AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL
OFFICE FOR UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

MECHANICS FOR THE FOUR-UMPIRE SYSTEM

2013

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

NO RUNNERS ON BASE

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1st baseman in foul territory.	Approximately 20' on grass in outfield, left or right of centre. **Same side as batter**.	10' to 12' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Hustles in and takes possible play at 2nd base.	Remains at 3rd base.	Has ANY PLAY of batter-runner at 1st base and then plays at home plate.
2nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st and 2nd bases on stand up double.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Has play at 2nd and 3rd bases, ball and runner. If stand up double, remains at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st base then home plate.	Has touch and play at 2nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3rd base.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNER ON 1ST BASE ONLY

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Inside diamond edge of dirt first base side of diamond	10' to 12' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag	All fly balls, from centre fielder straight in and out, to his left and all of right field.	Centre fielder to his right, left field to his left	Left fielder straight in and out and to the line	
1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1st base and has play at 2nd base on runner from 1st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1st and 2nd bases. Ball and runner.	Remains at 3rd base.	Has tag of runner at 1st base and then plays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st base and into 2nd base if runner on 1st base commits to 3rd base.	Has the touches and plays at 2nd and 3rd bases of the runner on 1st base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Home plate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 2ND BASES – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	10' to 12' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag 1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1st base and has play at 2nd base on runner from 1st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1st and 2nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3rd base.	Remains at the plate
2nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st and 2nd bases on stand up double. Responsible for runner at 2nd base leaving early on fly ball to left fielder and centre fielder to his right.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3rd base. Responsible for runner at 2nd base leaving early on fly ball to right fielder and centre fielder coming in and to his left.	Stays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has tag at 1st base and possible play at home plate of runner from 2nd base.	Has tag at 2nd base and play at 2nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3rd base and runner's touch of 3rd base. **Communicate.**
Plays at Bases Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 2ND BASES – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	10' to 12' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag 1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1st base and has play at 2nd base on runner from 1st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1st and 2nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st and 2nd bases.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st base and play at 2nd base on batter-runner.	Has all touches and plays at 2nd base except the batter-runner and all plays at 3rd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Stays at home plate and has runner's touch of 3rd base.
Plays at Bases Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD BASES – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Inside diamond edge of dirt first base side of diamond	6' to 8' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag 1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1st base and has play at 2nd base on runner from 1st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1st and 2nd bases. Ball and runner	Has tag of runner at 3rd base and any play at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has tag at 1st base and possible play at home plate.	Has all plays at 2nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3rd base and runner's touch and tag of 3rd base. **Communicate.**
Plays at Bases Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD BASES – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Inside diamond edge of dirt first base side of diamond	6' to 8' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag 1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1st base and has play at 2nd base on runner from 1st base and calls of batter / runner at 1st and 2nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3rd base.	Remains at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st base and possible extension to 2nd base.	Has play and touches at 2nd base of runner at 1st base and plays on that runner and batter-runner at 3rd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Remains at home plate.
Plays at Bases Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

BASES LOADED – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	6' to 8' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag 1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1st base and has play at 2nd base on runner from 1st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1st and 2nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st and 2nd bases on stand up double. Responsible for runner at 2nd base leaving early on fly ball to left fielder and centre fielder to his right.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3rd base. Responsible for runner at 2nd base leaving early on fly ball to right fielder and centre fielder coming in and to his left.	Stays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has tag at 1st base and possible play at home plate of runner from 2nd base.	Has tag at 2nd base and play at 2nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3rd base or home plate and runner's touch and tag up of 3rd base. **Communicate.**
Plays at Bases Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

BASES LOADED – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	6' to 8' behind 1st baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	10' to 12' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag 1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1st base and has play at 2nd base on runner from 1st base and calls of batter / runner at 1st and 2nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st and 2nd bases and any play on those bases.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st and 2nd bases and any play on those bases.	Has first play at 2nd base and second play at 3rd base. **Hustle.**	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and first runner at 3rd base or home plate and first runner's touch of 3rd base. Subsequent plays at home plate. **Communicate.**
Plays at Bases Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS 2ND AND 3RD – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1st baseman in foul territory.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	6' to 8' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag 1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1st base and has play at 2nd base on runner from 1st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1st and 2nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3rd base and has tag up.	Stays at home plate.
2nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st and 2nd bases. Responsible for runner at 2nd base leaving early on fly ball to left fielder and centre fielder to his right.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3rd base. Responsible for runner at 2nd base leaving early on fly ball to right fielder and centre fielder coming in and to his left. Also tag up at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has tag at 1st base and possible play at home plate of runner from 2nd base.	Has tag at 2nd base and play at 2nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3rd base or home plate and runner's touch and tag up of 3rd base. **Communicate.**
Plays at Bases Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNERS 2ND AND 3RD – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1st baseman in foul territory.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	6' to 8' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag 1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1st base and has play at 2nd base on runner from 1st base and calls of batter / runner at 1st and 2nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st and 2nd bases.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has tag at 1st base and possible play at home plate of runner from 2nd base.	Has play at 2nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3rd base or home plate and runner's touch of 3rd base. **Communicate.**
Plays at Bases Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNER ON 2ND BASE ONLY – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1st baseman in foul territory.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	10' to 12' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory, **alert for steal**.	Home plate.
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag 1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1st base and has play at 2nd base on runner from 1st base after tag and calls of batter / runner at 1st and 2nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st and 2nd bases on stand up double. Responsible for runner at 2nd base leaving early on fly ball to left fielder and centre fielder to his right.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3rd base. Responsible for runner at 2nd base leaving early on fly ball to right fielder and centre fielder coming in and to his left.	Stays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st base and possible play at home plate.	Has tag at 2nd base and play at 2nd base.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3rd base or home plate and runner's touch of 3rd base. **Communicate.**
Plays at Bases Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNER ON 2ND BASE ONLY – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1st baseman in foul territory.	Shortstop side, on edge of dirt cut out.	10' to 12' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory, **alert for steal**.	Home plate
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag 1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Drifts across towards 1st base and has play at 2nd base on runner from 1st base and calls of batter / runner at 1st and 2nd bases. Ball and runner	Remains at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
2nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st and 2nd bases on stand up double.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st base and possible play at home plate. **Possible time play.**	Has play at 2nd base and 3rd base once plate commits to home.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has ball and runner at 3rd base or home plate and runner's touch of 3rd base. **Communicate.**
Plays at Bases Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNER 3RD BASE ONLY – LESS THAN TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1st baseman in foul territory.	Approximately 20' on grass in outfield, left field side, must be over further than usual.	6' to 8' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory ready for pickoff.	Home plate
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag 1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Hustles in and takes possible play at 2nd base.	Remains at 3rd base and has tag up.	Has ANY PLAY of batter-runner at 1st base and then plays at home plate.
2nd Base umpire goes out.	Has batter-runner touch of 1st and 2nd bases.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Remains at 3rd base. Responsible for tag up at 3rd base.	Stays at home plate.
3rd Base umpire goes out.	All plays at 1st base on batter-runner.	Has any play at 2nd and 3rd bases on batter-runner. **Also plays on runner back into third, tough play, hustle**	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Has tag at 3rd base and plays at home plate.
Plays at Bases Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.

FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM

RUNNER ON 3RD BASE ONLY – TWO OUT

SITUATION	1ST BASE UMPIRE	2ND BASE UMPIRE	3RD BASE UMPIRE	PLATE UMPIRE
Position	10' to 12' behind 1st baseman in foul territory.	Approximately 20' on grass in outfield, left or right centre. **Same side as batter.**	6' to 8' behind 3rd baseman in foul territory.	Home plate
Fly Ball Responsibilities Runners Tag				
1st Base umpire goes out.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Hustles in and takes possible play at 1st and 2nd bases.	Remains at 3rd base.	Has touch of batter-runner at 1st base and then plays at home plate.
2nd Base umpire goes out.	Has all calls on batter-runner at 1st and 2nd bases on stand up double.	Stays out until play finishes then hustles in if necessary.	Has batter-runner at 2nd base when 1st base umpire doesn't take him.	Has ball and runner at 3rd base or home plate and runner's touch of 3rd base. **Communicate.**
3rd Base umpire goes out.	Has all calls on batter-runner at 1st base.	Has play at 2nd and 3rd base on batter-runner.	Stays out until play finishes and hustles in if necessary.	Stays at home plate.
Plays at Bases				
Any base hit.	All plays at 1st base.	All plays at 2nd base.	All plays at 3rd base.	All plays at home plate.