

The background features a faint, stylized pattern of a cricket ball, with its characteristic curved lines and segments visible in a light, muted green color against a dark grey background.

United Umpires Training

Chest To Ball

- The importance of chest to ball
 - Helps us stay oriented so we can watch ball, glance at partners (and....)
- The Snapshot Approach
 - We need constantly seek out information to guide us
 - Especially important when people are in decision making mode
- When is chest to ball bad?
 - Foul pop ups – watch fielder

Pivoting

- Rather than pivoting every time, stay chest to ball and turn your head
 - Saves steps (and knees)
- You **SHOULD** employ a pivot if it will help you see both the **BALL** and **RUNNER**
 - Ball down RF line
 - Ball in foul territory on 1B side

Problems with Chest to Ball

- Passed Balls – We must know where the ball ends up
- Ground Balls to infield – Avoid the urge to turn towards the base
- When both we and the ball are moving – Work on your crossover steps like a defensive back
- Remember how we approach fundamentals
 - Sharpen during the easy plays – then you'll be ready when they get harder

A Position – Moving Inside w Batter/Runner

- What is the goal of moving inside from the A Position?
 - Get into working area
 - Take a play on the B/R at any base
 - Play=Ball and Runner=Move into cutout
- What are our eyes doing when we are moving inside?
 - Watch the ball – glance at the runner
 - Common mistake is to start staring at the runner as they are moving up the first base line – the status of the ball is more important
 - Batter becomes important as they approach and round the base – keep taking snapshots

A Position – Moving Inside w Batter/Runner

- Varying your entrance angles
 - Closer to first for clean base hits
 - Towards cutout at second for likely plays at second
 - Through the working area for stand up doubles/triples

A Position – Moving Inside w Batter/Runner

- Where do we go once we get inside?
 - Always ahead of the runner
 - Shading towards your next possible play
 - Be cautious about overcommitment
- Don't fear third base
 - Once our last runner reaches third – what other responsibilities does the base umpire have?

Force Plays at First Base

- Why do we miss force plays at first base?
 - Anticipation
 - The Blow Up
 - Poor Position w No Time to Adjust

Force Plays at First Base - Theory

- Anticipation
 - Don't prejudge the play
- The Blow Up – Why does this happen?
 - Our eyes arrive late to the play
 - Get away from “read a true throw”
 - Practice this during infield warm-ups
 - Instead, snap head to base as soon as throw is imminent
 - One exception – when infielder is moving hard to their left
 - Use actions of first basemen to tell you the throw is true or offline

Force Plays at First Base - Theory

- Poor position with little time to adjust
 - Stay out of the likely area of pulled foot plays
 - Swipe tag plays are easier to see developing – move with first basemen as they come off base

Force Plays at First Base - Practice

- GB to left side
 - Get to your spot ASAP – Closer to line
 - Get your shoulders squared to first
 - Eyes stay on fielder until throw is imminent
 - Eyes then snap to first base
 - Watch for foot to hit base
 - Listen (and see) ball hit glove
 - Render decision (including proper use of eyes)

Force Plays at First Base - Practice

- GB to right side
 - Read step to ensure fielder isn't moving hard towards you
 - If NO – get to your spot and repeat steps above
 - If YES – Move foul to stay clear of throw and repeat steps above
- Ball thrown from in front of mound (AKA imaginary box)
 - Take more angle off the line – 45 degrees
 - Repeat same steps as above

The Wedge for Tag Plays

- Goal is to be in position to see tag meet runner
 - 3 Steps to our process
 - Starting position - Closer and in a position with the runner sliding in your direction – Point of Plate
 - When the fielder reacts to the incoming throw – follow them
 - Quiet steps as the play unfolds to ensure you see the tag meeting the runner
- Contrast this to the old approach of – back up and pick a side

Uncaught Third Strikes

- The Rule
 - A pitch not caught in flight on strike 3
 - First base unoccupied OR 2 outs
- The mechanics
 - Signal swinging strikes with point
 - Signal outs with hammer
 - Get away from signaling 'no catch'

Uncaught Third Strikes

- The movements
 - Be in a position to see the possible tag
 - Once tag is missed, get back to the line
- Bonus
 - Keep dirt behind plate smooth and use the mark in the dirt to help see balls that bounce
 - As a last resort – use your partner to help you