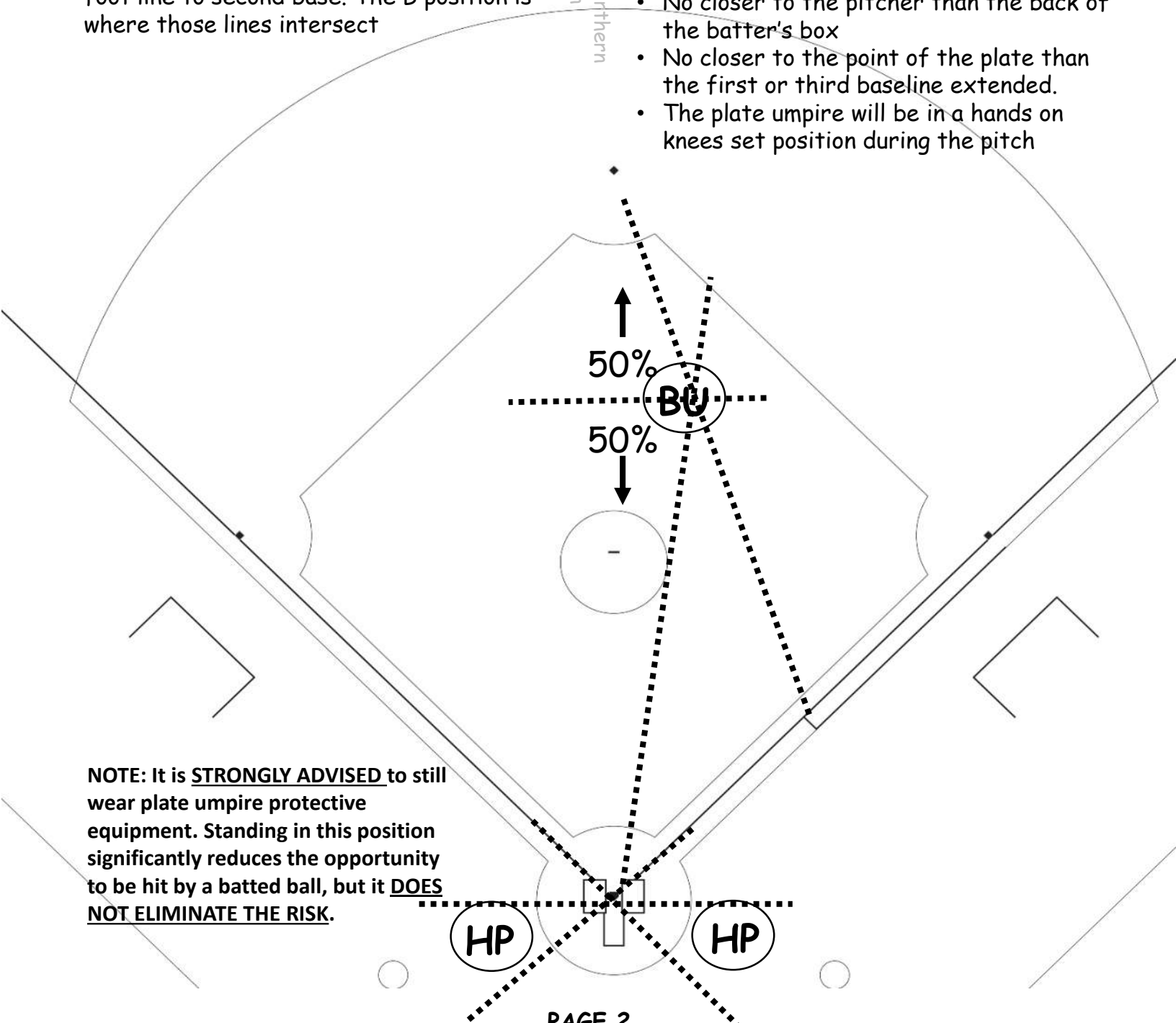
Base Umpire:

- Same as the traditional B position
- Set up in a position halfway between the pitching rubber and second base
- Straddle a line from the front corner of home plate that is tangent to the pitcher's mound
- Hands On Knees set during the pitch
- NOTE: If you are not able to determine the appropriate depth, another key to consider is an imaginary line from the 45 foot line to second base. The B position is where those lines intersect

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will start in the grass surrounding home plate on the same side of home plate as the batter
- The plate umpire will stand between two imaginary lines. The first is either first or third base extended. The second is the back of the batter's box extended
- THIS MEANS:
- No closer to home plate than the grass/dirt line
- No closer to the pitcher than the back of the batter's box
- No closer to the point of the plate than the first or third baseline extended.
- The plate umpire will be in a hands on knees set position during the pitch

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association



NOTE: It is STRONGLY ADVISED to still wear plate umpire protective equipment. Standing in this position significantly reduces the opportunity to be hit by a batted ball, but it DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE RISK.



Ground Balls To The infield: No Runners On Base



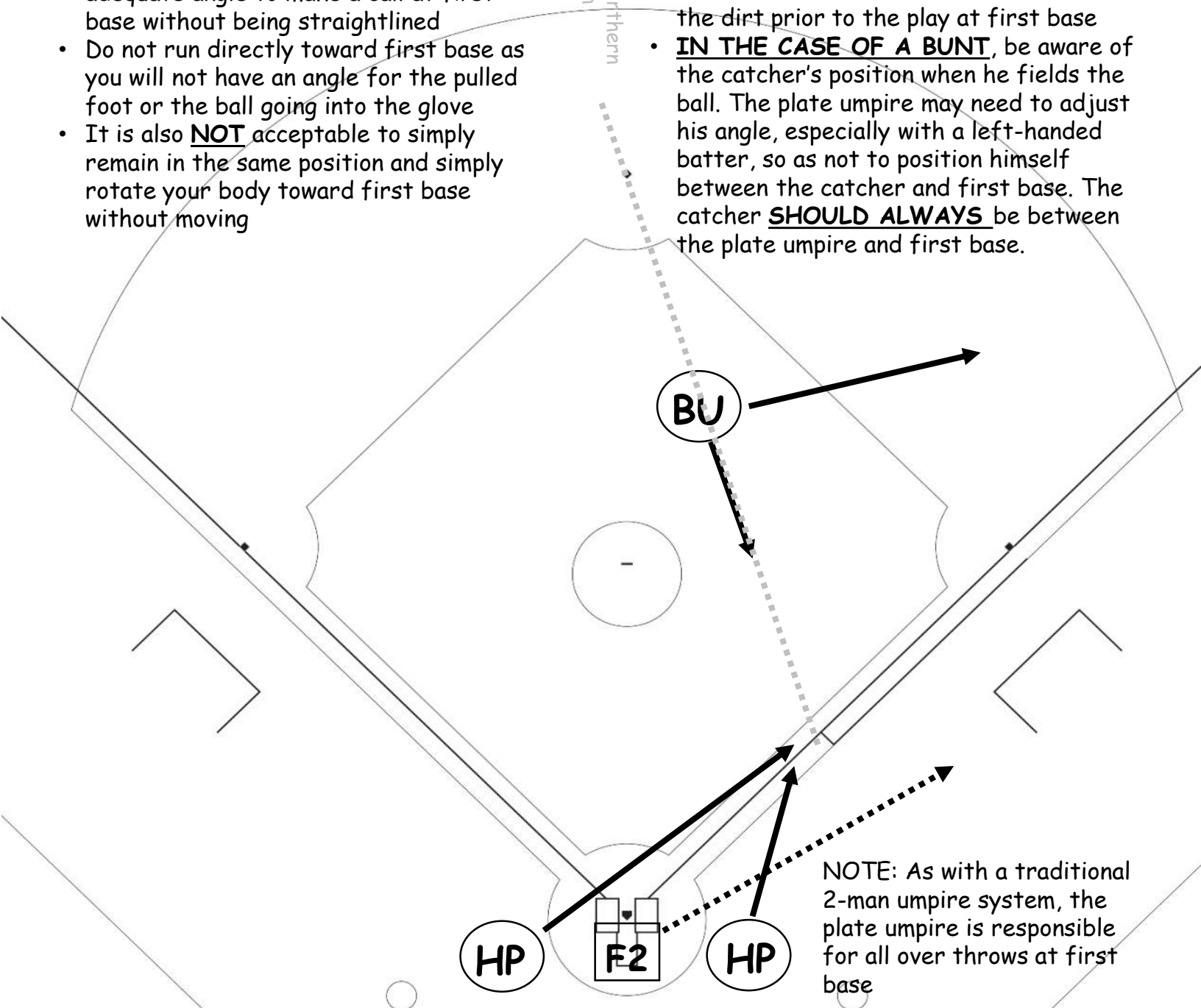
Base Umpire:

- If the throw is going to originate from a position to the third base side of a line drawn directly from the 45 foot line through your starting position, then run out into the dirt in a direct line toward the traditional A starting position
- If the throw is going to originate from a position to the first base side of that line, then run toward the 45 foot line
- Both of these movements will provide an adequate angle to make a call at first base without being straightlined
- Do not run directly toward first base as you will not have an angle for the pulled foot or the ball going into the glove
- It is also **NOT** acceptable to simply remain in the same position and simply rotate your body toward first base without moving

Plate Umpire:

- There is **NO NEED** to clear the catcher to the left. Both starting positions have adequately allowed opportunity to avoid contact with the catcher as he runs to back up first base because of the distance factor
- With a right-handed batter, simply run directly up the first base line gaining distance toward the 45 foot line
- With a left-handed batter, run directly toward the 45 foot line and make it to the dirt prior to the play at first base
- **IN THE CASE OF A BUNT**, be aware of the catcher's position when he fields the ball. The plate umpire may need to adjust his angle, especially with a left-handed batter, so as not to position himself between the catcher and first base. The catcher **SHOULD ALWAYS** be between the plate umpire and first base.

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association



NOTE: As with a traditional 2-man umpire system, the plate umpire is responsible for all over throws at first base



Pop Ups/Line Drives To The Infield: No Runners On Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop-ups or line drives on the infield that **DO NOT** require a fair/foul decision upon initial touch

NOTES:

- Umpires **SHOULD NOT VERBALLY** communicate responsibility on pop ups, but rather turn their head to visually communicate with their partners if there is a question. A base umpire will recognize the plate umpire is taking responsibility for a pop-up if he sees him gaining distance in the direction of the ball
- In the case where both umpires may have responsibility of a line drive, proper timing should allow for visual communication between umpires **FOLLOWING** the catch to ensure that only **ONE** umpire makes the call

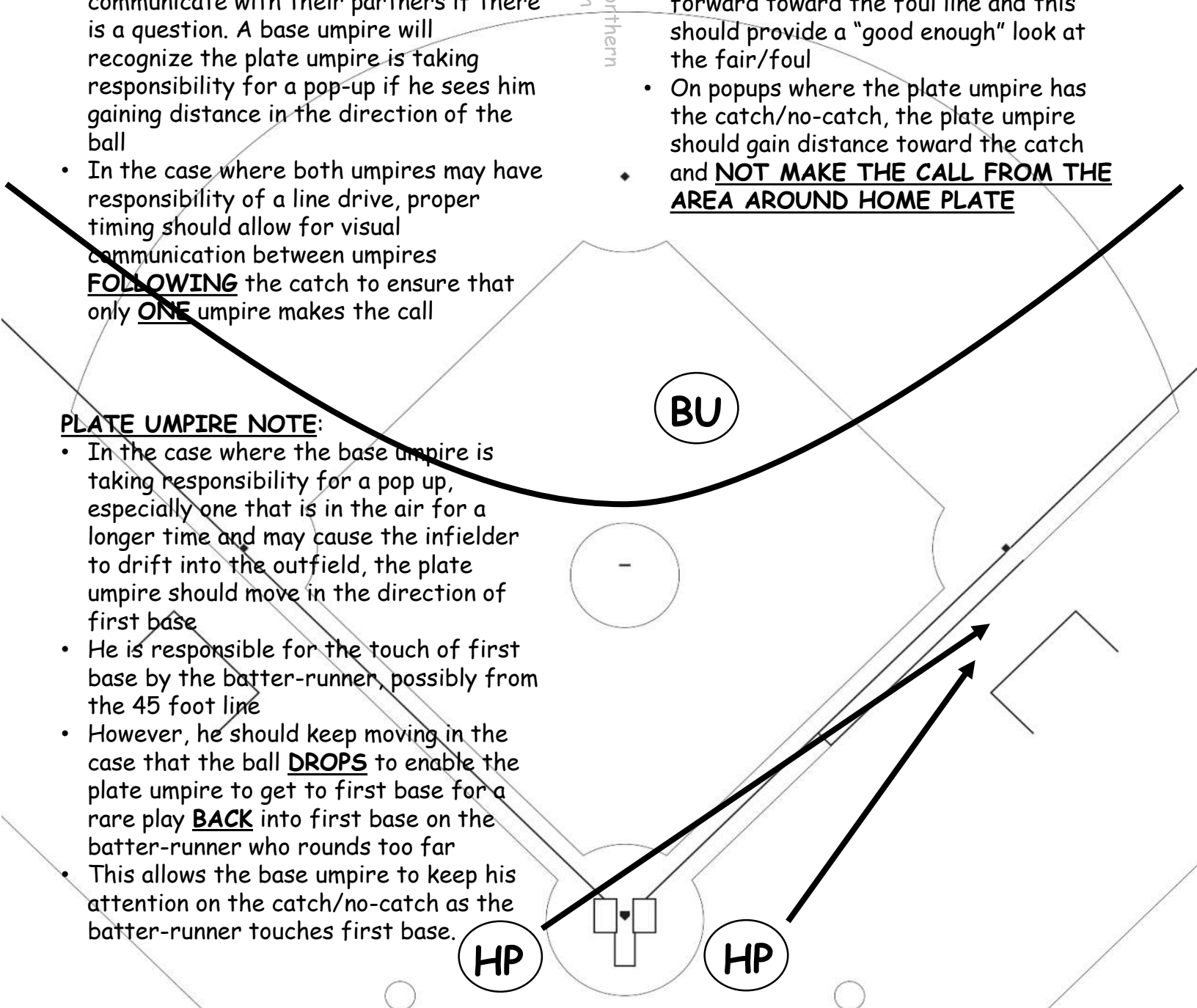
PLATE UMPIRE NOTE:

- In the case where the base umpire is taking responsibility for a pop up, especially one that is in the air for a longer time and may cause the infielder to drift into the outfield, the plate umpire should move in the direction of first base
- He is responsible for the touch of first base by the batter-runner, possibly from the 45 foot line
- However, he should keep moving in the case that the ball **DROPS** to enable the plate umpire to get to first base for a rare play **BACK** into first base on the batter-runner who rounds too far
- This allows the base umpire to keep his attention on the catch/no-catch as the batter-runner touches first base.

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop-ups or line drives that **WILL REQUIRE** a fair/foul decision upon initial touch
- This will prove to be the most difficult call in these adjusted mechanics, as the plate umpire is responsible for the fair/foul decision on hard line drives down either line. The best mechanic in these situations is to simply take a step forward toward the foul line and this should provide a "good enough" look at the fair/foul
- On popups where the plate umpire has the catch/no-catch, the plate umpire should gain distance toward the catch and **NOT MAKE THE CALL FROM THE AREA AROUND HOME PLATE**

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Uncatchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: No Runners On Base



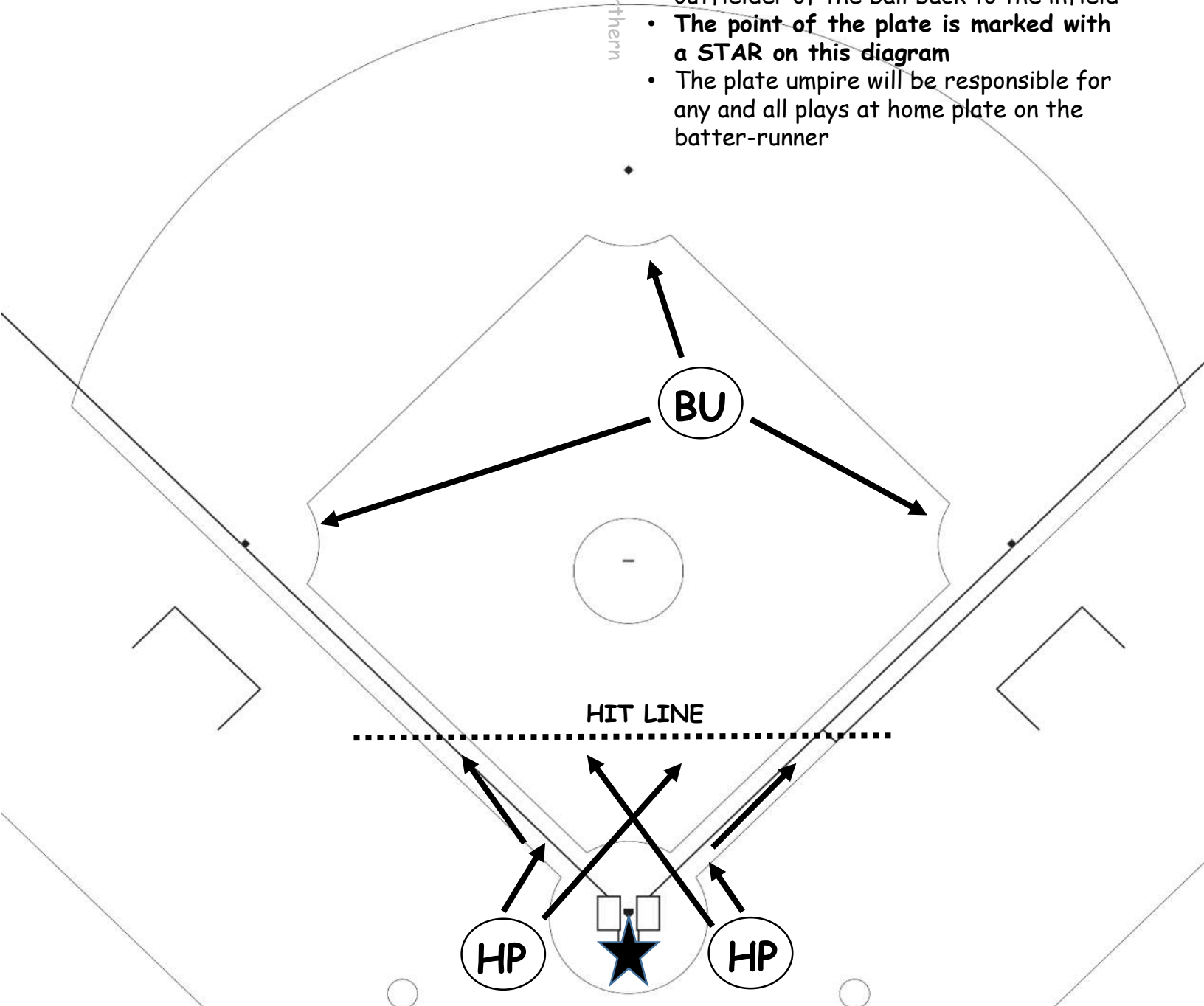
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire is responsible for all plays on the batter-runner at first base, second base or third base
- The base umpire **WILL NEVER** have a rotation home as might occur with traditional two-man mechanics because he will never go out on a potential trouble ball in right field from the A starting position

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will bust out from his starting position in front of the plate and in the direction of the batted ball
- His goal is to get to the hit line, which is an imaginary line drawn from foul line to foul line that begins at the 45 foot line and is parallel to the front of home plate
- The plate umpire should return to **THE POINT OF HOME PLATE** and **ON THE DIRT** upon release of a throw by an outfielder of the ball back to the infield
- **The point of the plate is marked with a STAR on this diagram**
- The plate umpire will be responsible for any and all plays at home plate on the batter-runner

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Catchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: No Runners On Base



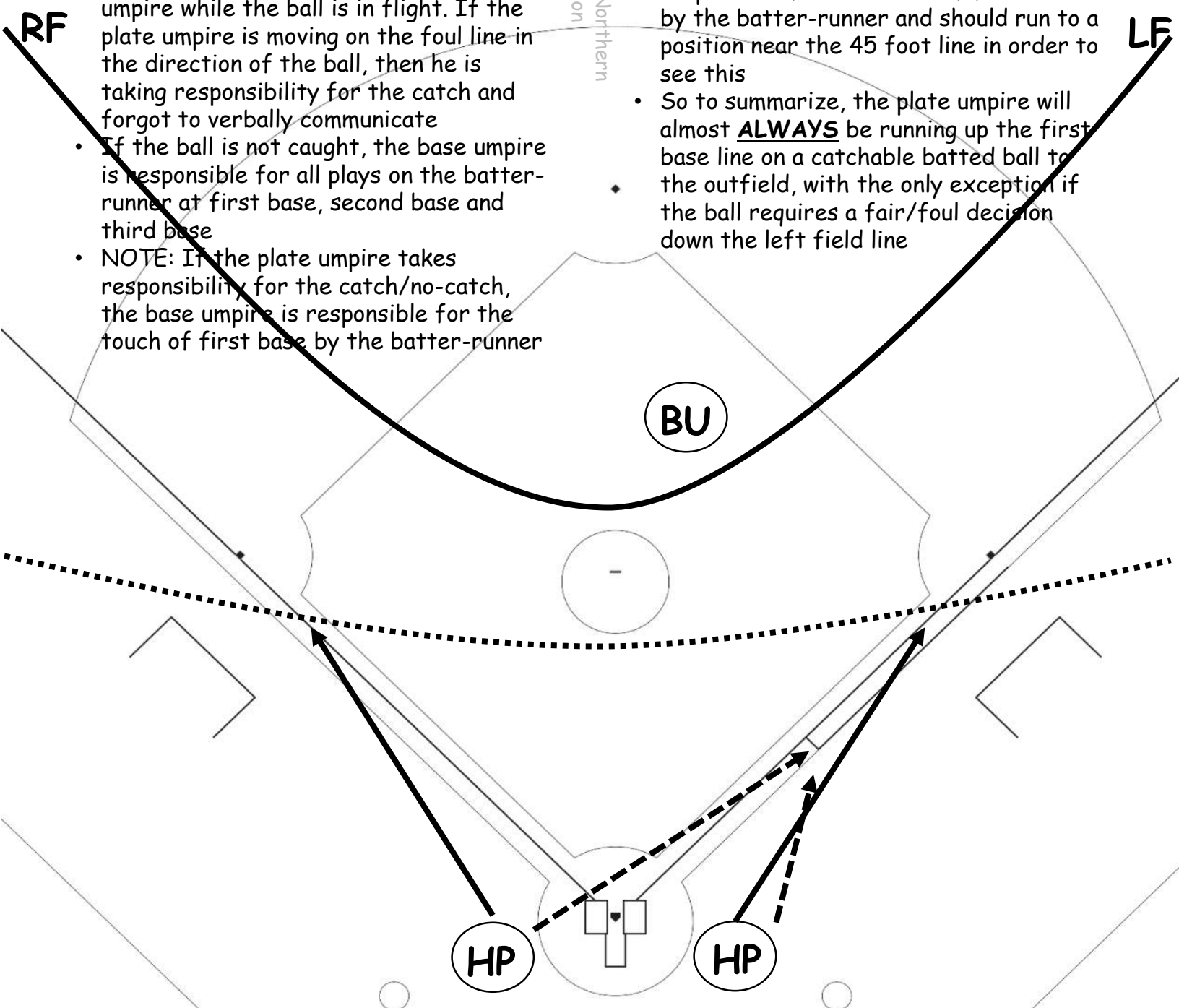
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any catchable batted ball that will **NOT** require a fair/foul decision
- The base umpire should assume he has responsibility on gray area batted balls until he hears his partner call him off
- If there is still a question, the base umpire can visually communicate by glancing over his shoulder at the plate umpire while the ball is in flight. If the plate umpire is moving on the foul line in the direction of the ball, then he is taking responsibility for the catch and forgot to verbally communicate
- If the ball is not caught, the base umpire is responsible for all plays on the batter-runner at first base, second base and third base
- NOTE: If the plate umpire takes responsibility for the catch/no-catch, the base umpire is responsible for the touch of first base by the batter-runner

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will take responsibility for any batted ball that requires a fair/foul decision. He will do this by running and gaining distance down the appropriate foul line and verbally communicating to his partner "I've got the ball" or something similar.
- NOTE: When a ball does not require a fair/foul call, the plate umpire will be responsible for the touch of first base by the batter-runner and should run to a position near the 45 foot line in order to see this
- So to summarize, the plate umpire will almost **ALWAYS** be running up the first base line on a catchable batted ball to the outfield, with the only exception if the ball requires a fair/foul decision down the left field line

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Umpires Association
Virginia Umpires Association





Starting Position: Runner On First Base



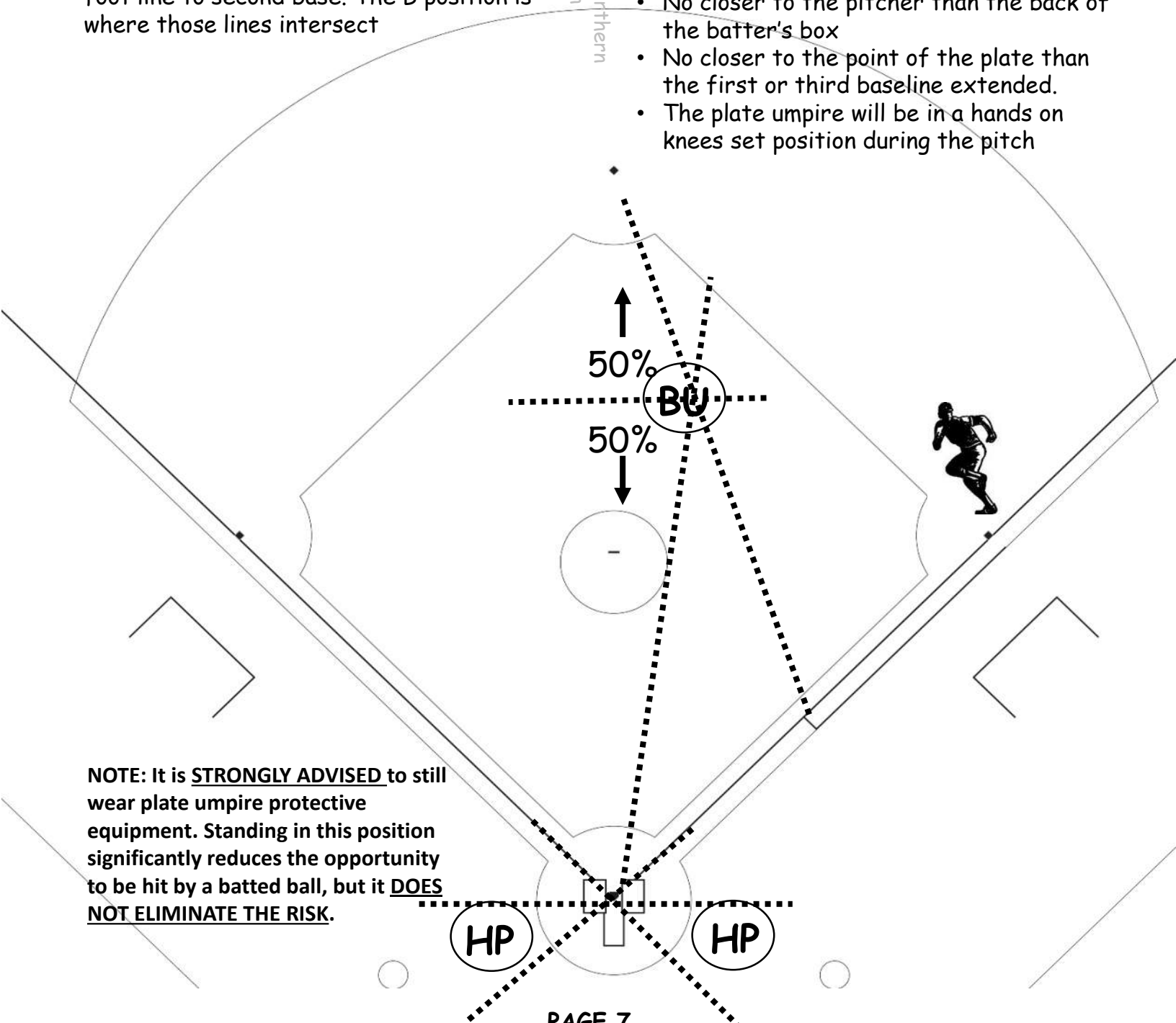
Base Umpire:

- Same as the traditional B position
- Set up in a position halfway between the pitching rubber and second base
- Straddle a line from the front corner of home plate that is tangent to the pitcher's mound
- Hands On Knees Set during the pitch
- NOTE: If you are not able to determine the appropriate depth, another key to consider is an imaginary line from the 45 foot line to second base. The B position is where those lines intersect

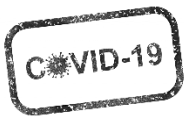
Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will start in the grass surrounding home plate on the same side of home plate as the batter
- They will stand between two imaginary lines. The first is either first or third base extended. The second is the back of the batter's box extended
- THIS MEANS:
- No closer to home plate than the grass/dirt line
- No closer to the pitcher than the back of the batter's box
- No closer to the point of the plate than the first or third baseline extended.
- The plate umpire will be in a hands on knees set position during the pitch

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association



NOTE: It is STRONGLY ADVISED to still wear plate umpire protective equipment. Standing in this position significantly reduces the opportunity to be hit by a batted ball, but it DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE RISK.



Pickoff: Runner On First Base

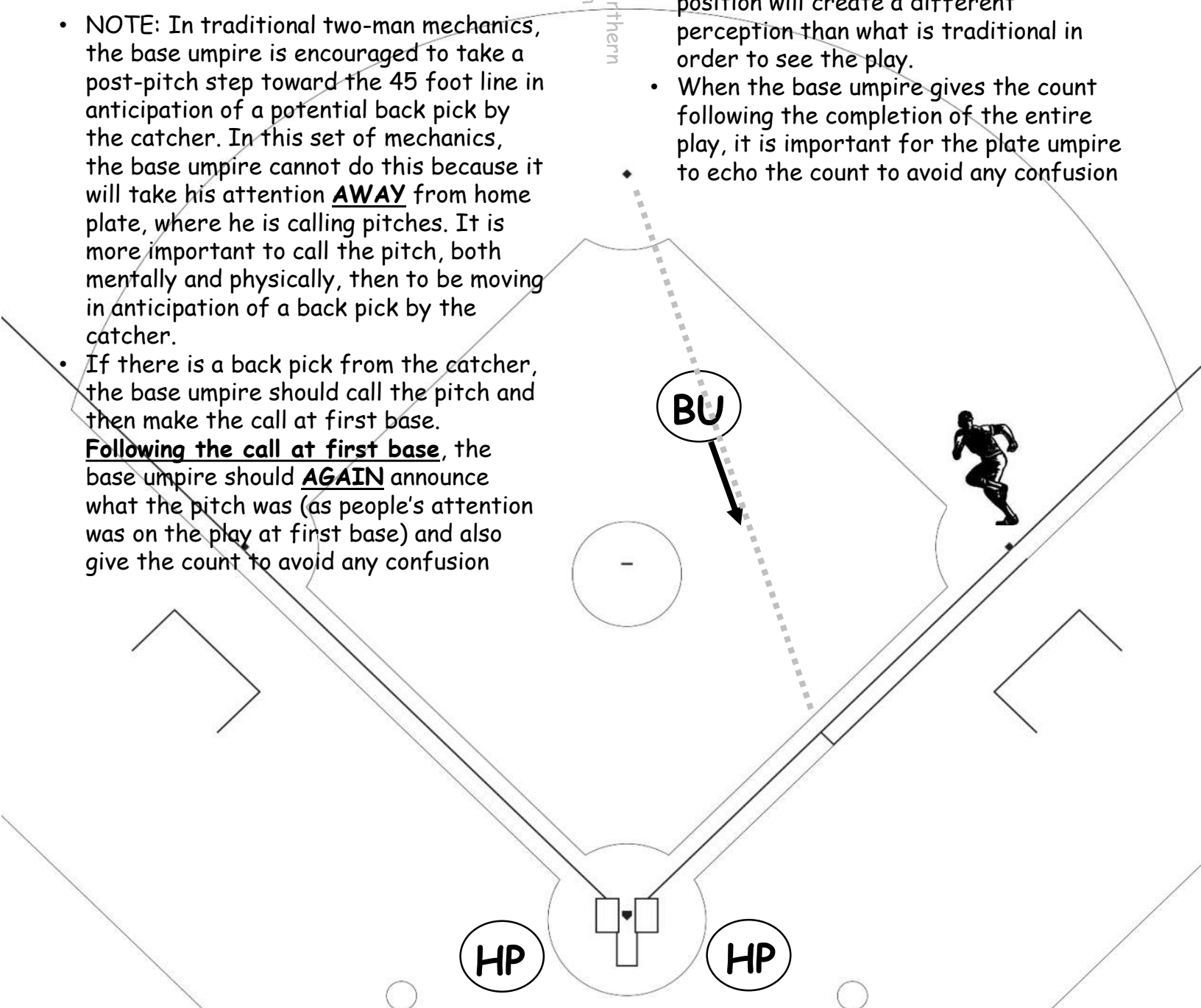
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire is responsible for all pickoffs at first base, whether they are initiated by the pitcher prior to a pitch or by the catcher following a pitch
 - The base umpire should take a step or two toward the 45 foot line in order to get angle and distance for the play at first base
 - This play will happen quickly, so you will only have time for a step or two
 - NOTE: In traditional two-man mechanics, the base umpire is encouraged to take a post-pitch step toward the 45 foot line in anticipation of a potential back pick by the catcher. In this set of mechanics, the base umpire cannot do this because it will take his attention **AWAY** from home plate, where he is calling pitches. It is more important to call the pitch, both mentally and physically, then to be moving in anticipation of a back pick by the catcher.
 - If there is a back pick from the catcher, the base umpire should call the pitch and then make the call at first base.
- Following the call at first base, the base umpire should AGAIN announce what the pitch was (as people's attention was on the play at first base) and also give the count to avoid any confusion**

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire simply should drop step to square himself to the play at first base.
- If there is an overthrow, he is responsible for the overthrow
- The plate umpire should watch the entire play at the plate and should there be interference by the batter, this call belongs to him. Please be 100% sure that there was interference as this new position will create a different perception than what is traditional in order to see the play.
- When the base umpire gives the count following the completion of the entire play, it is important for the plate umpire to echo the count to avoid any confusion

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Steal Play: Runner On First Base



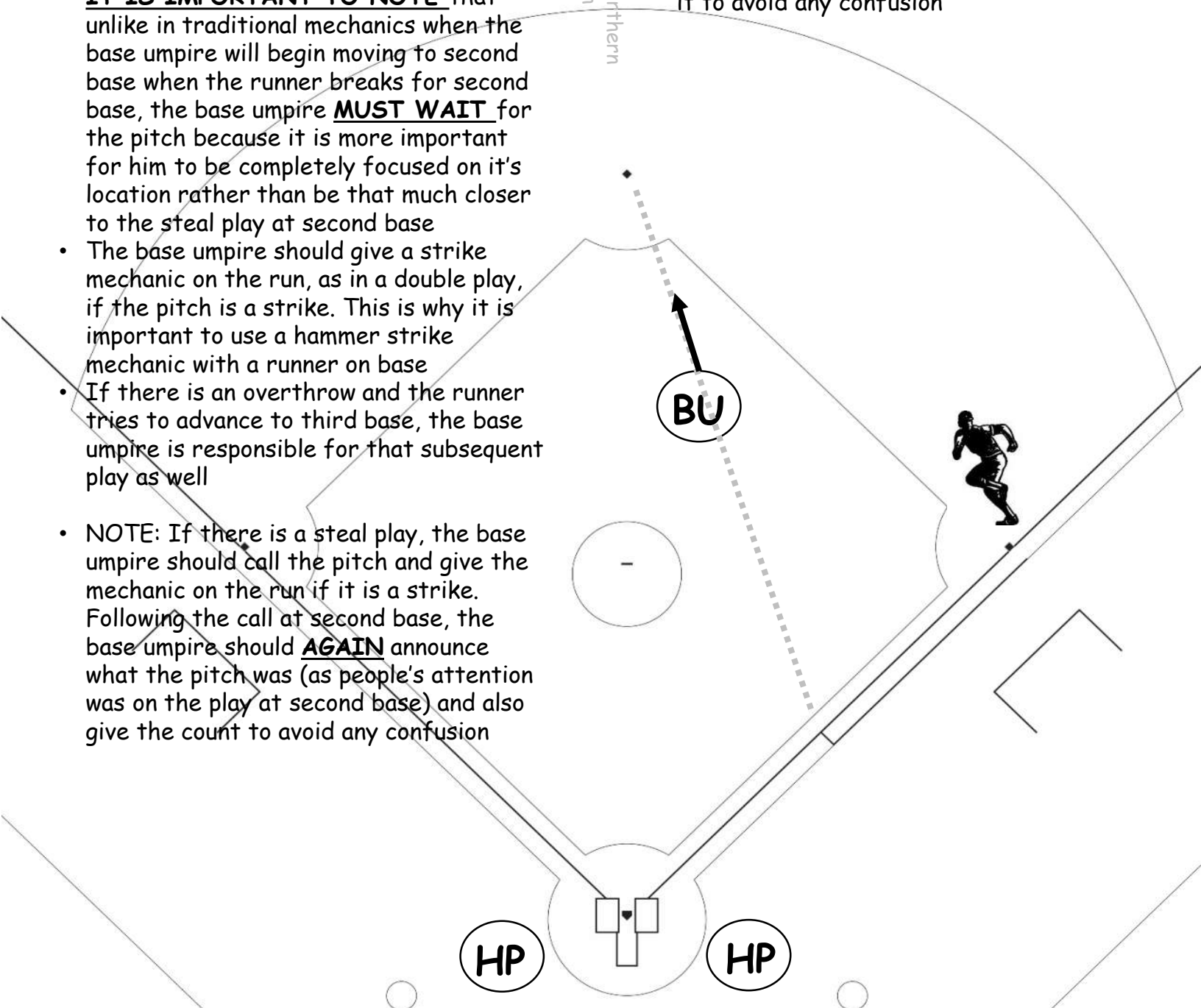
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire is responsible for all steal plays at second base with a runner on first base.
- Following the pitch, the base umpire should drop step toward second base and run several steps on a line that is drawn from the 45 foot line, through his starting position and continues toward second base to get in position for the play
- **IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE** that unlike in traditional mechanics when the base umpire will begin moving to second base when the runner breaks for second base, the base umpire **MUST WAIT** for the pitch because it is more important for him to be completely focused on it's location rather than be that much closer to the steal play at second base
- The base umpire should give a strike mechanic on the run, as in a double play, if the pitch is a strike. This is why it is important to use a hammer strike mechanic with a runner on base
- If there is an overthrow and the runner tries to advance to third base, the base umpire is responsible for that subsequent play as well
- NOTE: If there is a steal play, the base umpire should call the pitch and give the mechanic on the run if it is a strike. Following the call at second base, the base umpire should **AGAIN** announce what the pitch was (as people's attention was on the play at second base) and also give the count to avoid any confusion

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire needs to keep his attention on home plate to watch for any potential batter interference.
- If there is an overthrow and the runner tries to advance to third base, the plate umpire stays home and will have the call on the runner if he attempts to score
- Following completion of the entire play, it is important for the plate umpire to echo the count when the base umpire repeats it to avoid any confusion

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Ground Balls To The Infield: Runner On First Base



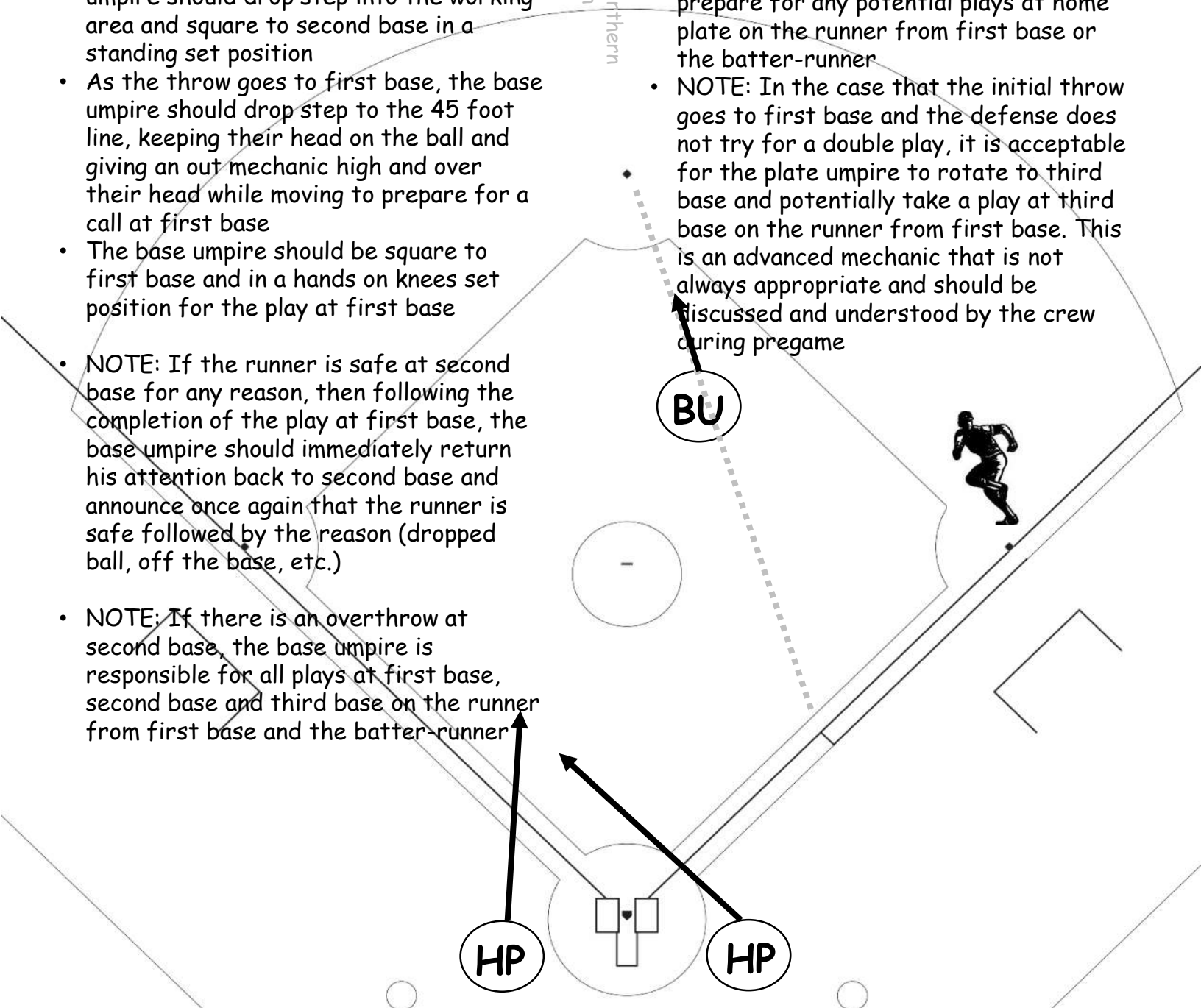
Base Umpire:

- If the throw goes to first base, the base umpire should move to either side of the throwing lane in order to make a call at first base
- If the throw goes to second base...
- The base umpire should three step open and square to the fielder who is making a play on the batted ball
- As the throw goes to second, the base umpire should drop step into the working area and square to second base in a standing set position
- As the throw goes to first base, the base umpire should drop step to the 45 foot line, keeping their head on the ball and giving an out mechanic high and over their head while moving to prepare for a call at first base
- The base umpire should be square to first base and in a hands on knees set position for the play at first base
- NOTE: If the runner is safe at second base for any reason, then following the completion of the play at first base, the base umpire should immediately return his attention back to second base and announce once again that the runner is safe followed by the reason (dropped ball, off the base, etc.)
- NOTE: If there is an overthrow at second base, the base umpire is responsible for all plays at first base, second base and third base on the runner from first base and the batter-runner

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should bust out into the infield on the third base side, about halfway to the pitcher's mound (somewhere near where the hit line would be) in order to make a ruling on any potential force play slide rule violation during the play at second base
- NOTE: If there is an overthrow at second base, the plate umpire should return to the point of the plate and prepare for any potential plays at home plate on the runner from first base or the batter-runner
- NOTE: In the case that the initial throw goes to first base and the defense does not try for a double play, it is acceptable for the plate umpire to rotate to third base and potentially take a play at third base on the runner from first base. This is an advanced mechanic that is not always appropriate and should be discussed and understood by the crew during pregame

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Pop Ups/Line Drives To The infield: Runner On First Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop-ups or line drives on the infield that **DO NOT** require a fair/foul decision upon initial touch

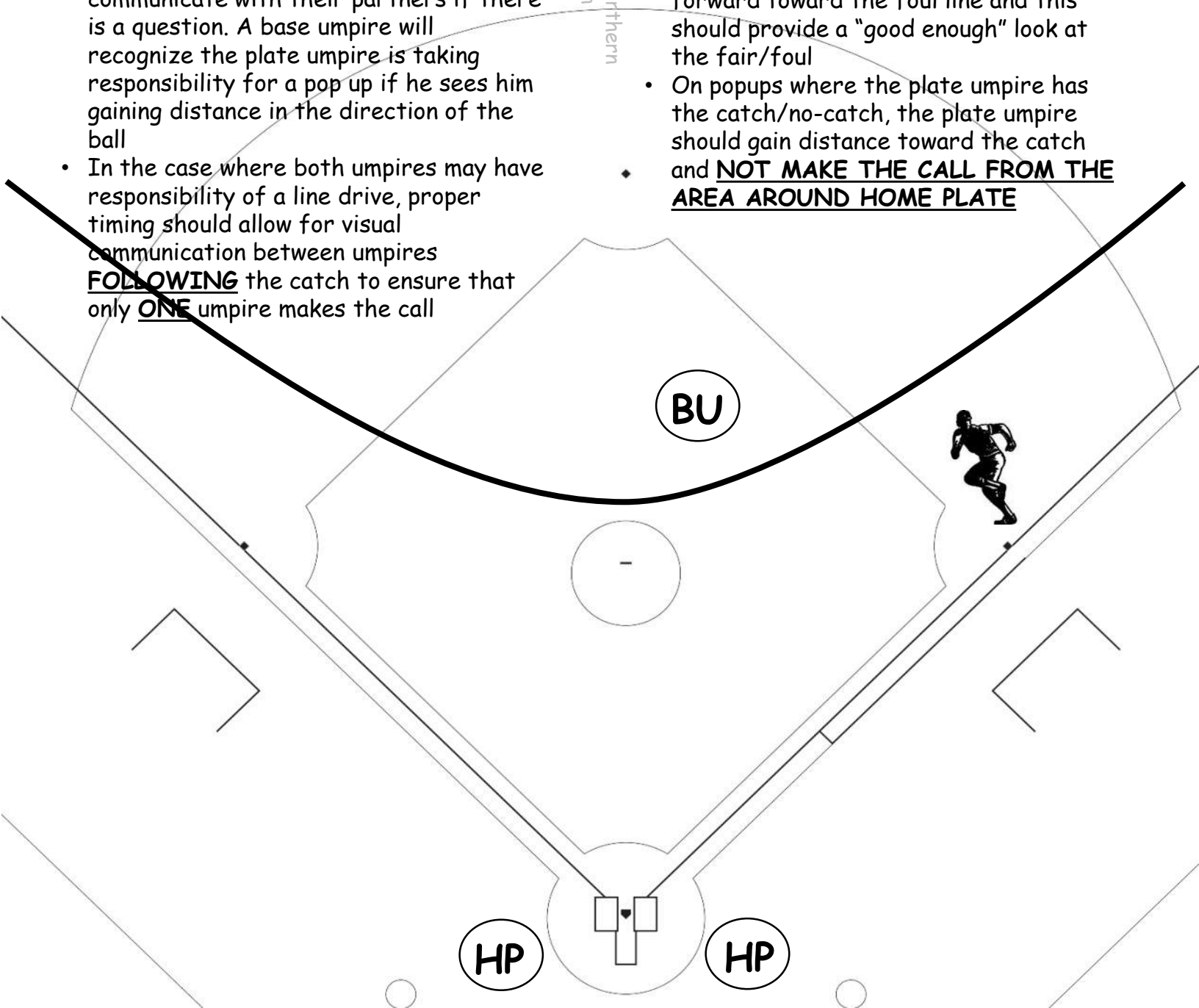
NOTES:

- Umpires **SHOULD NOT VERBALLY** communicate responsibility on pop ups, but rather turn their head to visually communicate with their partners if there is a question. A base umpire will recognize the plate umpire is taking responsibility for a pop up if he sees him gaining distance in the direction of the ball
- In the case where both umpires may have responsibility of a line drive, proper timing should allow for visual communication between umpires **FOLLOWING** the catch to ensure that only **ONE** umpire makes the call

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop ups or line drives that **WILL REQUIRE** a fair/foul decision upon initial touch
- This will prove to be the most difficult call in these adjusted mechanics, as the plate umpire is responsible for the fair/foul decision on hard line drives down either line. The best mechanic in these situations is to simply take a step forward toward the foul line and this should provide a "good enough" look at the fair/foul
- On popups where the plate umpire has the catch/no-catch, the plate umpire should gain distance toward the catch and **NOT MAKE THE CALL FROM THE AREA AROUND HOME PLATE**

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Uncatchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runner On First Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire should three step open and be chest to the ball. He should listen for the plate umpire communicating while also glancing over his left shoulder to see the plate umpire starting to run toward third base
- He should then glance at second base to see the runner from first base touch second base
- As the throw goes to third base, the base umpire should turn toward third base, keeping his chest to the ball to prepare for a play
- NOTE: This is because until the plate umpire actually arrives in the cutout, this play belongs to the base umpire!
- Once the base umpire sees that the plate umpire is in the cutout for the play, he should glance over his left shoulder to see if the batter-runner is remaining at first base or trying to advance to second base
- Depending on the actions of the batter-runner, the base umpire should run to the cutout at either first base or second base while keeping his chest to the ball in order to prepare for a potential subsequent play on the batter-runner
- When the plate umpire returns home, the base umpire should bounce back to the middle of the working area in order to split the difference and prepare for any potential plays at first base, second base or third base

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should bust to a position in foul territory near the foul line and about halfway to third base. This area is commonly known as the library or post. He should communicate: "I've got third if he comes!" to the base umpire
- If a play develops at third base on the runner from first base (a play includes both the ball and the runner approaching third base around the same time), then the plate umpire will cross the foul line and move into a position in the third base cut out to call the play at third base. He should communicate: "I've got third! I've got third!" to the base umpire
- If there is no play at third base, the plate umpire will bust back to the point of the plate to prepare for any plays on the runner from first base or the batter-runner. He should communicate: "I'm going home!" to the base umpire

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

"Library or Post" X

BU

NOTE:

- If the runner from first base is safe for any reason and there is a subsequent play at home plate, the plate umpire is responsible for this call. He should return to the plate while running in fair territory and would take the play at home plate from fair territory upon arrival

HP

HP



Catchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runner On First Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any catchable batted ball that will **NOT** require a fair/foul decision
- The base umpire should assume he has responsibility on gray area batted balls until he hears his the plate umpire call him off
- If there is still a question, the base umpire can visually communicate by glancing over his shoulder at the plate umpire while the ball is in flight. If the plate umpire is moving on the foul line in the direction of the ball, then he is taking responsibility for the catch and forgot to verbally communicate
- If the ball is not caught, then the base umpire should proceed as he does when there is an uncatchable batted ball to the outfield
- **EXCEPTION:** If the ball required a fair/foul call on the right field line requiring the plate umpire to move into a position on the first base line, then the base umpire will be responsible for all plays at first base, second base and third base on the runner from first base and the batter-runner. The plate umpire will return to the point of the plate following the call of no catch because **there is no rotation**

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will take responsibility for any batted ball that requires a fair/foul decision. He will do this by running and gaining distance down the appropriate foul line and verbally communicating to his partner "I've got the ball" or something similar
- Actual wording is not important, right or wrong in these cases - all that matters is that the plate umpire is taking responsibility for the catch/no-catch
- In other words, the base umpire should realize that if the plate umpire is moving up the first base line and the ball is not caught, he will not be able to get to third base for a play on the runner from first base
- If the catch/no-catch responsibility belongs to the base umpire, the plate umpire should bust to the library or post
- **NOTE: He does not verbally communicate while the ball is in flight!**
- IF the ball is not caught, then this play is treated like an uncatchable batted ball with a runner on first base (a rotation)

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Umpires Association
Virginia Umpires Association

RF

LF

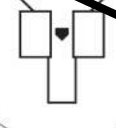
CF

BU



"Library" X

HP



HP

- • The plate umpire will communicate "I've got third if he comes!" **FOLLOWING** the no-catch call by the base umpire and then proceed as described on the previous page
- If the ball is caught, the plate umpire simply returns to home plate
- NOTE: The rotation is only off if the fair/foul call is down the right field line. If the ball is hit down the left field line, then the plate umpire should continue to rotate



Starting Position: Runners On First Base And Third Base



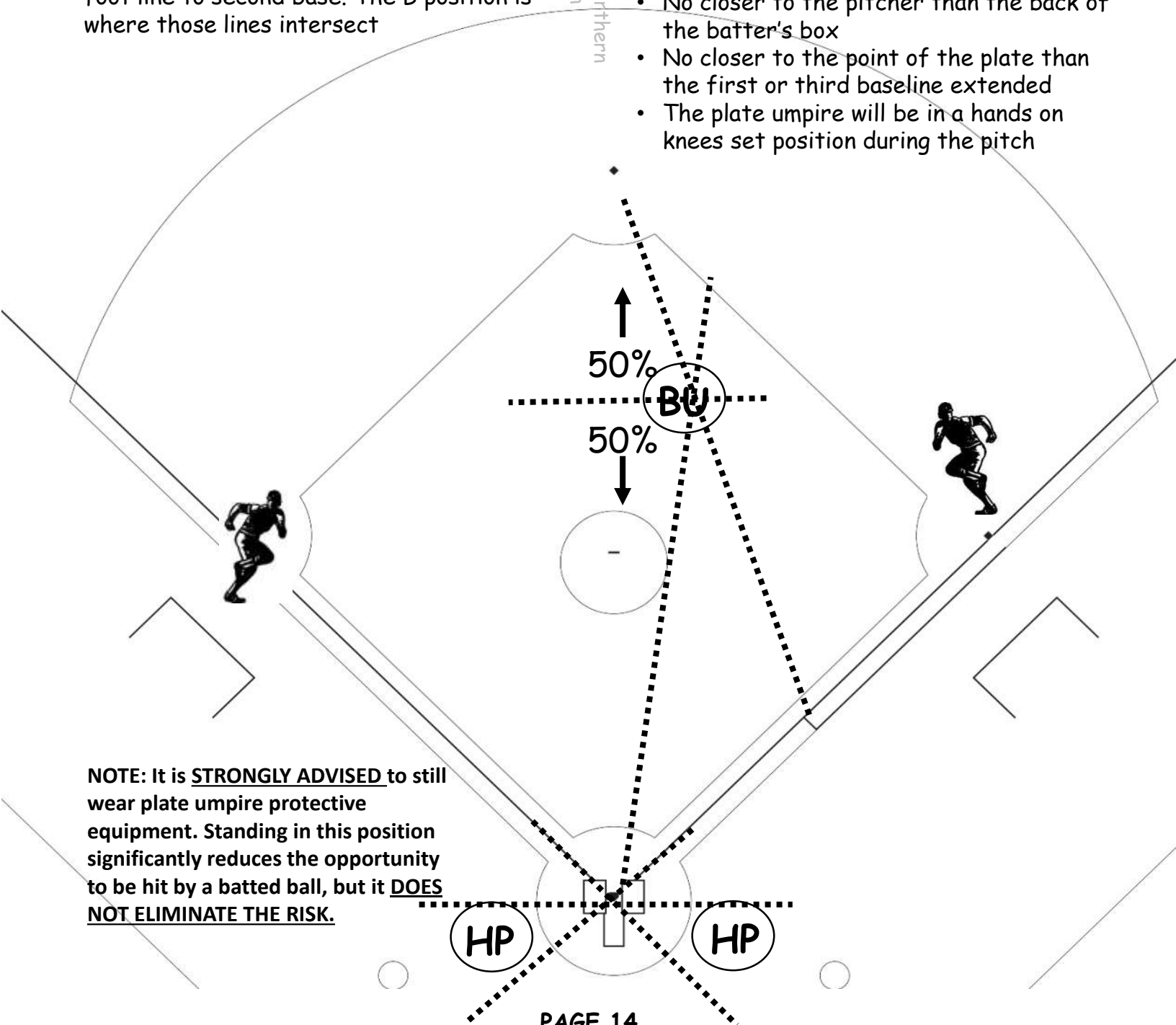
Base Umpire:

- Same as the traditional B position
- Set up in a position halfway between the pitching rubber and second base
- Straddle a line from the front corner of home plate that is tangent to the pitcher's mound
- Hands On Knees Set during the pitch
- NOTE: If you are not able to determine the appropriate depth, another key to consider is an imaginary line from the 45 foot line to second base. The B position is where those lines intersect

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will start in the grass surrounding home plate on the same side of home plate as the batter
- They will stand between two imaginary lines. The first is either first or third base extended. The second is the back of the batter's box extended
- THIS MEANS:
- No closer to home plate than the grass/dirt line
- No closer to the pitcher than the back of the batter's box
- No closer to the point of the plate than the first or third baseline extended
- The plate umpire will be in a hands on knees set position during the pitch

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association



NOTE: It is STRONGLY ADVISED to still wear plate umpire protective equipment. Standing in this position significantly reduces the opportunity to be hit by a batted ball, but it DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE RISK.



Pickoff:

Runners On First Base And Third Base



Base Umpire:

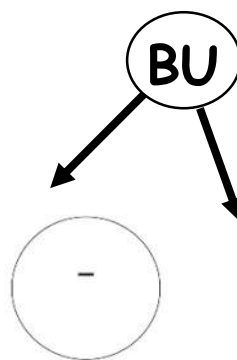
- The base umpire is responsible for all pickoffs at first base and third base, whether they are initiated by the pitcher prior to a pitch or by the catcher following a pitch
- The base umpire should take a step or two toward the 45 foot line or the imaginary 45 foot line in order to get angle and distance for the play at first base or third base
- This play will happen quickly, so you will only have time for a step or two
- NOTE: Unlike with a runner on first base only, post pitch steps should not be an issue because even in traditional two umpire mechanics, with multiple runners, it would not be beneficial to do these because the base umpire does not know where the catcher may throw the ball as he has multiple options
- If there is a back pick from the catcher, the base umpire should call the pitch and then make the call at first base or third base. Following the call at first base or third base, the base umpire should

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire simply should drop step to square himself to the play at first base or third base
- If there is an overthrow, he is responsible for the overthrow
- The plate umpire should watch the entire play at the plate and should there be interference by the batter, this call belongs to him. Please be 100% sure that there was interference as this new position will create a different perception than what is traditional in order to see the play.
- When the base umpire gives the count following the completion of the entire play, it is important for the plate umpire to echo the count to avoid any confusion

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

AGAIN announce what the pitch was (as people's attention was on the play at first base or third base) and also give the count to avoid any confusion





Steal Play: Runners On First Base And Third Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire is responsible for all steal plays at second base with a runner on first base and third base
- Following the pitch, the plate umpire should drop step toward second base and run several steps on a line that is drawn from the 45 foot line, through his starting position and continues toward second base to get in position for the play
- NOTE: It is important to keep your focus on the catcher to make sure that he does not throw the ball to third base. If this happens, all you can do is stop where you are and make a call
- The base umpire should give a strike mechanic on the run, as in a double play, if the pitch is a strike. This is why it is important to use a hammer strike mechanic with runners on base
- If there is an overthrow and the runner tries to advance to third base, the base umpire is responsible for that subsequent play as well

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire needs to keep his attention on home plate to watch for any potential batter interference
- If there is an overthrow and the runner tries to advance to third, the plate umpire stays home and will have the call on the runner if he attempts to score
- Following completion of the entire play, it is important for the plate umpire to echo the count when the base umpire repeats it to avoid any confusion

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

- NOTE: If there is a steal play, the base umpire should call the pitch and give the mechanic on the run if it is a strike. Following the call at second base, the base umpire should **AGAIN** announce what the pitch was (as people's attention was on the play at second base) and also give the count to avoid any confusion
- NOTE: It is a good practice to ask the second baseman if you will be in the way of any special plays the defense may be running to insure that you do not prevent the defense from doing something unexpected



BU

HP

HP



Ground Balls To The Infield: Runners On First Base And Third Base



© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

Base Umpire:

- If the throw goes to first base, the base umpire should move to either side of the throwing lane in order to make a call at first base
- If the throw goes to second base...
- The base umpire should three step open and square to the fielder who is making a play on the batted ball
- As the throw goes to second, the base umpire should drop step into the working area and square to second base in a standing set position
- As the throw goes to first base, the base umpire should drop step to the 45 foot line, keeping their head on the ball and giving an out mechanic high and over their head while moving to prepare for a call at first base
- The base umpire should be square to first base and in a hands on knees set position for the play at first base
- NOTE: If the runner is safe at second base for any reason, then following the completion of the play at first base, the base umpire should immediately return his attention

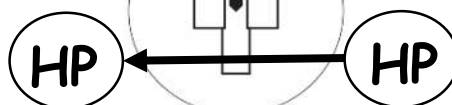
Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire's initial thought should be if there will be a play at home plate. If he reads there will be a play, he should move immediately to the point of the plate in order to prepare for the play
- If he reads that there will not be a play at home plate and the throw is going to first base only, then the home plate umpire on the third base side should hold his position to watch the play at first and the home plate umpire on the first base side should move immediately to the first base line extended in order to see the play at first base
- If he reads that there will not be a play at home plate and the throw goes to second base, then the home plate umpire on the third base side is already at a good angle to watch for a force play slide rule violation during the double play at second base. The home plate umpire on the first base side should move immediately to the third base side of the circle in order to view the play at second

back to second base and announce once again that the runner is safe followed by the reason (dropped ball, off the base, etc.)

- NOTE: If there is an overthrow at second base, the base umpire is responsible for all plays at first base, second base and third base on the runner from first base and the batter-runner

- NOTE: Unlike when there was a runner on first base only, it is strongly encouraged that the plate umpire remain home at all times during this play. Umpires who employ any kind of advanced mechanic with the plate umpire rotating to third base risk a misread by the plate umpire resulting with the plate umpire running to third base as a play develops at home plate. **To be clear, there should be NO ROTATION on this play!**





Pop Ups/Line Drives To The Infield: Runners On First Base And Third Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop-ups or line drives on the infield that **DO NOT** require a fair/foul decision upon initial touch

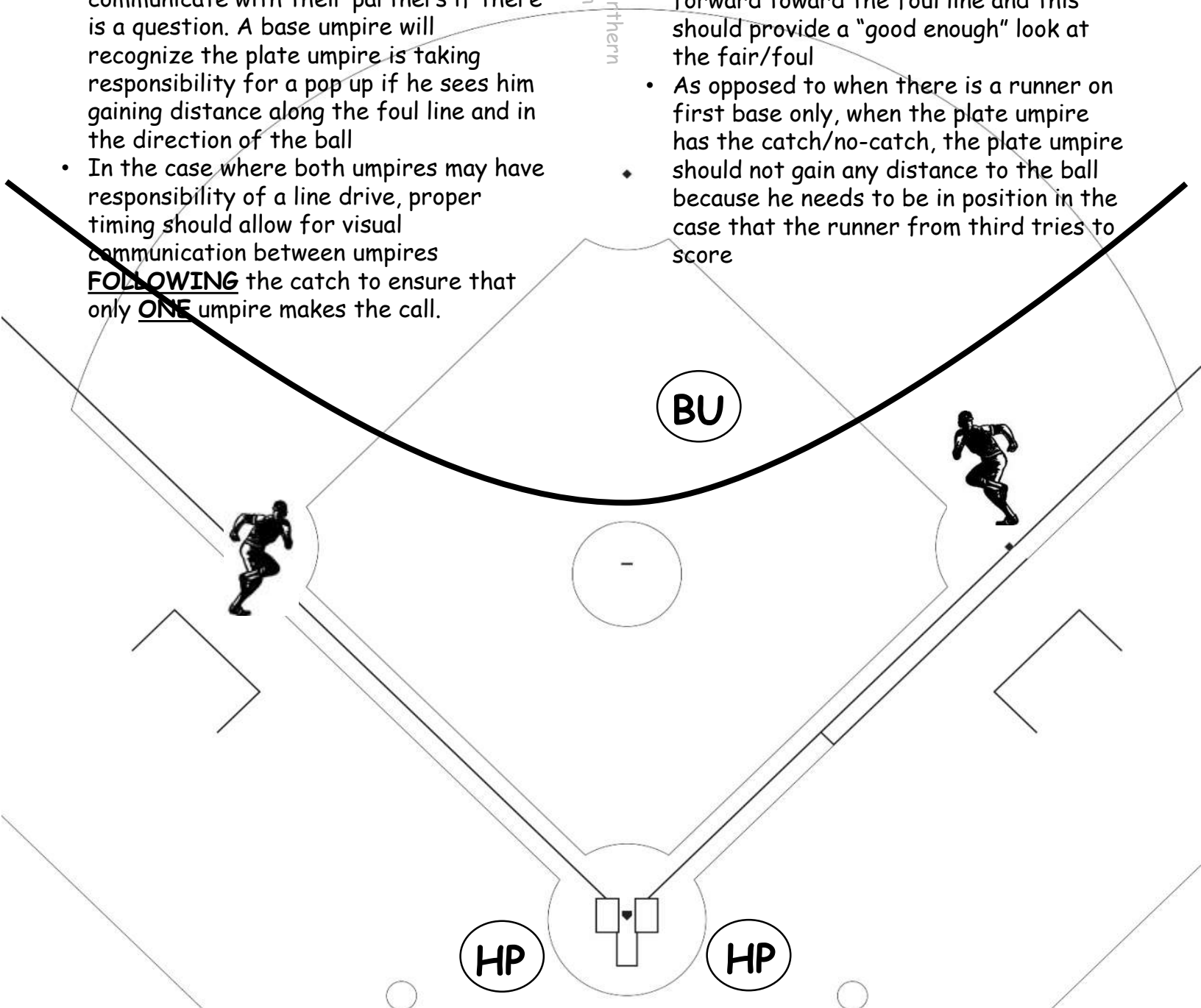
NOTES:

- Umpires **SHOULD NOT VERBALLY** communicate responsibility on pop ups, but rather turn their head to visually communicate with their partners if there is a question. A base umpire will recognize the plate umpire is taking responsibility for a pop up if he sees him gaining distance along the foul line and in the direction of the ball
- In the case where both umpires may have responsibility of a line drive, proper timing should allow for visual communication between umpires **FOLLOWING** the catch to ensure that only **ONE** umpire makes the call.

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop ups or line drives that **WILL REQUIRE** a fair/foul decision upon initial touch
- This will prove to be the most difficult call in these adjusted mechanics, as the plate umpire is responsible for the fair/foul decision on hard line drives down either line. The best mechanic in these situations, is to simply take a step forward toward the foul line and this should provide a "good enough" look at the fair/foul
- As opposed to when there is a runner on first base only, when the plate umpire has the catch/no-catch, the plate umpire should not gain any distance to the ball because he needs to be in position in the case that the runner from third tries to score





Uncatchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runners On First Base And Third Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire should three step open and be chest to the ball. He should listen for the plate umpire communicating while also glancing over his left shoulder to see the plate umpire starting to run toward third base
- He should then glance at second base to see the runner from first base touch second base
- As the throw goes to third base, the base umpire should turn toward third base, keeping his chest to the ball to prepare for a play
- NOTE: This is because until the plate umpire actually arrives in the cutout, this play belongs to the base umpire!
- Once the base umpire sees that the plate umpire is in the cutout for the play, he should glance over his left shoulder to see if the batter-runner is remaining at first base or trying to advance to second base
- Depending on the actions of the batter-runner, the base umpire should run to the cutout at either first base or second base while keeping his chest to the ball in order to prepare for a potential subsequent play on the batter-runner

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should move immediately to a position in foul territory near the foul line and about halfway to third base. This area is commonly known as the library or post. He should communicate: "I've got third if he comes!" to the base umpire
- If a play develops at third base on the runner from first (a play includes both the ball and the runner arriving at third base around the same time), then the plate umpire will cross the foul line and move into a position in the third base cut out to call the play at third base. He should communicate: "I've got third! I've got third!" to the base umpire
- If there is no play at third base, the plate umpire will move immediately back to the point of the plate to prepare for any plays on the runner from first base or the batter-runner. He should communicate: "I'm going home!" to the base umpire

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

- When the plate umpire returns home, the base umpire should bounce back to the middle of the working area in order to split the difference and prepare for any potential plays at first base, second base or third base

"Library or Post"

NOTE:

If the runner from first base is safe for any reason and there is a subsequent play at home plate, the plate umpire is responsible for this call. He should return to the plate while running in fair territory and would take the play at home plate from fair territory upon arrival

NOTE: The only difference between this play and when there is a runner on first base only is that the plate umpire needs to remember to glance back at home plate to "see" the runner from third base touch home plate



BU

HP

HP



Catchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runners On First Base And Third Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any catchable batted ball that will **NOT** require a fair/foul decision
- The base umpire should assume he has responsibility on gray area batted balls until he hears his partner call him off
- If there is still a question, the base umpire can visually communicate by glancing at the plate umpire while the ball is in flight. If the plate umpire is moving along the foul line and in the direction of the ball, then he is taking responsibility for the catch and forgot to verbally communicate
- If the ball is not caught, then the base umpire should proceed as described on the previous page for an R1/R3 rotation
- **EXCEPTION:** If the ball is not caught and it required a fair/foul call on the right field line requiring the plate umpire to move into a position on the first base line, then the base umpire will be responsible for all plays at first base, second base and third base on the runner from first base and the batter runner. The plate umpire will return to the point of the plate following the call of no catch

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will take responsibility for any batted ball that requires a fair/foul decision. He will do this by running and gaining distance down the appropriate foul line and verbally communicating to his partner "I've got the ball" or something similar
- Actual wording is not important, right or wrong in these cases - all that matter is that the plate umpire is taking responsibility for the catch/no-catch
- In other words, the base umpire should realize that if the plate umpire is moving up the first base line and the ball is not caught, he will not be able to get to third base for a play on the runner from first base
- If the catch/no-catch responsibility belongs to the base umpire, the plate umpire should move to a position on the third base side of home plate to line up the tag of the runner from third base

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Virginia Umpires Association

CF

RF

LF

BU

HP

HP

- **IF the ball is not caught**, then this play is treated like an uncatchable batted ball with a runner on first base & third base (a rotation)
- The plate umpire will communicate "I've got third if he comes!" following the no-catch call by the base umpire and then proceed as described on the previous page
- If the ball is caught, the plate umpire then moves immediately to the point of the plate to prepare for a potential play at home plate on the runner from third base



Starting Position: Runners On First Base And Second Base



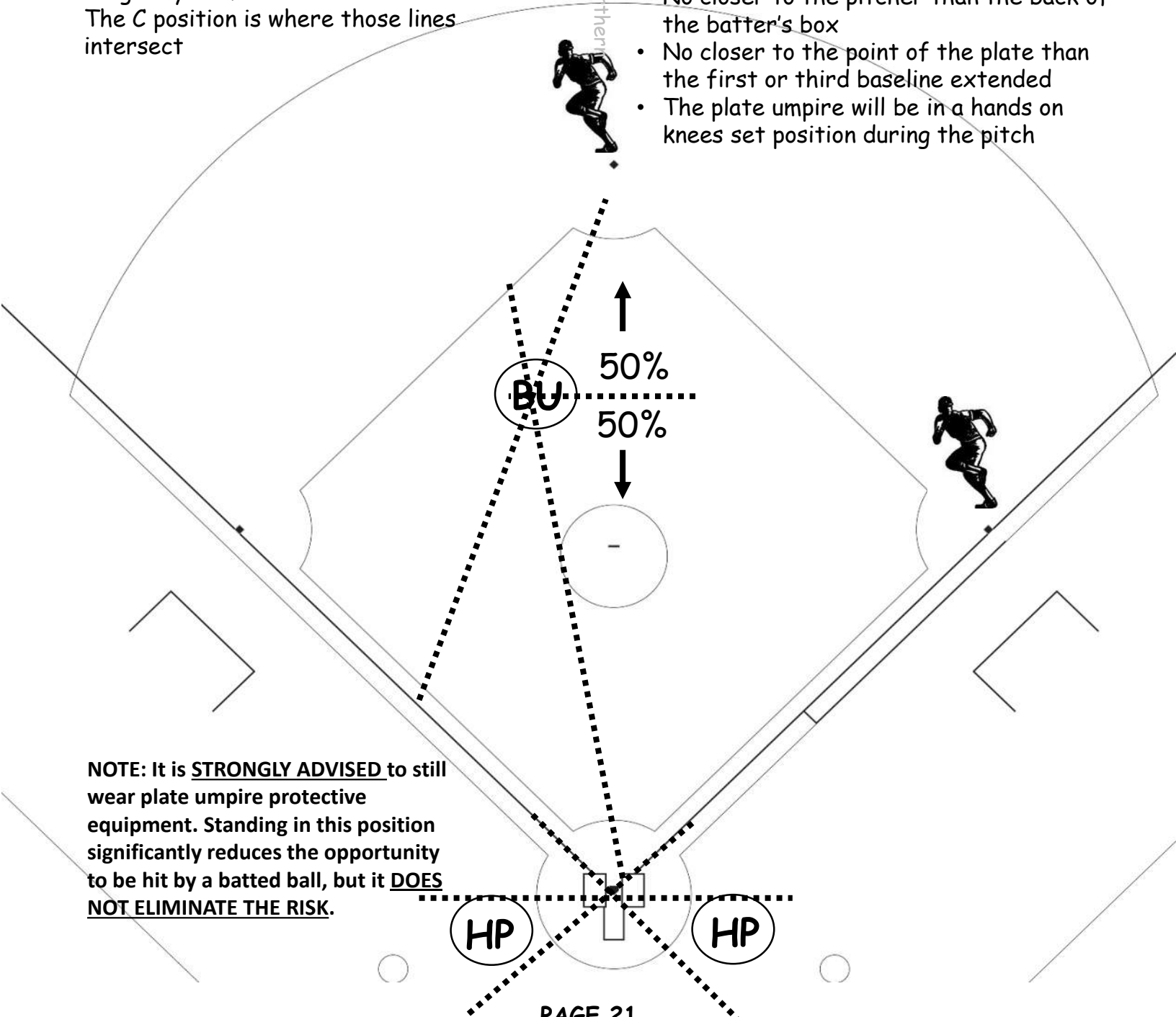
Base Umpire:

- Same as the traditional C position
- Set up in a position halfway between the pitching rubber and second base
- Straddle a line from the front corner of home plate that is tangent to the pitcher's mound
- Hands On Knees Set during the pitch
- NOTE: If you are not able to determine the appropriate depth, another key to consider is an imaginary line from the imaginary 45 foot line to second base. The C position is where those lines intersect

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will start in the grass surrounding home plate on the same side of home plate as the batter
- They will stand between two imaginary lines. The first is either first or third base extended. The second is the back of the batter's box extended
- THIS MEANS:
- No closer to home plate than the grass/dirt line
- No closer to the pitcher than the back of the batter's box
- No closer to the point of the plate than the first or third baseline extended
- The plate umpire will be in a hands on knees set position during the pitch

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association



NOTE: It is STRONGLY ADVISED to still wear plate umpire protective equipment. Standing in this position significantly reduces the opportunity to be hit by a batted ball, but it DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE RISK.



Pickoff:

Runners On First Base And Second Base



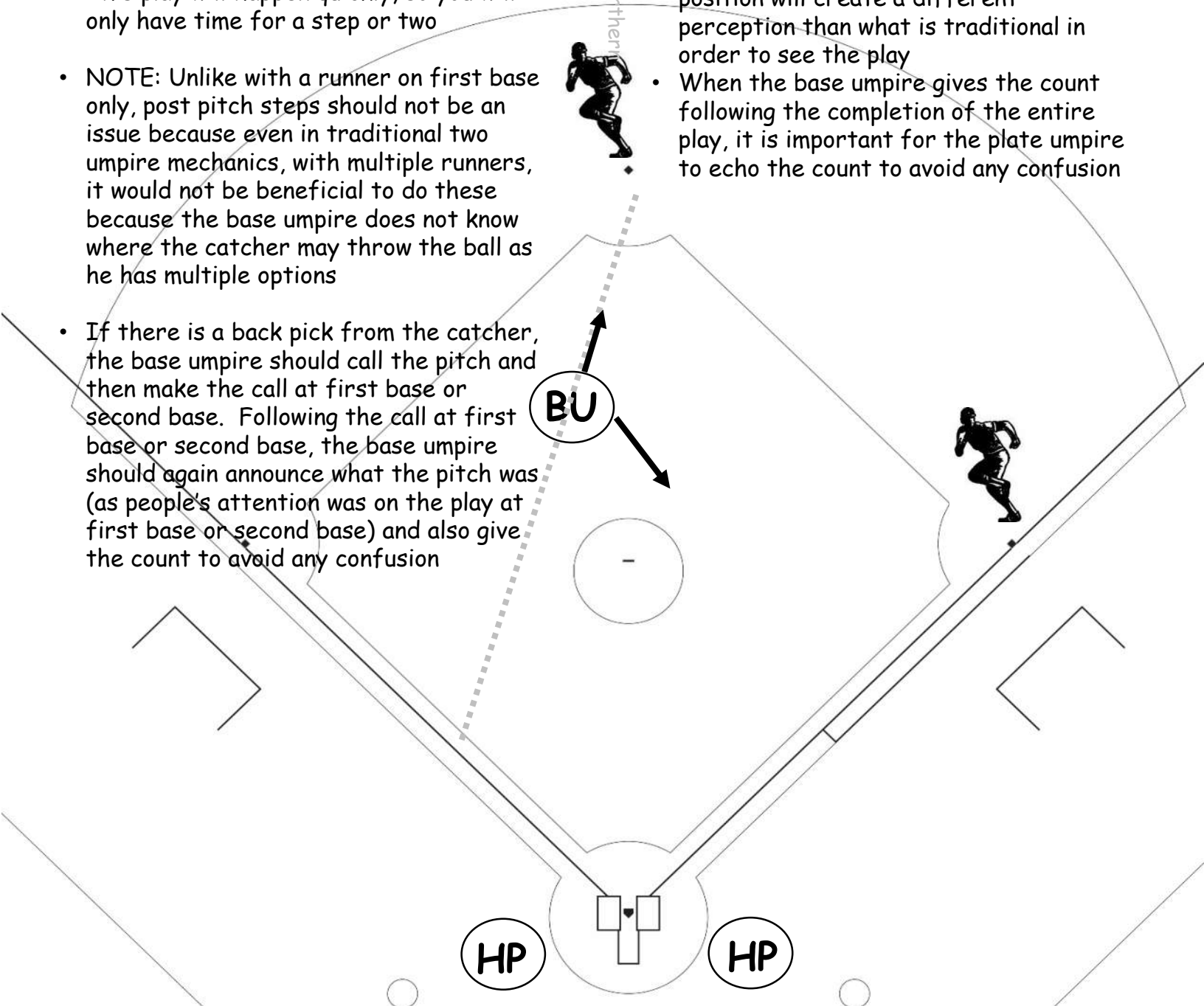
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire is responsible for all pickoffs at first base and second base, whether they are initiated by the pitcher prior to a pitch or by the catcher following a pitch
- The base umpire should take a step or two toward the 45 foot line or away from the imaginary 45 foot line in order to get angle and distance for the play at first base or second base
- This play will happen quickly, so you will only have time for a step or two
- NOTE: Unlike with a runner on first base only, post pitch steps should not be an issue because even in traditional two umpire mechanics, with multiple runners, it would not be beneficial to do these because the base umpire does not know where the catcher may throw the ball as he has multiple options
- If there is a back pick from the catcher, the base umpire should call the pitch and then make the call at first base or second base. Following the call at first base or second base, the base umpire should again announce what the pitch was (as people's attention was on the play at first base or second base) and also give the count to avoid any confusion

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire simply should drop step to square himself to the play at first base or second base
- If there is an overthrow, he is responsible for the overthrow
- The plate umpire should watch the entire play at the plate and should there be interference by the batter, this call belongs to him. Please be 100% sure that there was interference as this new position will create a different perception than what is traditional in order to see the play
- When the base umpire gives the count following the completion of the entire play, it is important for the plate umpire to echo the count to avoid any confusion

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Steal Play:

Runners On First Base And Second Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire is responsible for all steal plays at second base and third base with a runner on first base and second base
- NOTE: In traditional two man umpire mechanics, it is suggested that once the pitch is eminent, the base umpire glance quickly over their right shoulder to see if the runner from second base is stealing.

BASE UMPIRE SHOULD NOT DO

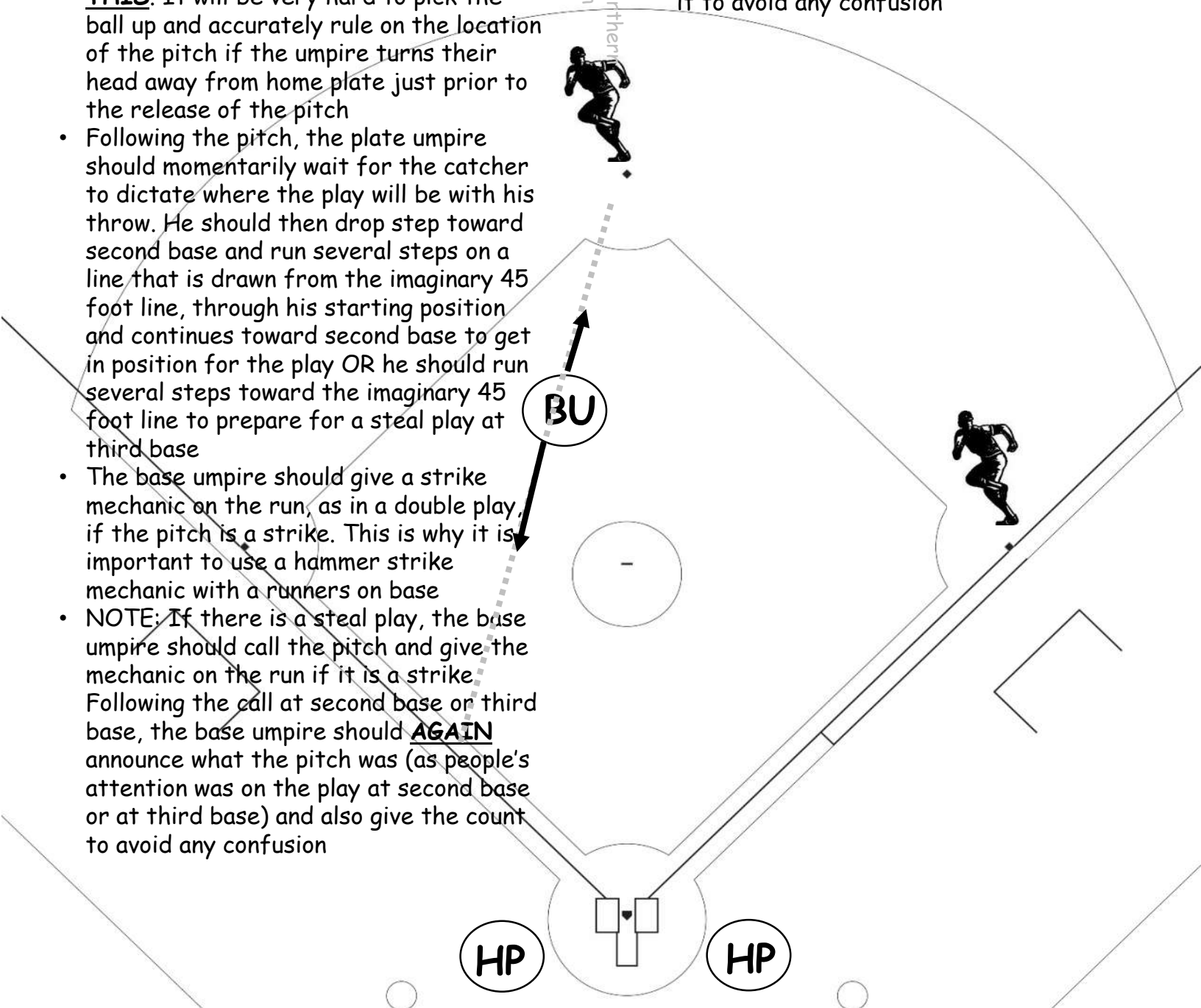
THIS. It will be very hard to pick the ball up and accurately rule on the location of the pitch if the umpire turns their head away from home plate just prior to the release of the pitch

- Following the pitch, the plate umpire should momentarily wait for the catcher to dictate where the play will be with his throw. He should then drop step toward second base and run several steps on a line that is drawn from the imaginary 45 foot line, through his starting position and continues toward second base to get in position for the play OR he should run several steps toward the imaginary 45 foot line to prepare for a steal play at third base
- The base umpire should give a strike mechanic on the run, as in a double play, if the pitch is a strike. This is why it is important to use a hammer strike mechanic with a runners on base
- NOTE: If there is a steal play, the base umpire should call the pitch and give the mechanic on the run if it is a strike. Following the call at second base or third base, the base umpire should **AGAIN** announce what the pitch was (as people's attention was on the play at second base or at third base) and also give the count to avoid any confusion

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire needs to keep his attention on home plate to watch for any potential batter interference
- If there is an overthrow and the runners try to advance, the plate umpire stays home and will have the call on any runner if he attempts to score
- Following completion of the entire play, it is important for the plate umpire to echo the count when the base umpire repeats it to avoid any confusion

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Ground Balls To The Infield: Runners On First Base And Second Base



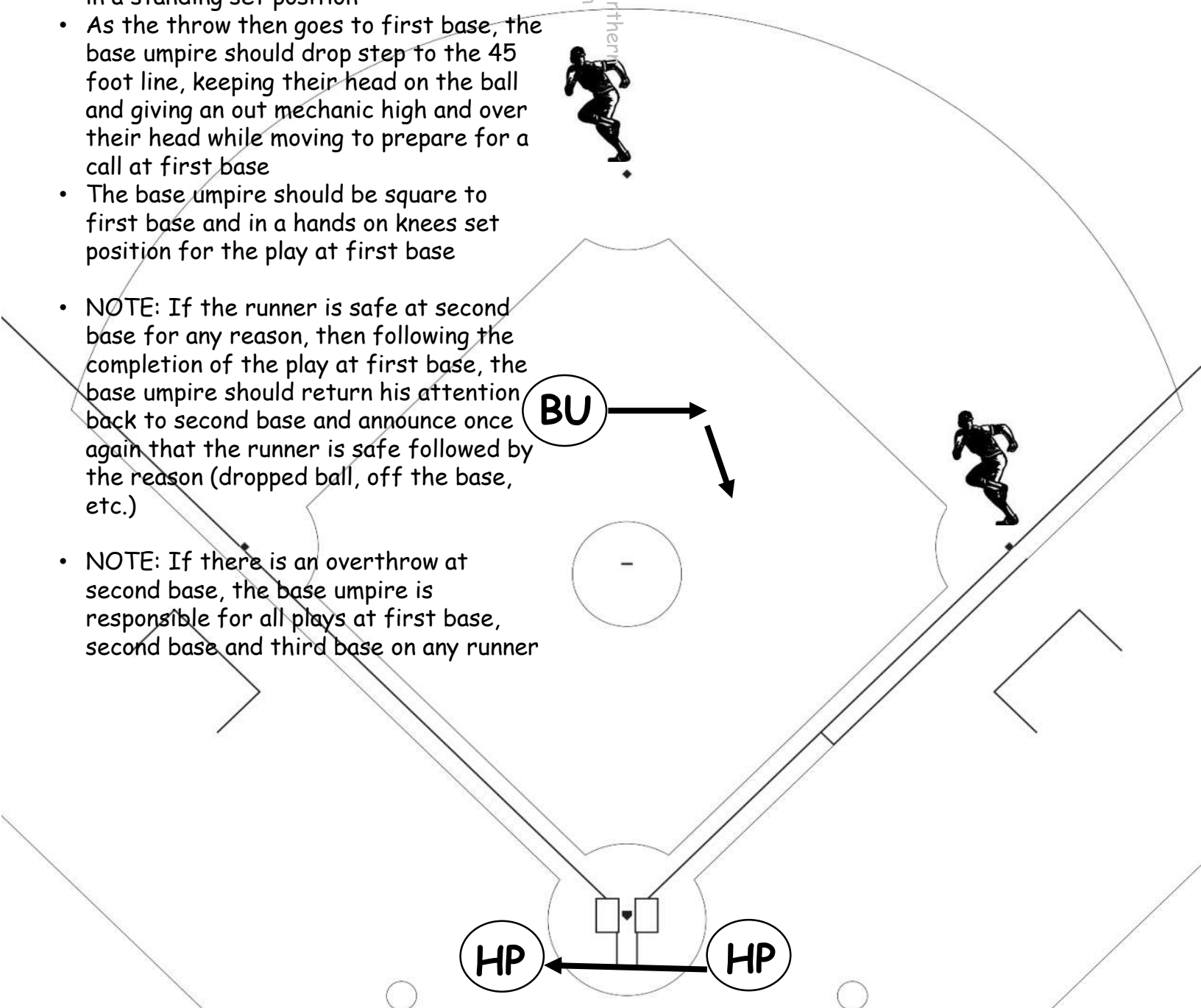
Base Umpire:

- If the throw goes to first base, the base umpire should move to either side of the throwing lane in order to make a call at first base
- If the throw goes to second base...
- The base umpire should immediately run to the B position on the first base side of the working area (a lateral shift)
- As the throw goes to second base, the base umpire should square to second base in a standing set position
- As the throw then goes to first base, the base umpire should drop step to the 45 foot line, keeping their head on the ball and giving an out mechanic high and over their head while moving to prepare for a call at first base
- The base umpire should be square to first base and in a hands on knees set position for the play at first base
- NOTE: If the runner is safe at second base for any reason, then following the completion of the play at first base, the base umpire should return his attention back to second base and announce once again that the runner is safe followed by the reason (dropped ball, off the base, etc.)
- NOTE: If there is an overthrow at second base, the base umpire is responsible for all plays at first base, second base and third base on any runner

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should be on the third base side of home plate in order to see a potential force play slide rule violation at second base.
- NOTE: If there is an overthrow at second base, the plate umpire should immediately move to the point of the plate and prepare for any potential plays at home plate on the runner from first base or the batter-runner

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Pop Ups/Line Drives To The Infield: Runners On First Base And Second Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop ups or line drives on the infield that **DO NOT** require a fair/foul decision upon initial touch. **THIS ALSO MEANS** that the base umpire is the one who initiates an Infield Fly Call if the catch/no-catch is his responsibility

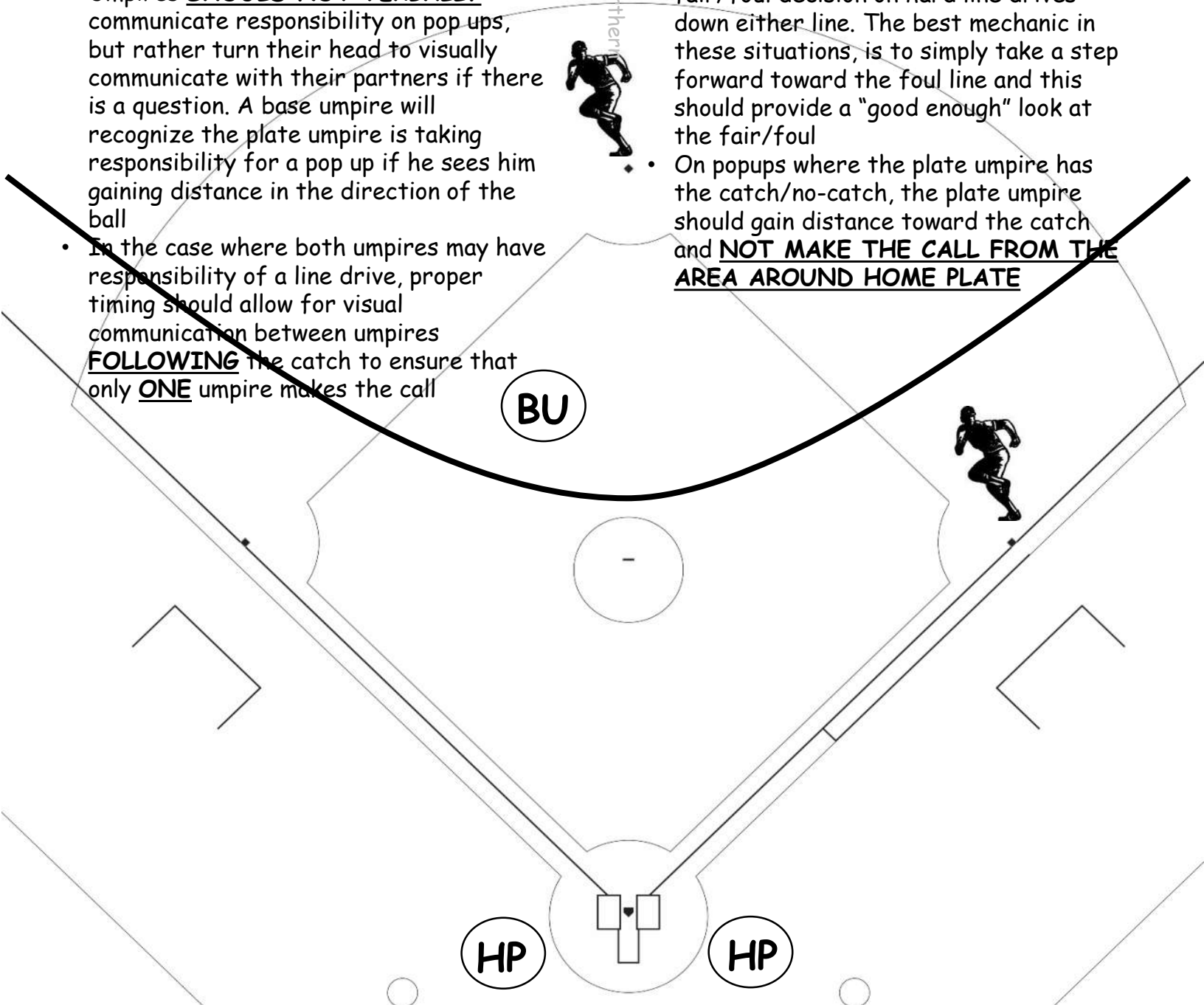
NOTES:

- Umpires **SHOULD NOT VERBALLY** communicate responsibility on pop ups, but rather turn their head to visually communicate with their partners if there is a question. A base umpire will recognize the plate umpire is taking responsibility for a pop up if he sees him gaining distance in the direction of the ball
- In the case where both umpires may have responsibility of a line drive, proper timing should allow for visual communication between umpires **FOLLOWING** the catch to ensure that only **ONE** umpire makes the call

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop ups or line drives that **WILL REQUIRE** a fair/foul decision upon initial touch. **THIS ALSO MEANS** that the plate umpire is the one who initiates an Infield Fly Call if the catch/no-catch is his responsibility
- This will prove to be the most difficult call in these adjusted mechanics, as the plate umpire is responsible for the fair/foul decision on hard line drives down either line. The best mechanic in these situations, is to simply take a step forward toward the foul line and this should provide a "good enough" look at the fair/foul
- On popups where the plate umpire has the catch/no-catch, the plate umpire should gain distance toward the catch and **NOT MAKE THE CALL FROM THE AREA AROUND HOME PLATE**





Uncatchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runners On First Base And Second Base



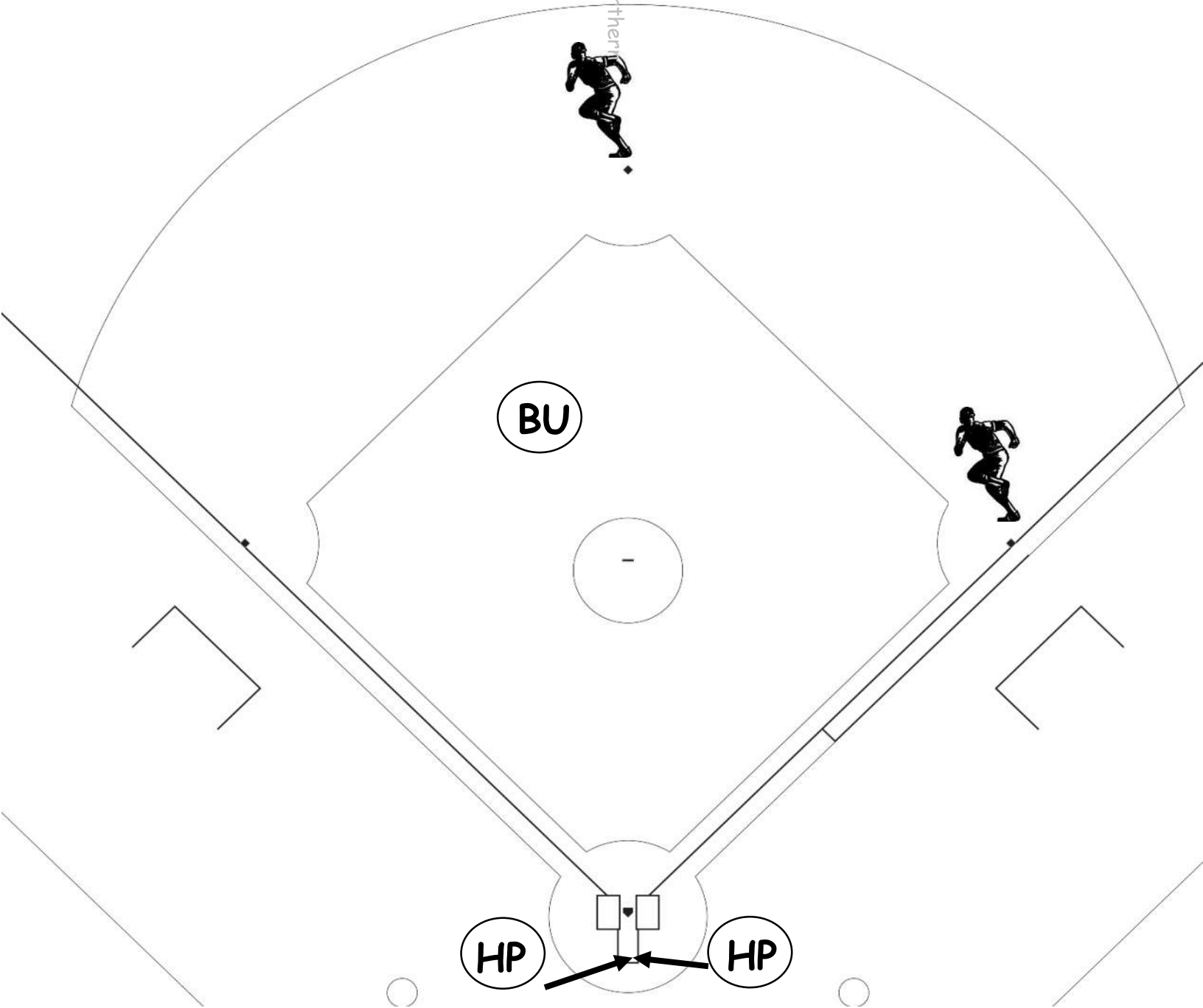
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire should three step open and keep his head on a swivel to watch the ball and glance at the runners. When the ball is thrown into the infield, if there is a play at a base (ball and runner approaching) then the base umpire should gain ground into the cutout of that base in order to make a call

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should immediately move to the point of the plate in order to prepare for any possible play on any runners at home plate

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Catchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runners On First Base And Second Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any catchable batted ball that will **NOT** require a fair/foul decision
- The base umpire should assume he has responsibility on gray area batted balls until he hears the plate umpire call him off
- If there is still a question, the base umpire can visually communicate by glancing over his left shoulder at the plate umpire while the ball is in flight. If the plate umpire is moving in the direction of the ball, then he is taking responsibility for the catch and forgot to verbally communicate
- If the ball is not caught, then the base umpire is responsible for all plays at first base, second base and third base on any runner
- The base umpire is responsible for the tag ups of the runner at second base and the runner at first base
- If the ball is caught, then as the throw comes into third base, the base umpire should turn with the throw, keeping his chest to the ball and assume responsibility for the play at third base until he hears and sees the plate umpire in the cutout at third base

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Umpires Association / Northern Virginia Umpires Association

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will take responsibility for any batted ball that requires a fair/foul decision. He will do this by running and gaining distance down the appropriate foul line and verbally communicating to his partner "I've got the ball" or something similar.
- If the catch/no-catch responsibility belongs to the base umpire, the plate umpire should run to the library while communicating: "I've got third if he tags!" to the base umpire.
- After a catch, when the runner from second base and the throw are **BOTH** approaching third base, the plate umpire should cross the foul line and position himself in the third base cutout while communicating: "I've got third! I've got third!" to the base umpire
- If the runner is safe at third base and tries to advance to the plate, the plate umpire will immediately return to home plate while remaining in fair territory

RF

LF

CF

BU

HP

HP

- The base umpire should then glance over his left shoulder to find the runner from first base and see if he stayed at first base or is trying to advance to second base

"Library or Post" 

- Depending on the actions of the runner from first base, the base umpire should run to the cutout at either first base or second base while keeping his chest to the ball



Starting Position: Bases Loaded



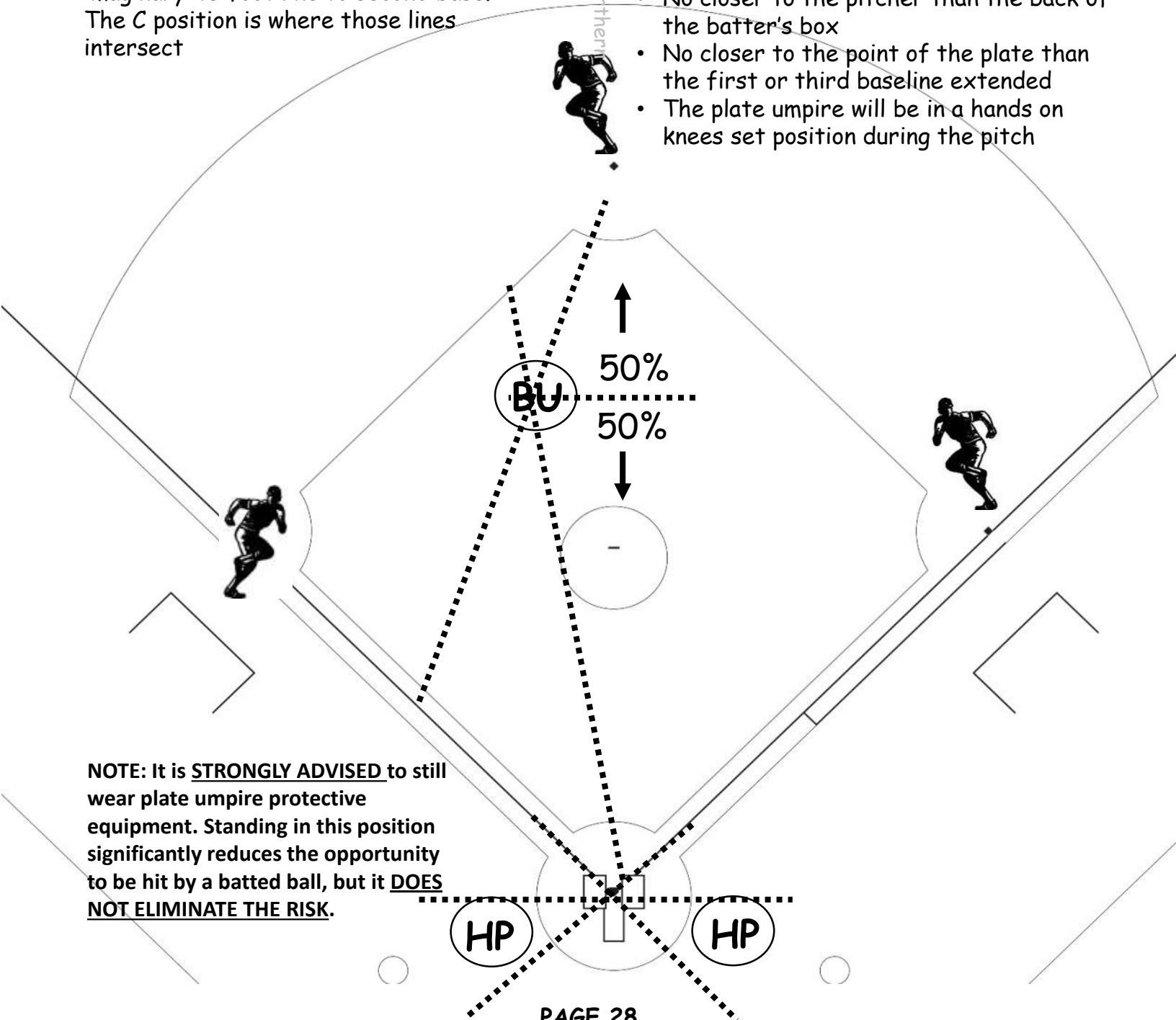
Base Umpire:

- Same as the traditional C position
- Set up in a position halfway between the pitching rubber and second base
- Straddle a line from the front corner of home plate that is tangent to the pitcher's mound
- Hands on knees set during the pitch
- NOTE: If you are not able to determine the appropriate depth, another key to consider is an imaginary line from the imaginary 45 foot line to second base. The C position is where those lines intersect

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will start in the grass surrounding home plate on the same side of home plate as the batter
- They will stand between two imaginary lines. The first is either first or third base extended. The second is the back of the batter's box extended
- THIS MEANS:
- No closer to home plate than the grass/dirt line
- No closer to the pitcher than the back of the batter's box
- No closer to the point of the plate than the first or third baseline extended
- The plate umpire will be in a hands on knees set position during the pitch

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association



NOTE: It is STRONGLY ADVISED to still wear plate umpire protective equipment. Standing in this position significantly reduces the opportunity to be hit by a batted ball, but it DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE RISK.



Pickoff: Bases Loaded



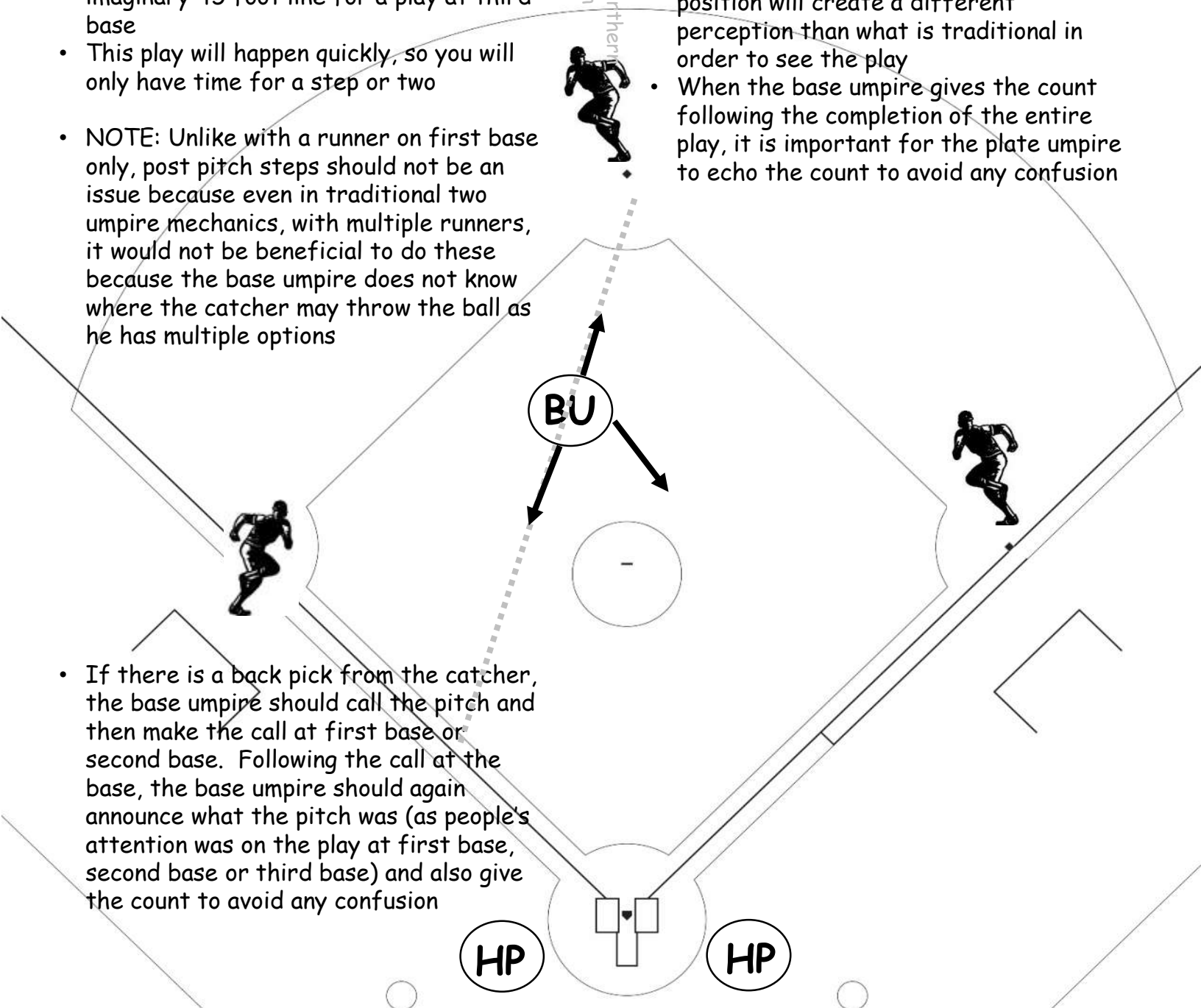
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire is responsible for all pickoffs at first base, second base and third base whether they are initiated by the pitcher prior to a pitch or by the catcher following a pitch
- The base umpire should take a step or two toward the 45 foot line or away from the 45 foot line in order to get angle and distance for the play at first base or second base and a step or two toward the imaginary 45 foot line for a play at third base
- This play will happen quickly, so you will only have time for a step or two
- NOTE: Unlike with a runner on first base only, post pitch steps should not be an issue because even in traditional two umpire mechanics, with multiple runners, it would not be beneficial to do these because the base umpire does not know where the catcher may throw the ball as he has multiple options

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire simply should drop step to square himself to the play at first base, second base or third base
- If there is an overthrow, he is responsible for the overthrow
- The plate umpire should watch the entire play at the plate and should there be interference by the batter, this call belongs to him. Please be 100% sure that there was interference as this new position will create a different perception than what is traditional in order to see the play
- When the base umpire gives the count following the completion of the entire play, it is important for the plate umpire to echo the count to avoid any confusion

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association



- If there is a back pick from the catcher, the base umpire should call the pitch and then make the call at first base or second base. Following the call at the base, the base umpire should again announce what the pitch was (as people's attention was on the play at first base, second base or third base) and also give the count to avoid any confusion



Ground Balls To The Infield: Bases Loaded



Base Umpire:

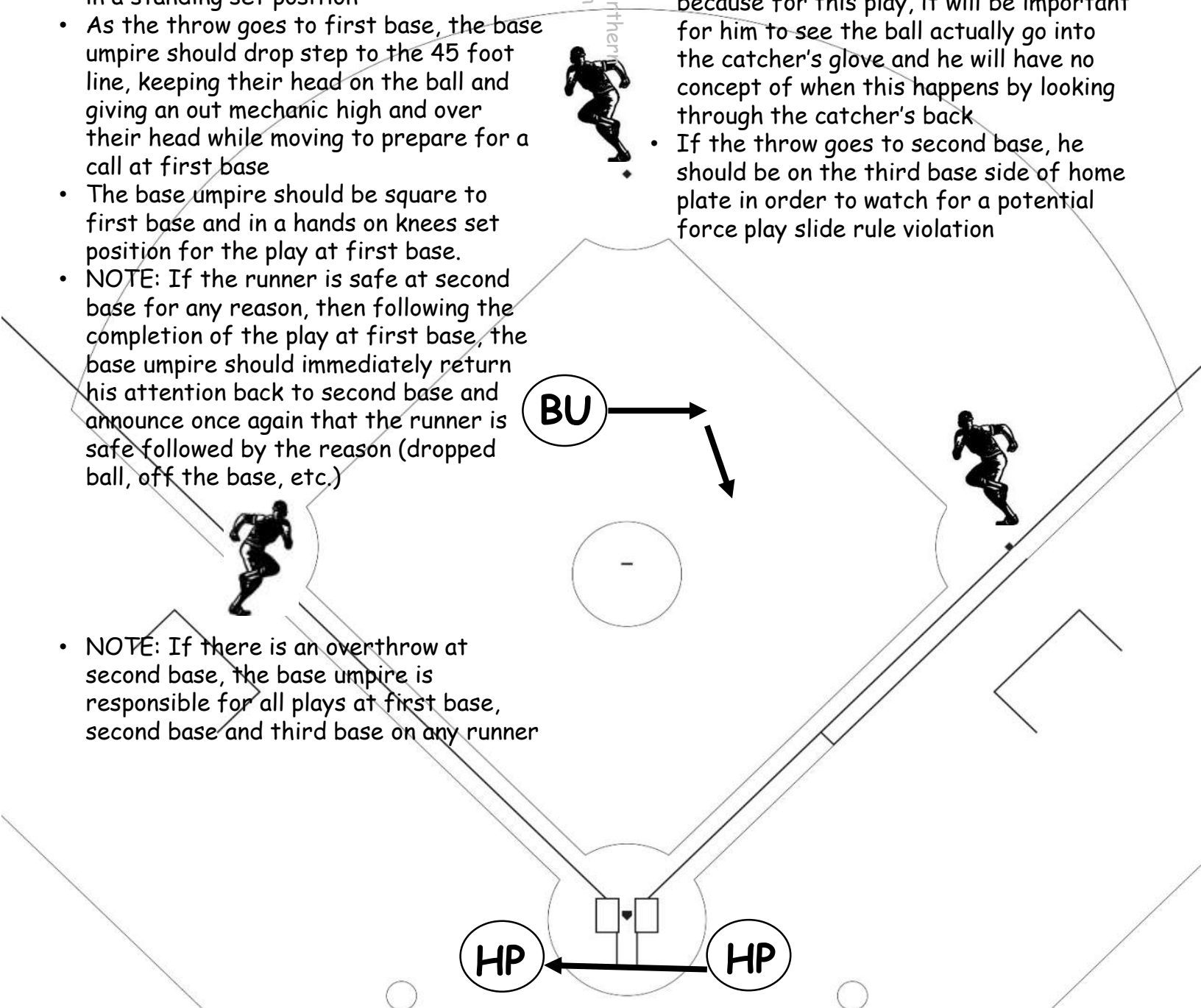
- If the throw goes to first base, the base umpire should move to either side of the throwing lane in order to make a call at first base
- If the throw goes to second base...
- The base umpire should immediately run to the B position on the first base side of the working area (a lateral shift)
- As the throw goes to second base, the base umpire should square to second base in a standing set position
- As the throw goes to first base, the base umpire should drop step to the 45 foot line, keeping their head on the ball and giving an out mechanic high and over their head while moving to prepare for a call at first base
- The base umpire should be square to first base and in a hands on knees set position for the play at first base.
- NOTE: If the runner is safe at second base for any reason, then following the completion of the play at first base, the base umpire should immediately return his attention back to second base and announce once again that the runner is safe followed by the reason (dropped ball, off the base, etc.)

- NOTE: If there is an overthrow at second base, the base umpire is responsible for all plays at first base, second base and third base on any runner

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should read the play and determine if they are going to throw the ball home. If they do throw home, he should stay on the side of home plate in which he started for the play, and then move to the first base line for a subsequent throw to first base in order to complete the double play.
- The plate umpire **SHOULD NOT** move immediately to the point of the plate because for this play, it will be important for him to see the ball actually go into the catcher's glove and he will have no concept of when this happens by looking through the catcher's back
- If the throw goes to second base, he should be on the third base side of home plate in order to watch for a potential force play slide rule violation

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Pop Ups/Line Drives To The Infield: Bases Loaded



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop ups or line drives on the infield that **DO NOT** require a fair/foul decision upon initial touch. **THIS ALSO MEANS** that the base umpire is the one who initiates an Infield Fly Call if the catch/no-catch is his responsibility

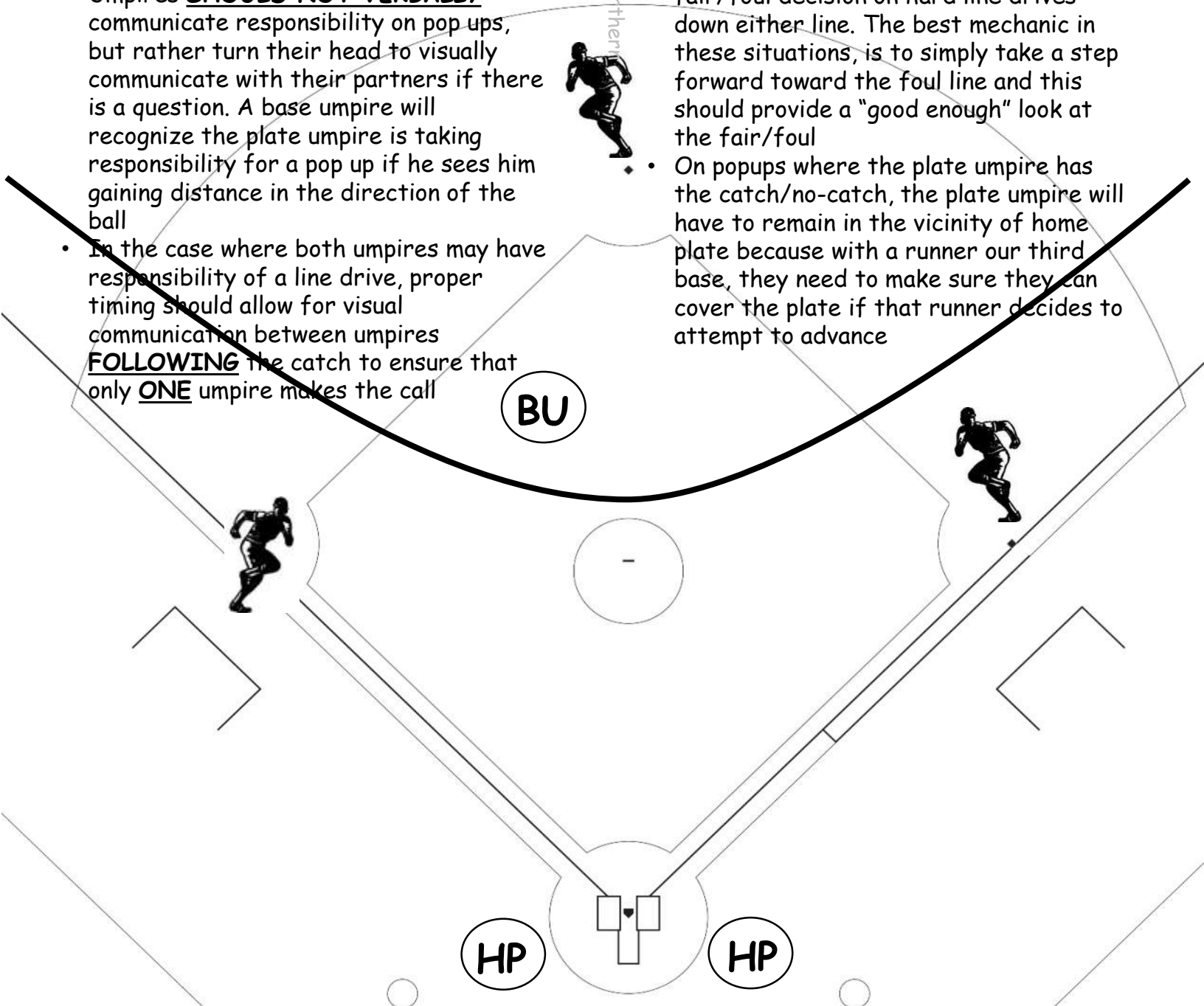
NOTES:

- Umpires **SHOULD NOT VERBALLY** communicate responsibility on pop ups, but rather turn their head to visually communicate with their partners if there is a question. A base umpire will recognize the plate umpire is taking responsibility for a pop up if he sees him gaining distance in the direction of the ball
- In the case where both umpires may have responsibility of a line drive, proper timing should allow for visual communication between umpires **FOLLOWING** the catch to ensure that only **ONE** umpire makes the call

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop ups or line drives that **WILL REQUIRE** a fair/foul decision upon initial touch. **THIS ALSO MEANS** that the plate umpire is the one who initiates an Infield Fly Call if the catch/no-catch is his responsibility
- This will prove to be the most difficult call in these adjusted mechanics, as the plate umpire is responsible for the fair/foul decision on hard line drives down either line. The best mechanic in these situations, is to simply take a step forward toward the foul line and this should provide a "good enough" look at the fair/foul
- On popups where the plate umpire has the catch/no-catch, the plate umpire will have to remain in the vicinity of home plate because with a runner on third base, they need to make sure they can cover the plate if that runner decides to attempt to advance

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Uncatchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Bases Loaded



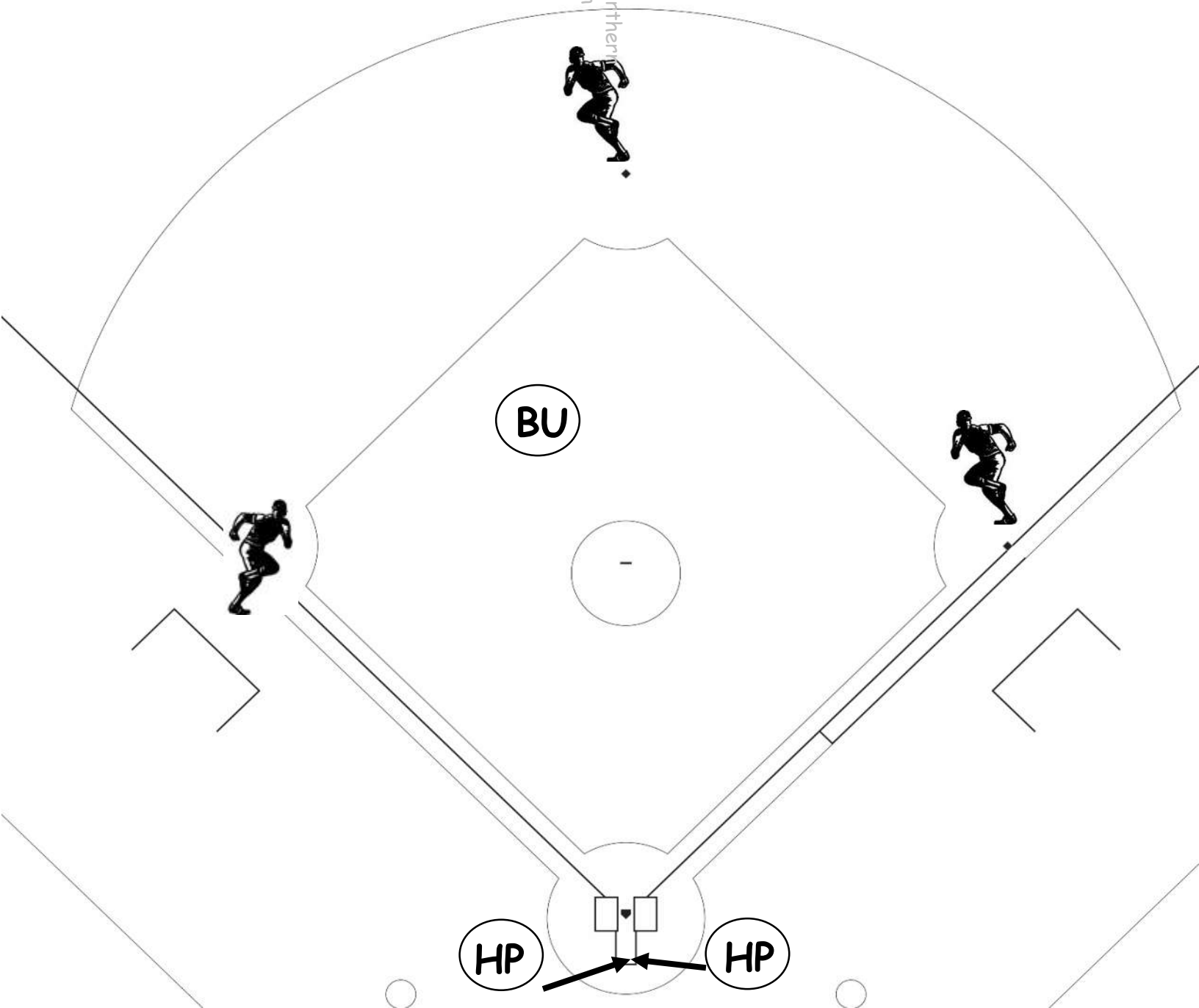
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire should three step open and keep his head on a swivel to watch the ball and glance at the runners. When the ball is thrown into the infield, if there is a play at a base (ball and runner approaching) then the base umpire should gain ground into the cutout of that base in order to make a call

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should immediately move to the point of the plate in order to prepare for any possible play on any runners at home plate

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Catchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Bases Loaded



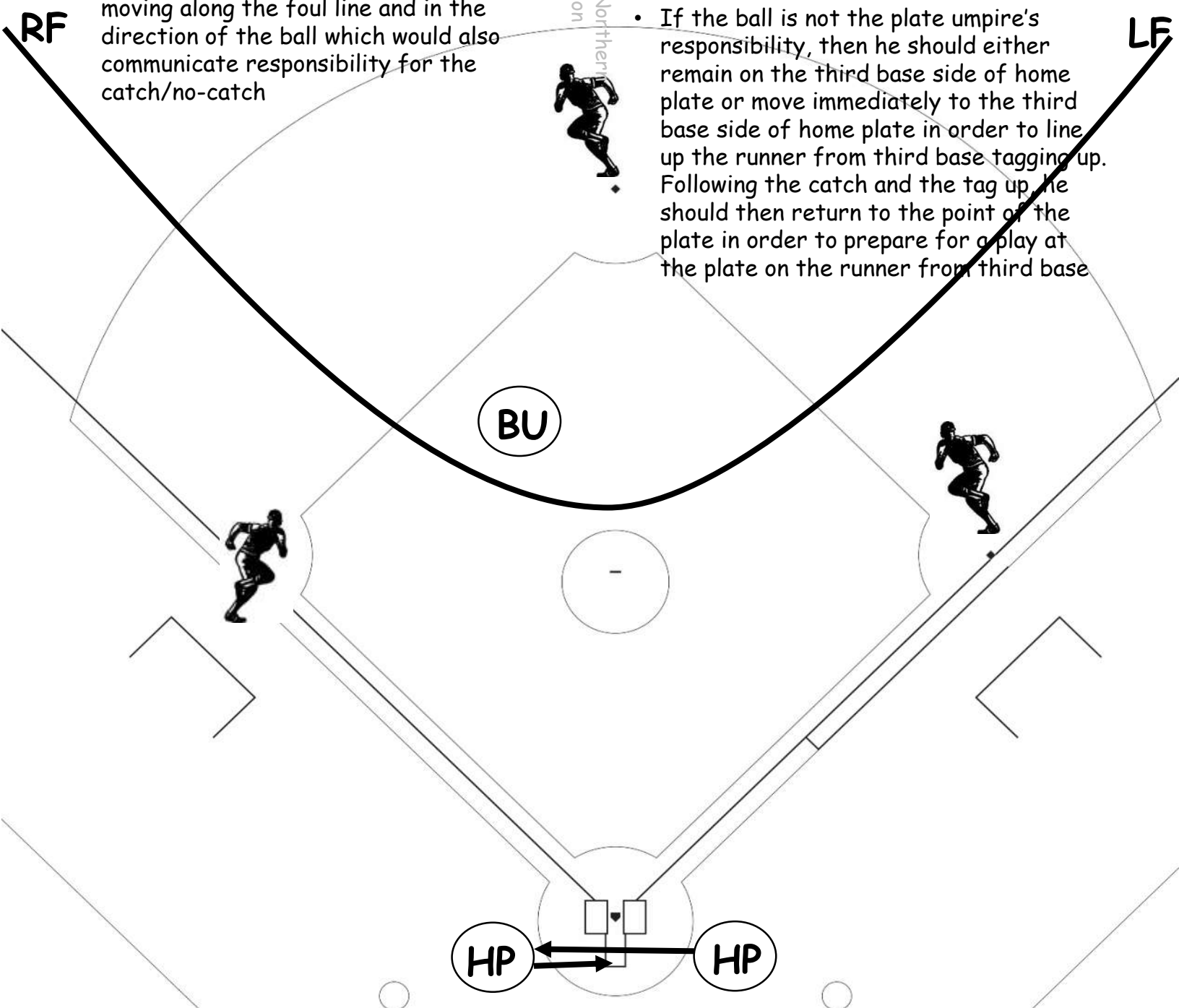
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any catchable batted ball that will not require a fair/foul decision
- He should assume responsibility of any catchable batted ball until he hears the plate umpire call him off
- If there is a question, it is encouraged that the base umpire glance over his shoulder to see if the plate umpire is moving along the foul line and in the direction of the ball which would also communicate responsibility for the catch/no-catch

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will take responsibility for any catchable batted ball that may require a fair/foul decision
- If the call is the plate umpire's responsibility, he should go as far up the foul line in the direction of the ball as he can and still be able to return to the point of the plate for a potential play on the runner tagging up and advancing from third base
- If the ball is not the plate umpire's responsibility, then he should either remain on the third base side of home plate or move immediately to the third base side of home plate in order to line up the runner from third base tagging up. Following the catch and the tag up, he should then return to the point of the plate in order to prepare for a play at the plate on the runner from third base

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Virginia Umpires Association





Starting Position: Second Base Only



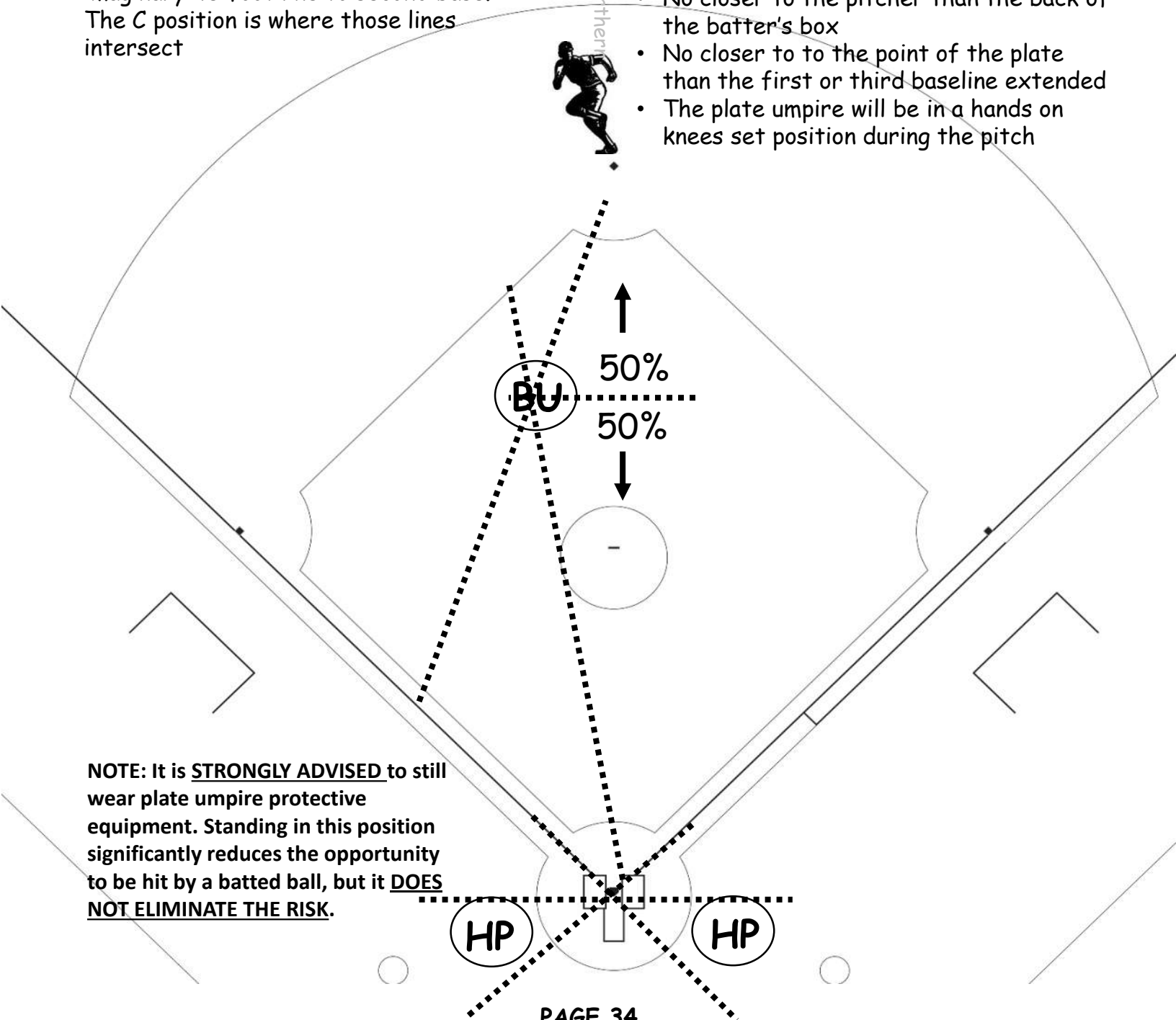
Base Umpire:

- Same as the traditional C position
- Set up in a position halfway between the pitching rubber and second base
- Straddle a line from the front corner of home plate that is tangent to the pitcher's mound
- Hands on knees set during the pitch
- NOTE: If you are not able to determine the appropriate depth, another key to consider is an imaginary line from the imaginary 45 foot line to second base. The C position is where those lines intersect

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will start in the grass surrounding home plate on the same side of home plate as the batter
- They will stand between two imaginary lines. The first is either first or third base extended. The second is the back of the batter's box extended
- THIS MEANS:
- No closer to home plate than the grass/dirt line
- No closer to the pitcher than the back of the batter's box
- No closer to to the point of the plate than the first or third baseline extended
- The plate umpire will be in a hands on knees set position during the pitch

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association



NOTE: It is STRONGLY ADVISED to still wear plate umpire protective equipment. Standing in this position significantly reduces the opportunity to be hit by a batted ball, but it DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE RISK.



Pickoff: Runner On Second Base Only

Base Umpire:

- The base umpire is responsible for all pickoffs at second base whether they are initiated by the pitcher prior to a pitch or by the catcher following a pitch
- The base umpire should take a step or two away from the imaginary 45 foot line to get angle and distance for the play at second base
- This play will happen quickly, so you will only have time for a step or two

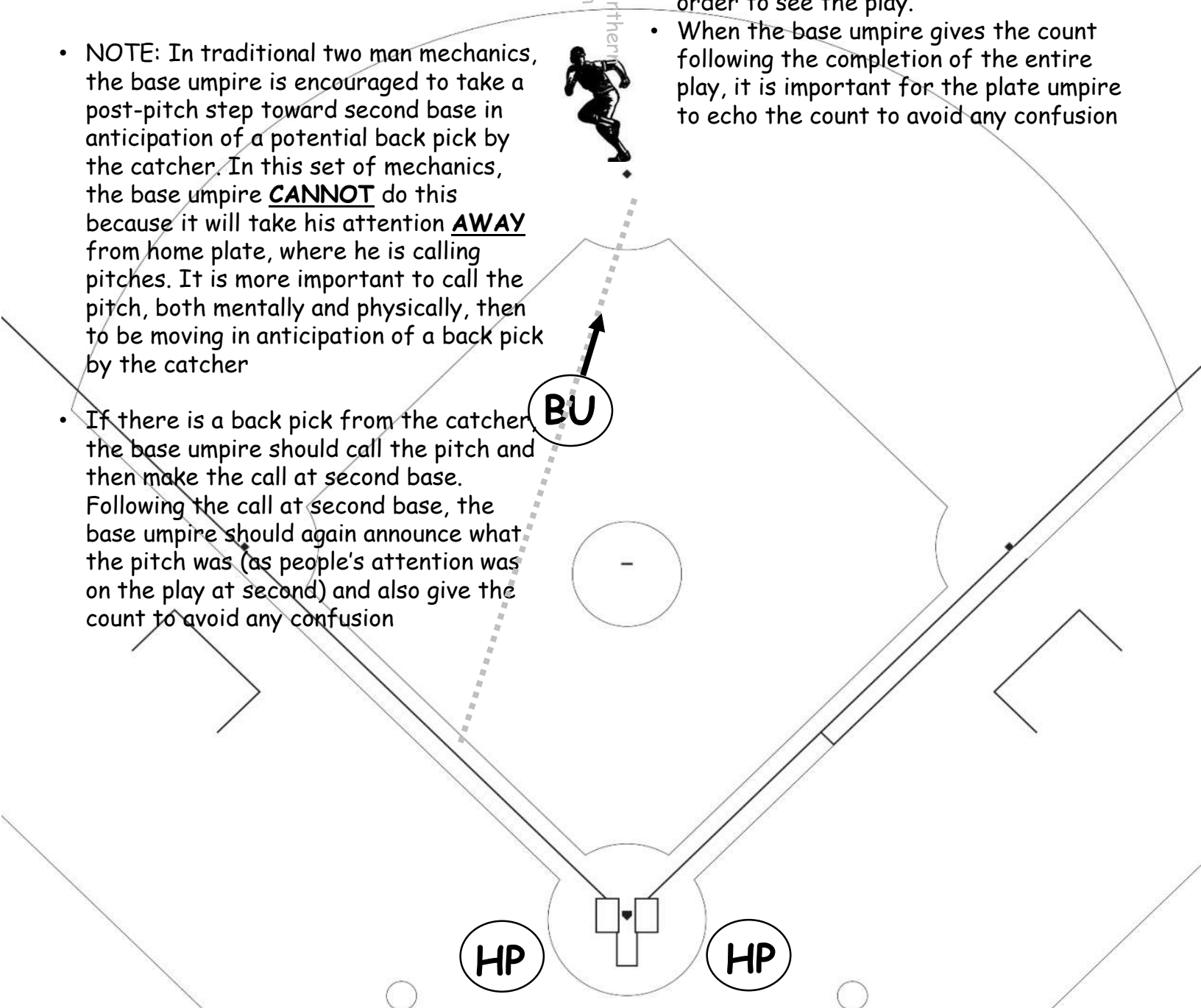
• NOTE: In traditional two man mechanics, the base umpire is encouraged to take a post-pitch step toward second base in anticipation of a potential back pick by the catcher. In this set of mechanics, the base umpire **CANNOT** do this because it will take his attention **AWAY** from home plate, where he is calling pitches. It is more important to call the pitch, both mentally and physically, then to be moving in anticipation of a back pick by the catcher

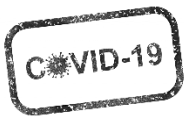
- If there is a back pick from the catcher, the base umpire should call the pitch and then make the call at second base. Following the call at second base, the base umpire should again announce what the pitch was (as people's attention was on the play at second) and also give the count to avoid any confusion

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire simply should drop step to square himself to the play at second base
- The plate umpire should watch the entire play at the plate and should there be interference by the batter, this call belongs to him. Please be 100% sure that there was interference as this new position will create a different perception than what is traditional in order to see the play.
- When the base umpire gives the count following the completion of the entire play, it is important for the plate umpire to echo the count to avoid any confusion

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Ground Balls To The Infield: Runner On Second Base Only



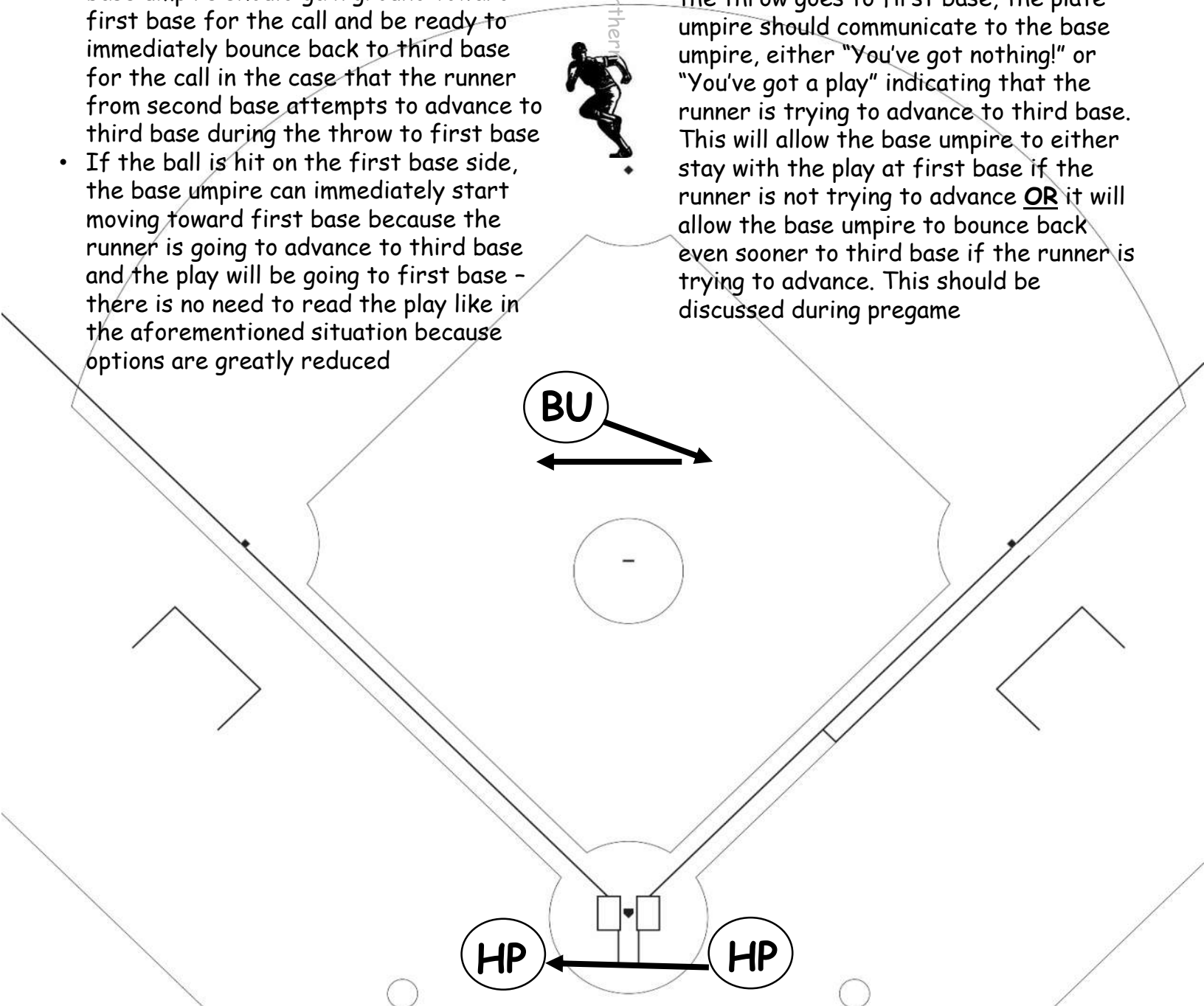
© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

Base Umpire:

- If the ball is hit on the third base side of the infield, the base umpire should three step open and react to the actions of the infielder. Most likely, there will not be a play at third base unless the ball is hit behind the runner at second base, but the base umpire does not want to start running toward first base too soon just in case
- When the throw goes to first base, the base umpire should gain ground toward first base for the call and be ready to immediately bounce back to third base for the call in the case that the runner from second base attempts to advance to third base during the throw to first base
- If the ball is hit on the first base side, the base umpire can immediately start moving toward first base because the runner is going to advance to third base and the play will be going to first base - there is no need to read the play like in the aforementioned situation because options are greatly reduced

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should immediately move to the first base line several steps in front of home plate in order to watch the play at first base but only go far enough up the line that he can still get back to the plate in the case that there could be a play there. It is acceptable to simply stand on the plate or even first base line extended for this play
- If the runner on second base holds and the throw goes to first base, the plate umpire should communicate to the base umpire, either "You've got nothing!" or "You've got a play" indicating that the runner is trying to advance to third base. This will allow the base umpire to either stay with the play at first base if the runner is not trying to advance OR it will allow the base umpire to bounce back even sooner to third base if the runner is trying to advance. This should be discussed during pregame





Pop Ups/Line Drives To The Infield: Runner On Second Base Only



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop ups or line drives on the infield that **DO NOT** require a fair/foul decision upon initial touch

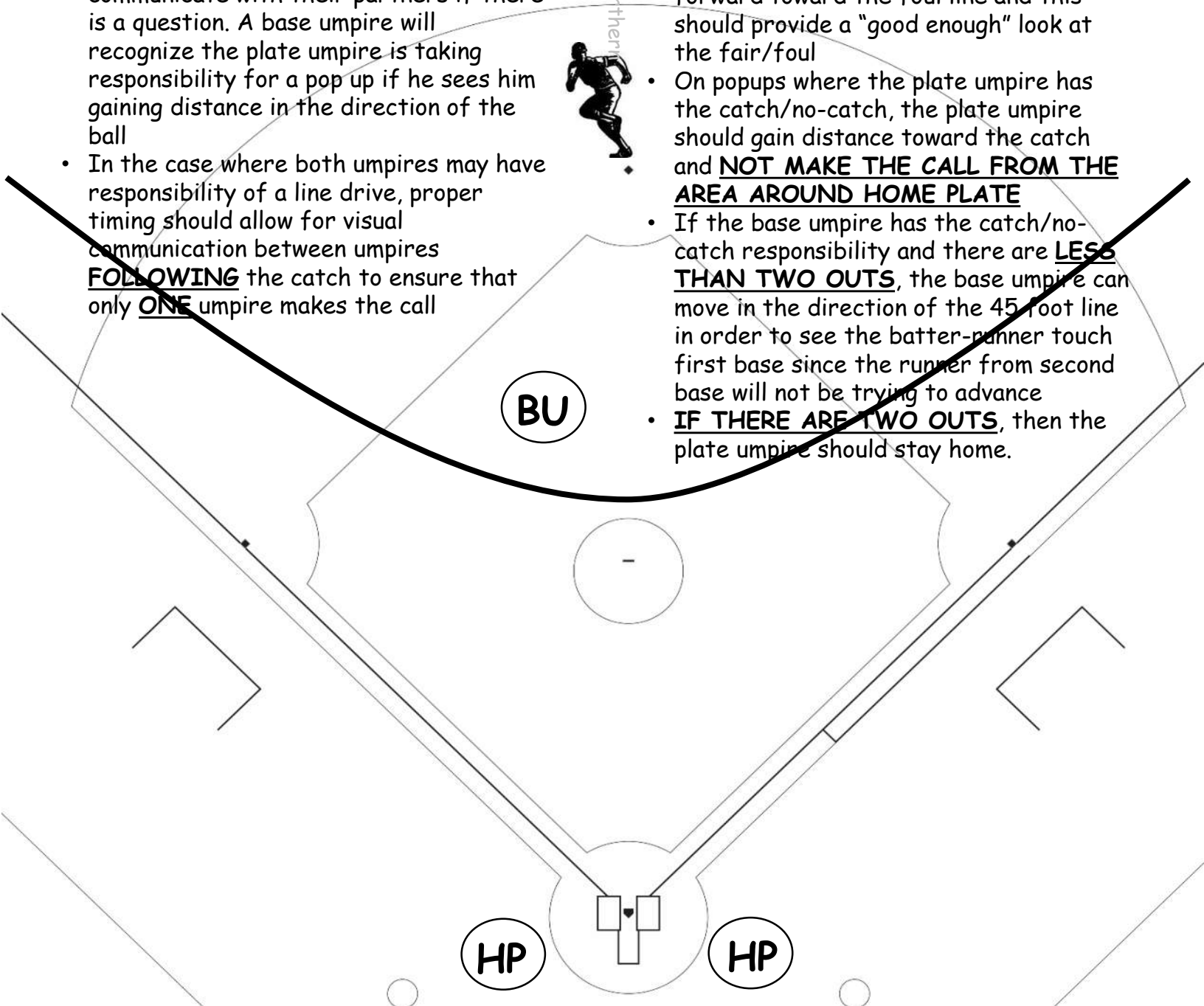
NOTES:

- Umpires **SHOULD NOT VERBALLY** communicate responsibility on pop ups, but rather turn their head to visually communicate with their partners if there is a question. A base umpire will recognize the plate umpire is taking responsibility for a pop up if he sees him gaining distance in the direction of the ball
- In the case where both umpires may have responsibility of a line drive, proper timing should allow for visual communication between umpires **FOLLOWING** the catch to ensure that only **ONE** umpire makes the call

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop ups or line drives that **WILL REQUIRE** a fair/foul decision upon initial touch
- This will prove to be the most difficult call in these adjusted mechanics, as the plate umpire is responsible for the fair/foul decision on hard line drives down either line. The best mechanic in these situations, is to simply take a step forward toward the foul line and this should provide a "good enough" look at the fair/foul
- On popups where the plate umpire has the catch/no-catch, the plate umpire should gain distance toward the catch and **NOT MAKE THE CALL FROM THE AREA AROUND HOME PLATE**
- If the base umpire has the catch/no-catch responsibility and there are **LESS THAN TWO OUTS**, the base umpire can move in the direction of the 45 foot line in order to see the batter-runner touch first base since the runner from second base will not be trying to advance
- **IF THERE ARE TWO OUTS**, then the plate umpire should stay home.





Uncatchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runner On Second Base Only



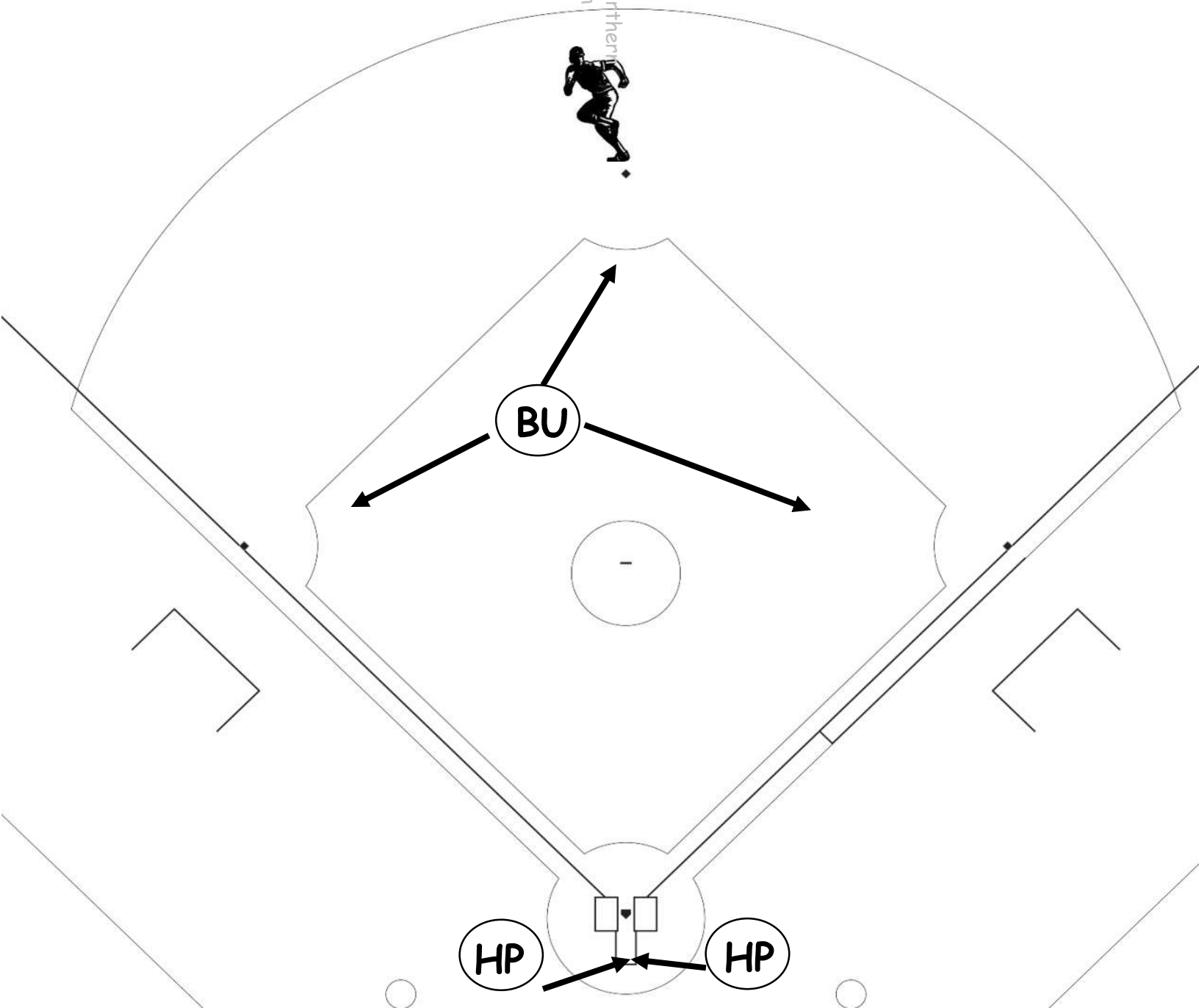
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire should three step open and keep his head on a swivel to watch the ball and glance at the runners. When the ball is thrown into the infield, if there is a play at a base (ball and runner approaching) then the base umpire should gain ground into the cutout of that base in order to make a call

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should move to the point of the plate in order to prepare for any possible play on any runners at home plate

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Catchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runner On Second Base Only



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any catchable batted ball that will not require a fair/foul decision
- He should assume responsibility of any catchable batted ball until he hears the plate umpire call him off
- If there is a question, it is encouraged that the base umpire glance over his shoulder to see if the plate umpire is moving in the direction of the ball which would also communicate responsibility for the catch/no-catch

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will take responsibility for any catchable batted ball that may require a fair/foul decision
- If the catch/no-catch belongs to the base umpire, the plate umpire should move several steps toward the 45 foot line (but only far enough that would enable him to get back to home plate should the runner from second base try to score) to see the touch at first base of the batter-runner

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Virginia Umpires Association

CF

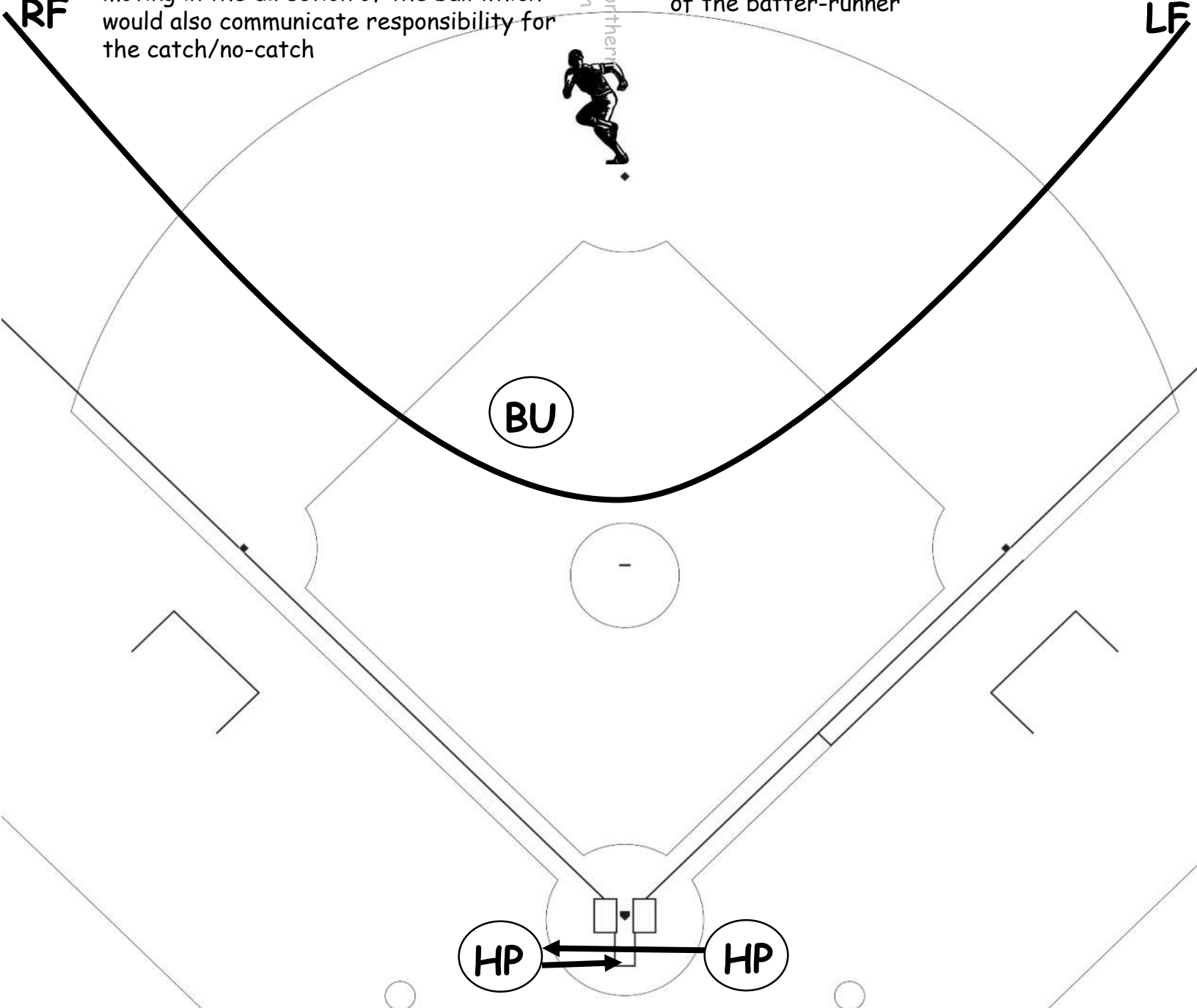
RF

LF

BU

HP

HP





Starting Position: Runners On Second Base And Third Base



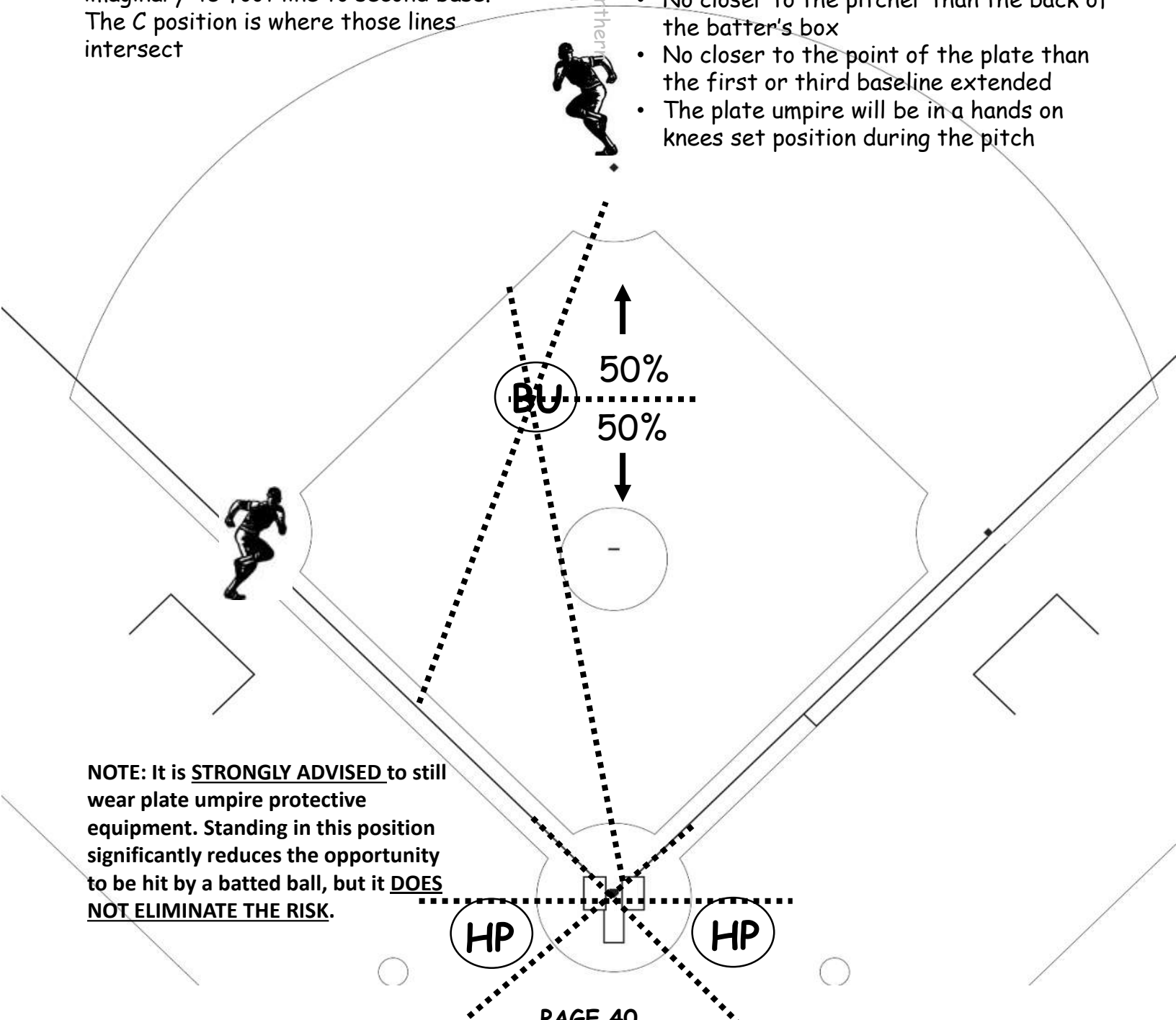
Base Umpire:

- Same as the traditional C position
- Set up in a position halfway between the pitching rubber and second base
- Straddle a line from the front corner of home plate that is tangent to the pitcher's mound
- Hands on knees set during the pitch
- NOTE: If you are not able to determine the appropriate depth, another key to consider is an imaginary line from the imaginary 45 foot line to second base. The C position is where those lines intersect

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will start in the grass surrounding home plate on the same side of home plate as the batter
- They will stand between two imaginary lines. The first is either first or third base extended. The second is the back of the batter's box extended
- THIS MEANS:
- No closer to home plate than the grass/dirt line
- No closer to the pitcher than the back of the batter's box
- No closer to the point of the plate than the first or third baseline extended
- The plate umpire will be in a hands on knees set position during the pitch

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association



NOTE: It is STRONGLY ADVISED to still wear plate umpire protective equipment. Standing in this position significantly reduces the opportunity to be hit by a batted ball, but it DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE RISK.



Pickoff:

Runners On Second Base And Third Base



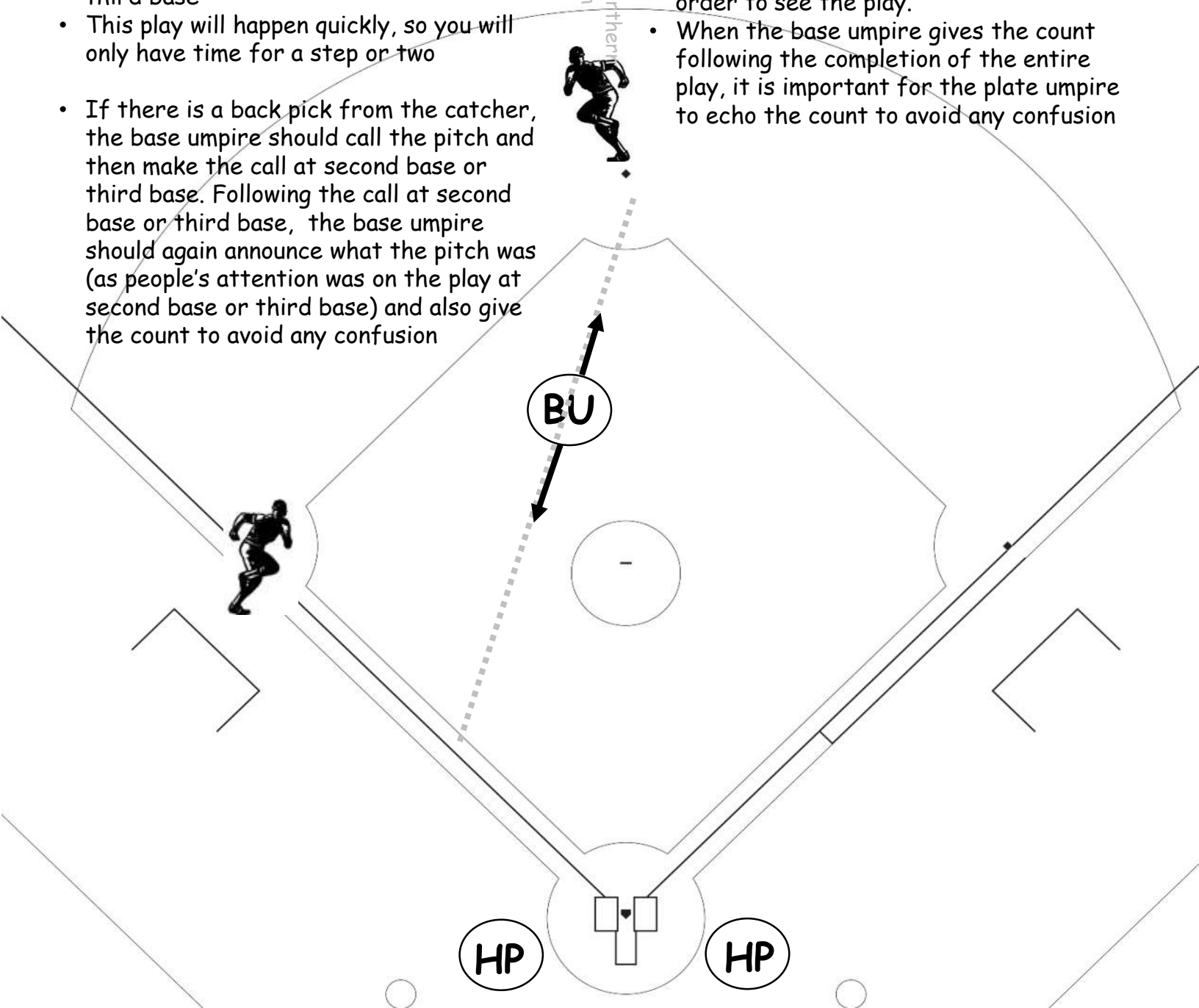
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire is responsible for all pickoffs at second base and third base whether they are initiated by the pitcher prior to a pitch or by the catcher following a pitch
- The base umpire should take a step or two away from the imaginary 45 foot line get angle and distance for the play at second base and a step or two toward the imaginary 45 foot line for the play at third base
- This play will happen quickly, so you will only have time for a step or two
- If there is a back pick from the catcher, the base umpire should call the pitch and then make the call at second base or third base. Following the call at second base or third base, the base umpire should again announce what the pitch was (as people's attention was on the play at second base or third base) and also give the count to avoid any confusion

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire simply should drop step to square himself to the play at second base or the play at third base
- The plate umpire should watch the entire play at the plate and should there be interference by the batter, this call belongs to him. Please be 100% sure that there was interference as this new position will create a different perception than what is traditional in order to see the play.
- When the base umpire gives the count following the completion of the entire play, it is important for the plate umpire to echo the count to avoid any confusion

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Ground Balls To The Infield: Runners On Second Base And Third Base



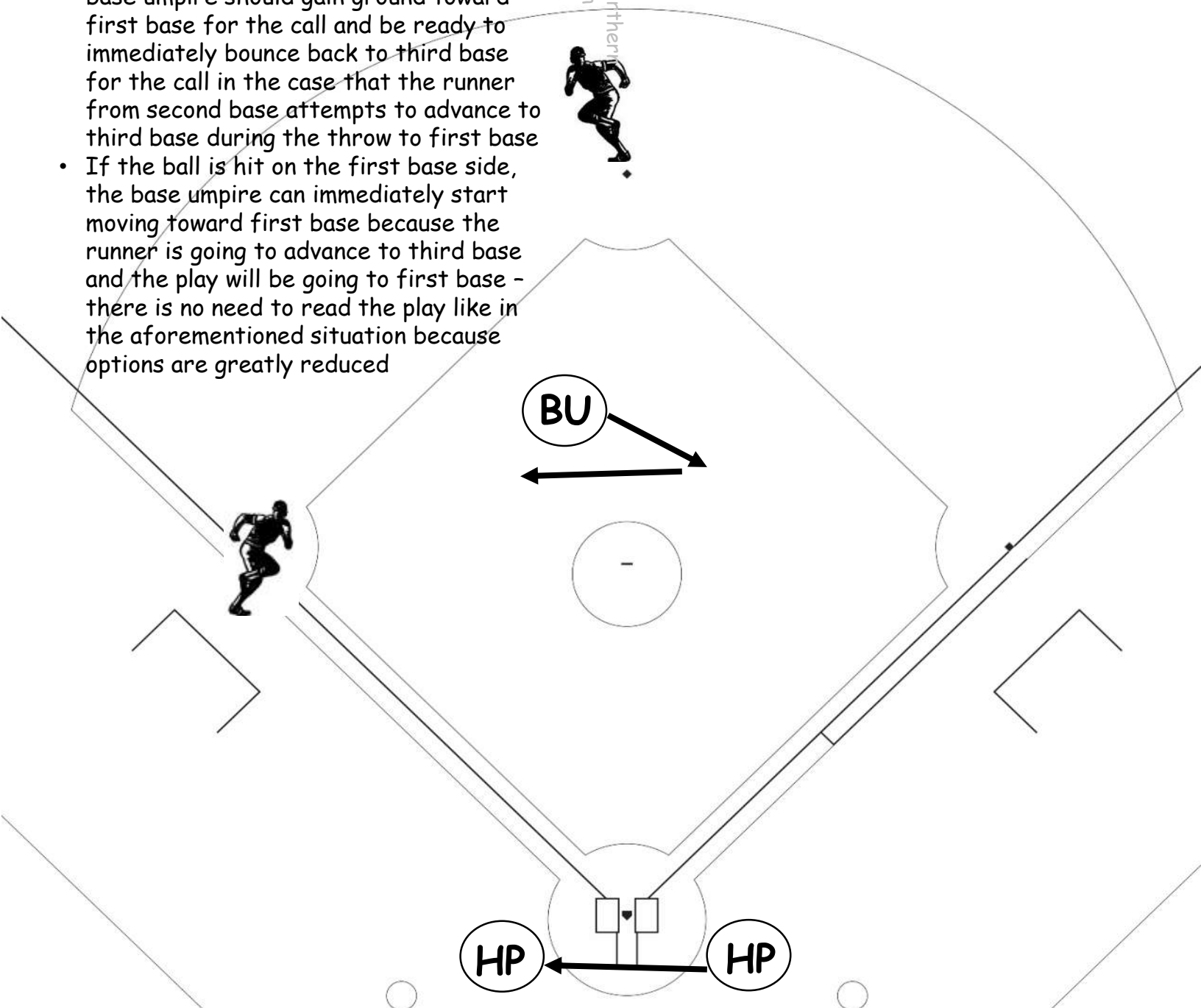
Base Umpire:

- If the ball is hit on the third base side of the infield, the base umpire should three step open and react to the actions of the infielder. Most likely, there will not be a play at third base unless the ball is hit behind the runner at second base, but the base umpire does not want to start running toward first base too soon just in case
- When the throw goes to first base, the base umpire should gain ground toward first base for the call and be ready to immediately bounce back to third base for the call in the case that the runner from second base attempts to advance to third base during the throw to first base
- If the ball is hit on the first base side, the base umpire can immediately start moving toward first base because the runner is going to advance to third base and the play will be going to first base - there is no need to read the play like in the aforementioned situation because options are greatly reduced

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should first determine if there is going to be a play at the plate while moving immediately to the point of the plate
- If there is no throw to home, then the plate umpire should move immediately to the first base line extended in order to watch the play at first base

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Pop Ups/Line Drives To The Infield: Runners On Second Base And Third Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop-ups or line drives on the infield that **DO NOT** require a fair/foul decision upon initial touch.

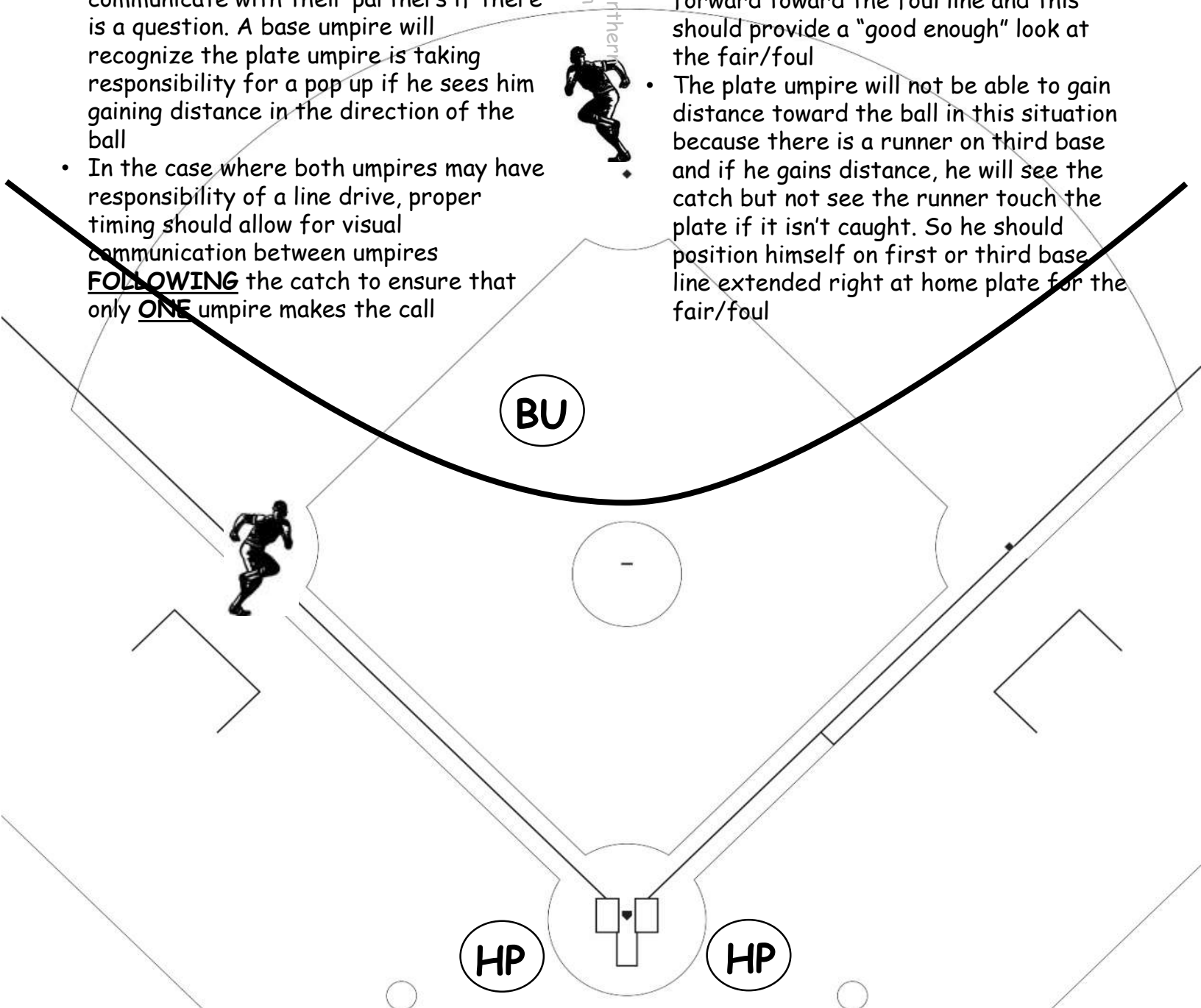
NOTES:

- Umpires **SHOULD NOT VERBALLY** communicate responsibility on pop ups, but rather turn their head to visually communicate with their partners if there is a question. A base umpire will recognize the plate umpire is taking responsibility for a pop up if he sees him gaining distance in the direction of the ball
- In the case where both umpires may have responsibility of a line drive, proper timing should allow for visual communication between umpires **FOLLOWING** the catch to ensure that only **ONE** umpire makes the call

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop-ups or line drives that **WILL REQUIRE** a fair/foul decision upon initial touch
- This will prove to be the most difficult call in these adjusted mechanics, as the plate umpire is responsible for the fair/foul decision on hard line drives down either line. The best mechanic in these situations, is to simply take a step forward toward the foul line and this should provide a "good enough" look at the fair/foul
- The plate umpire will not be able to gain distance toward the ball in this situation because there is a runner on third base and if he gains distance, he will see the catch but not see the runner touch the plate if it isn't caught. So he should position himself on first or third base line extended right at home plate for the fair/foul



COVID-19

Uncatchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runners On Second Base And Third Base



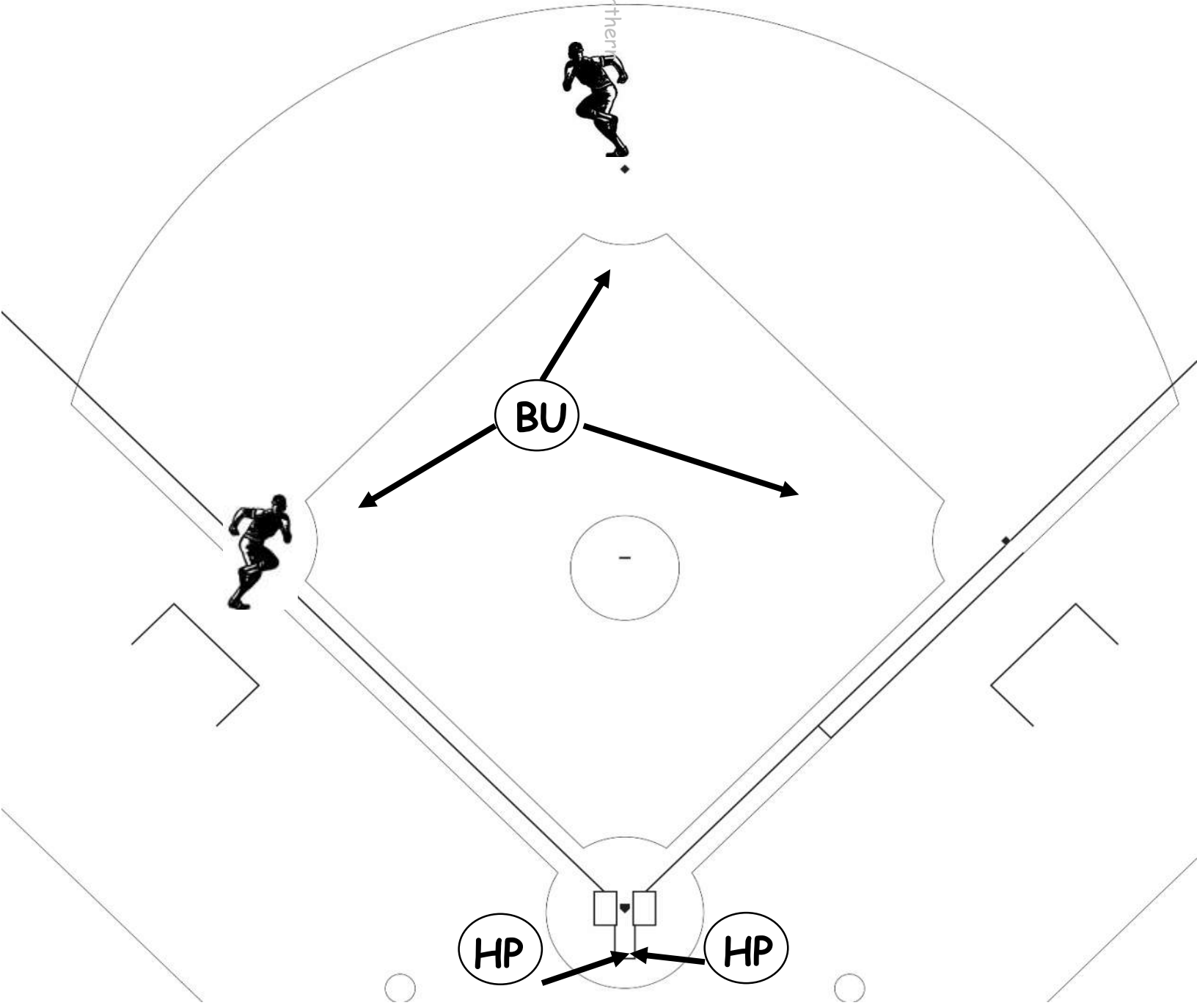
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire should three step open and keep his head on a swivel to watch the ball and glance at the runners. When the ball is thrown into the infield, if there is a play at a base (ball and runner approaching) then the base umpire should gain ground into the cutout of that base in order to make a call

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should move to the point of the plate in order to prepare for any possible play on any runners at home plate

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Catchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runners On Second Base And Third Base



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any catchable batted ball that will not require a fair/foul decision
- He should assume responsibility of any catchable batted ball until he hears the plate umpire call him off
- If there is a question, it is encouraged that the base umpire glance over his shoulder to see if the plate umpire is moving in the direction of the ball which would also communicate responsibility for the catch/no-catch

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will take responsibility for any catchable batted ball that may require a fair/foul decision
- If the call is the plate umpire's responsibility, he should go as far up the foul line in the direction of the ball as he can and still be able to return to the point of the plate for a potential play on the runner tagging up and advancing from third base

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Virginia Umpires Association

CF

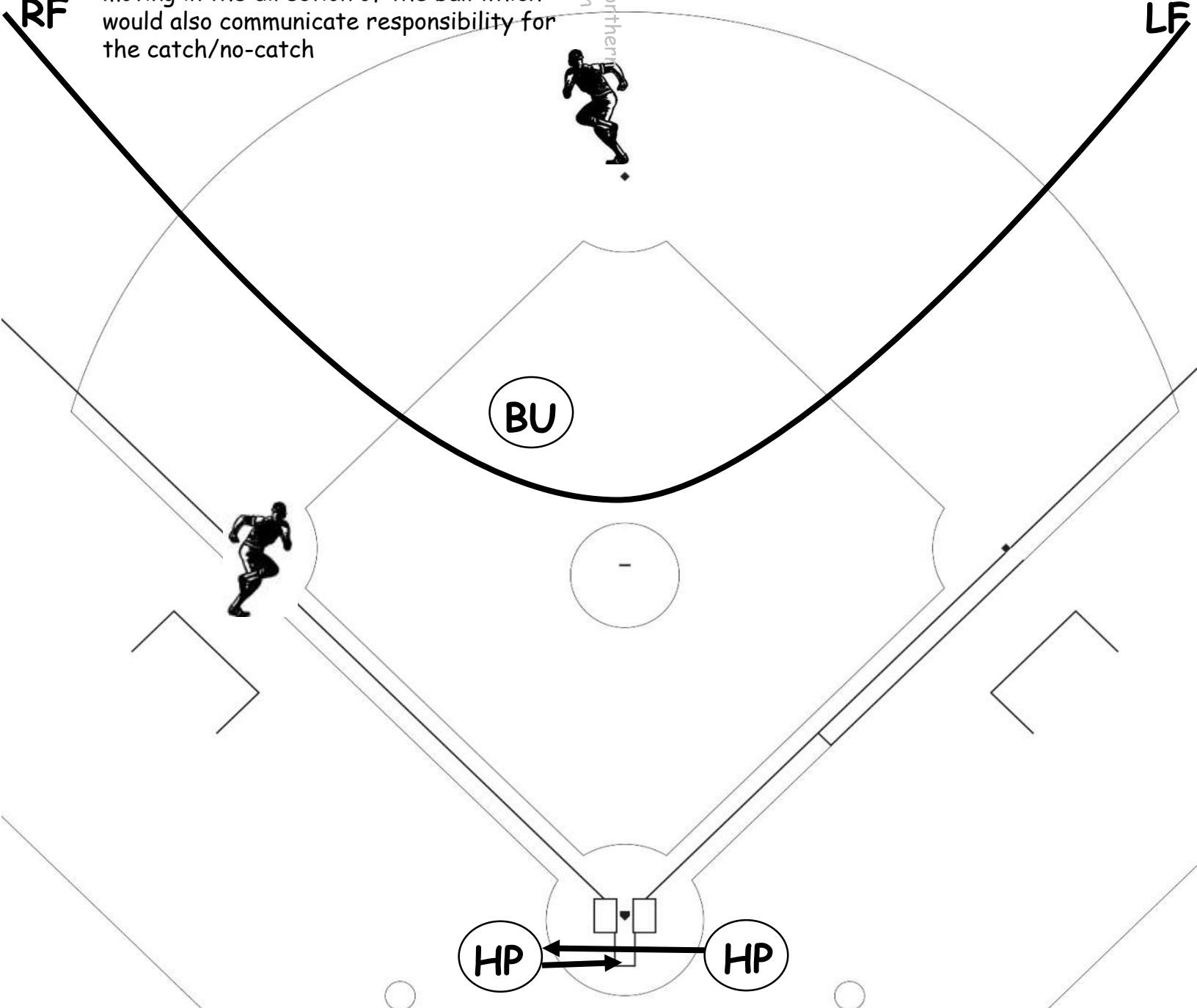
RF

LF

BU

HP

HP





Starting Position: Runner On Third Base Only



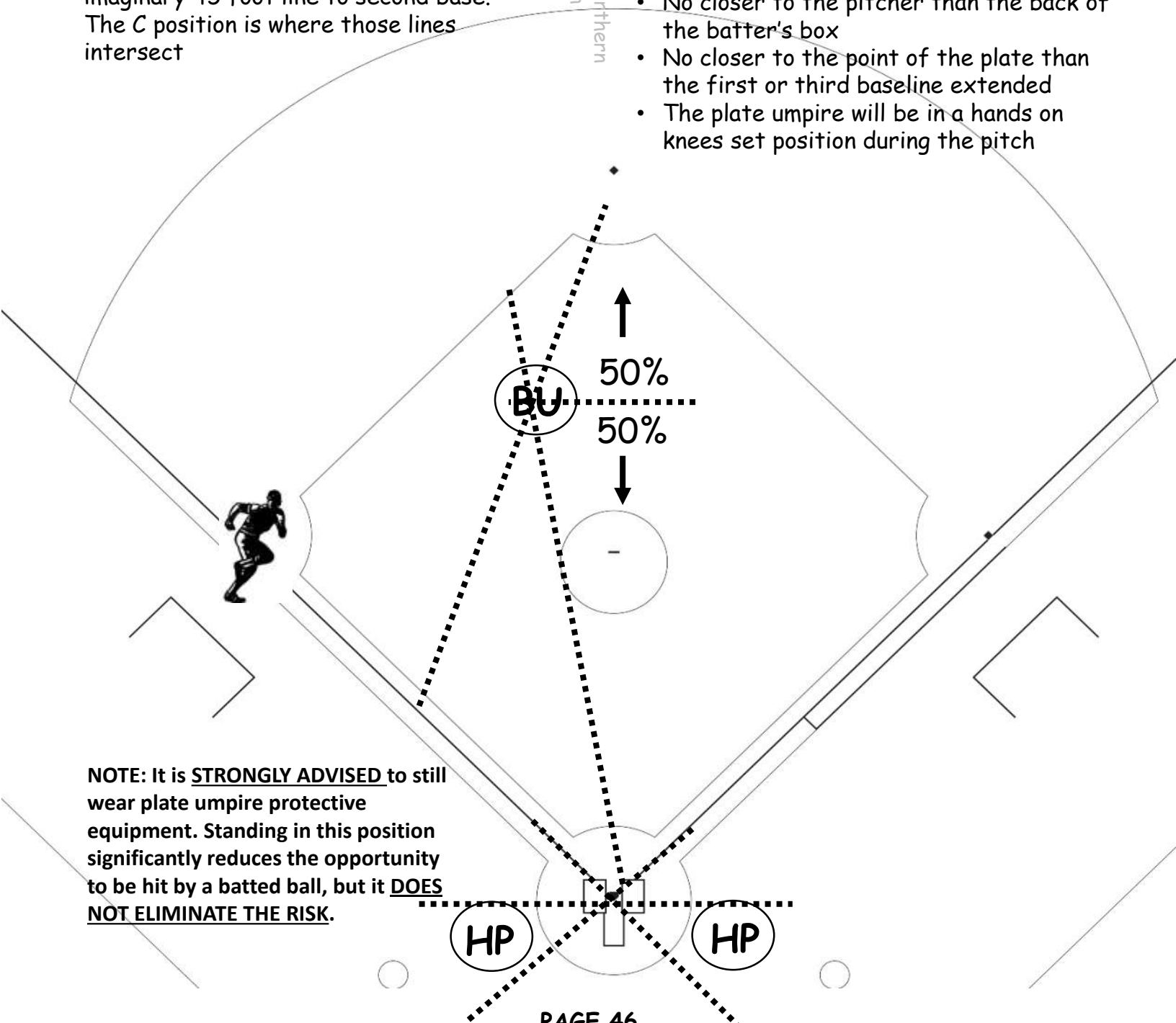
Base Umpire:

- Same as the traditional C position
- Set up in a position halfway between the pitching rubber and second base
- Straddle a line from the front corner of home plate that is tangent to the pitcher's mound
- Hands on knees set during the pitch
- NOTE: If you are not able to determine the appropriate depth, another key to consider is an imaginary line from the imaginary 45 foot line to second base. The C position is where those lines intersect

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will start in the grass surrounding home plate on the same side of home plate as the batter
- They will stand between two imaginary lines. The first is either first or third base extended. The second is the back of the batter's box extended
- THIS MEANS:
- No closer to home plate than the grass/dirt line
- No closer to the pitcher than the back of the batter's box
- No closer to the point of the plate than the first or third baseline extended
- The plate umpire will be in a hands on knees set position during the pitch

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association



NOTE: It is STRONGLY ADVISED to still wear plate umpire protective equipment. Standing in this position significantly reduces the opportunity to be hit by a batted ball, but it DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE RISK.



Pickoff: Runner On Third Base Only



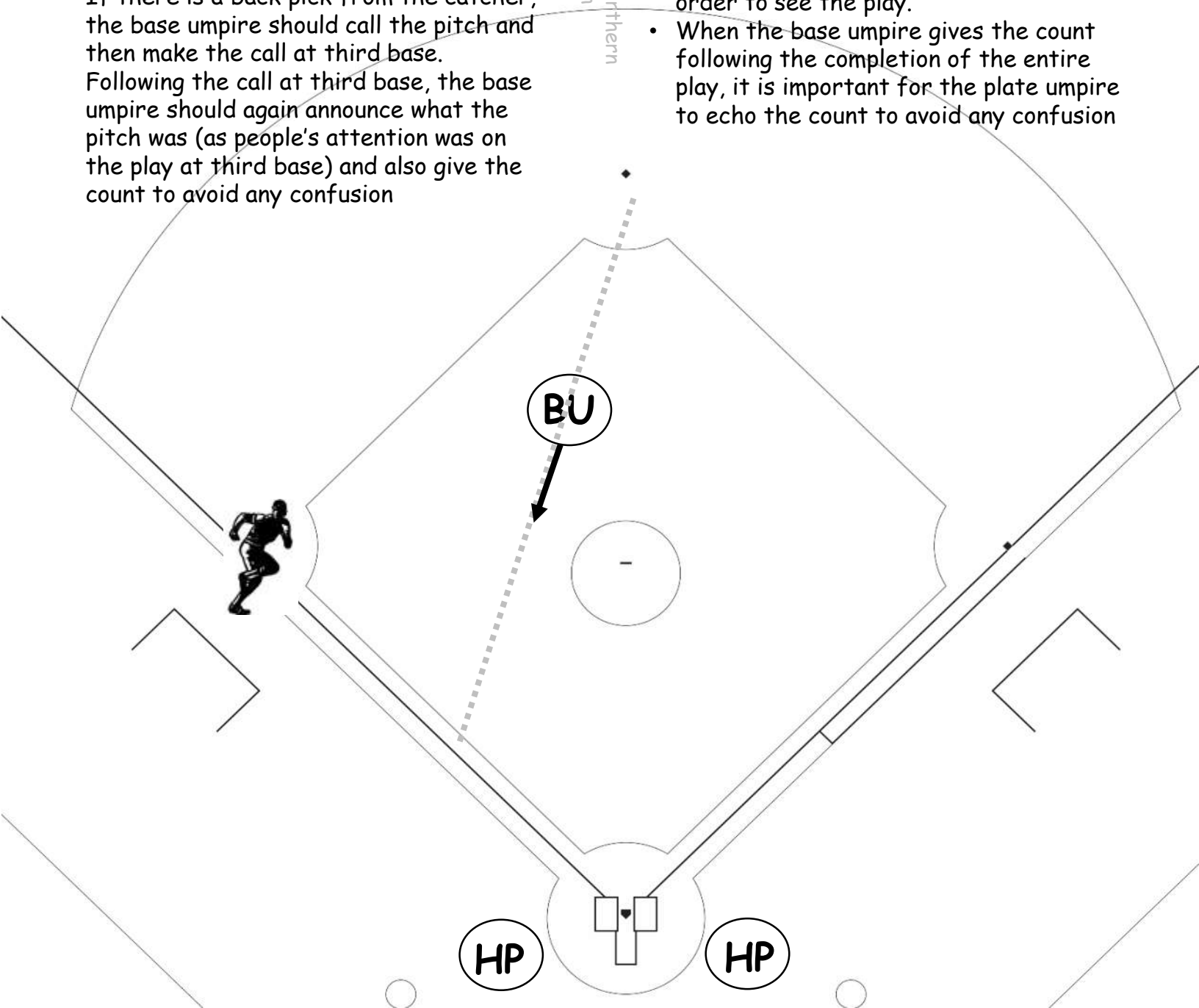
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire is responsible for all pickoffs at third base whether they are initiated by the pitcher prior to a pitch or by the catcher following a pitch
- The base umpire should take a step or two toward the imaginary 45 foot line for the play at third base
- This play will happen quickly, so you will only have time for a step or two
- If there is a back pick from the catcher, the base umpire should call the pitch and then make the call at third base. Following the call at third base, the base umpire should again announce what the pitch was (as people's attention was on the play at third base) and also give the count to avoid any confusion

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire simply should drop step to square himself to the play at third base
- The plate umpire should watch the entire play at the plate and should there be interference by the batter, this call belongs to him. Please be 100% sure that there was interference as this new position will create a different perception than what is traditional in order to see the play.
- When the base umpire gives the count following the completion of the entire play, it is important for the plate umpire to echo the count to avoid any confusion

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Ground Balls To The Infield: Runner On Third Base Only



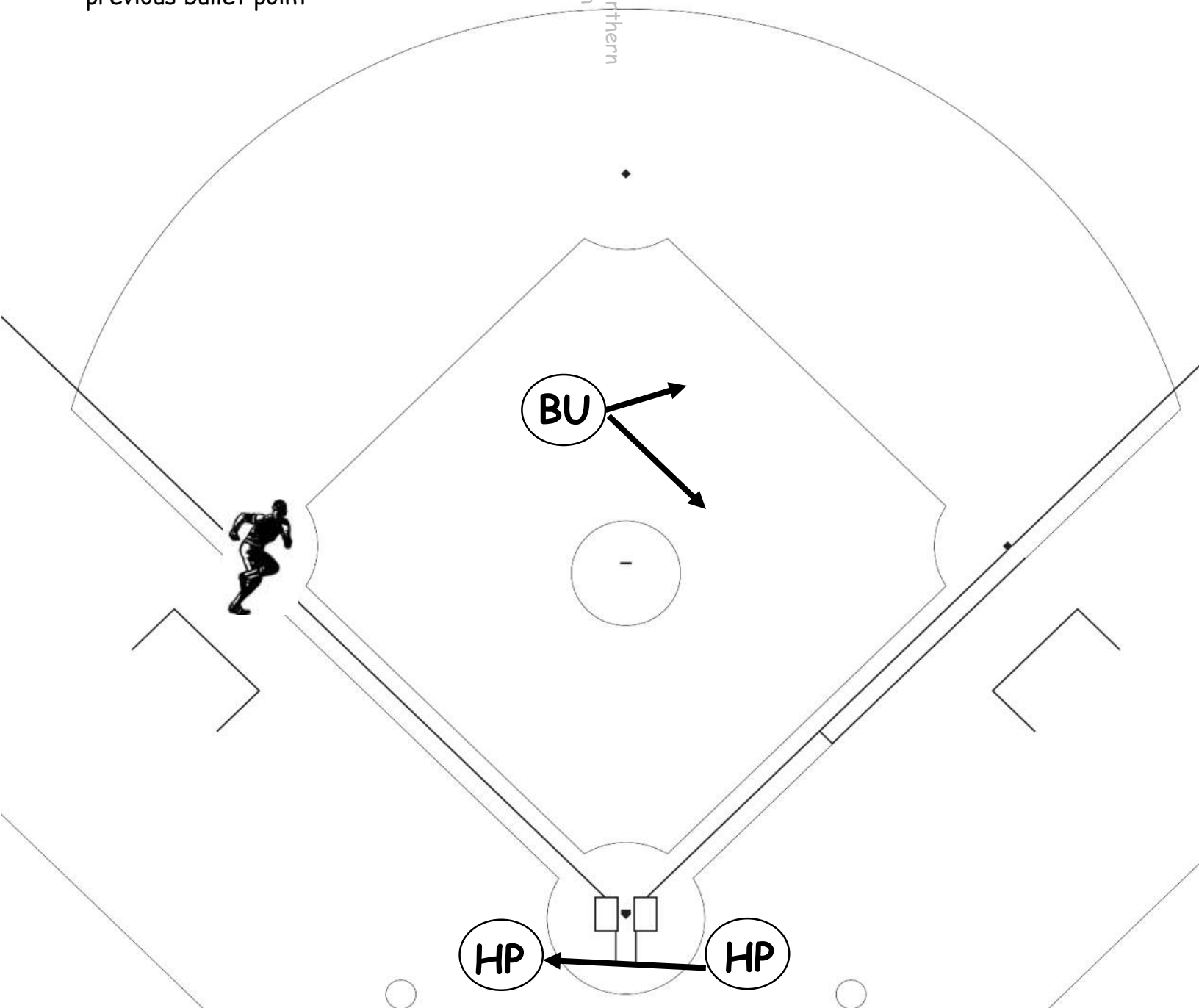
Base Umpire:

- Most likely, the only responsibility the base umpire will have during this play is a force out at first base. When the ball is hit, he should gain as much distance toward first base as the play will allow
- NOTE: In the rare case that there is a play at third base on the runner from third base (perhaps he got too far off the base) than this play will be the only exception to the "rule" referenced in the previous bullet point

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should first be looking for a play at the plate by immediately moving to the point of the plate. If the runner does not run home and the throw goes to first base, the plate umpire should move from the point of the plate to first base line extended in order to see the play at first base

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Pop Ups/Line Drives To The Infield: Runner On Third Base Only



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop-ups or line drives on the infield that **DO NOT** require a fair/foul decision upon initial touch

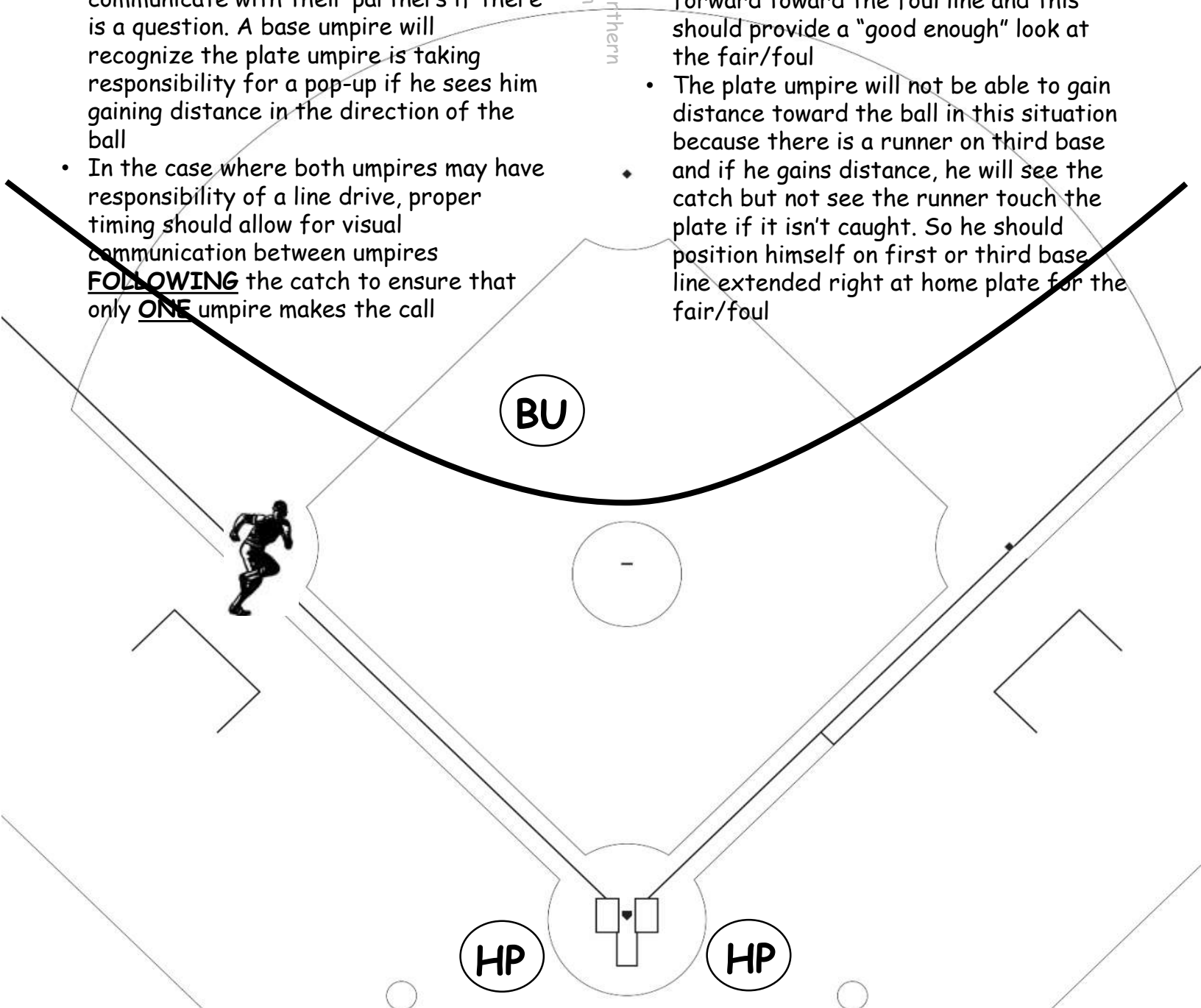
NOTES:

- Umpires **SHOULD NOT VERBALLY** communicate responsibility on pop ups, but rather turn their head to visually communicate with their partners if there is a question. A base umpire will recognize the plate umpire is taking responsibility for a pop-up if he sees him gaining distance in the direction of the ball
- In the case where both umpires may have responsibility of a line drive, proper timing should allow for visual communication between umpires **FOLLOWING** the catch to ensure that only **ONE** umpire makes the call

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any pop-ups or line drives that **WILL REQUIRE** a fair/foul decision upon initial touch
- This will prove to be the most difficult call in these adjusted mechanics, as the plate umpire is responsible for the fair/foul decision on hard line drives down either line. The best mechanic in these situations, is to simply take a step forward toward the foul line and this should provide a "good enough" look at the fair/foul
- The plate umpire will not be able to gain distance toward the ball in this situation because there is a runner on third base and if he gains distance, he will see the catch but not see the runner touch the plate if it isn't caught. So he should position himself on first or third base line extended right at home plate for the fair/foul

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Uncatchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runner On Third Base Only



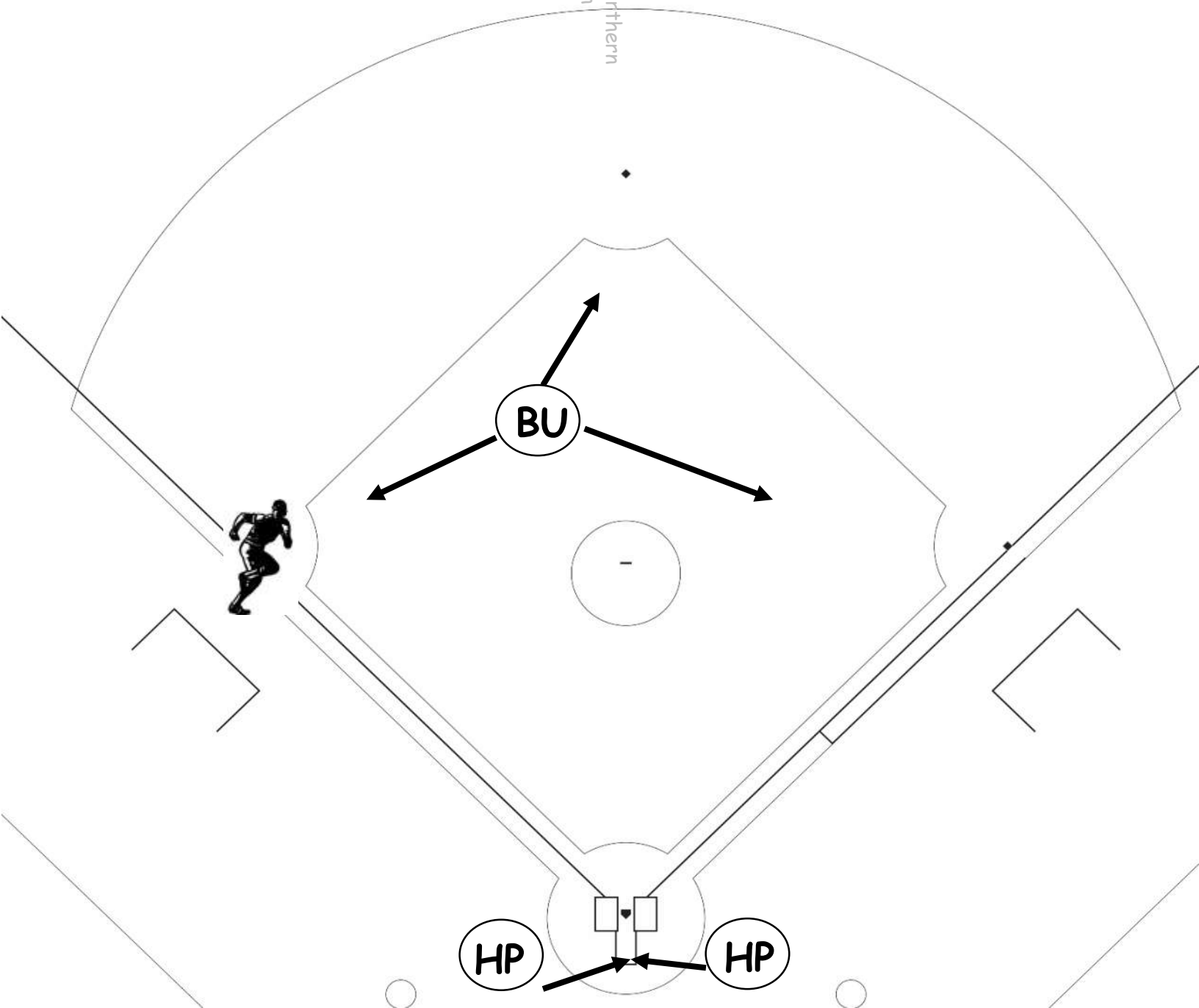
Base Umpire:

- The base umpire should three step open and keep his head on a swivel to watch the ball and glance at the runners. When the ball is thrown into the infield, if there is a play at a base (ball and runner approaching) then the base umpire should gain ground into the cutout of that base in order to make a call

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire should move to the point of the plate in order to prepare for any possible play on any runners at home plate

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Officials/Northern Virginia Umpires Association





Catchable Batted Balls To The Outfield: Runner On Third Base Only



Base Umpire:

- The base umpire has catch/no-catch responsibility on any catchable batted ball that will not require a fair/foul decision
- He should assume responsibility of any catchable batted ball until he hears the plate umpire call him off
- If there is a question, it is encouraged that the base umpire glance over his shoulder to see if the plate umpire is moving in the direction of the ball which would also communicate responsibility for the catch/no-catch

Plate Umpire:

- The plate umpire will take responsibility for any catchable batted ball that may require a fair/foul decision
- If the call is the plate umpire's responsibility, he should go as far up the foul line in the direction of the ball as he can and still be able to return to the point of the plate for a potential play on the runner tagging up and advancing from third base

© 2020 Mid-Atlantic Virginia Umpires Association

CF

RF

LF

BU

HP

HP

