

3-Umpire Mechanics for the 60' Diamond 2019 Season



California 4 Umpire Association



Little League – Intermediate (50/70) – Junior League – Senior League – Challenger Division

The 3-Umpire Mechanics Basic Principles

- Keep one umpire AHEAD of the lead runner.
- With a runner on 1st base, we will always have an umpire at 1st base.
- With 2 outs, we will always have an umpire at 1st base.
- We “go out” on all fly balls that can be caught and all **trouble balls**. (see page 3)
- An umpire who “goes out” stays out, but turns with the throw to observe events on the infield (“events” include base touches, plays, & overthrows, for example).
- An easy principle to remember is if one umpire goes out, the two remaining umpires revert to 2-umpire mechanics.
- Umpires in the “B” or “C” position are always responsible for catch/no catch in the “V” (left fielder to right fielder).
- If the ball goes out, someone must come in.

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* **What Is a Trouble Ball?**

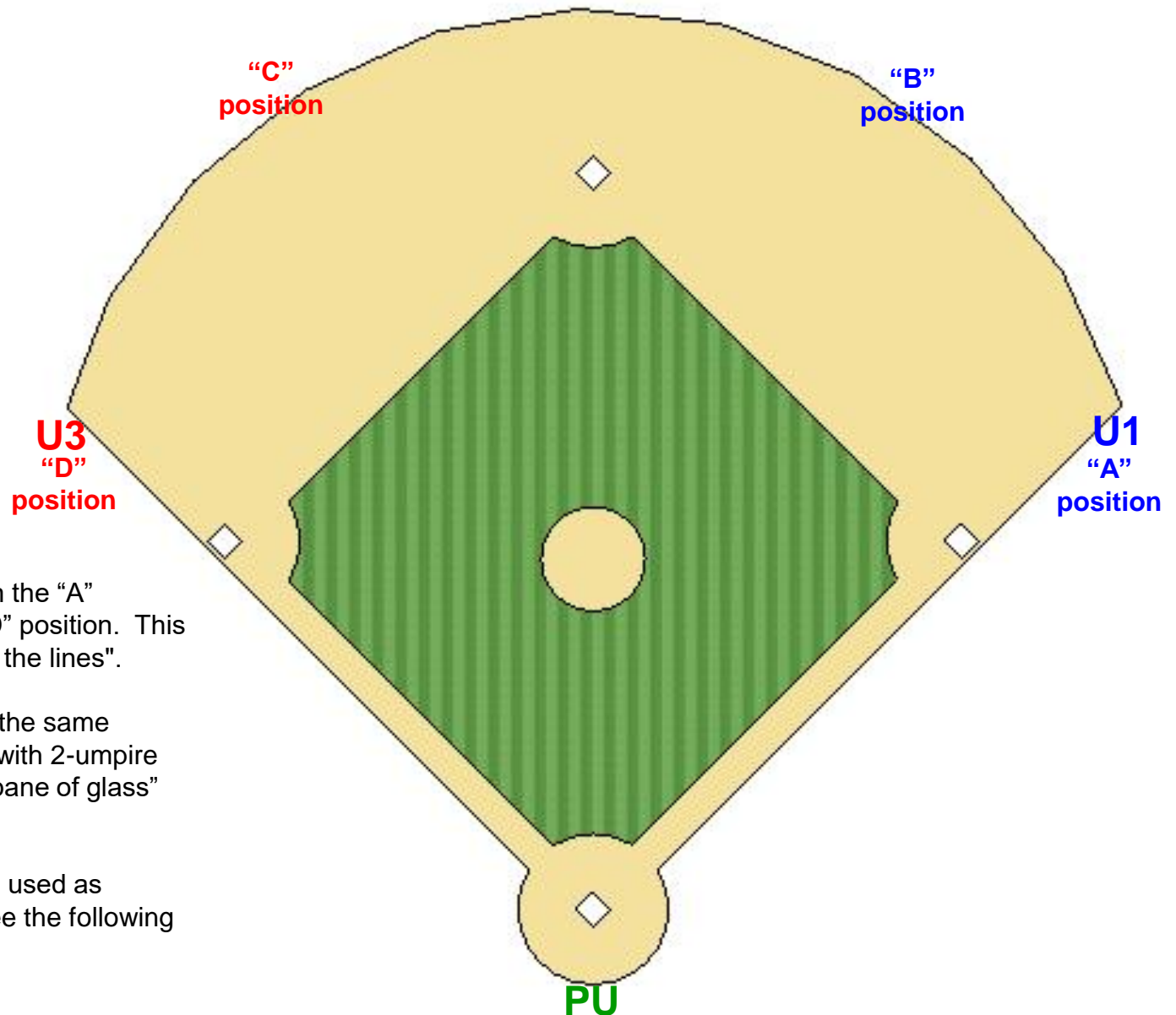
- When the outfielder turns and runs toward the outfield fence (possible Home run)...
- When the outfielder runs toward the foul line (possible fair/foul)...
- When multiple fielders are converging on a fly ball (possible collision and/or dropped ball)...
- When a catch might be made below the waist or by a fielder leaving his feet (possible diving catch)...

...then you have a Trouble Ball!

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Basic Positions



With no runners on U1 is in the "A" position and U3 is in the "D" position. This is also known as being "on the lines".

Umpires on the lines have the same fair/foul responsibilities as with 2-umpire mechanics ("breaking the pane of glass" concept).

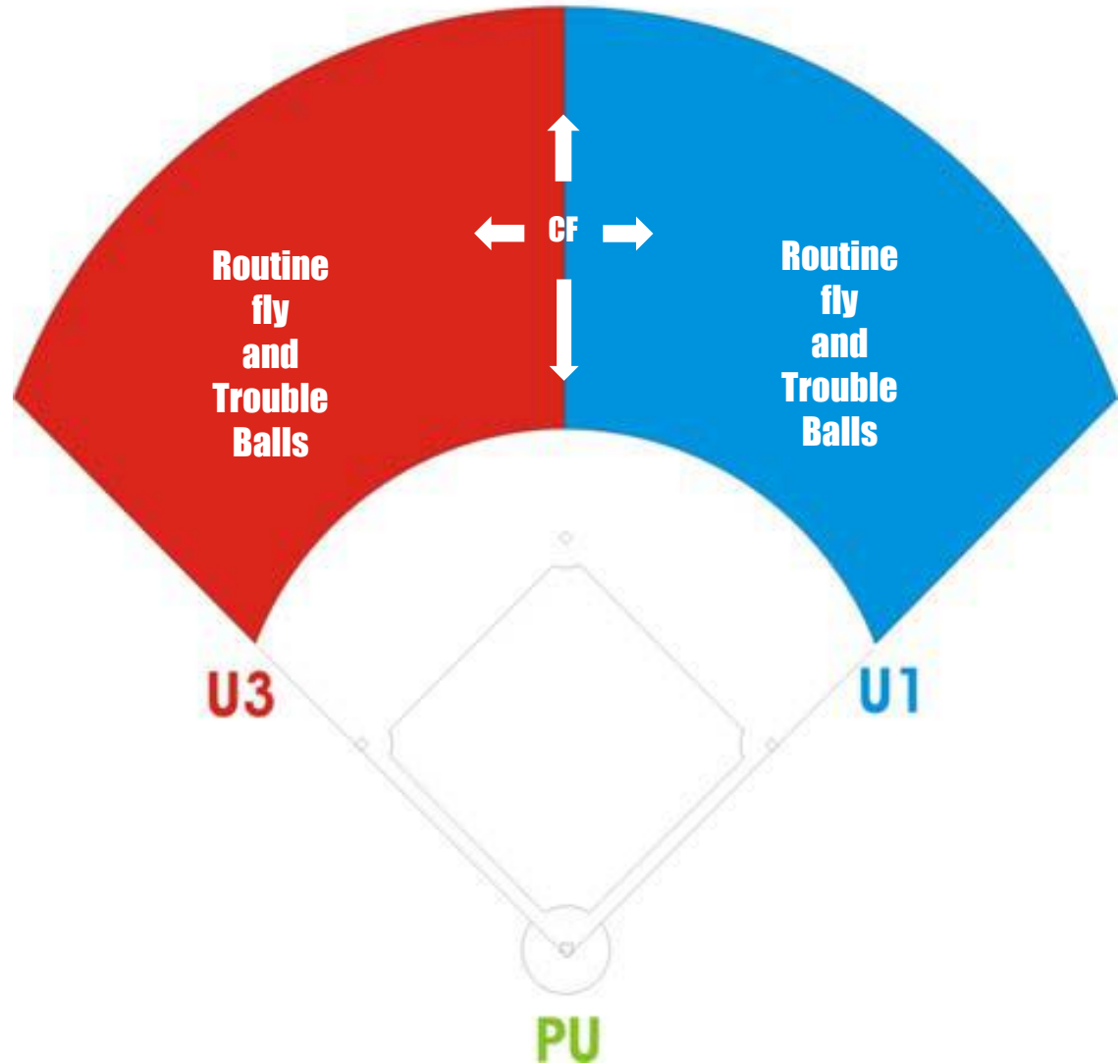
The "B" & "C" positions are used as runners acquire bases. See the following pages.

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Basic Fly Ball Coverage

No runners on



U1 has all fly balls from the center fielder to the right field line.

U3 has all fly balls from the center fielder to the left field line.

U1 dictates the coverage and has the center fielder coming straight in.

U3 has the center fielder going straight back.

PU has no outfield responsibility with no runners on.

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Basic Fly Ball Coverage

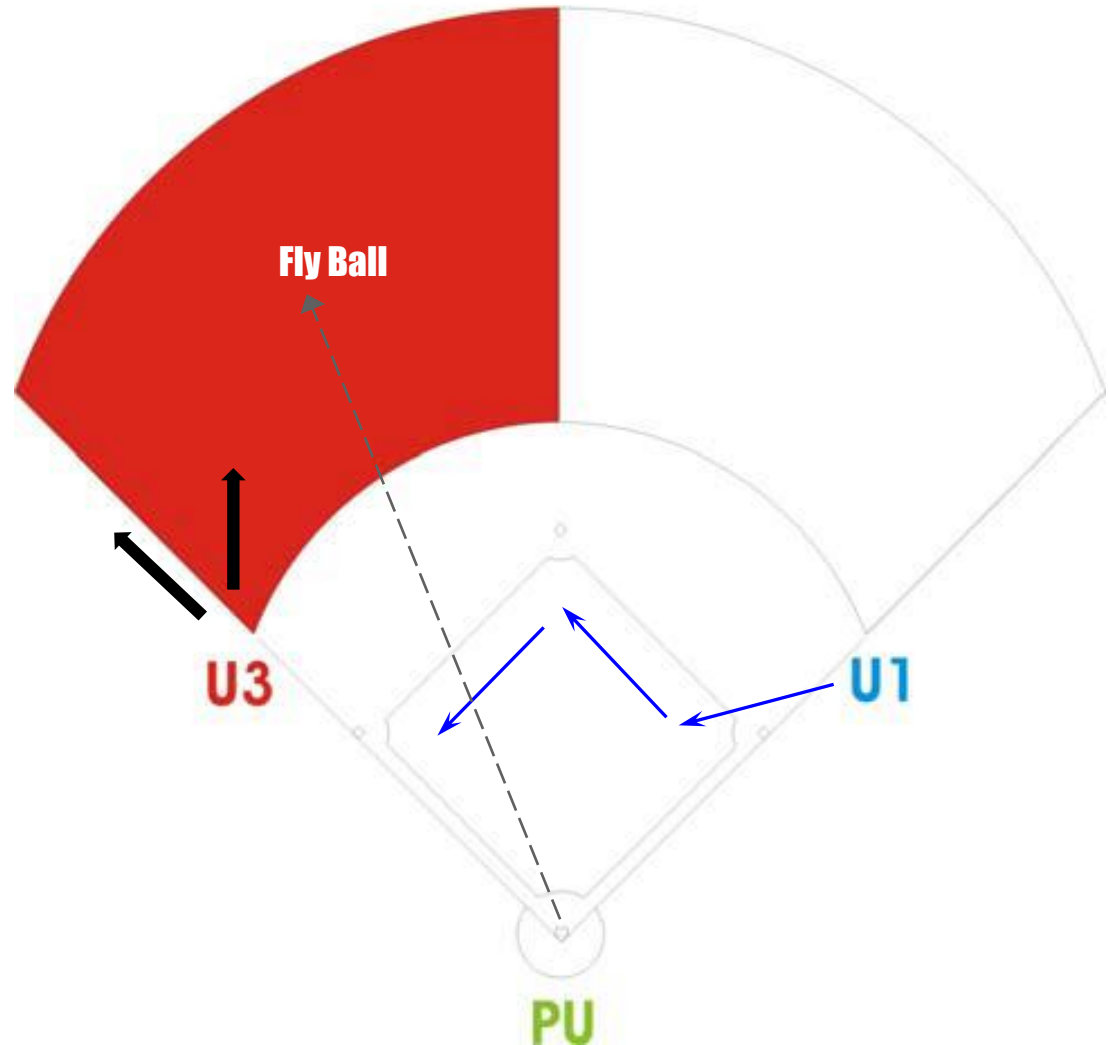
No runners on

**Any fly ball to left field
(U3 responsibility area)**

U3 goes out on the fly ball to rule on catch/no catch.

U1 enters the infield and watches the touch of 1st base by the batter-runner. U1 pivots if necessary and has all plays on the batter-runner at any base.

PU stays Home, observes the catch/no-catch, and has any plays at Home Plate.



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Basic Fly Ball Coverage

Runner on 3rd only

**U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "D" position**

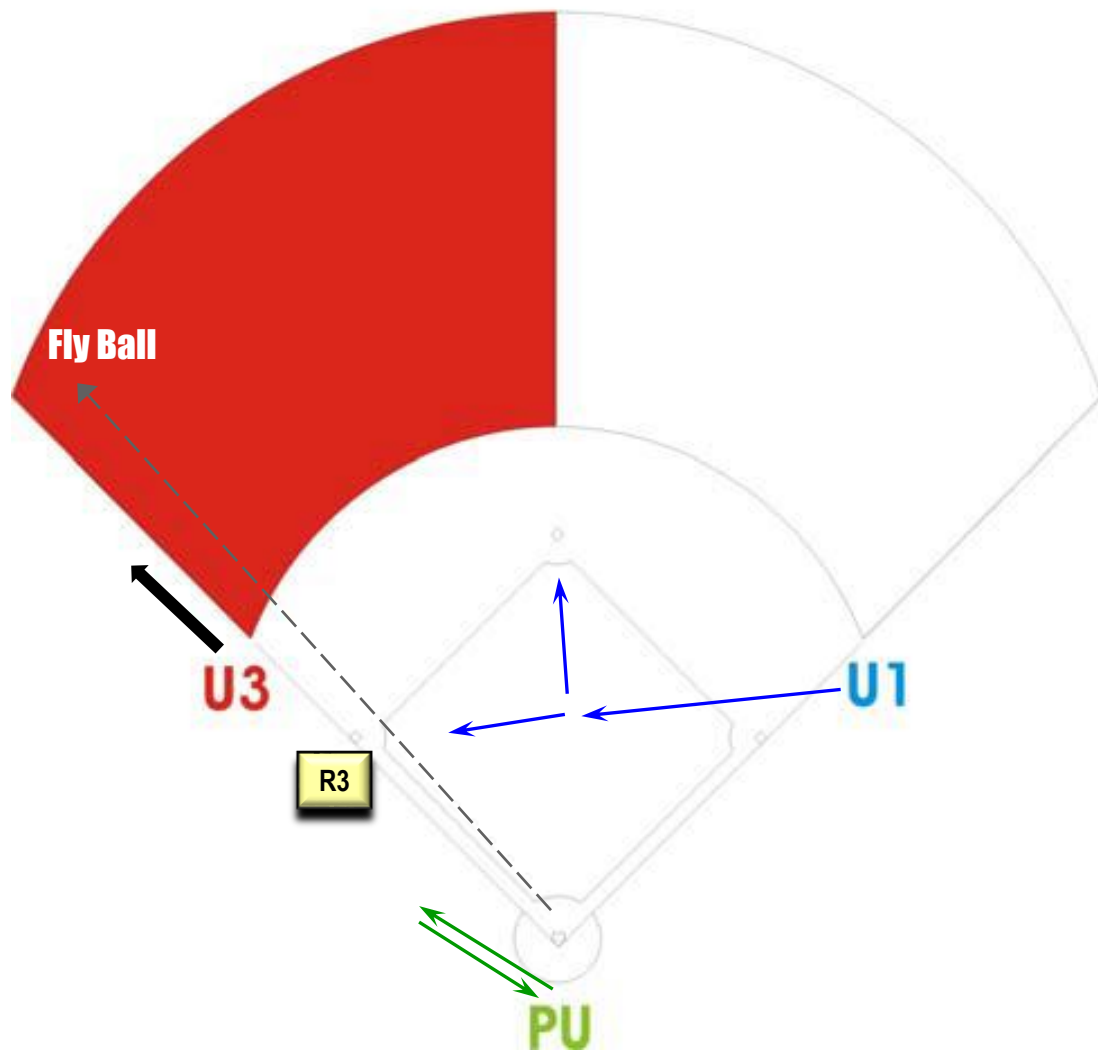
**Any fly ball to left field
(U3 responsibility area)**

U3 goes out on the fly ball to rule on (in this picture) fair/foul and catch/no catch.

U1 enters the infield and watches for any back door play on R3. U1 cannot pivot as he/she must get across the diamond.

U1 must also shoulder check to see the batter-runner's touch of 1st base. If the ball is not caught, U1 has all plays on the Batter/Runner at any base.

PU develops an angle to see the tag-up at 3rd base and returns to the point of the plate to see the touch of Home and any plays at Home.



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Basic Fly Ball Coverage

No runners on

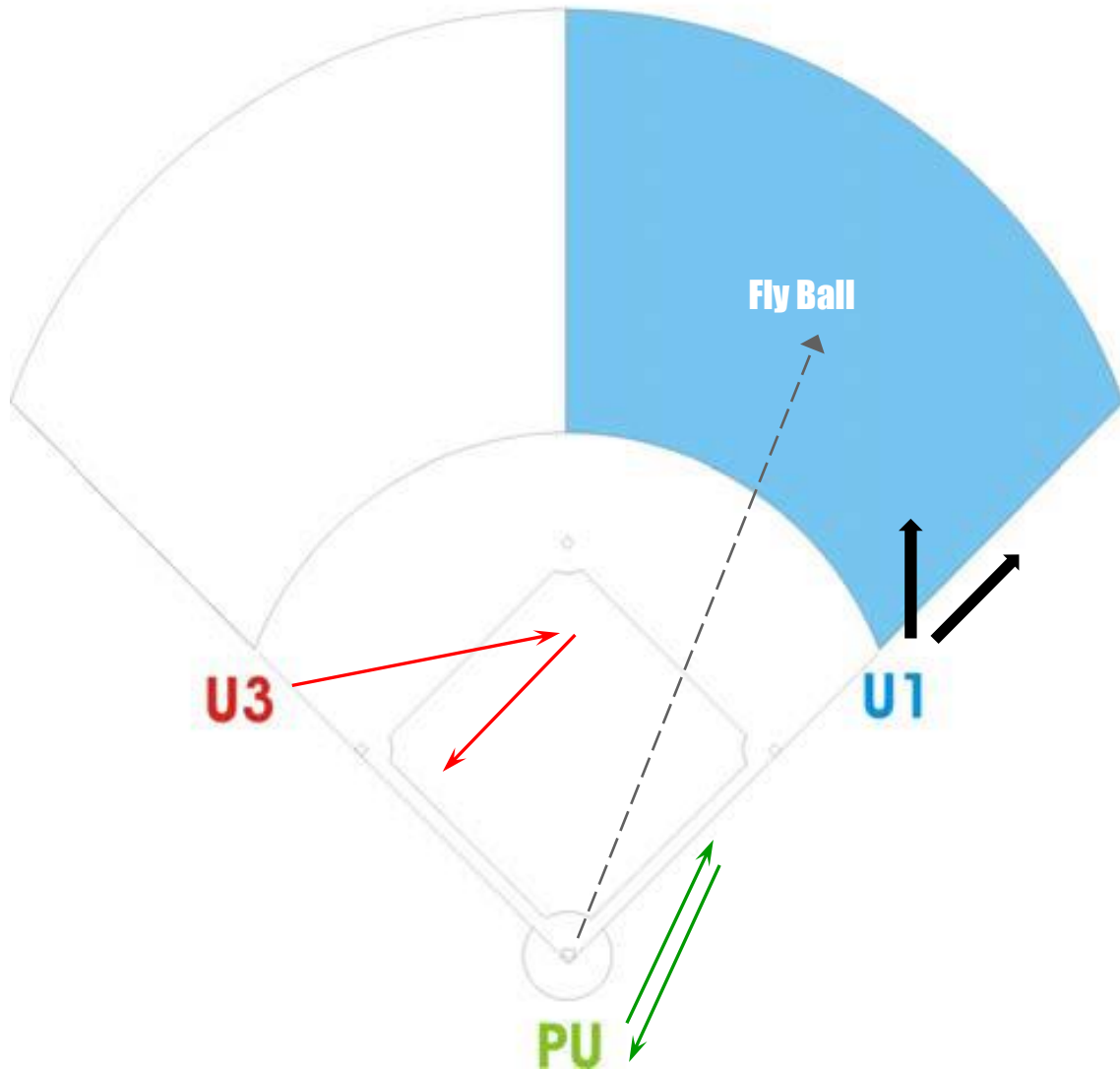
**Any fly ball to right field
(U1 responsibility area)**

U1 has primary responsibility for fair/foul & catch/no-catch on the fly ball.

U3 moves into the infield to the 2nd base cutout for any play there on the Batter/Runner. U3 also has any play at 3rd base.

PU observes the Batter/Runner touching 1st base and has any back door play on the Batter/Runner. Once the Batter/Runner commits to 2nd base, the PU returns Home for any play there.

The PU must communicate that he/she has 1st base



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Basic Fly Ball Coverage

Runner on 3rd only

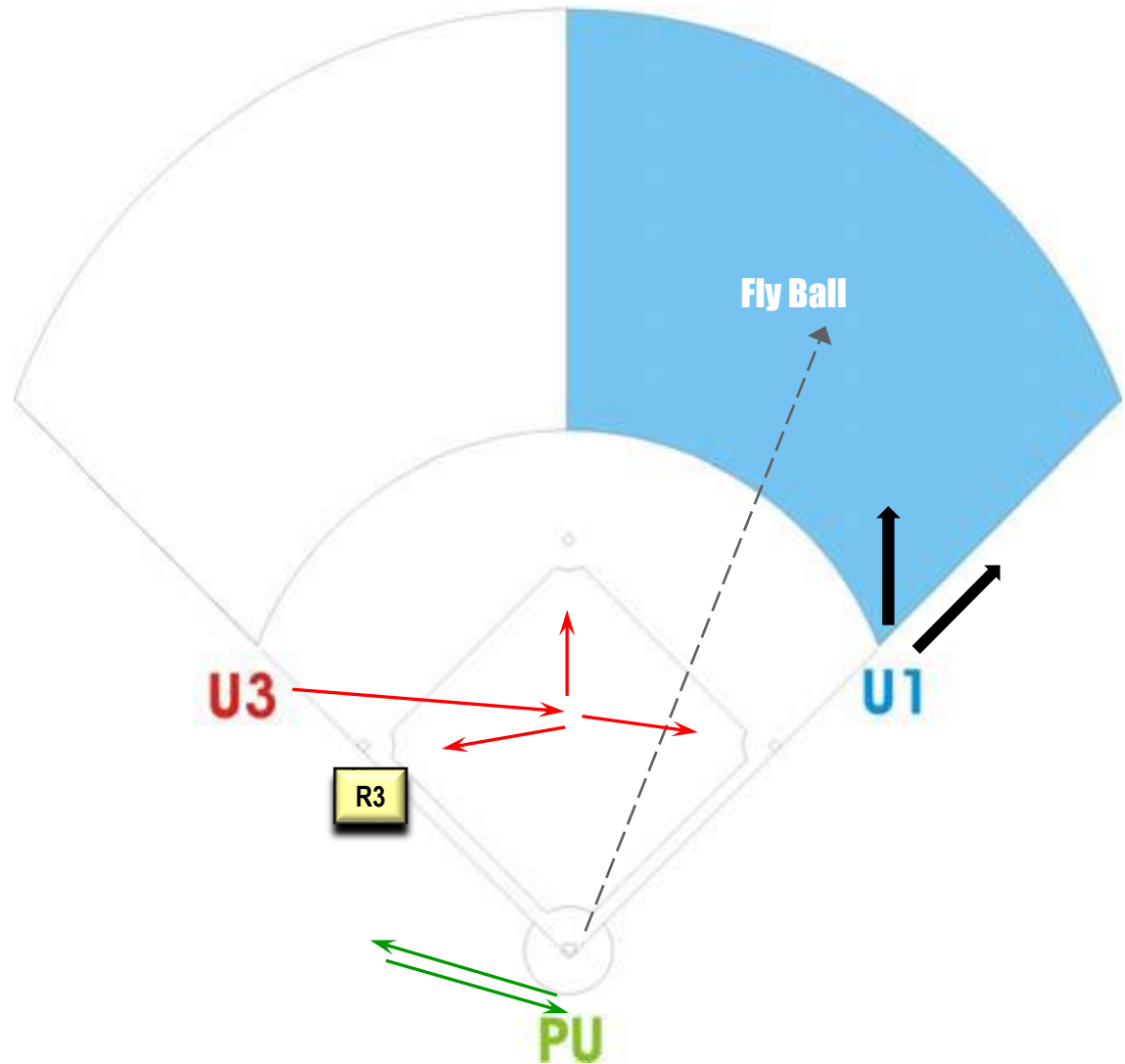
U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "D" position

Any fly ball to right field
(U1 responsibility area)

U1 goes out for fair/foul & catch/no-catch on the fly ball.

U3 immediately moves into the infield and positions to see all touches and plays on all bases.

PU develops an angle to observe the tag-up at 3rd base and then returns Home for all plays there.



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The Basic Rotation

No Runners on
or
Runner on 3rd only

U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "D" position

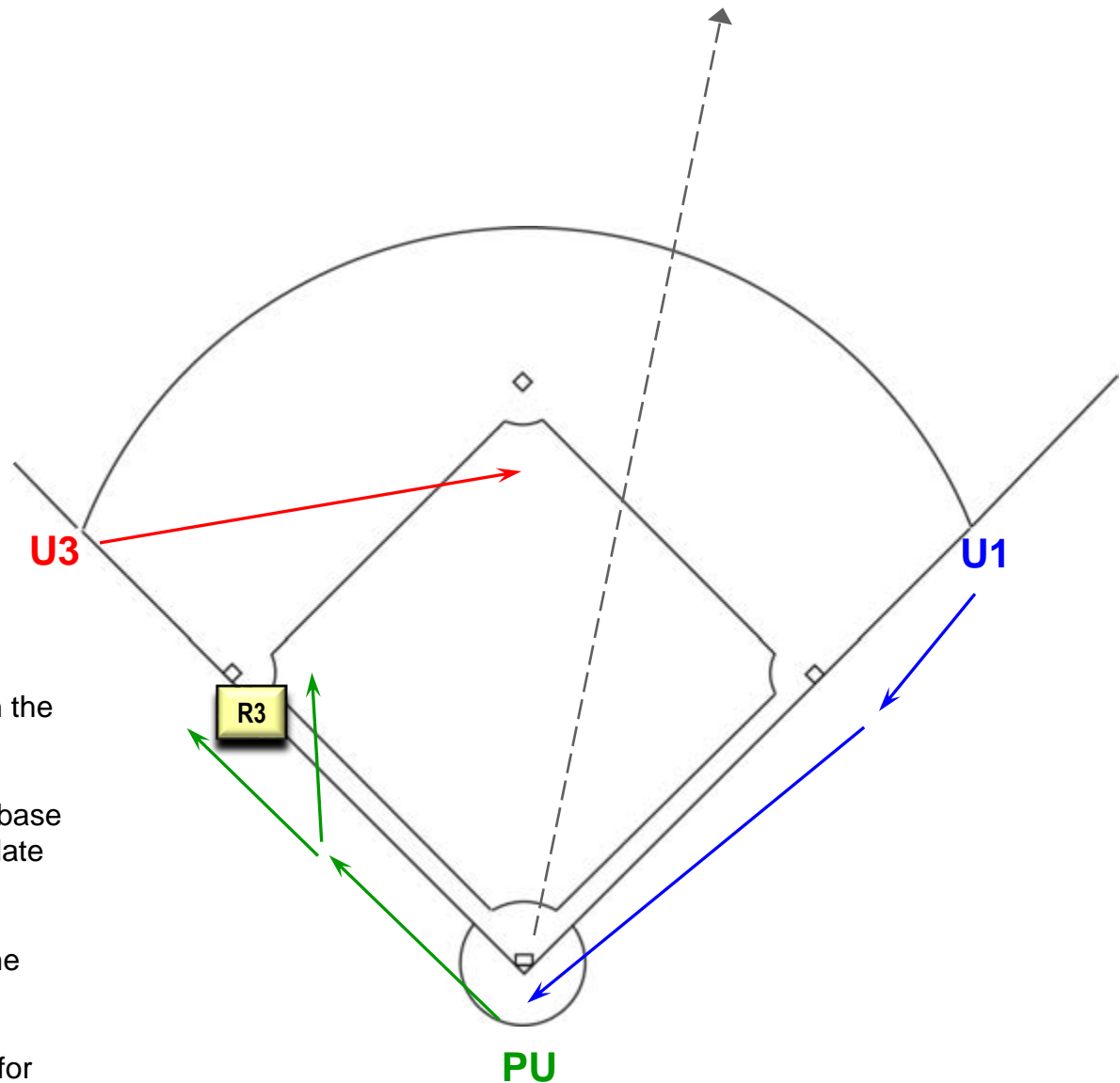
Clean base hit to the outfield

U3 enters the infield and has all plays on the Batter/Runner at 2nd base.

U1 watches the Batter/Runner touch 1st base from foul territory and moves to Home Plate if the BR commits to 3rd base.

PU reads the ball and has any play on the Batter/Runner at 3rd base.

With a runner on 3rd the PU must watch for R3 touching Home before committing to 3rd base by using an "over-the-shoulder" look.



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Positions & Outfield Coverage

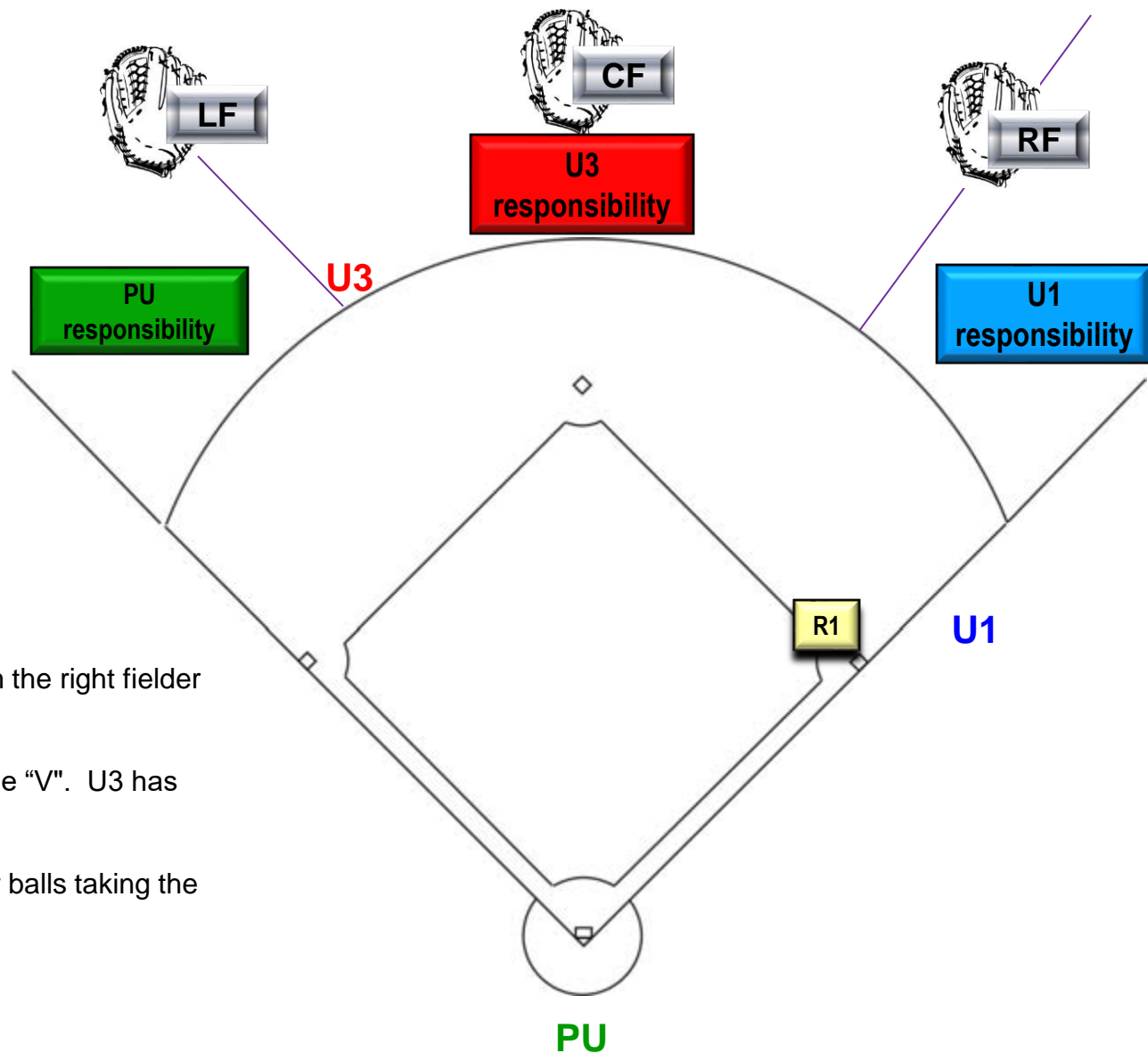
Runner on 1st base

U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position

U1 has coverage on all fly balls from the right fielder to the right field line.

U3 has coverage on all fly balls in the "V". U3 has no fair/foul responsibility.

PU has fair/foul & catch/no catch for balls taking the left fielder to the left field line.



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The Basic Rotation

Runner on 1st base
or
Runners on 1st & 3rd base

Clean base hit to the outfield

U1 watches the Batter/Runner touch 1st.

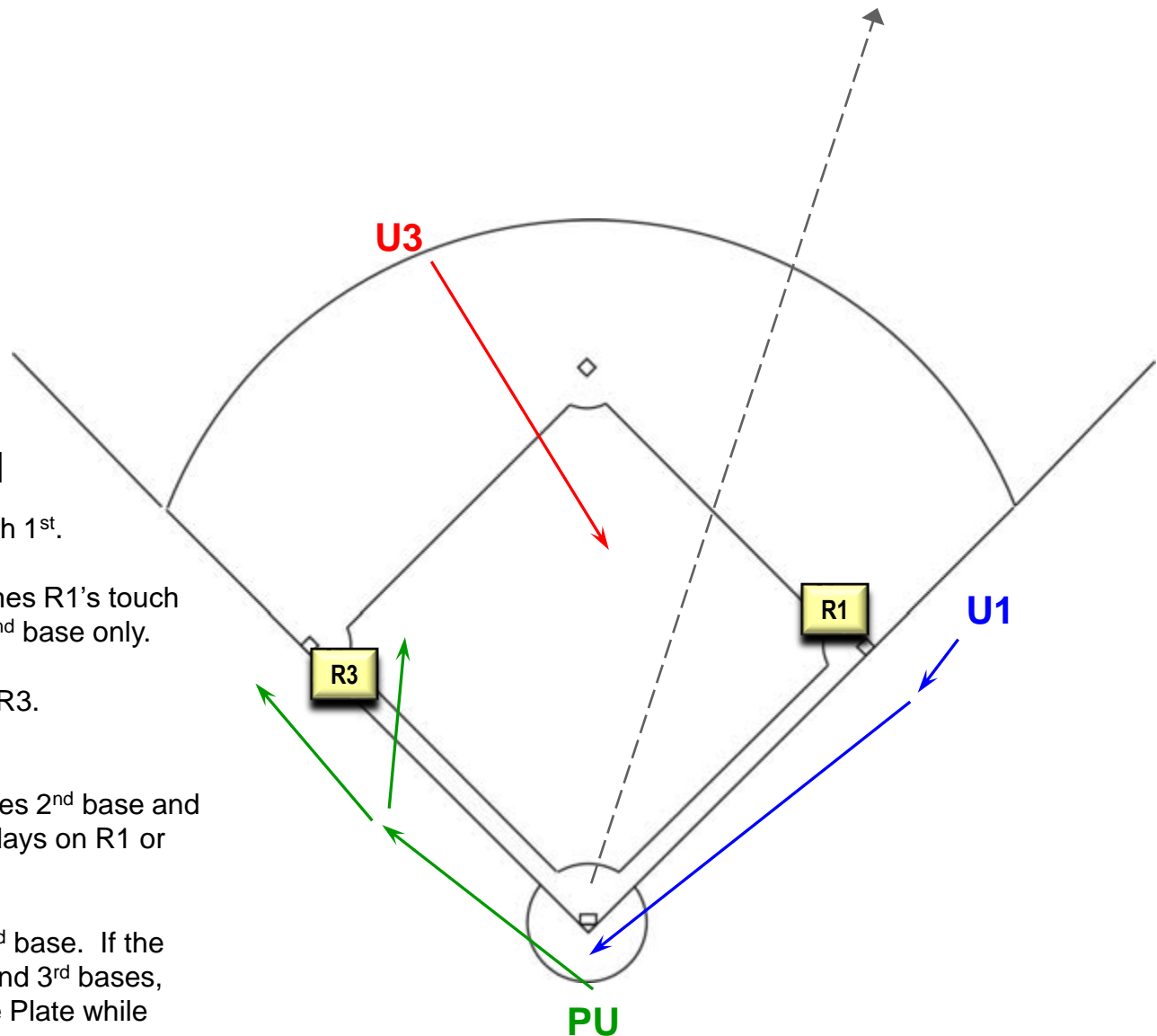
U3 comes into the infield and watches R1's touch of 2nd base. U3 has any plays at 2nd base only.

PU watches the touch of Home by R3.

If R1 commits to 3rd base:

U1 moves to Home when R1 touches 2nd base and commits to 3rd base. U1 has any plays on R1 or the Batter/Runner at Home Plate.

PU moves into position for R1 at 3rd base. If the at-bat began with a runners at 1st and 3rd bases, the PU must watch R3 touch Home Plate while moving toward 3rd base.



U1 Goes Out

Runner on 1st base

or

Runners on 1st & 3rd bases

U1 goes out and has fair/foul & catch/no catch responsibilities.

If the ball is not caught:

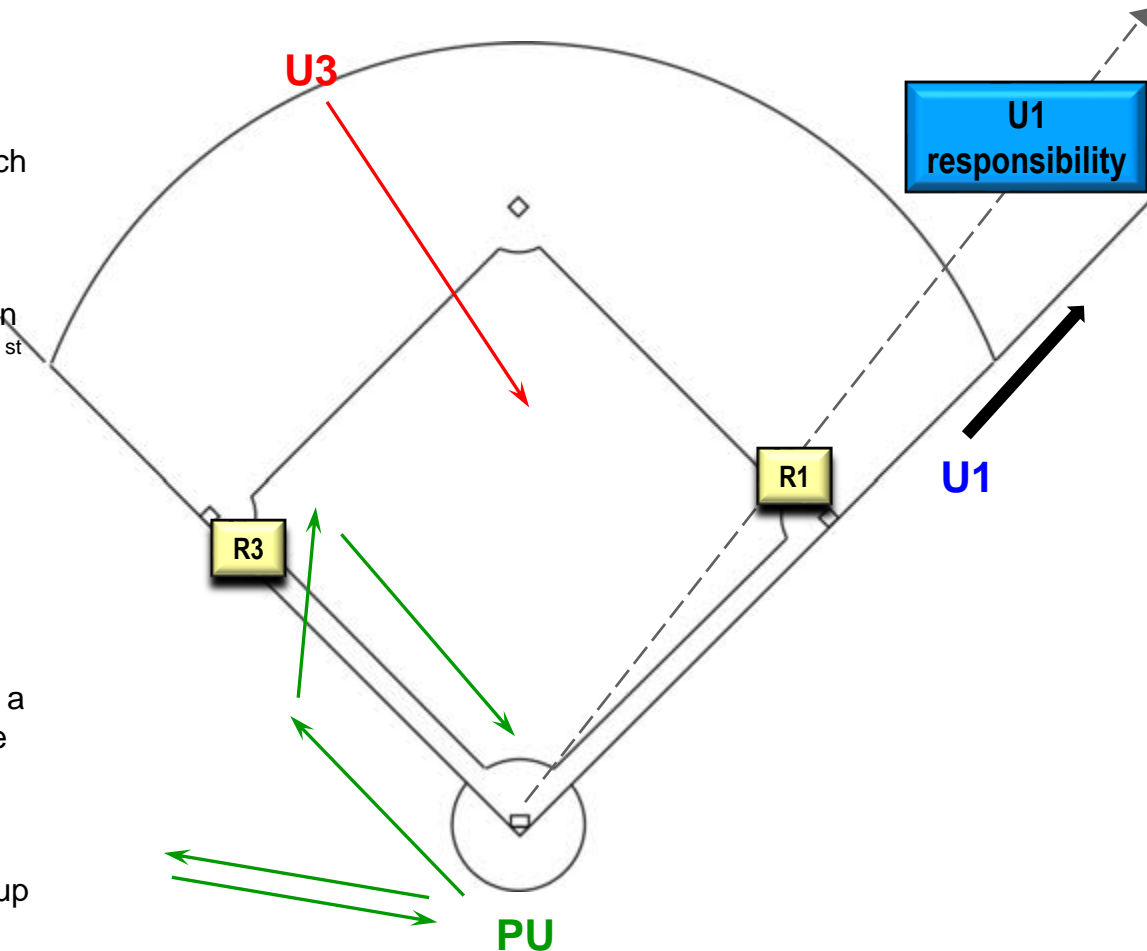
U3 comes into the infield and has any play on R1 at 2nd base and Batter/Runner touching 1st base. Once R1 touches 2nd base and commits to 3rd base, U3 assumes responsibility for the Batter/Runner at any base.

PU rotates to 3rd base for any play on R1 there. Communicate! With a runner at 3rd base the umpire must see R3 touch Home Plate while moving toward 3rd base. Note: If a play develops at Home Plate, PU must move there in fair ground.

If the fly ball is caught:

PU must develop an angle to watch the tag-up from 3rd base before going back to Home Plate.

U3 is responsible for R1's tag-up at 1st base and any play at 2nd base.



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U3 Goes Out

**Runner on 1st base
or
Runners on 1st & 3rd base**

U3 responsible for catch/no catch.

If the fly ball is caught:

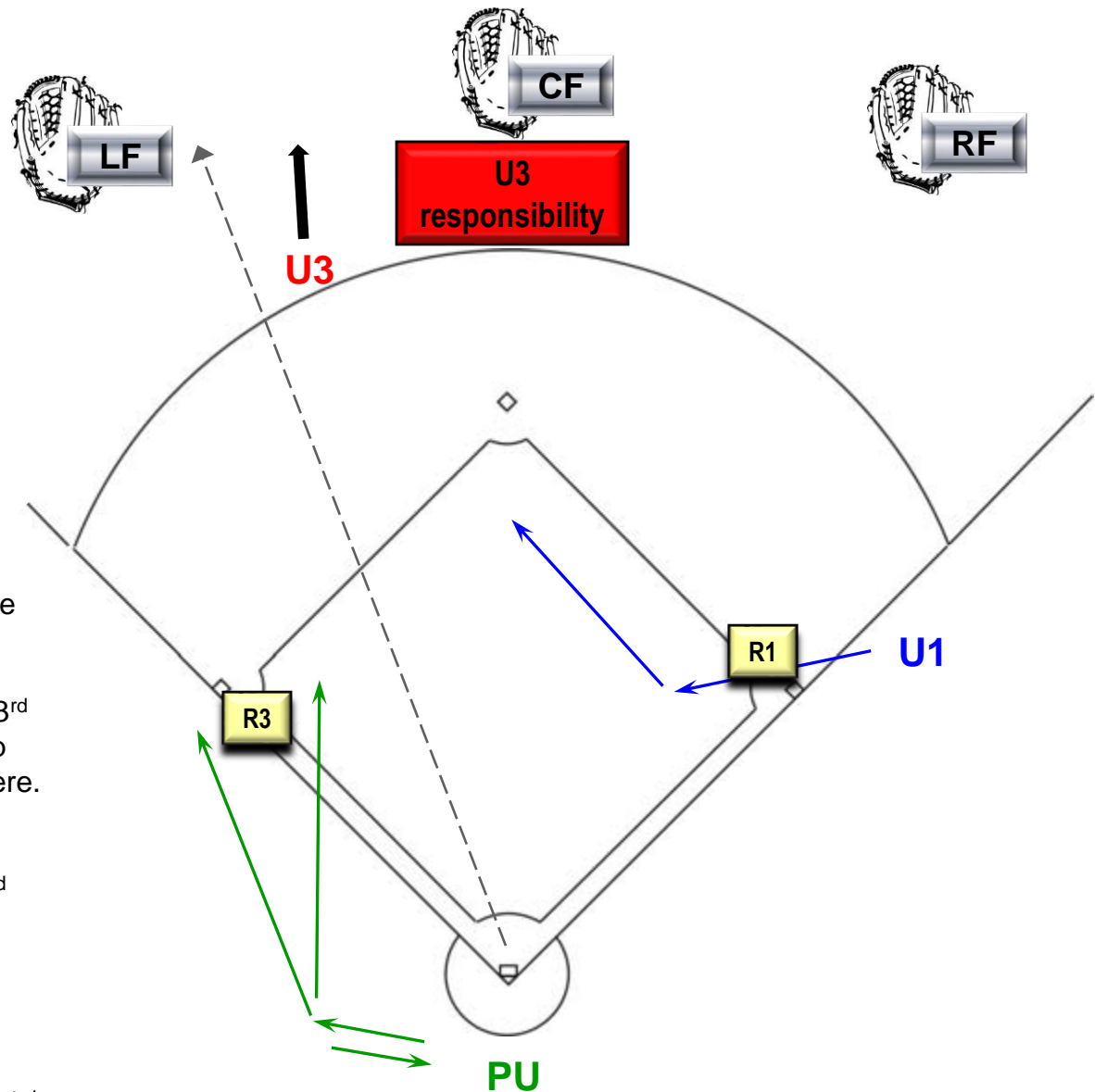
U1 is responsible for any tag-up at 1st base by R1.

PU observes the action. With a runner at 3rd base, PU develops an angle for the tag-up and then retreats to Home for any play there.

If the fly ball is not caught:

PU sees R3 touch Home and moves to 3rd base for any play on R1.

U1 moves into the infield quickly, watches R1 touch 2nd base and the Batter/Runner touch 1st base. Once R1 commits to 3rd base, U1 focuses on the Batter/Runner at 1st or 2nd base.



Fly to left field line

Runner on 1st base

or

Runners on 1st & 3rd base



PU
responsibility

PU moves to position to rule on fair/foul & catch/no catch.
PU communicates, "I've got the ball!"

If the fly ball is not caught:

The **Basic Rotation** applies –
U1 watches the Batter/Runner touch 1st base
and rotates Home if R1 commits to 3rd

U3 moves into the infield, watches R1 touch
2nd base and assumes responsibility for the Batter/Runner
once R1 commits to 3rd base.

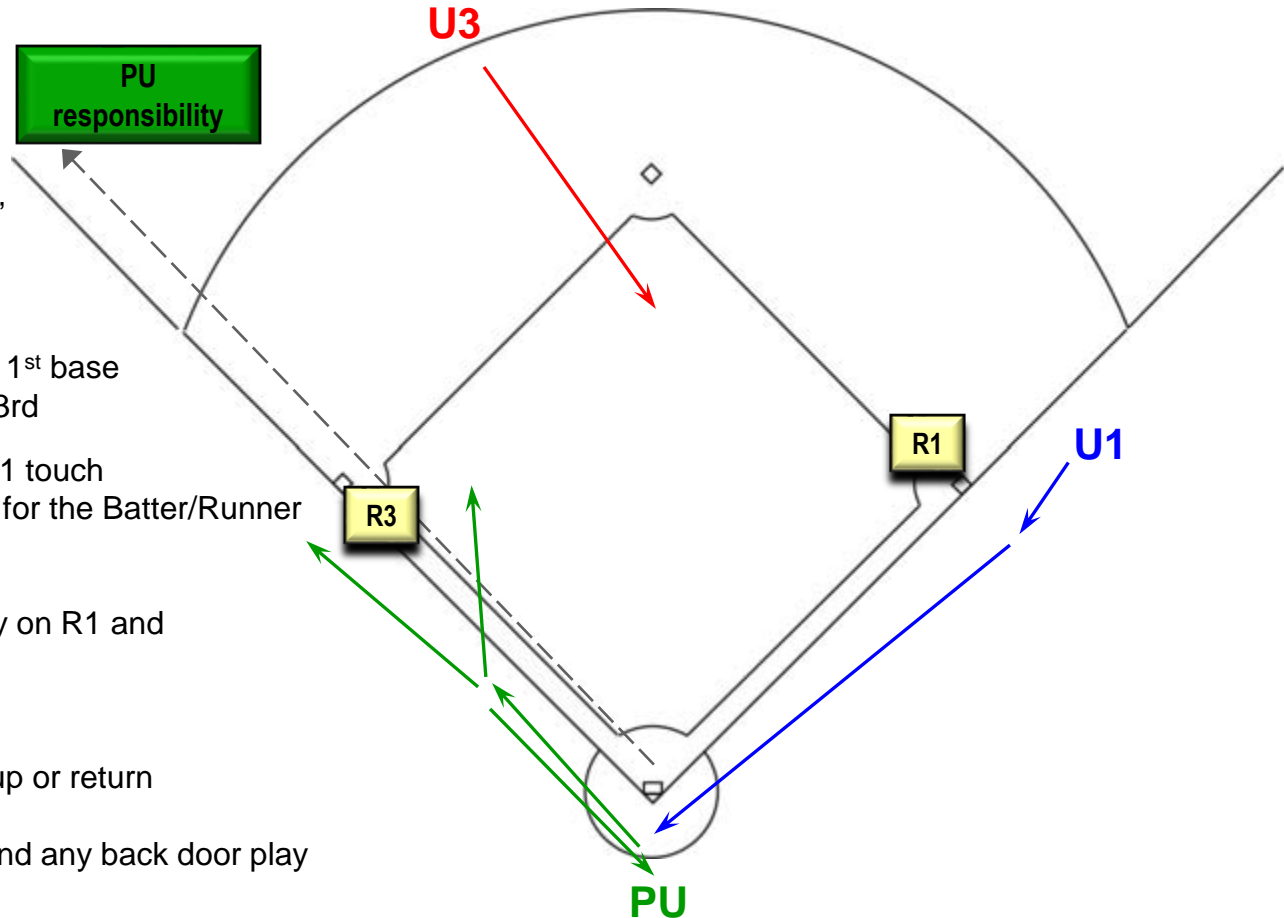
PU moves up to 3rd base for any play on R1 and
watches R3 touch Home.

If the fly ball is caught:

U1 stays at 1st and watches R1 tag-up or return

U3 has any play at 2nd base on R1 and any back door play
on R3 at 3rd base.

PU rules on catch, watches for R3 tag up, and returns to
the point of the plate for any play at Home.



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Positions & Outfield Coverage

Runners on 1st & 2nd base

U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position

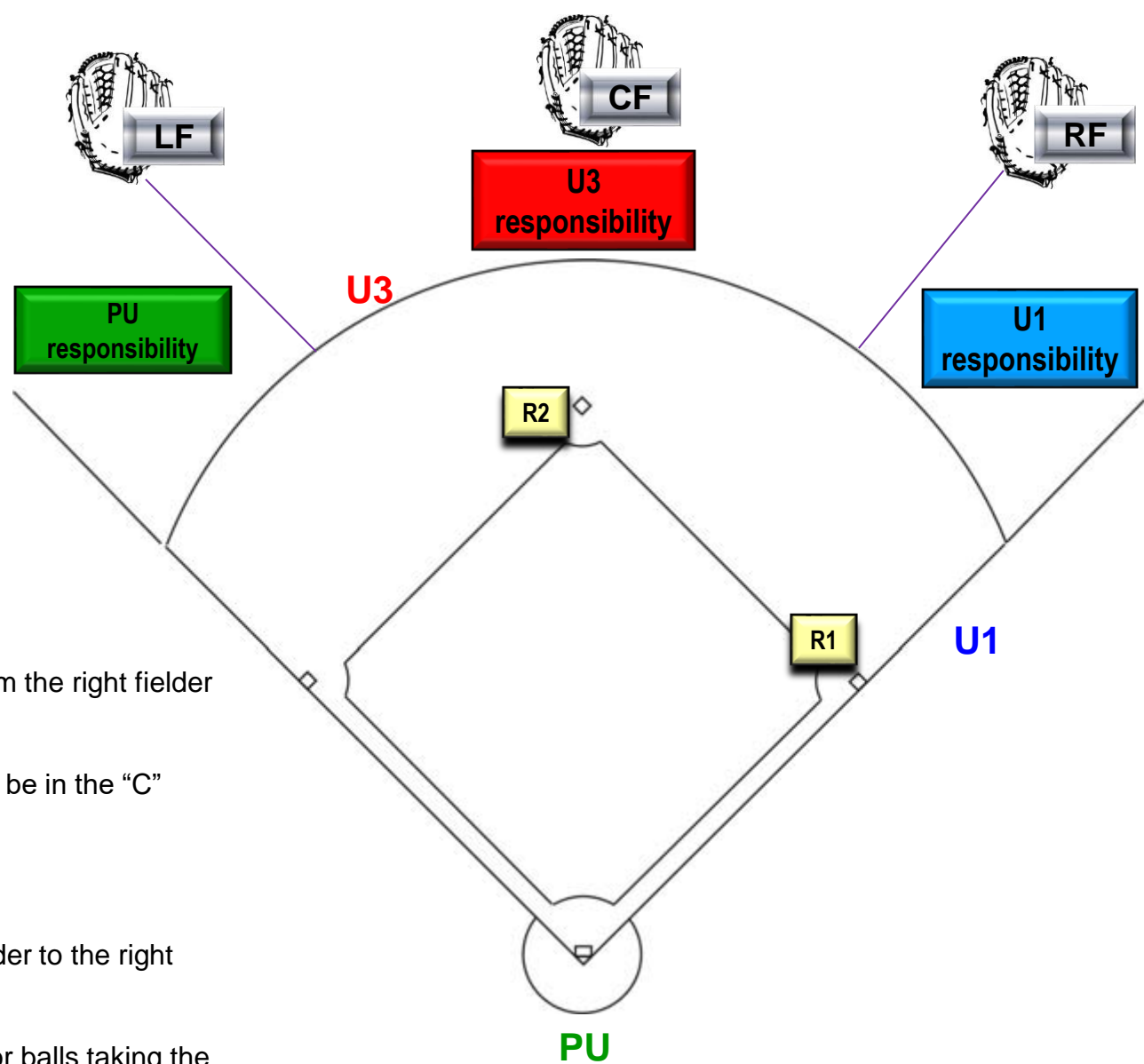
U1 has coverage on all fly balls from the right fielder to the right field line.

With a runner on 2nd base U3 must be in the "C" position.

U3 has no fair/foul responsibility.

U3 has all fly balls from the left fielder to the right fielder.

PU has fair/foul & catch/no catch for balls taking the left fielder to the left field line.



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The Slide Rotation

Runners on 1st & 2nd base

U1 starts in the “A” position
U3 starts in the “C” position

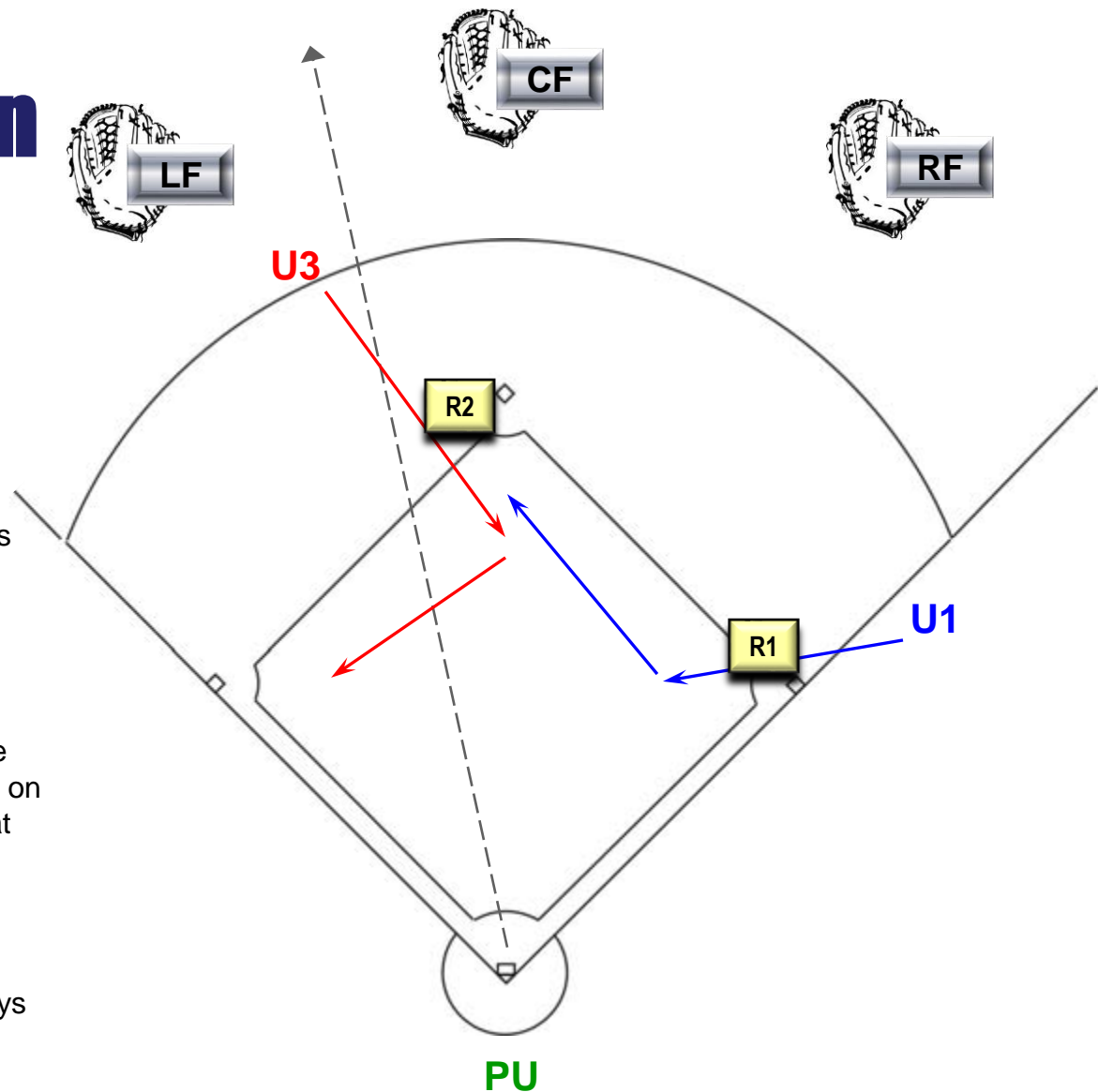
On a **Clean Hit** to the outfield

U1 comes into the infield and takes all plays on the Batter/Runner at 1st base or into 2nd base. Once the Batter/Runner touches 2nd and commits to 3rd, U1 releases the Batter/Runner to U3.

U3 moves into the infield, watches the base touches of R1 at 2nd base and has all plays on any runner at 3rd base.

PU stays Home, and watches R2 touch 3rd base and touches at Home Plate of all runners. PU develops an angle for any plays at Home Plate.

This is called the “**Slide Rotation**” or the “**Reverse Rotation**” because the umpires “slide” along the bases with the runners.



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U1 Goes Out

Runners on 1st & 2nd base
(Less than 2 outs)

U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position

U1 goes out and has fair/foul & catch/no catch responsibility.

U3 moves into position to line up the catch and R2's tag-up.

PU moves into the library anticipating R2's advance to 3rd base.

If the ball is not caught:

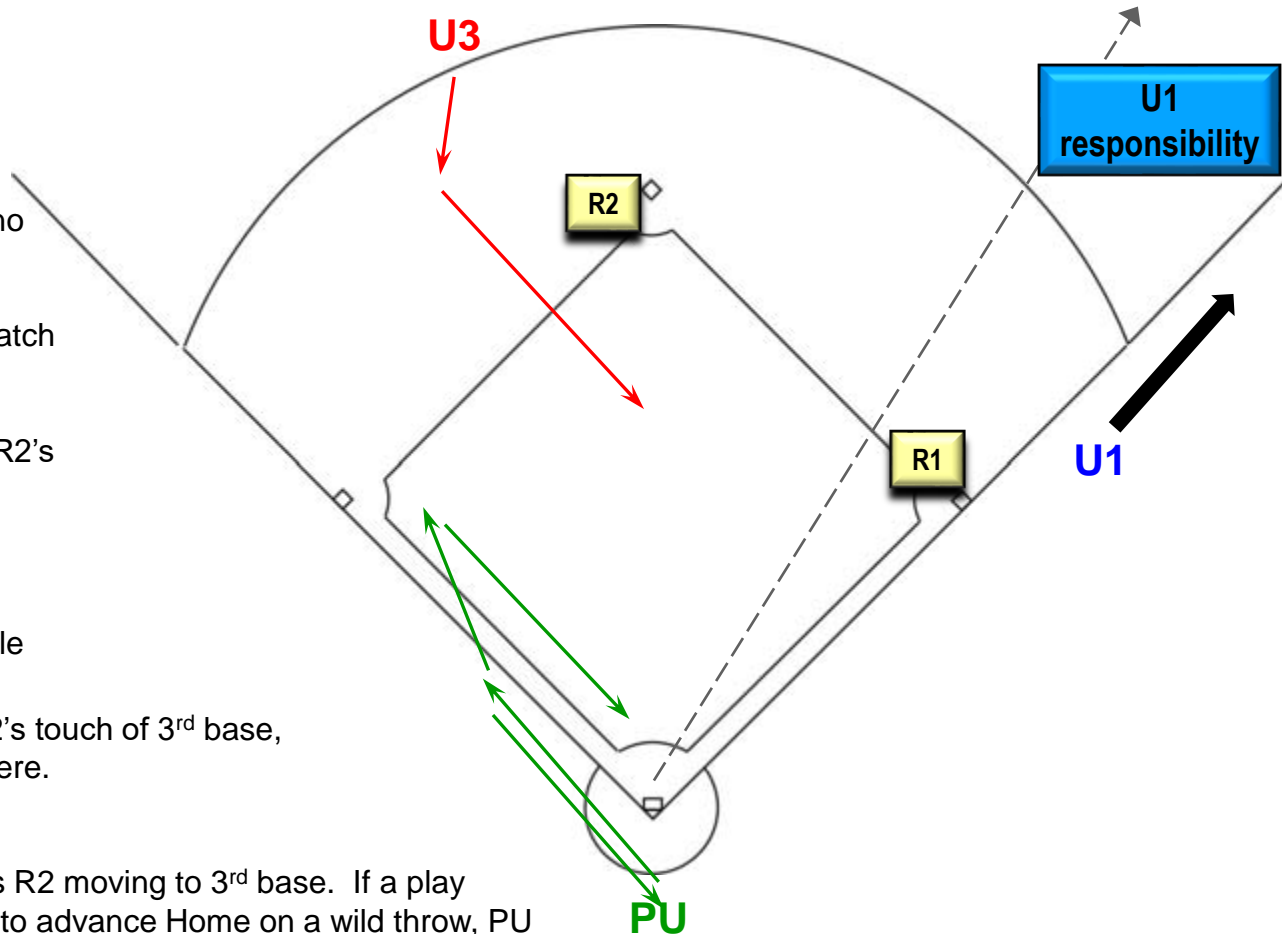
U3 moves to rule on all runners on all bases. Do not over commit to any single base as there may be multiple plays.

PU returns to Home while watching R2's touch of 3rd base, then remains at Home for any plays there.

If the ball is caught:

PU moves up the 3rd base line and has R2 moving to 3rd base. If a play develops at 3rd base and R2 attempts to advance Home on a wild throw, PU must retreat in fair ground for any play.

U3 moves into position to rule on all plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases.



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U3 Goes Out

Runners on 1st & 2nd base
(Less than 2 outs)

U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position

U3 goes out and has catch/no catch responsibility.

U1 moves straight into the infield to see the catch and tag-up of R2 & R1 (a quick glance).
U1 has any plays on R1 at 2nd base.

PU moves into the library anticipating R2's advance to 3rd base.

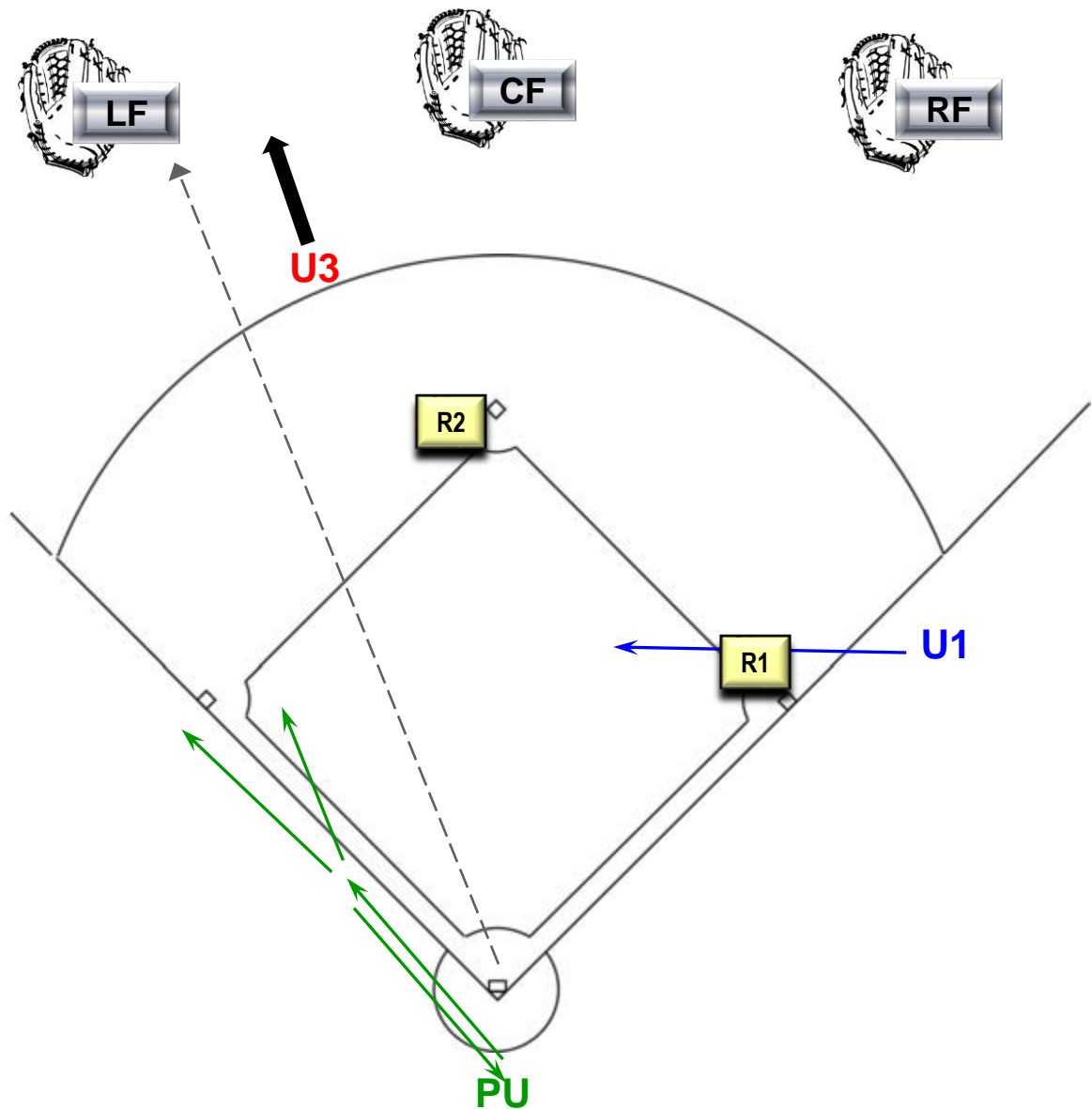
If the ball is caught and R2 commits to 3rd:

PU moves up to 3rd base for any play on R2 advancing from 2nd base.

If the ball is not caught:

PU watches R2 touch 3rd base and returns Home for any plays.

U1 watches the Batter/Runner touch 1st base, and rules on any plays at any base.



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Left field line

Runners on 1st & 2nd base
(Less than 2 outs)

U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position

PU
responsibility

PU moves to watch fair/foul & catch/no-catch.

U3 moves into position to see the catch and the tag-up of R2.

U1 moves into the infield.

If the ball is caught and R2 commits to 3rd:

The **Basic Rotation** applies.

U3 has plays on R1 at 2nd base.

PU continues up to 3rd for any play on R2 advancing from 2nd base.

U1 moves Home for any play on R2 there.

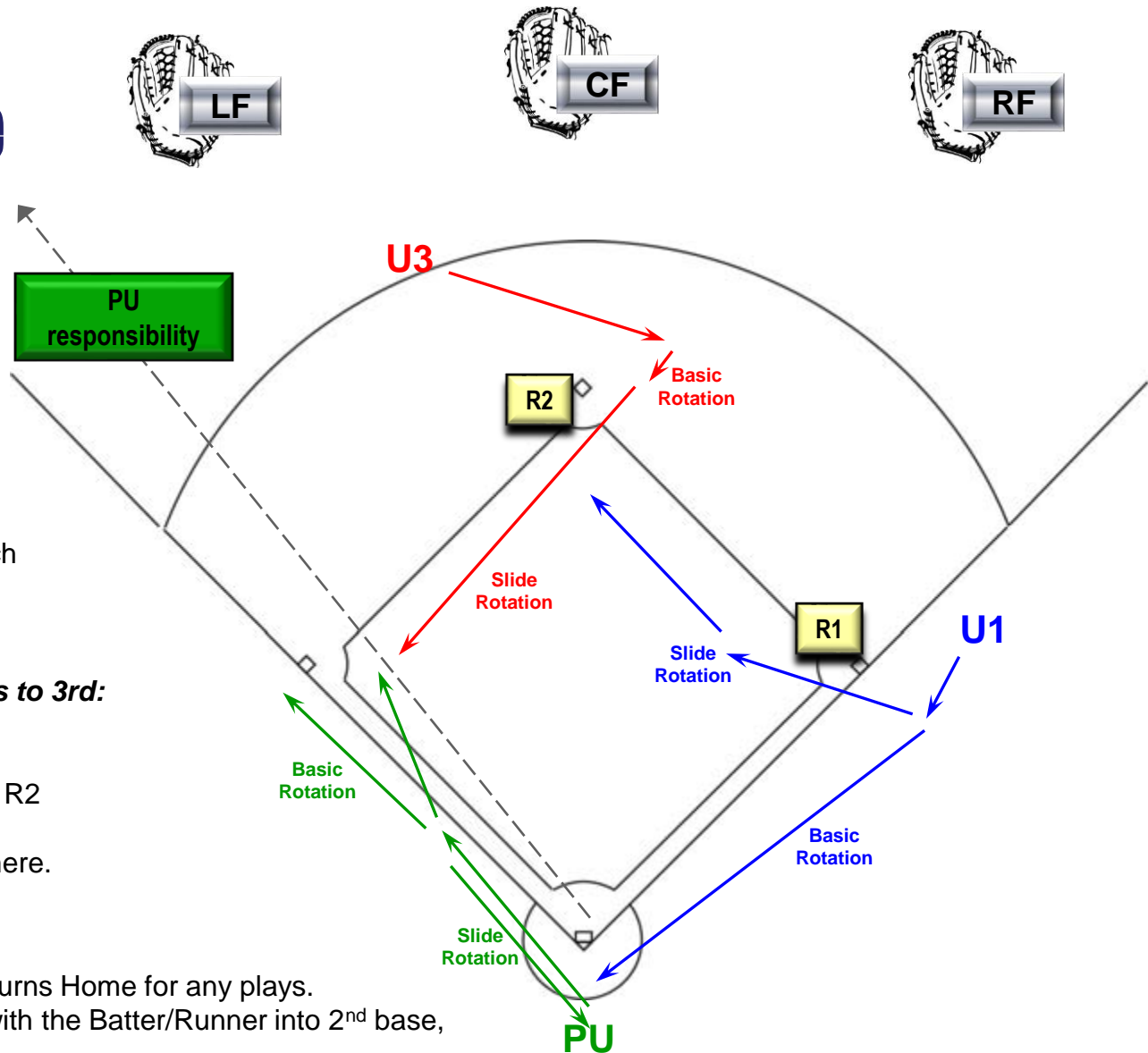
If the ball is not caught:

The **Slide Rotation** applies.

PU watches R2 touch 3rd base and returns Home for any plays.

U1 comes into the infield and moves with the Batter/Runner into 2nd base, watching all Batter/Runner touches.

U3 watches the base touches of R1 at 2nd base, has all plays on R1 at 2nd base, and all plays at 3rd base.



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Positions & Outfield Coverage

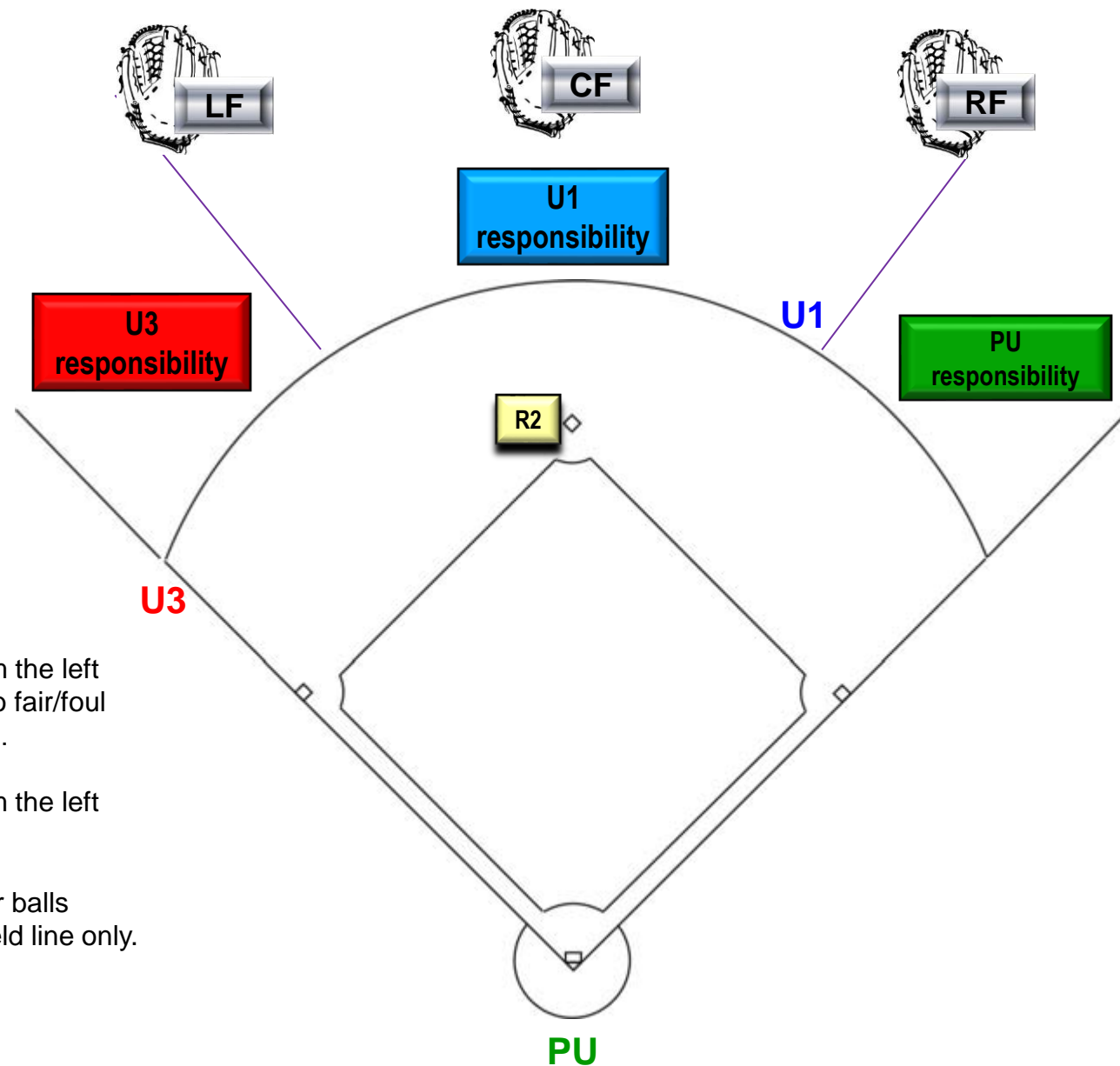
Runner on 2nd base only
(Less than 2 outs)

U1 starts in the "B" position
U3 starts in the "D" position

U1 has coverage on all fly balls from the left fielder to the right fielder. U1 has no fair/foul responsibilities from the "B" position.

U3 has coverage on all fly balls from the left fielder to the left field line.

PU has fair/foul & catch/no catch for balls taking the right fielder to the right field line only.



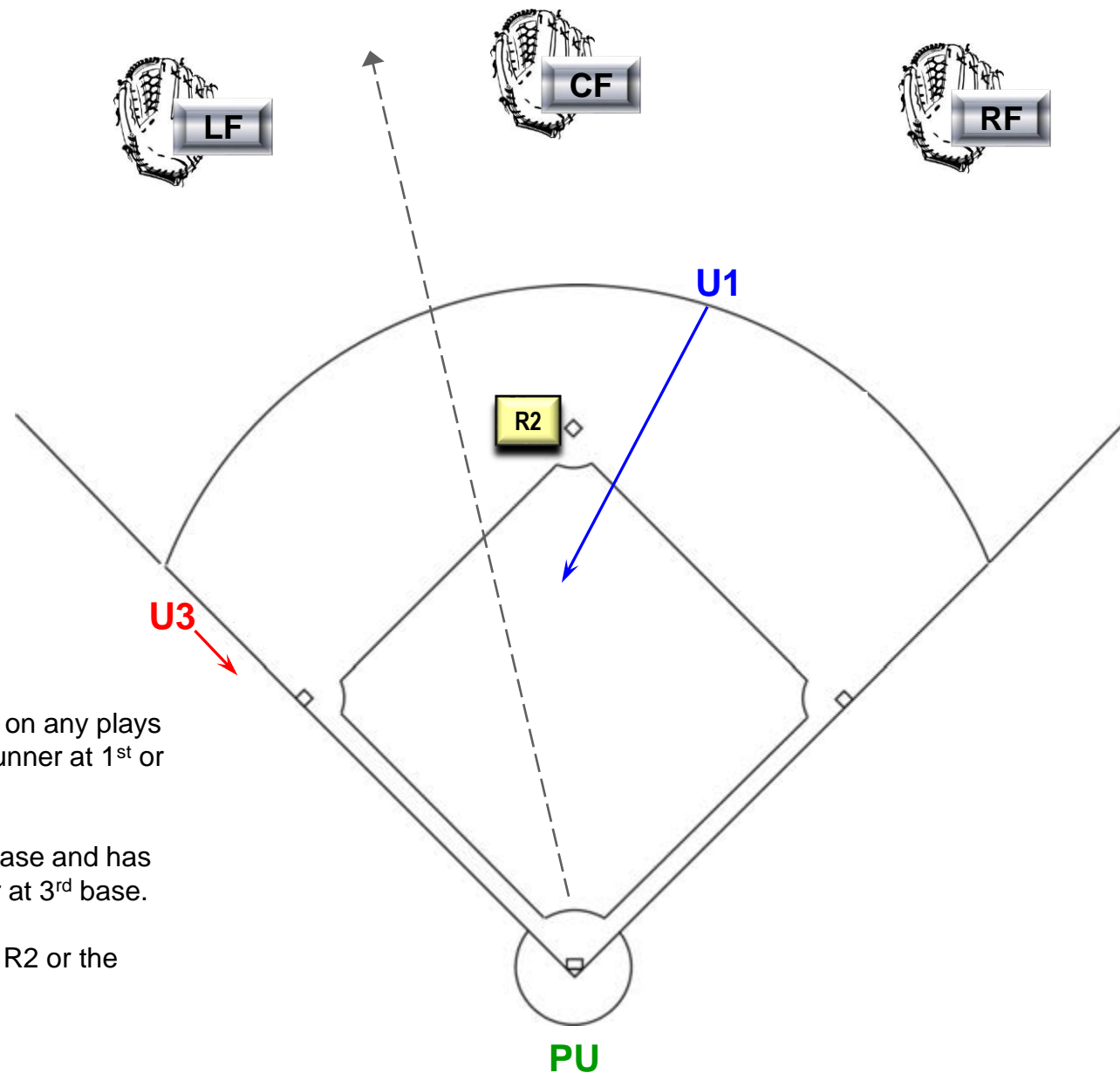
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Clean Hit

Runner on 2nd base only
(Less than 2 outs)

U1 starts in the "B" position
U3 starts in the "D" position



U1 moves into the infield and rules on any plays on R2 at 2nd base and the Batter/Runner at 1st or 2nd base.

U3 watches the touch of R2 at 3rd base and has any play of R2 or the Batter/Runner at 3rd base.

PU develops an angle for a play on R2 or the Batter/Runner at Home Plate.

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U3 Goes Out

Runner on 2nd base only
(Less than 2 outs)

U1 starts in the "B" position
U3 starts in the "D" position

U3 goes out to rule on fair/foul & catch/no-catch.

U1 moves into position to watch the catch and the tag-up of R2.

PU watches the 1st base touch by the Batter/Runner.

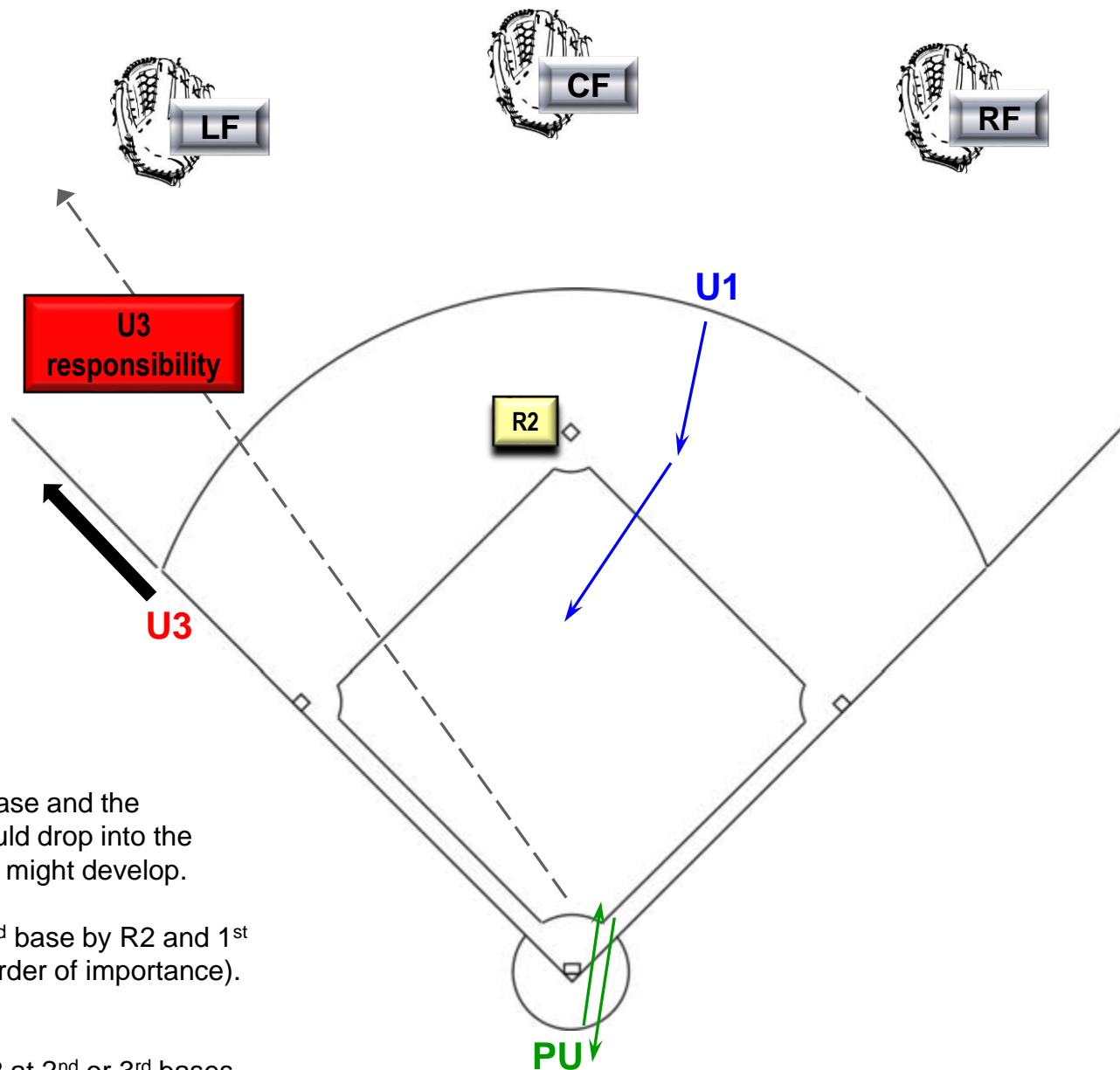
If the ball is not caught:

U1 must rule on plays of R2 at 3rd base and the Batter/Runner at any base. He should drop into the working area to read where the play might develop.

PU is responsible for the touch of 3rd base by R2 and 1st base by the Batter/Runner (in that order of importance).

If the ball is caught:

U1 is responsible for any play on R2 at 2nd or 3rd bases.



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U1 Goes Out

Runner on 2nd base only
(Less than 2 outs)

U1 starts in the "B" position
U3 starts in the "D" position

U1 moves into the best position to rule on catch/no catch.

U3 moves into position to watch the catch and the tag-up of R2.

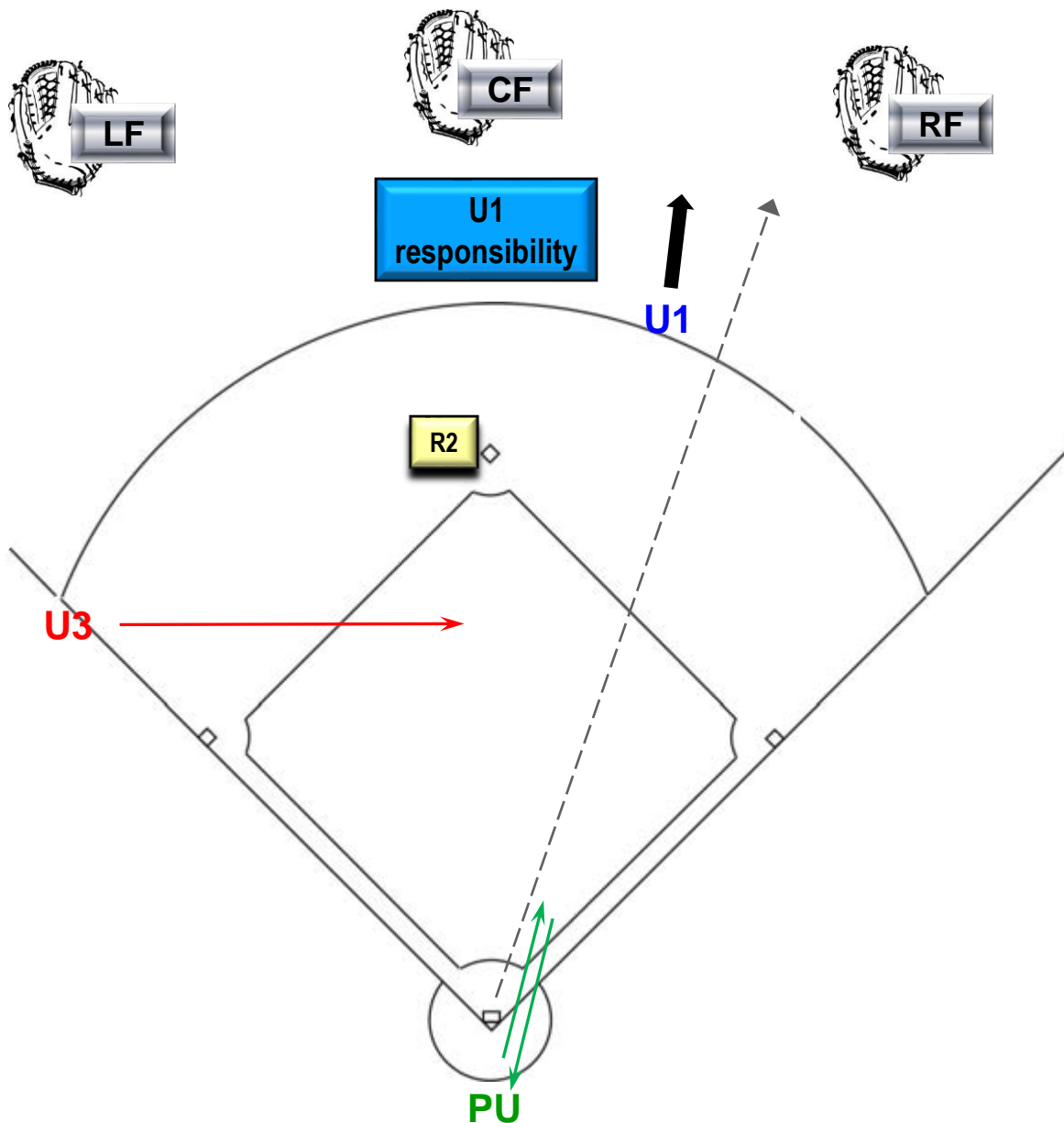
PU watches the touch of the Batter/Runner at 1st base.

If the ball is not caught:

U3 rules on plays at all bases. PU develops an angle for any potential plays at Home

If the ball is caught:

U3 rules on all plays at all bases, including the tag up of R2.



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Fly on right field line



**Runner on 2nd base only
(Less than 2 outs)**

**U1 starts in the "B" position
U3 starts in the "D" position**

PU moves up the 1st base line to rule on fair/foul & catch/no catch. He/she must communicate "On the line!"

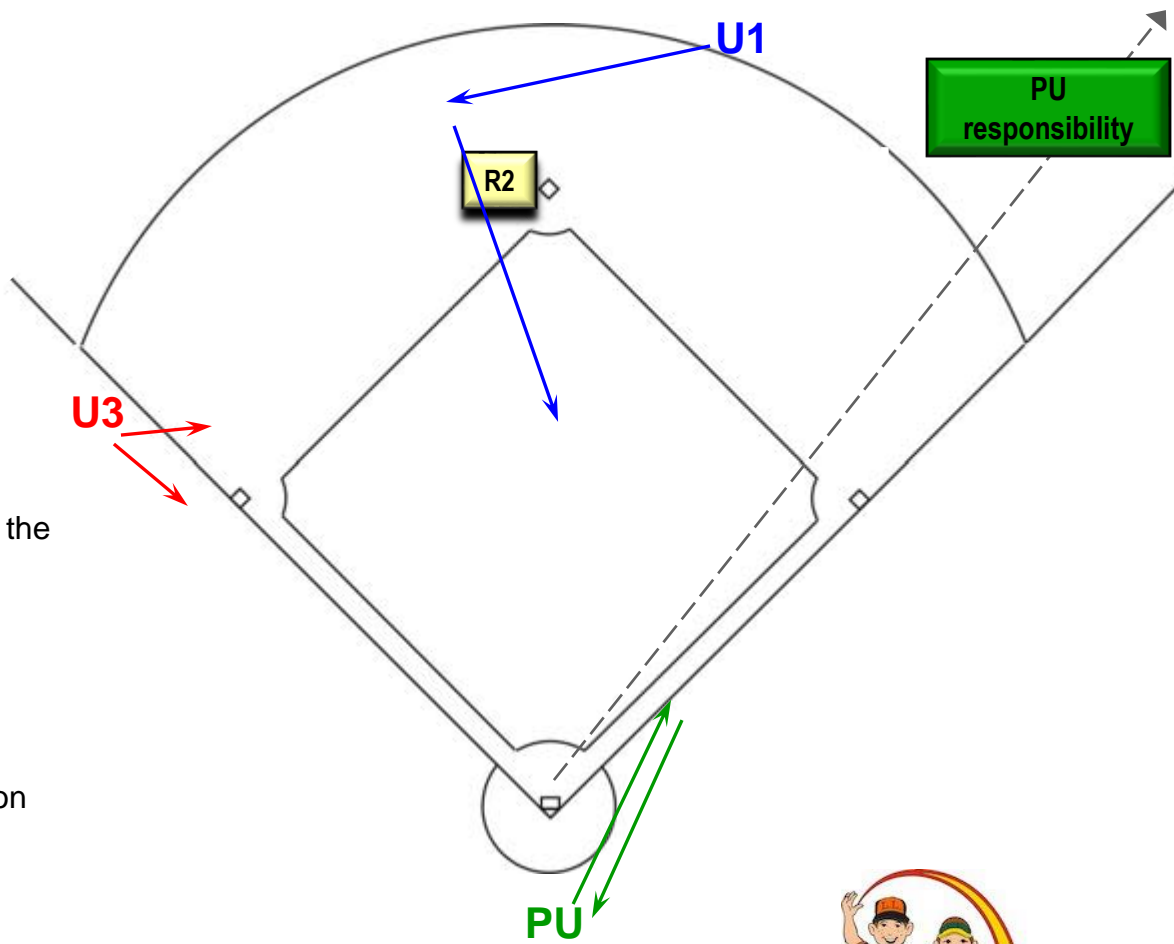
U1 develops an angle to see the catch and the tag-up of R2.

If the ball is not caught:

PU returns Home for any play on R2 attempting to score. U1 rules on the batter touching 1st base and any play on the Batter/Runner at 1st or 2nd base. U3 rules on all plays on R2 at 3rd base.

If the ball is caught:

U3 develops an angle for any play on R2 advancing to 3rd base.



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2 outs

Runners on 2nd & 3rd

U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position

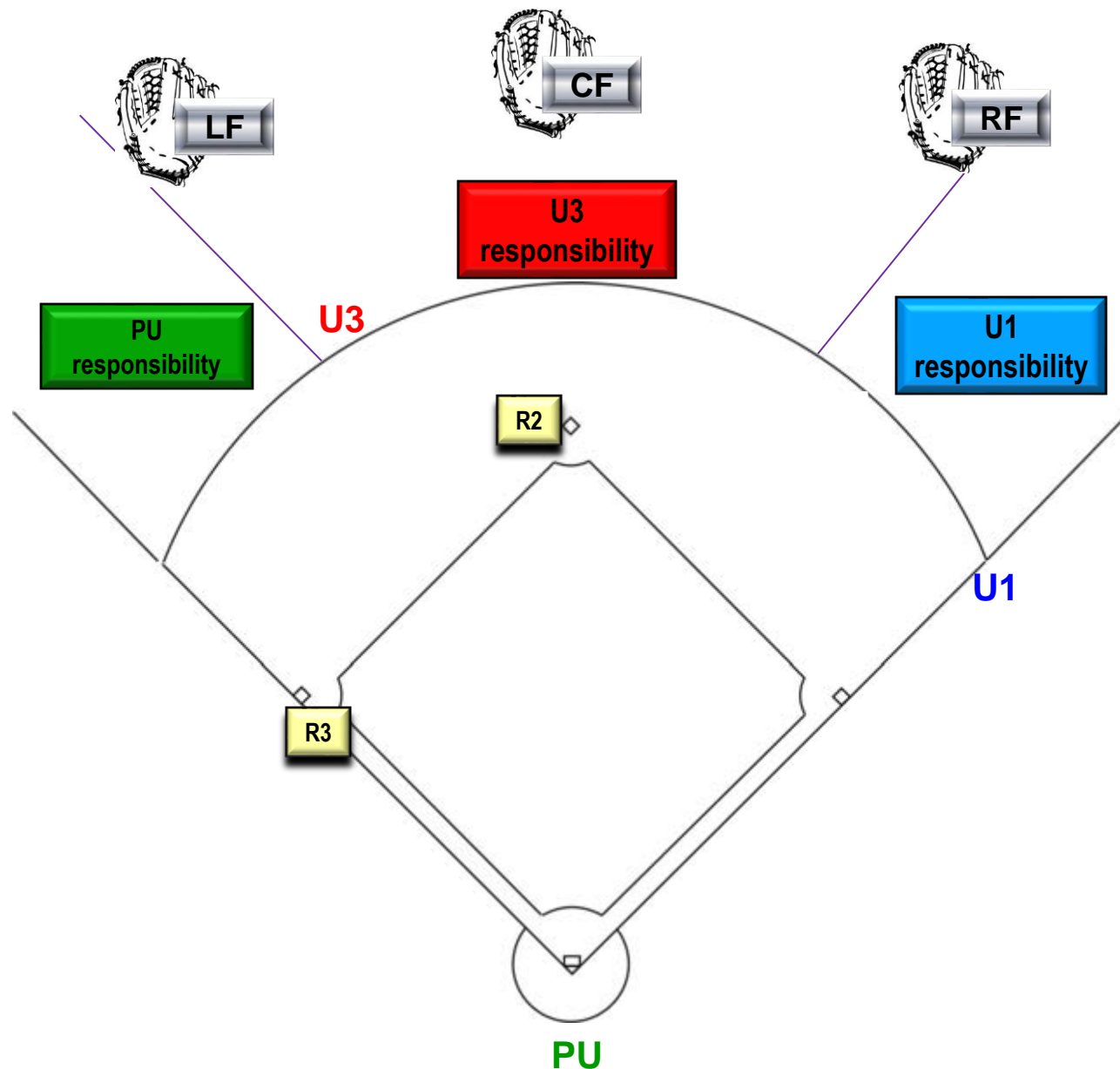
With 2 outs, U1 always returns to the "A" position.

U3 must be in the "C" position. Be aware of pick-off attempts by the pitcher or the catcher. U3 has no fair/foul responsibilities.

PU has fair/foul and catch/no catch for fly balls from the left fielder to the left field line.

U3 has fly balls from the left fielder to the right fielder.

U1 has coverage on fly balls taking the right fielder toward the 1st base line.



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2 outs Clean Hit

Runners on 2nd & 3rd Bases

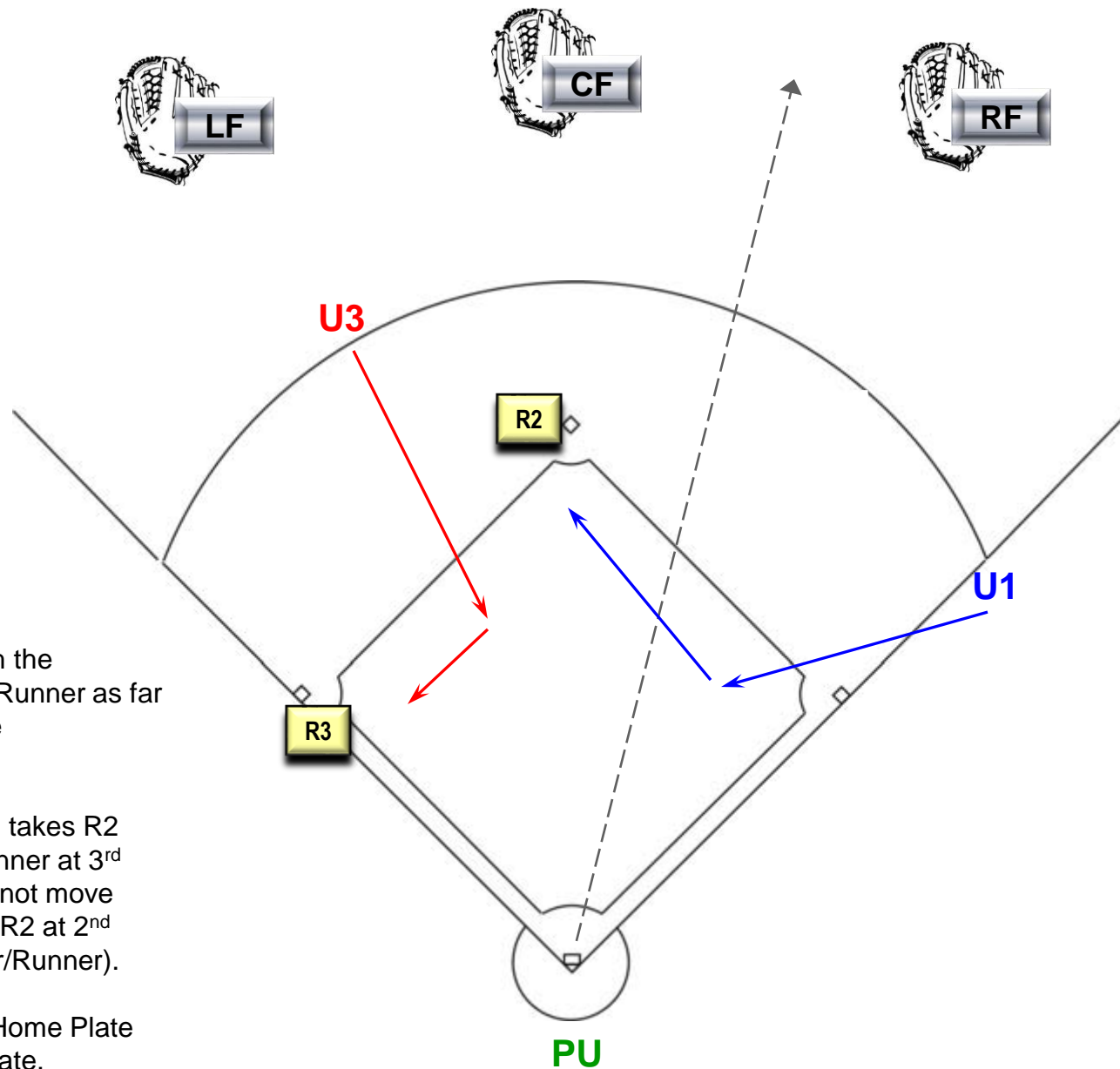
U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position

This is a **Slide Rotation**

U1 moves into the infield, pivots with the Batter/Runner and takes the Batter/Runner as far as 2nd base. U1 has all plays on the Batter/Runner at 1st or 2nd base

U3 comes into the working area and takes R2 into 3rd base and all plays on any runner at 3rd base. If, for some reason, R2 does not move from 2nd base, U3 has any plays on R2 at 2nd base (so U1 can stay with the Batter/Runner).

PU stays Home to watch R3 touch Home Plate and R2 touch 3rd base and Home Plate.



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2 outs

U1 Goes Out

Runners on 2nd & 3rd Bases

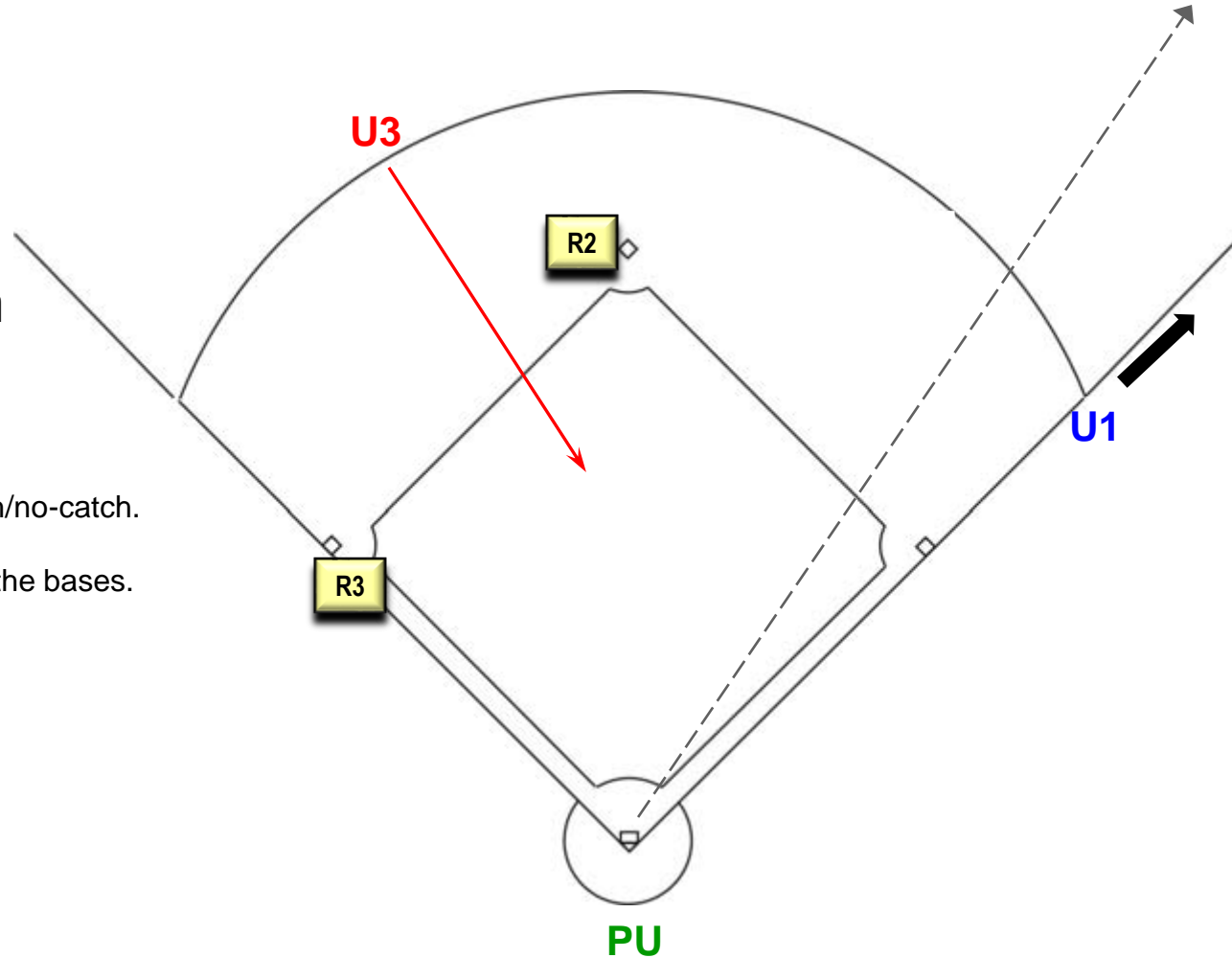


U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position

U1 goes out on fair/foul and/or catch/no-catch.

U3 comes in and takes all plays on the bases.

PU stays Home.



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2 outs

U3 Goes Out

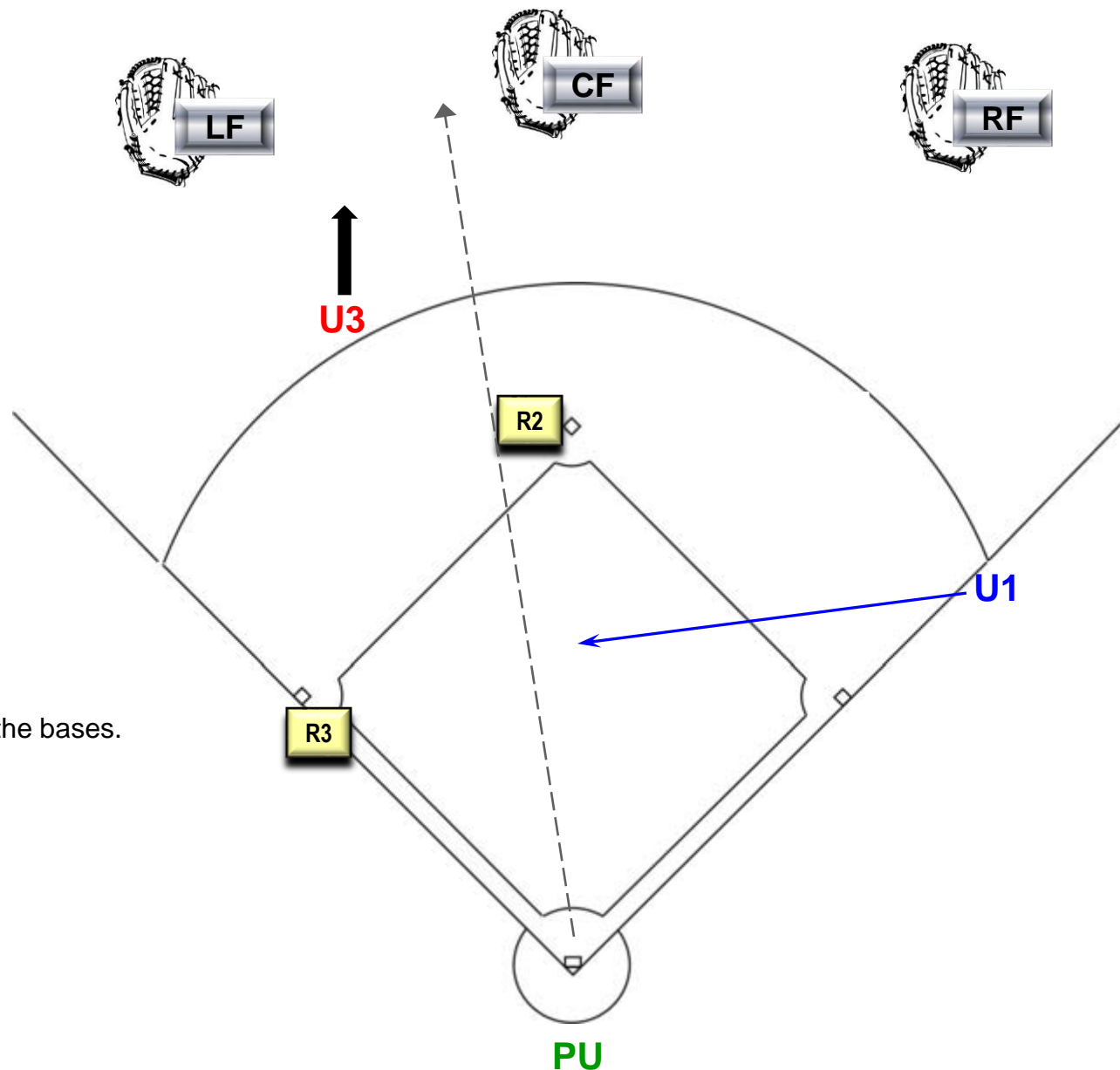
Runners on 2nd & 3rd

U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position

U3 goes out on catch/no-catch.

U1 comes in and takes all plays on the bases.

PU stays Home.



Bases Loaded Clean Hit or Left Field Line



Another Slide Rotation

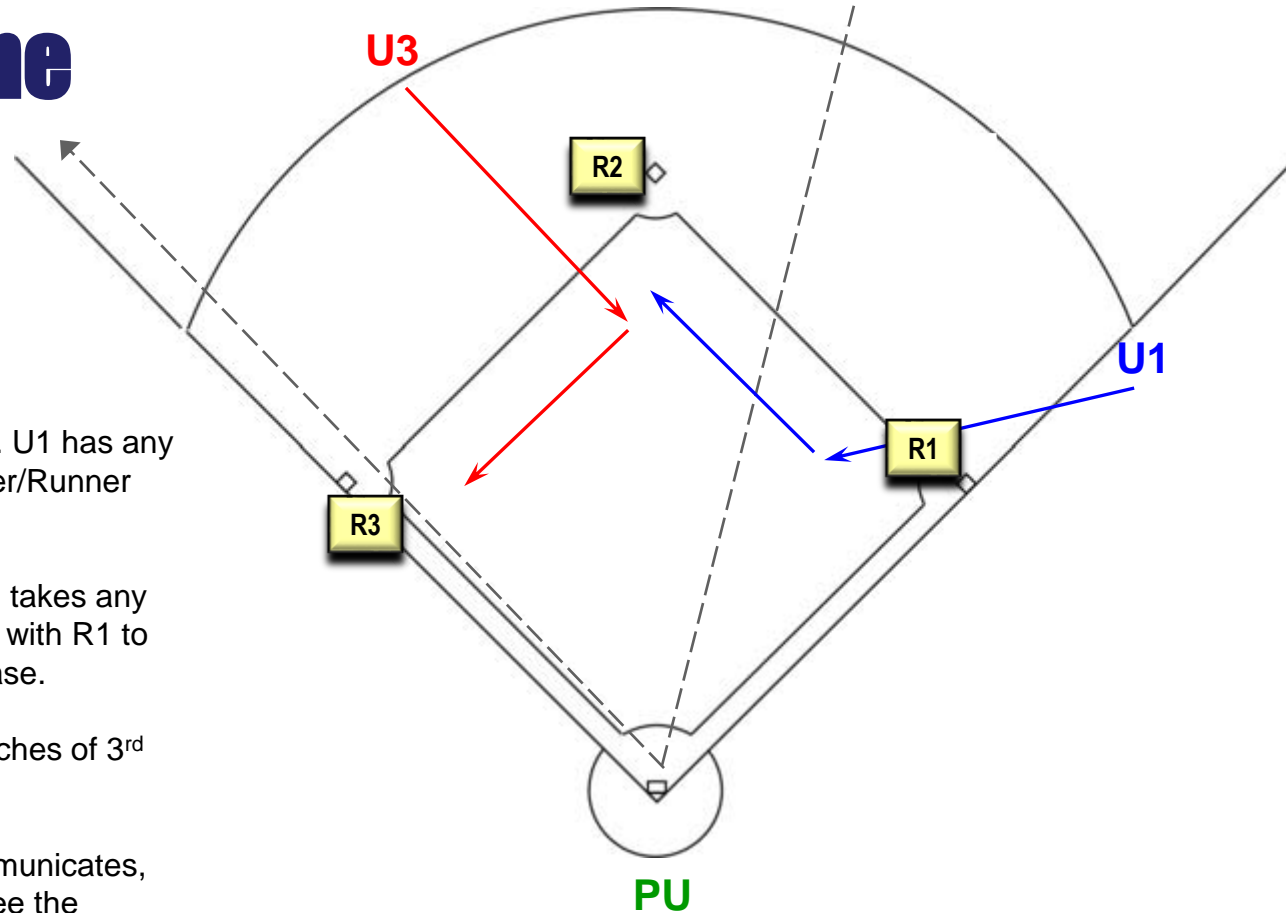
U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position

U1 moves into the infield and pivots. U1 has any plays at 1st base and takes the Batter/Runner into 2nd base.

U3 comes into the working area and takes any plays on R1 at 2nd base then moves with R1 to 3rd base. U3 has any plays at 3rd base.

PU stays Home and watches all touches of 3rd base and Home Plate.

On the left field line hit, the PU communicates, "I've got the ball!" He positions to see the fair/foul & catch/no catch & the tag up of R3 (less than 2 outs) and returns to the point of the plate for any plays at Home Plate.



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Bases Loaded U1 Goes Out

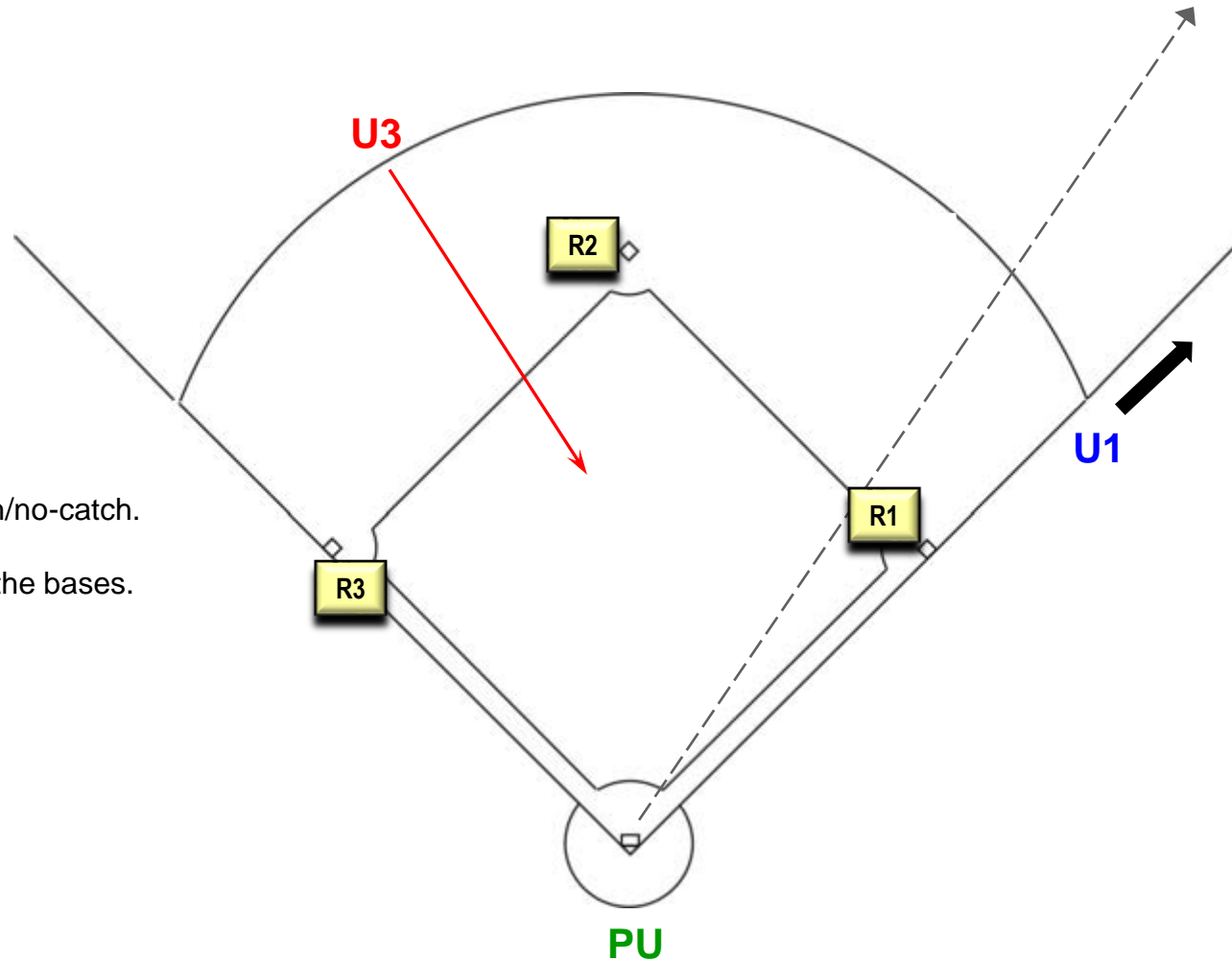


**U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position**

U1 goes out on fair/foul and/or catch/no-catch.

U3 comes in and takes all plays on the bases.

PU stays Home.



California 4 Umpire Association

Little League – Intermediate (50/70) – Junior League – Senior League – Big League – Challenger Division

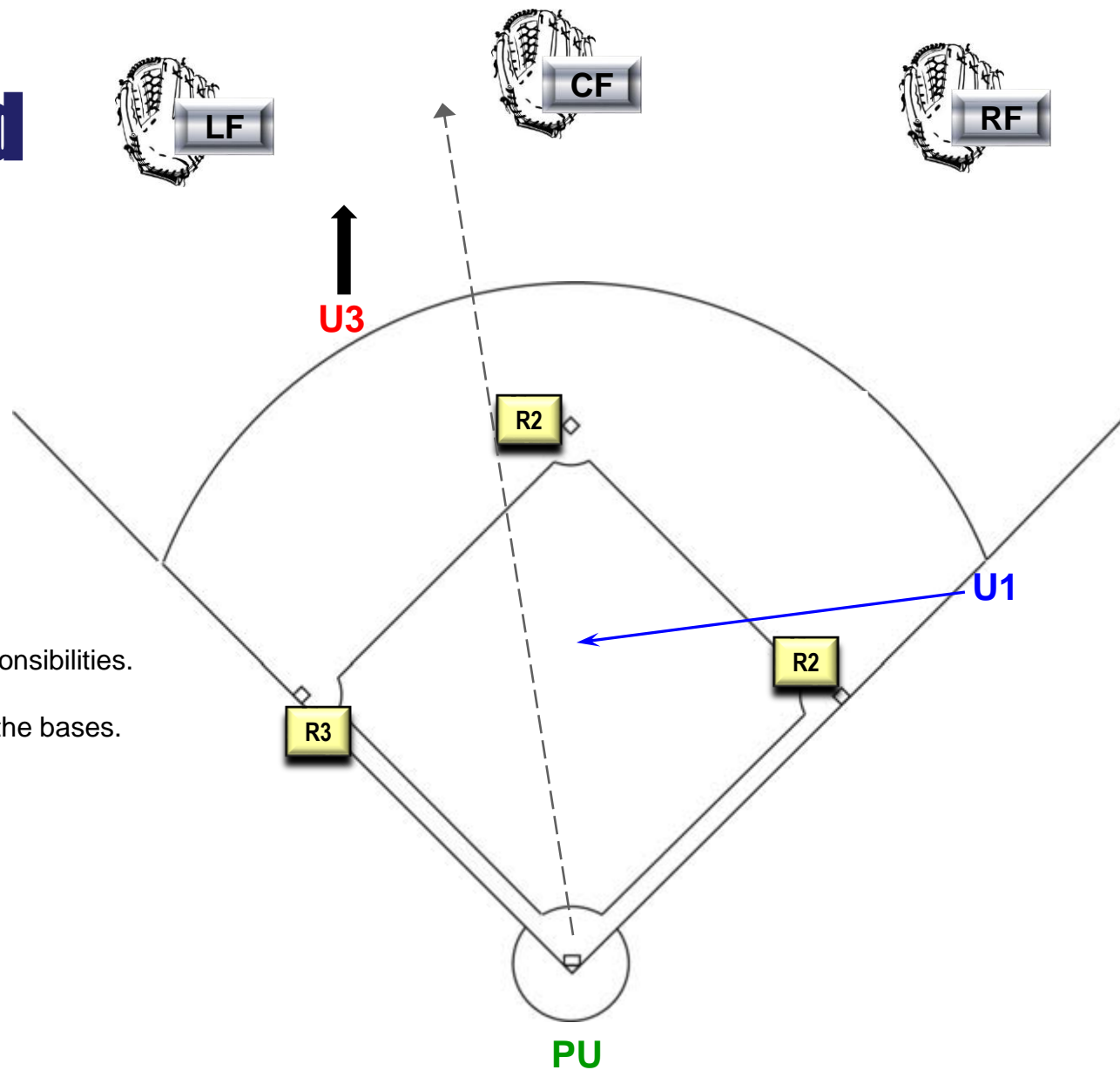
Bases Loaded U3 Goes Out

**U1 starts in the "A" position
U3 starts in the "C" position**

U3 goes out for catch/no-catch responsibilities.

U1 comes in and takes all plays on the bases.

PU stays Home.



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