Mechanics Concepts:

• The guideline here is based on the play most likely to happen.
• The crew needs to communicate and work together at all times.
• WBSC umpires do not work together an entire season. Therefore mechanics are kept simple and consistent all over the world.
• The practice of rimming is an acceptable practice for WBSC umpires.
• In many cases umpires have to split the difference and react.
• Most important is trust your instincts.
• One umpire will go out on *ALL* fly balls and line drives to the outfield.
• Umpires going out should go out as far as possible, but should be *stopped* when making the call.
• If you go out, do *NOT* return until the play is finished.
• The home plate will stay *home* whenever there is a runner in scoring position.
• Crew communication is extremely Important.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

BASIC PRINCIPLES
1. BOX THEM IN
2. COMMUNICATION IS VERY IMPORTANT
3. INFIELD UMPIRES MAY GO OUT
4. BALK CONCENTRATION
5. BASIC OUTFIELD COVERAGE
6. OVERTHROWS

A  Position A  D  Position D
B  Position B  C  Position C
U3  3rd Base Umpire
U2  2nd Base Umpire
U1  1st Base Umpire
PU  Home Plate Umpire
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
INITIAL POSITIONS & OUTFIELD COVERAGE.

- CF: Center Field
- U3: 3rd Base Umpire
- U2: 2nd Base Umpire
- U1: 1st Base Umpire
- PU: Home Plate Umpire
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

INFIELD CATCH COVERAGE

THIS IS SUGGESTED CATCH COVERAGE. HOWEVER EYE CONTACT BETWEEN UMPIRES IS IMPORTANT.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
FAIR | FOUL COVERAGE
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
GROUND BALL WITHIN THE INFIELD.

U2 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING ANY PLAY FROM THE OUTFIELD SIDE OR THE INFIELD SIDE.
CLEAN HIT TO THE OUTFIELD.

RF Right Field  CF Center Field

LF Left Field

Base Hit

Runner’s path

BR Base Runner

U1 1st Base Umpire

U2 2nd Base Umpire

U3 3rd Base Umpire

PU Home Plate Umpire

U2 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING ANY PLAY FROM THE OUTFIELD SIDE OR THE INFIELD SIDE.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD - NO CATCH.

RF  Right Field  CF  Center Field
LF  Left Field  Runner’s path
BR  Base Runner
U3  3rd Base Umpire
U2  2nd Base Umpire
U1  1st Base Umpire
PU  Home Plate Umpire

U1 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.

U2 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING ANY PLAY FROM THE OUTFIELD SIDE OR THE INFIELD SIDE.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
FLY BALL TO CENTER FIELD - NO CATCH.

- Right Field (RF)
- Center Field (CF)
- Left Field (LF)
- Fly Ball NO CATCH → Runner’s path
- Base Runner (BR)
- 3rd Base Umpire (U3)
- 2nd Base Umpire (U2)
- 1st Base Umpire (U1)
- Home Plate Umpire (PU)

U2 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD - NO CATCH.

- **RF**: Right Field
- **CF**: Center Field
- **LF**: Left Field
- **BR**: Base Runner
- **U3**: 3rd Base Umpire
- **U2**: 2nd Base Umpire
- **U1**: 1st Base Umpire
- **PU**: Home Plate Umpire

Fly Ball **NO CATCH**  
Runner's path  

**U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.**

**PU** HAS ANY PLAY AT 3RD BASE.
INITIAL POSITIONS & OUTFIELD COVERAGE.

THE FIRST BASE UMPIRE IS KEY FOR OUTFIELD COVERAGE. HE/SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CENTERFIELDER STRAIGHT IN OR WHEN HE/SHE TURNS TO HIS LEFT AND GOES STRAIGHT BACK.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
INFIELD CATCH COVERAGE

THIS IS SUGGESTED CATCH COVERAGE. HOWEVER EYE CONTACT BETWEEN UMPIRES IS IMPORTANT.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
CLEAN HIT TO THE OUTFIELD WITH THE RUNNER ON FIRST ADVANCING TOWARDS 3RD BASE & THE BATTER ROUNDDING 1ST BASE.

Hit
Runner's path
BR Base Runner
R1 Runner on 1st
U3 3rd Base Umpire
U2 2nd Base Umpire
U1 1st Base Umpire
PU Home Plate Umpire

U3 WATCHES & HAS THE PLAY AT 3RD BASE.
U2 WATCHES THE TOUCH AT 2ND BASE.
U1 WATCHES BR TOUCH 1ST BASE.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD - NO CATCH.

**RF** Right Field  
**CF** Center Field  
**LF** Left Field

Fly Ball **NO CATCH**  
Runner’s path

**BR** Base Runner  
**R1** Runner on 1st  
**U3** 3rd Base Umpire  
**U2** 2nd Base Umpire  
**U1** 1st Base Umpire  
**PU** Home Plate Umpire

**U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.**

**PU CAN TAKE THE PLAY AT 3RD BASE IN EITHER FAIR OR FOUL TERRITORY.**
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD - NO CATCH.

- RF: Right Field
- CF: Center Field
- LF: Left Field
- BR: Base Runner
- R1: Runner on 1st Base
- U3: 3rd Base Umpire
- U2: 2nd Base Umpire
- U1: 1st Base Umpire
- PU: Home Plate Umpire

Fly Ball NO CATCH → Runner’s path

U1 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD - CATCH.

- **RF** Right Field
- **CF** Center Field
- **LF** Left Field
- **Runner's path**
- **Fly Ball CATCH**
- **Runner's path**
- **R1** Runner on 1st
- **R3** 3rd Base Umpire
- **U2** 2nd Base Umpire
- **U3** 1st Base Umpire
- **PU** Home Plate Umpire

U1 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.
INITIAL POSITIONS & OUTFIELD COVERAGE.

- **CF**: Center Field
- **R1**: Runner on 2nd
- **R2**: Runner on 2nd
- **U3**: 3rd Base Umpire
- **U2**: 2nd Base Umpire
- **U1**: 1st Base Umpire
- **PU**: Home Plate Umpire

U2 has all

U1 has all

U3

Runner on 2nd

3rd Base Umpire

2nd Base Umpire

1st Base Umpire

Home Plate Umpire
Fly Ball CATCH

Runner's path

Fly Ball CATCH

Runner's path
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD LINE - NO CATCH.

- **RF** Right Field
- **CF** Center Field
- **LF** Left Field
- **U1** 1st Base Umpire
- **U2** 2nd Base Umpire
- **U3** 3rd Base Umpire
- **U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.**
- **U2 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING THE PLAY IN FAIR OR FOUL TERRITORY.**
- **R1** Runner on 2nd
- **R2** Runner on 2nd
- **BR** Base Runner
- **PU** Home Plate Umpire
- **U1 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING THE PLAY ON THE OUTFIELD SIDE. (RIM)**

Fly Ball **NO CATCH** → Runner’s path
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD - CATCH.

RF Right Field  CF Center Field
LF Left Field

Fly Ball CATCH  Runner's path

R1 Runner on 2nd  R2 Runner on 2nd
U3 3rd Base Umpire  U2 2nd Base Umpire
U1 1st Base Umpire  PU Home Plate Umpire

U1 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD LINE - CATCH.

**RF** Right Field
**CF** Center Field
**LF** Left Field
**U3** 3rd Base Umpire
**U2** 2nd Base Umpire
**U1** 1st Base Umpire
**PU** Home Plate Umpire

Runner’s path
Fly Ball CATCH
U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.

R2 Runner on 2nd
R3 Runner on 3rd
U1 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING THE PLAY ON THE OUTFIELD SIDE. (RIM)
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
FLY BALL TO LEFT|CENTER FIELD - NO CATCH.

RF Right Field  CF Center Field
LF Left Field

Fly Ball NO CATCH  Runner’s path

R1 Runner on 2nd  BR Base Runner
R3 Runner on 3rd  R2 Runner on 2nd
U3 3rd Base Umpire
U2 2nd Base Umpire
U1 1st Base Umpire
PU Home Plate Umpire

U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.

U1 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING THE PLAY ON THE OUTFIELD SIDE. (RIM)
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD - NO CATCH.

- **RF** Right Field
- **CF** Center Field
- **LF** Left Field

**Fly Ball NO CATCH** → Runner’s path

- **R1** Runner on 2nd
- **BR** Base Runner
- **R2** Runner on 2nd
- **R3** Runner on 3rd

- **U1** 1st Base Umpire
- **U2** 2nd Base Umpire
- **U3** 3rd Base Umpire
- **PU** Home Plate Umpire

**U1 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.**
INITIAL POSITIONS & OUTFIELD COVERAGE.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO LEFT|CENTER FIELD - CATCH.

- **RF** Right Field
- **CF** Center Field
- **LF** Left Field
- **R1** Runner on 2nd
- **R3** Runner on 3rd
- **U3** 3rd Base Umpire
- **U2** 2nd Base Umpire
- **U1** 1st Base Umpire
- **PU** Home Plate Umpire

Fly Ball **CATCH**

Runner's path

**U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.**

**U1 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING THE PLAY ON THE OUTFIELD SIDE. (RIM)**
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD - NO CATCH.

- RF: Right Field
- CF: Center Field
- LF: Left Field
- Fly Ball NO CATCH, Runner’s path

- R1: Runner on 2nd
- BR: Base Runner
- R3: Runner on 3rd
- U3: 3rd Base Umpire
- U2: 2nd Base Umpire
- U1: 1st Base Umpire
- PU: Home Plate Umpire

U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.

U1 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING THE PLAY ON THE OutFIELD SIDE. (RIM)
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD - CATCH.

RF Right Field  CF Center Field
LF Left Field  Fly Ball CATCH  Runner’s path
R1 Runner on 2nd  R3 Runner on 3rd
U3 3rd Base Umpire  U2 2nd Base Umpire
U1 1st Base Umpire  PU Home Plate Umpire

U1 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD - NO CATCH.

- **RF** Right Field
- **CF** Center Field
- **LF** Left Field
- Fly Ball **NO CATCH**
- Runner's path
- **U1** Home Plate Umpire
- **U2** 2nd Base Umpire
- **U3** 3rd Base Umpire
- **U** 1st Base Umpire
- **PU** Home Plate Umpire

**U2 Splits the Difference.**

**OBSERVES R2'S TAG UP & HAS ALL PLAYS AT 2ND & 3RD BASE.**

**U3 Goes Out on the Play.**

**R2 Runner on 2nd**
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD - NO CATCH.

RF Right Field  CF Center Field
LF Left Field

Fly Ball NO CATCH  Runner’s path

BR Base Runner
R2 Runner on 2nd
U3 3rd Base Umpire
U2 2nd Base Umpire
U1 1st Base Umpire
PU Home Plate Umpire

U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.

U1 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING THE PLAY ON THE OUTFIELD SIDE. (RIM)
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
FLY BALL TO RIGHT|CENTER FIELD - CATCH.

RF Right Field  CF Center Field
LF Left Field
Fly Ball CATCH  Runner’s path
R2 Runner on 2nd
U3 3rd Base Umpire
U2 2nd Base Umpire
U1 1st Base Umpire
PU Home Plate Umpire

U2 Splits the difference between 1st & 2nd base.

U1 goes out on the play.

Runner goes out on the play.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD - CATCH.

- **RF** Right Field
- **CF** Center Field
- **LF** Left Field
- **R2** Runner on 2nd
- **R3** Runner on 3rd
- **3rd** Base Umpire
- **U3** 3rd Base Umpire
- **U2** 2nd Base Umpire
- **U1** 1st Base Umpire
- **PU** Home Plate Umpire

**Runner’s path**

**U1 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING THE PLAY ON THE OUTFIELD SIDE. (RIM)**

**U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.**

**U2 Splits the difference. Observes R2’s tag up & has all plays at 2nd & 3rd base.**
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO RIGHT|CENTER FIELD - CATCH.

- **RF** Right Field
- **CF** Center Field
- **LF** Left Field
- **Fly Ball CATCH**
- **Runner's path**
- **U2** Lines up the tag & has any plays back at 2nd.
- **U1** Goes out on the play.
- **R2** Runner on 2nd
- **R3** Runner on 3rd
- **U3** 3rd Base Umpire
- **U2** 2nd Base Umpire
- **U1** 1st Base Umpire
- **PU** Home Plate Umpire

Runner on 2nd

Fly Ball CATCH

Runner's path

Center Field

Left Field

Right Field

2nd Base Umpire

3rd Base Umpire

1st Base Umpire

Home Plate Umpire

2nd Base

3rd Base

Left Field

Right Field

Center Field

Home Plate

Runner's path
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO RIGHT|CENTER FIELD - CATCH.

- **RF** Right Field
- **CF** Center Field
- **LF** Left Field
- **R2** Runner on 2nd
- **BR** Base Runner
- **R3** Runner on 3rd
- **U3** 3rd Base Umpire
- **U2** 2nd Base Umpire
- **U1** 1st Base Umpire
- **PU** Home Plate Umpire

**U2** has the responsibility for the **BR** & any plays at 2nd & 3rd base.

**U1** goes out on the play.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD - NO CATCH.

RF Right Field  CF Center Field
LF Left Field

Fly Ball NO CATCH  Runner's path

R2 Runner on 2nd  BR Base Runner
R3 Runner on 3rd
U3 3rd Base Umpire
U2 2nd Base Umpire
U1 1st Base Umpire
PU Home Plate Umpire

U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.

U2 Splits the difference. Observes R2's tag up & has all plays at 2nd & 3rd base.

U1 Has the option of taking the play on the outfield side. (RIM)

U3 Goes out on the play.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
INITIAL POSITIONS & OUTFIELD COVERAGE WITH LESS THAN 2 OUTS.

CF  Center Field
R3  Runner on 3rd
U3  3rd Base Umpire
U2  2nd Base Umpire
U1  1st Base Umpire
PU  Home Plate Umpire

U2 HAS ALL FLY BALLS IN THIS AREA.
U3 HAS ALL FLY BALLS IN THIS AREA.
U1 HAS ALL FLY BALLS IN THIS AREA.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
INITIAL POSITIONS & OUTFIELD COVERAGE WITH 2 OUTS.

- **CF**: Center Field
- **R3**: Runner on 3rd
- **U3**: 3rd Base Umpire
- **U2**: 2nd Base Umpire
- **U1**: 1st Base Umpire
- **PU**: Home Plate Umpire

**U2** has all fly balls in this area.

**U3** has all fly balls in this area.

**U1** has all fly balls in this area.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
FLY BALL TO RIGHT FIELD - NO CATCH.

Right Field (RF)  Center Field (CF)
Left Field (LF)

Fly Ball NO CATCH  Runner’s path

Base Runner (BR)
Runner on 3rd (R3)
3rd Base Umpire (U3)
2nd Base Umpire (U2)
1st Base Umpire (U1)
Home Plate Umpire (PU)

U1 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
FLY BALL TO CENTER FIELD - NO CATCH.

RF Right Field  CF Center Field
LF Left Field

Fly Ball NO CATCH  Runner's path

BR Base Runner  R3 Runner on 3rd
U3 3rd Base Umpire  U2 2nd Base Umpire
U1 1st Base Umpire  PU Home Plate Umpire

U2 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.

U3 HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR POSSIBLE TAG AT 3RD BASE.

U1 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING THE PLAY ON THE OUTFIELD SIDE. (RIM)
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS
FLY BALL TO CENTER FIELD - CATCH.

RF Right Field
LF Left Field
CF Center Field

Fly Ball CATCH Runner’s path

R3 Runner on 3rd
U3 3rd Base Umpire
U2 2nd Base Umpire
U1 1st Base Umpire
PU Home Plate Umpire
U2 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.

U1 HAS THE OPTION OF TAKING THE PLAY ON THE OUTFIELD SIDE. (RIM)
R3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.
4 UMPIRE MECHANICS

FLY BALL TO LEFT FIELD - CATCH.

- **RF**: Right Field
- **CF**: Center Field
- **LF**: Left Field
- **LF**: Left Field
- **RF**: Right Field
- **U3**: 3rd Base Umpire
- **U2**: 2nd Base Umpire
- **U1**: 1st Base Umpire
- **PU**: Home Plate Umpire

Fly Ball CATCH  
Runner’s path

R3: Runner on 3rd

U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.
Fly Ball: **NO CATCH.**

- **RF** Right Field
- **CF** Center Field
- **LF** Left Field
- **BR** Base Runner
- **R3** Runner on 3rd
- **U3** 3rd Base Umpire
- **U2** 2nd Base Umpire
- **U1** 1st Base Umpire
- **PU** Home Plate Umpire

**U3 GOES OUT ON THE PLAY.**