**4-Person Umpire Mechanics**

**Starting Positions**

PU= Plate Umpire - Starts behind the dish

1BU= (1st Base Umpire) - Start on the 1B Line 6-10 Feet slightly off the line with your belt buckle facing home plate

2BU= (2nd Base Umpire)- Modified B Position 6-10 Feet behind 2B and inline with 3B with your belt buckle facing home plate

3BU= (3rd Base Umpire) - Start on the 3B Line 6-10 Feet slightly off the line with your belt buckle facing home plate

Although it is not unheard of that a single chapter will provide four umpires for a game it is usually a split crew where each Head Coach’s home chapter supplies two umpires each. In this instance if the HC we cover is home for the game then we will have the Plate and our partner will be on 2B, while the visiting HC’s umpires will be on 1B and 3B. It will be imperative as the Plate Umpire that you have a good pre-game meeting and you discuss how you want your fellow umpires to cover the game. Remind them of our statement (See Below).

“If you are going to deviate communicate”

**\*\*\* Our goal is to ALWAYS have a BLUE in front of the runners\*\*\***

Plate Umpire part of your review during your pre-game will need to include where you will go if you have a check swing appeal.

1. If you have a RH Batter, then you will go to the 1BU
2. If you have a LH Batter, then you will go to the 3BU

**Basic Coverage:**

**Flyball/Line Shots-**

Flyball/Line Shot to anywhere in the V (Between the RF and LF)-

1. 2BU will go out and observe the play and make the call. Then they will turn and face the infield and assist in any adjudication if needed. The
2. 1BU will button hook in and observe the runner as they pass 1B. The 3BU will come across the infield (same as 3-Person) toward 2B and be ready to make a call if needed.
3. PU will move up the 3B Line and be ready to make a call at 3B if needed.
4. 1BU will go to their holding zone and be ready to move toward the Plate and make a call if needed. Once all play has ceased the 1BU will call time and all Umpires will move to their next position. We will always keep an eye on the players.

Flyball/Line Shot to the RF between them and the Right Foul Line-

1. 1BU will go out, observe the play and make the call. They will face back in toward the infield and assist with adjudication if needed.
2. PU will trail the BR and be ready to make a call at 1st if there is a throwback to 1st.
3. 2BU move inside the diamond and will watch, be ready to make a call. The 3BU will be ready to make a call if the BR gets to 3B.
4. PU will have moved to the Right Foul Line Holding Area and then if needed will move toward and be ready to make the call. Once all play has ceased the PU will call time and all Umpires will move to their next position. We will always keep an eye on the players.

Flyball/Line Shot to the LF between them and the Left Foul Line-

1. 3BU will go out, observe the play and make the call. They will face back in toward the infield and assist with adjudication if needed.
2. 1BU will button hook in and observe the runner as they pass 1B.
3. 2BU will move inside the diamond and will watch, be ready to make a call.
4. PU will move up the 3B Line and be ready to make a call at 3B if needed.
5. 1BU will have moved to the Right Foul Line Holding Area and then if needed will move toward and be ready to make the call. Once all play has ceased the 1BU will call time and all Umpires will move to their next position. We will always keep an eye on the players.

Runner on 1B and the ball is hit to the infield-

1. PU will trail BR toward 1B, then move to holding zone of Left Foul Line
2. 1BU will move to a position to make a call on the BR or the follow-on play.
3. 2BU is in position to adjudicate 2B
4. 3BU will move inside the diamond and be ready to adjudicate a play if needed.

Runners on 1B and 2B and the ball is hit to the infield-

1. PU will trail BR toward 1B, then move to holding zone of Left Foul Line
2. 1BU will move to a position to make a call on the BR or the follow-on play.
3. 2BU is in position to adjudicate 2B
4. 3BU will move inside the diamond and be ready to adjudicate a play if needed.

Runners on 1B, 2B, and 3B and ball hit to the infield-

1. ALL umpires freeze and observe their base as needed to adjudicate the play.

Post Season/Playoff Game Day Procedures

Days leading up to Game Day

The Crew Chief who is designated as the Plate for the contest will ensure the following is completed no later than a minimum of 48 hours prior to the contest.

1. ALL umpires contacted and review of the following
2. Where the Games are being played
3. What time the Game starts
4. What time they want to meet up and where
5. What to wear (Business Casual)
6. Travel Shirt (Black and Gold or others if you have them)
7. Long Slacks (Khakis or Black)
8. Black or Brown Casual Dress Shoes
9. If during the next 48 hours changes are made, then the Crew Chief will contact his fellow umpires and communicate with them the changes in the schedule.

Game Day

On game day the Crew Chief will be in contact with his fellow umpires early and often ensuring that all of you get to the designated site.

1. Arrive NLT 1 hour prior to the contest
2. ALL park together if you did not ride together
3. If the site administrator meets you get what information they have for you
4. Once all have arrived make yourselves presentable and go meet with the Head Coaches let them know that you are there and ensure that the start time is still the same and any other changes that might have taken place since last communicated with. Find out whom you need to give your pay sheets to.
5. Sometimes this will be individual
6. Sometimes they are talking together
7. After the meeting depending on the time before the contest you may decide to walk the field, or you may decide to go get dressed
8. As you are dressing pre-game how you are going to cover the game
9. Once ALL are ready move toward the field together
10. Walk the field together and look for
11. Dead Ball Areas
12. Holes in the fence
13. Field Markings
14. Potential Ground Rules
15. After your walk move toward Home Plate and be ready to start the game on time.

Everything said above only happens if everything falls in line. As always be ready for the unexpected and be flexible. After all we are there for the Coaches as they either chose us or we were selected by our chapter leadership. Represent the TYLER LONE STAR SOFTBALL CHAPTER with professionalism and pride.

What I covered above is if were all coming from the same chapter if you are one of the few “Lucky Ones” or rather “Unlucky Ones” that get the honor of working a split crew it will be challenging but doable. Remember the following:

1. Attempt to reach out and communicate with the other chapter to find out whom they are sending and maybe you’ll communicate with umpire(s)
2. You can only ensure that yourself and your partner if two of you are coming from the same chapter are there on time and ready as stated above.
3. Be ready for anything
4. On the field you are a cohesive group off the field is where you “discuss things”
5. If you have an incident remember you MUST contact two (2) of the following personnel.
6. President- Oscar Strain
7. VP/UIC- Tom Cremeans
8. Assigner- Chuck Allen
9. Treasurer- Shane Helms