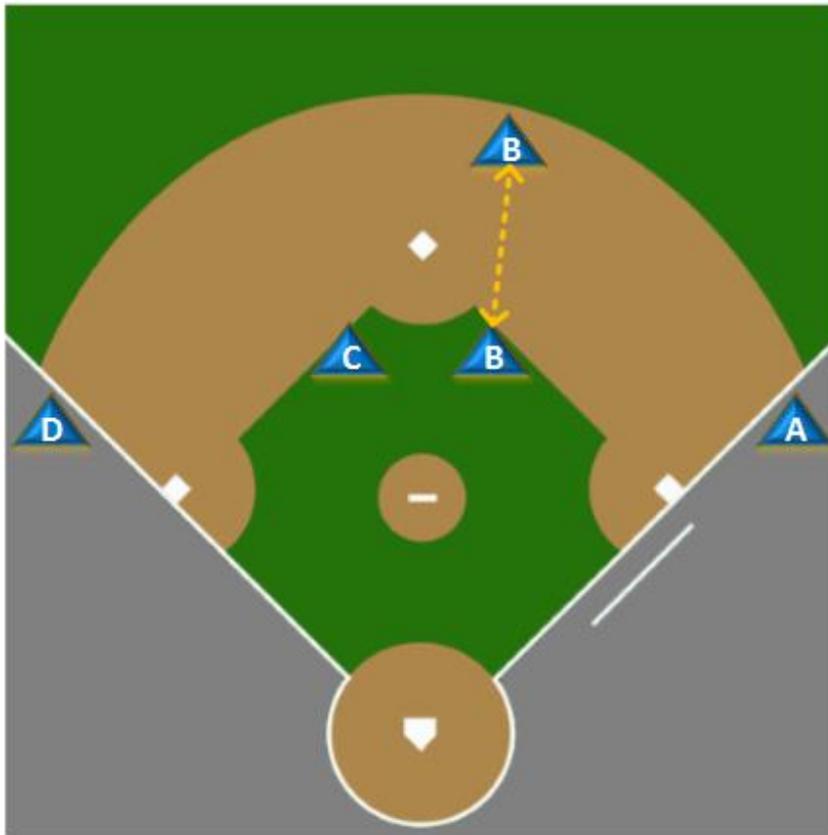


Dulles Little League Big Field Training Agenda Spring 2022

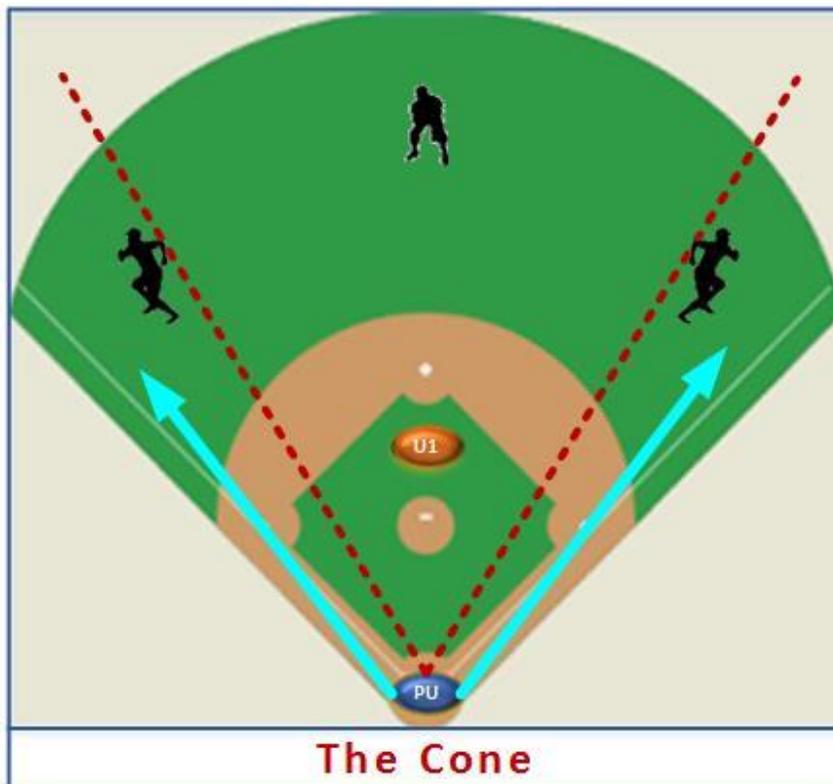
Many of the rules used during big field games are the same as the rules used on the smaller fields. There are a few differences which we discuss below.

Field Positioning – The A, B, and C field positions are the in the same general area as they are on the small field. However, B and C are on the inside of the diamond between second base and the pitcher’s mound (see the picture below, this is known as the working area). B and C are generally halfway between the pitcher’s mound and second base, at an angle between the batter’s box and the pitching mound. The situations when these occur are the same, A is nobody on, B is runner on first **only**, and C is everything else.



Fair / Foul / Trouble Ball Determinations – The Home Plate Umpire is responsible for catch/no catch calls on all routine fly balls to the outfield. If the fly ball is a “trouble ball,” which is defined as a ball in-between two outfielders, a ball that an outfielder is charging in to catch, a ball that is over the outfielder’s head, or a ball that is close to the foul line, there are potential rotations involved. When the Field Umpire is in A, they are responsible for trouble balls from the Center Fielder over to the right field line. If the

Field Umpire determines that there is a trouble ball situation, they will rotate out into the outfield to get a closer look at the play. When this happens, the Home Plate Umpire will rotate up into the working area and is then responsible for plays at all of the bases. During that scenario, the Home Plate Umpire is responsible for all fly balls from the center fielder to the left field line. When the Field Umpire is in B or C (Reference The Cone below), the Home Plate Umpire is responsible for fly balls from the Right Fielder to the right field line and from the Left Fielder to the left field line (see picture below). During that scenario, the Field Umpire is responsible for all fly balls from the Right Fielder over to the Left Fielder. In all scenarios, the Home Plate Umpire is responsible for all fly balls **in front** of all three bases in fair or foul territory.



Rotations – Rotations on the big field are the most complicated aspect of moving from the small field to the big field. They involve communication and coordination with your partner and will take some time for you to get used to.

Here is a rotations video that will help you understand the basics - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bB2I9NT7IGw>

This video is very well done, but starting at 5:25, until it ends one minute later, there is some old information that is not current. Please stop watching the video at 5:25.

This link will give you additional information about rotations - <https://www.umpirebible.com/index.php/mechanics/basic-rotations-two-man>

More information about rotations can be found here -

https://cdn2.sportngin.com/attachments/document/081a-2079444/WUA_A-Position_90.pdf

Rotation Signals – It is very important for the umpires to communicate what rotation signals they are going to use. Before the game, you need to arrive a minimum of thirty minutes before the game starts to go over rotations and rotation signals with your partner. Every umpire uses a slight modification, but each umpire should understand the basics and what each other is going to use in certain situations. The Home Plate Umpire is responsible for initiating the rotation signals and the Field Umpire should mirror that signal to acknowledge they have it.

Here is an info graph with additional information about rotation signals -

https://www.nfhs.org/media/1017816/baseball_umpires_signals_2021-1.pdf

Rotation Scenarios – There are a few different rotation scenarios, but the most common scenario is a runner on first base or a runner on first and third. When this scenario occurs, make sure to signal your partner before the play starts. If there is a line drive or a ground ball that gets past the infield, the Home Plate Umpire tells his partner “I’ve got third if he goes,” and starts running up the line towards third base. If the runner goes from second to third, the Home Plate Umpire tells his partner “I’ve got third,” and is responsible for the call at third base. The Field Umpire is responsible for calls at first or second base during this scenario.

Balks – Another important distinction between big field and small field, is the runner’s ability to lead off of the bases. The video below gives a very good overview of different types of scenarios related to balks. Balks at first will be difficult to determine, but after a few games seeing them live it should appear much easier.

Here is a video that talks about the most common balk violations -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFYoSqmEizE>

The information we have given you above can be a bit confusing at first. After you work a few games, it will become a lot easier to understand and execute. Please don’t get frustrated if you don’t get each of these activities correct the first few times you try them. Please email, text, or call John or I at any time if you have any questions or want to talk through any of this information