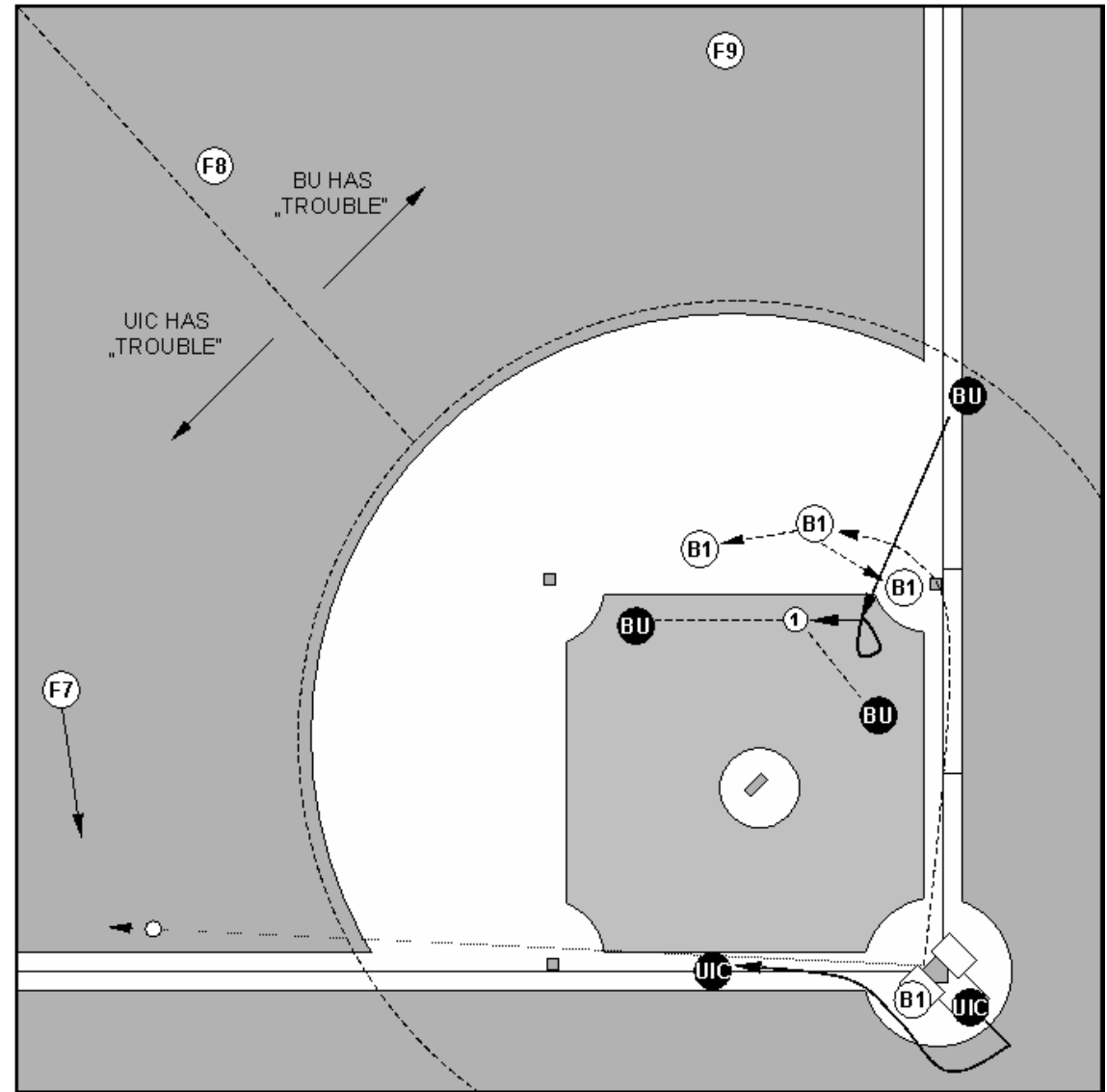




Case Study 1 – Trouble ball to left field

Game Situation: Nobody on base
Action on the field: Fly ball near the left-field line

When the ball is hit: As UIC, read the ball hit in your area. React by moving into position to see the play; let your partner know what you're doing; make the call on the batted ball. As BU, read the ball hit to UIC's area. Check to see that he gets the same read; pivot and observe B1; prepare to take B1 all the way to third base.



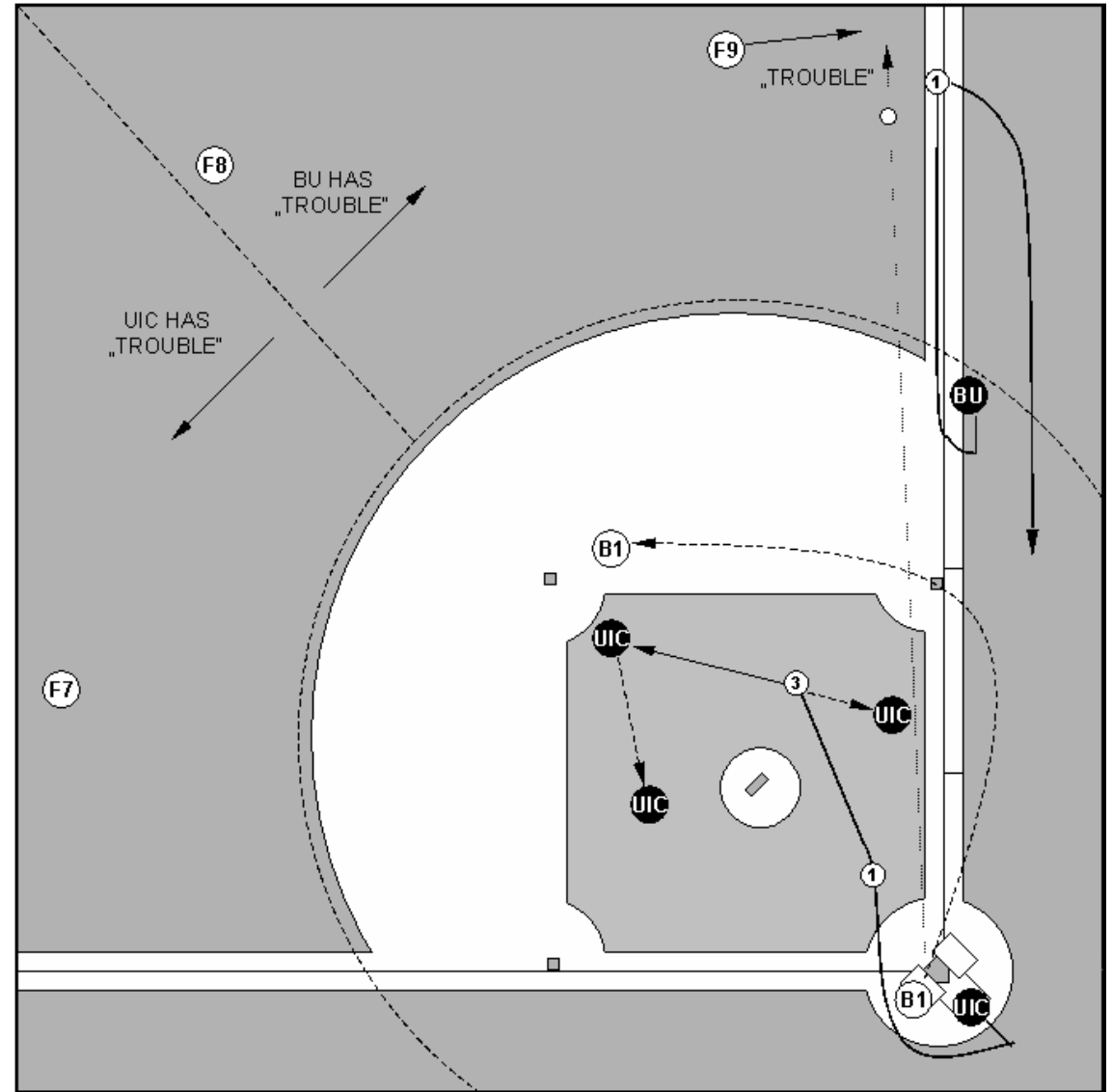


Case Study 2 – Trouble ball to right field

Game Situation: Nobody on Base

Action on the field: Fly ball near the right-field line

When the ball is hit: As UIC, read the ball hit to BU's area. React by moving into the infield grass, favoring the first-base side of the mound; confirm that your partner gets the same read; observe B1 at first and prepare take him all the way to third base (possibly home). As BU, read the ball hit to your area. React by moving to the outfield; let your partner know what you're doing; make the call on the batted ball; if a fair ball is not caught, attempt to return (in foul territory) to cover a play at the plate.

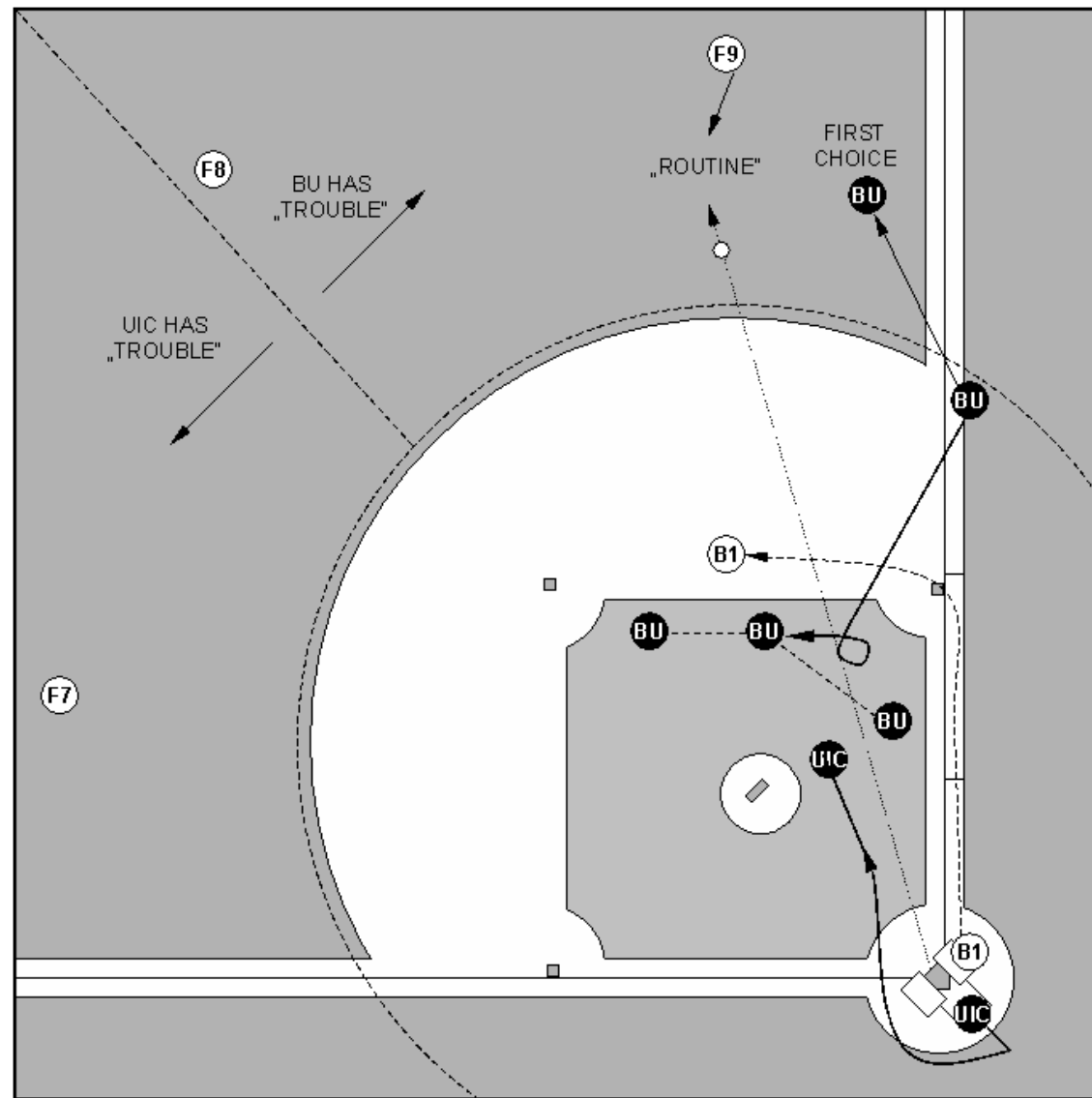




Case Study 3 – Fly ball to right field

Game Situation: Nobody on base
Action on the field: Routine fly ball to right field

When the ball is hit: As UIC, read the ball hit to BU's area. React by moving into the infield grass, favoring the first-base side of the mound; confirm that your partner gets the same read; observe B1 at first and prepare take him all the way to third base (possibly home). As BU, read the ball hit to your area. React by moving to the outfield; let your partner know what you're doing; make the call on the batted ball; if a fair ball is not caught, attempt to return (in foul territory) to cover a play at the plate.



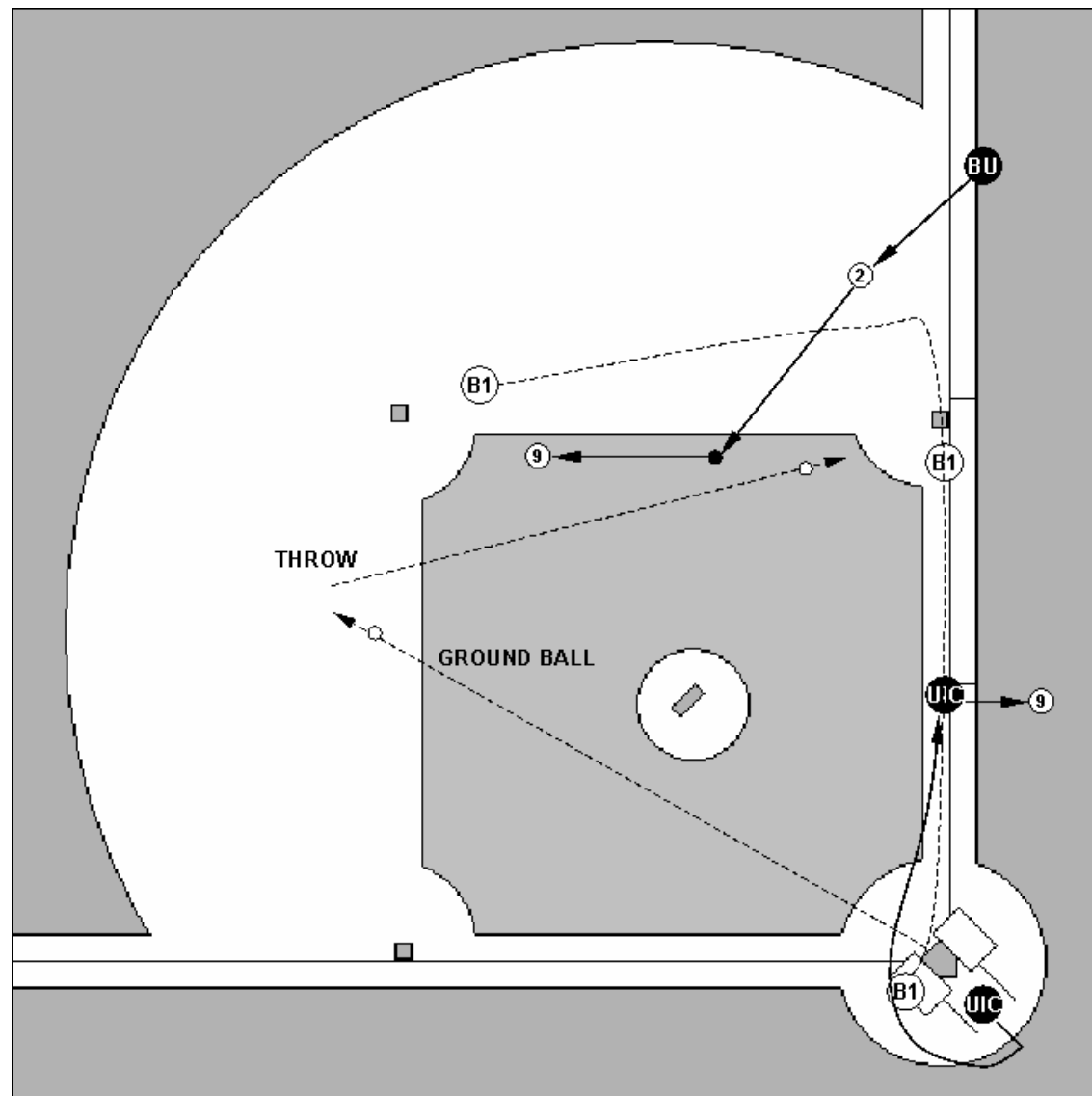


Case Study 4 – Ground ball to left side

Game Situation: Nobody on base

Action on the field: Ground ball fielded by F1, F5 or F6

When the ball is hit: As UIC, read the ball, clear the catcher; straddle the third-base line if fair / foul is a factor; move up the first-base line (try to reach the 45-foot line); come to a standing set; watch for any unusual play; assist BU *if he asks for help*. As BU, read the ball, move to fair ground, come to a *standing set*; read the throw and adjust if the throw is off line; observe the play; ask UIC for help (if you need it) *before making a call*.

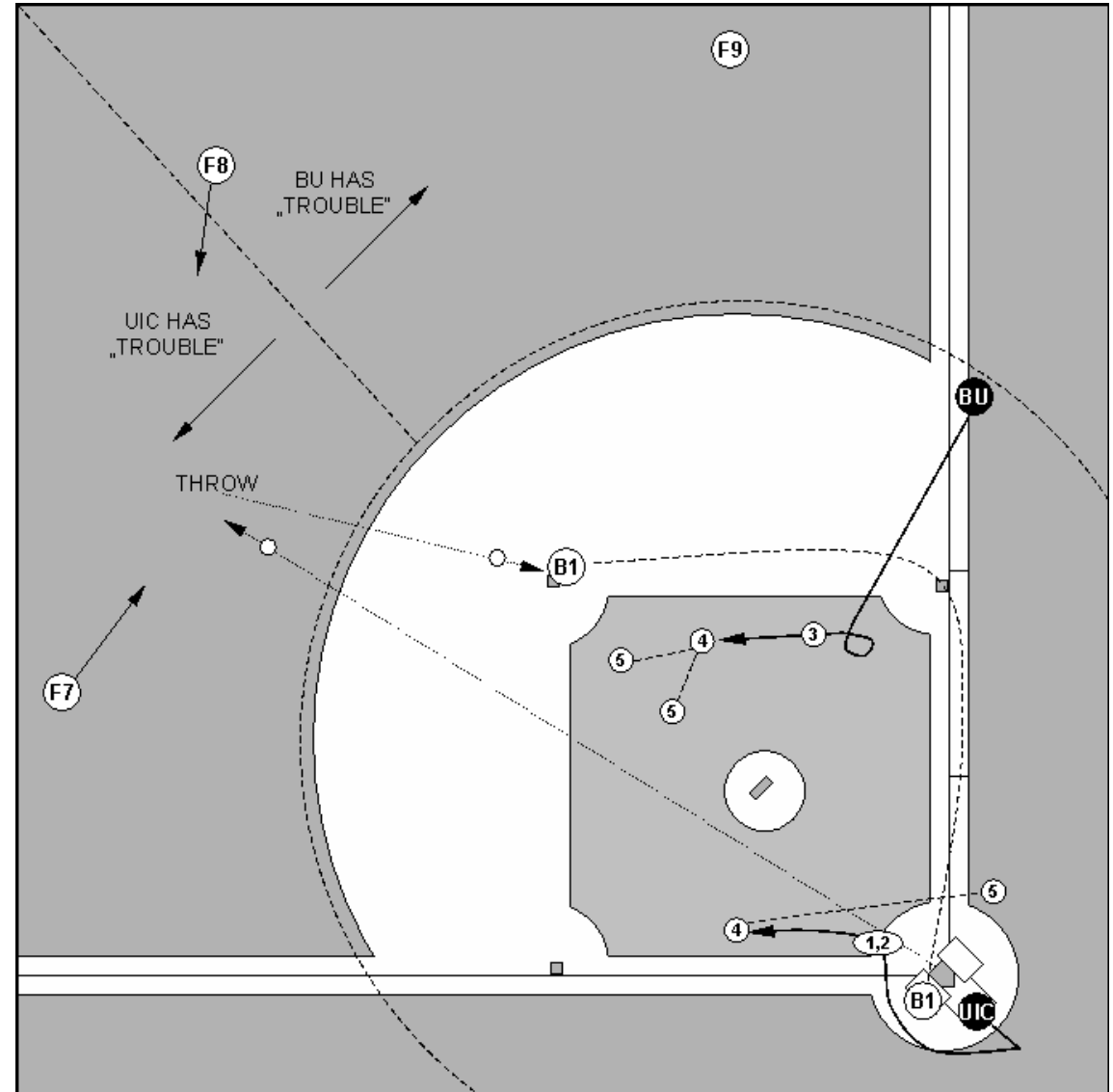




Case Study 7 – Clean hit to the outfield

Game Situation: Nobody on base
Action on the field: Base hit

When the ball is hit: As UIC, read the ball. React by moving into fair territory in front of home plate; let your partner know what you're doing; observe the play on the batted ball. As BU, read the ball. Check to see that your partner gets the same read; pivot and observe B1; prepare to take B1 all the way to third base.



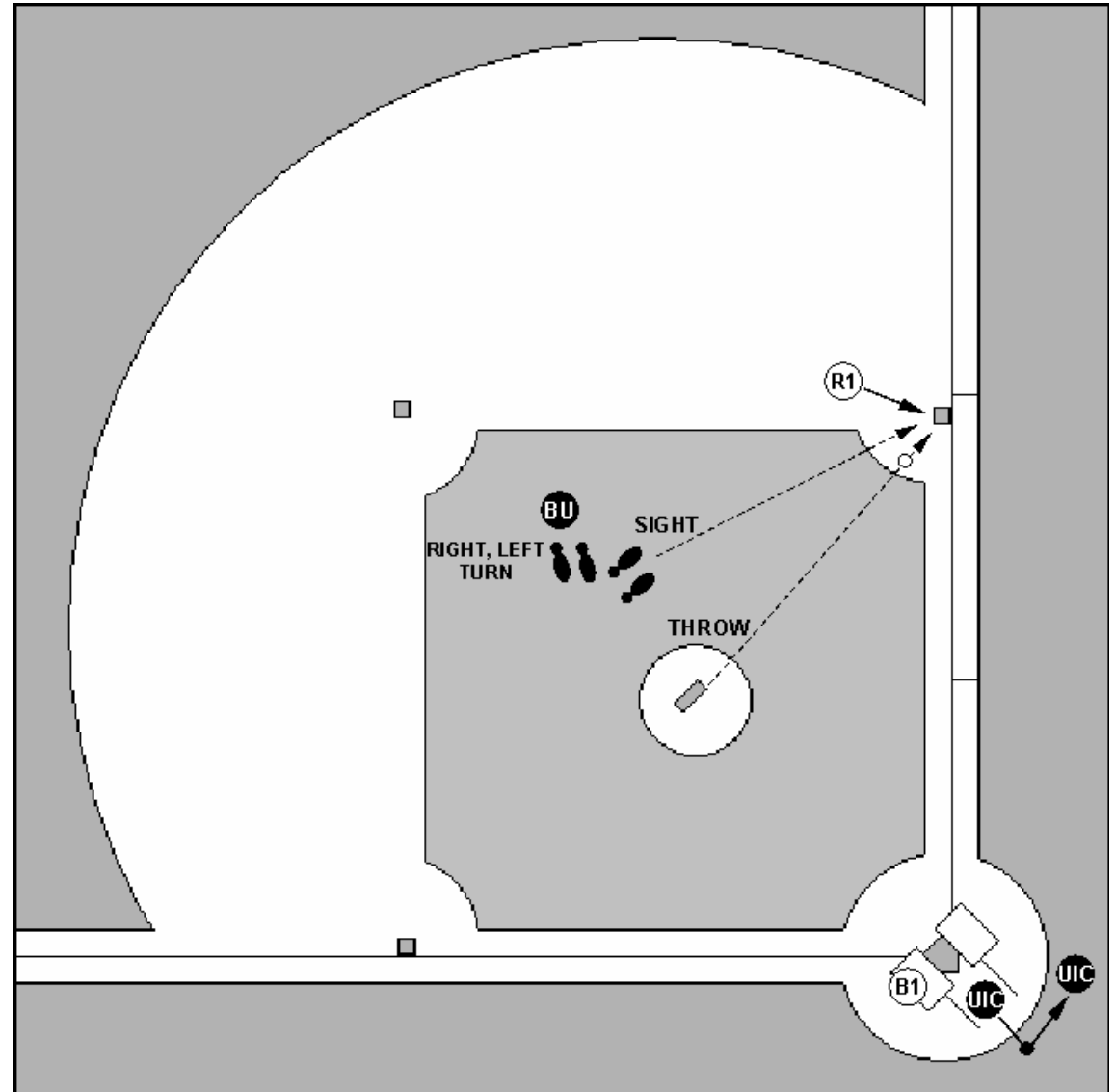


Case Study 8 – First-base pickoff

Game Situation: Runner on first

Action on the field: Pitcher or catcher attempts pickoff

When the play begins: As UIC, step back from the catcher and observe the action. As BU, react aggressively as you watch the pitcher or catcher carefully. As the throw begins, move directly toward home plate at least one (ideally two) steps to open your angle, turn to the play, set and make the call.

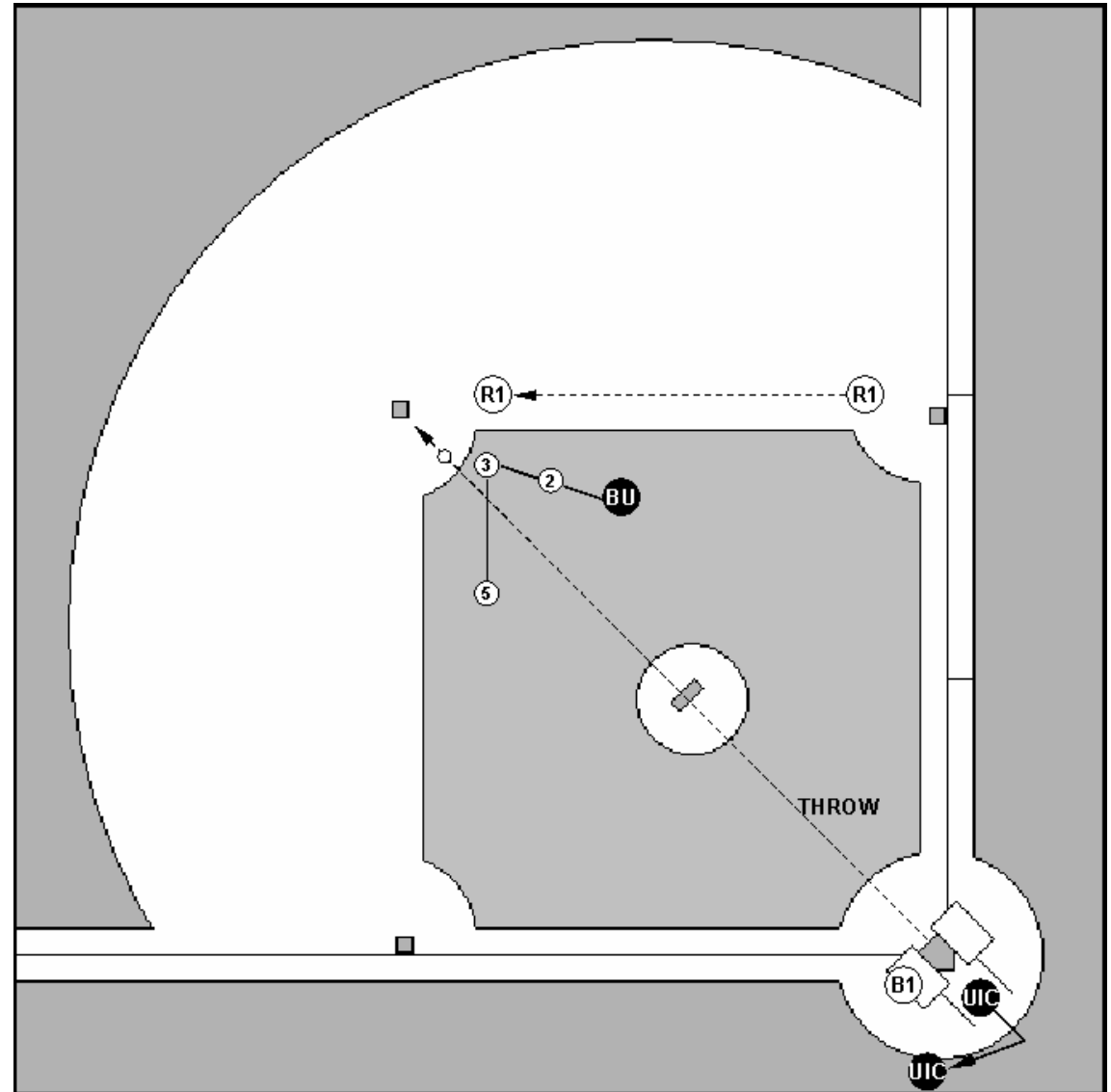




Case Study 9 – Second-base steal

Game Situation: Runner on first
Action on the field: R1 steals

When the play begins: As UIC, remain in your set position to rule on the pitch, then step back from the catcher and observe the action. Be alert for interference by B1. As BU, remain in your set position until the pitch clears the batter, then react aggressively. As the throw begins, „open the gate“ and watch the catcher’s release over your left shoulder; let the ball turn your head to the play; step toward the cutout, set and make the call.



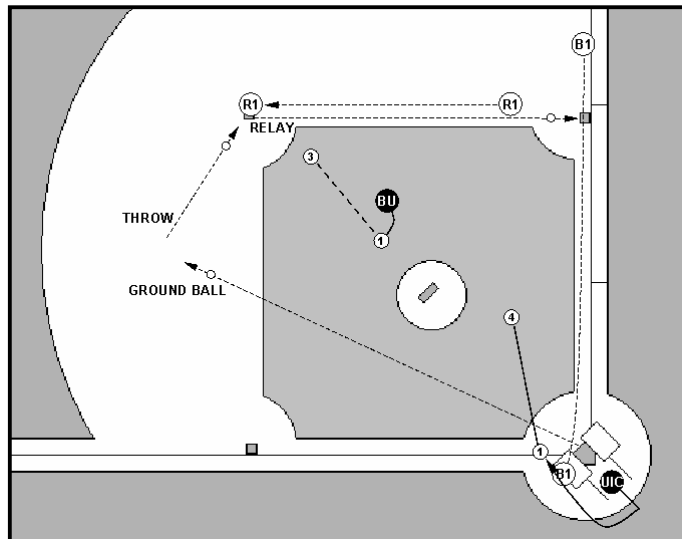


Case Study 12 – Ground ball, possible double play

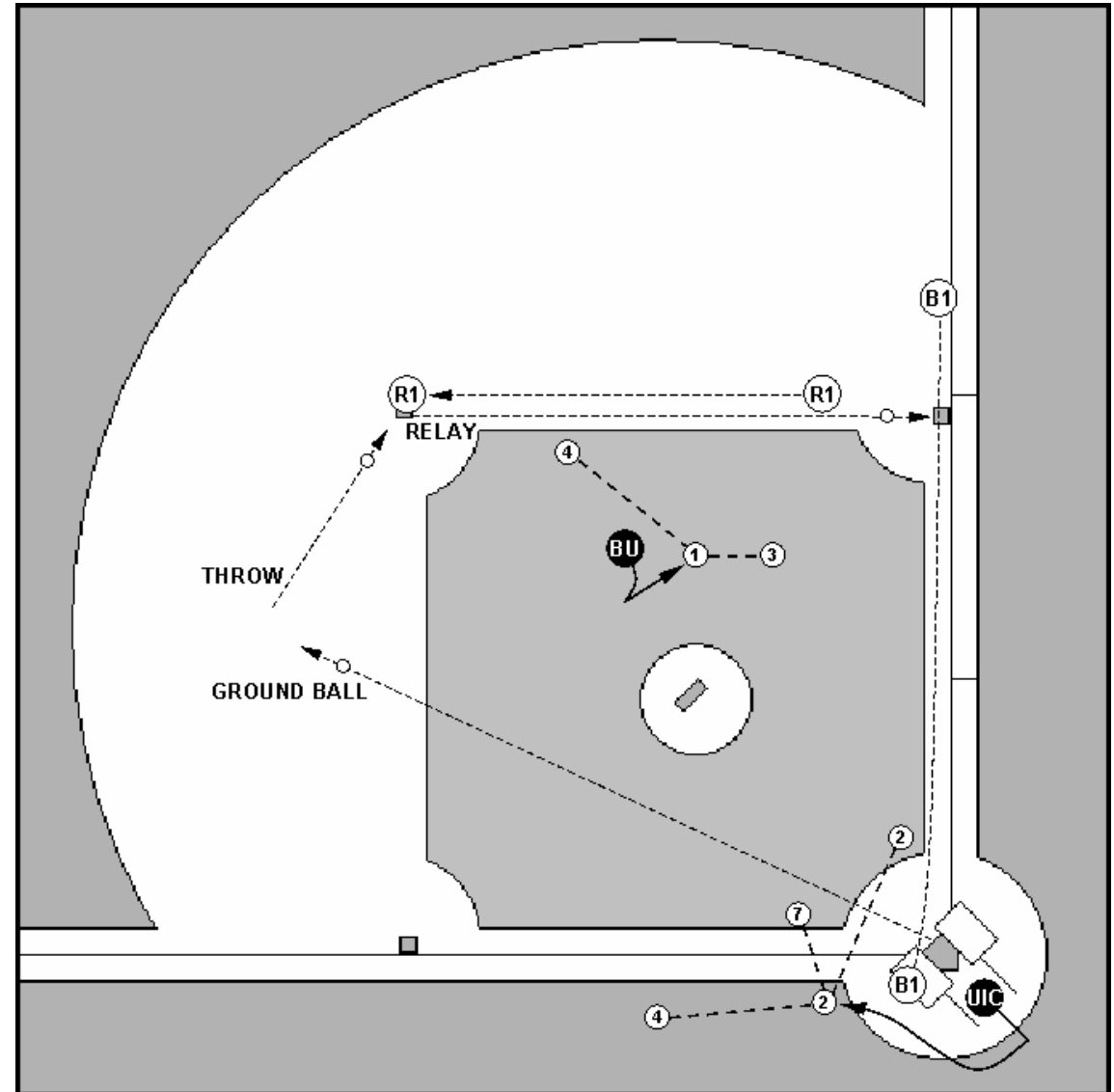
Game Situation: Runner on first

Action on the field: Ground ball fielded by F1, F4, F5 or F6

When the ball is hit: As UIC, read the ball, clear the catcher; straddle the third-base line if fair / foul is a factor. Watch any play closely; assist BU *if he asks for help*. As BU, read the ball and determine whether the defense will attempt a double play. If so, employ the double-play drift. If the defense plays for one out or if the double play breaks down, move toward that cutout and focus on that play.



Variations: If you and your partner are innovators, consider letting BU focus entirely on the front end of the double play - he'll have a much better look at the possible interference by R1. Have UIC move toward the first-base side of the mound to rule on the secondary play at first base - he'll have a *very good* look at the play.

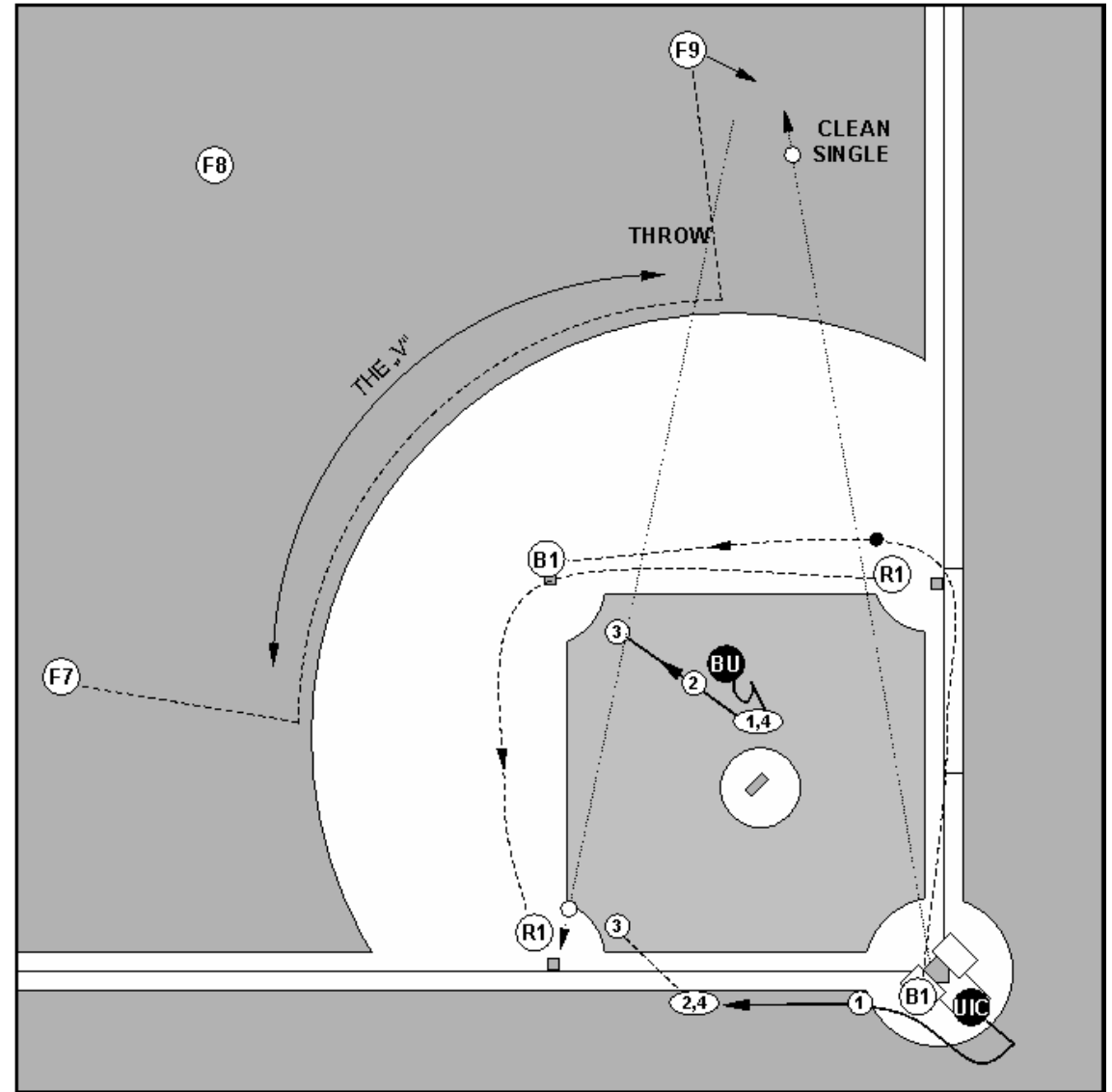




Case Study 15 – Clean hit to the outfield

Game Situation: Runner on first
Action on the field: Base hit

When the ball is hit: As UIC, read the ball. React by moving toward third in foul territory; let your partner know what you're doing; observe the play on the batted ball. As BU, read the ball. Check to see that your partner gets the same read; see R1 touch second, B1 first; prepare to cover a play at second or any play on B1 on the bases.



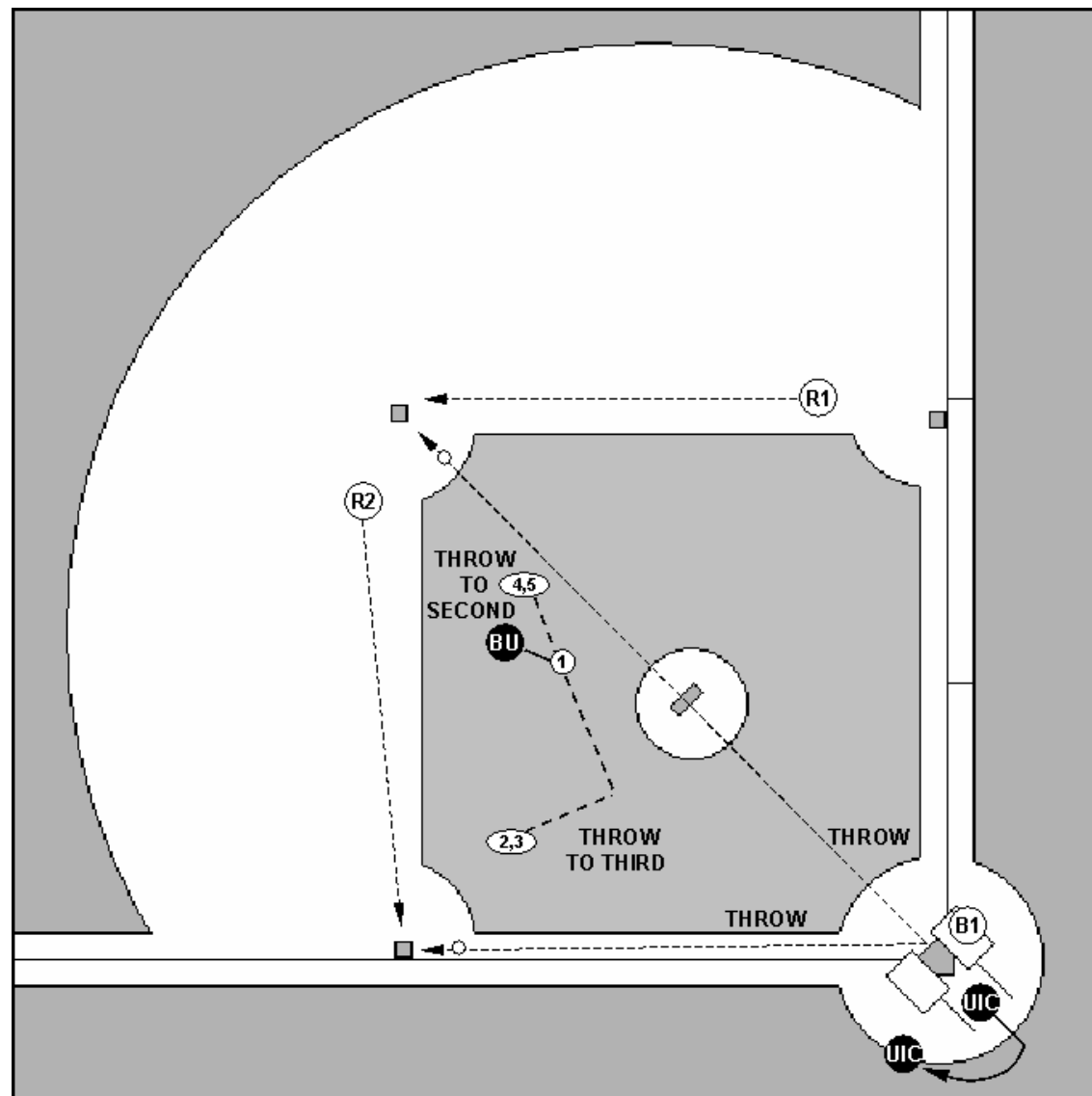


Case Study 16 – Double steal

Game Situation: Runners on first and second

Action on the field: Both runners steal

When the play begins: As UIC, remain in your set position to rule on the pitch, then step back from the catcher and observe the action. Be alert for interference by B1. As BU, glance over your right shoulder at R2 as F1 delivers. Remain in your set position until the pitch clears the batter, then react aggressively. Anticipate a play at third base, but do not commit until you see the catcher's release – the throw could go to second. Move toward the play (stride toward the midpoint of the third-base line for a play at third; move back and „open the gate“ for a play at second), watch the catcher's release, let the ball turn you to the play, step toward the play, set and make the call.



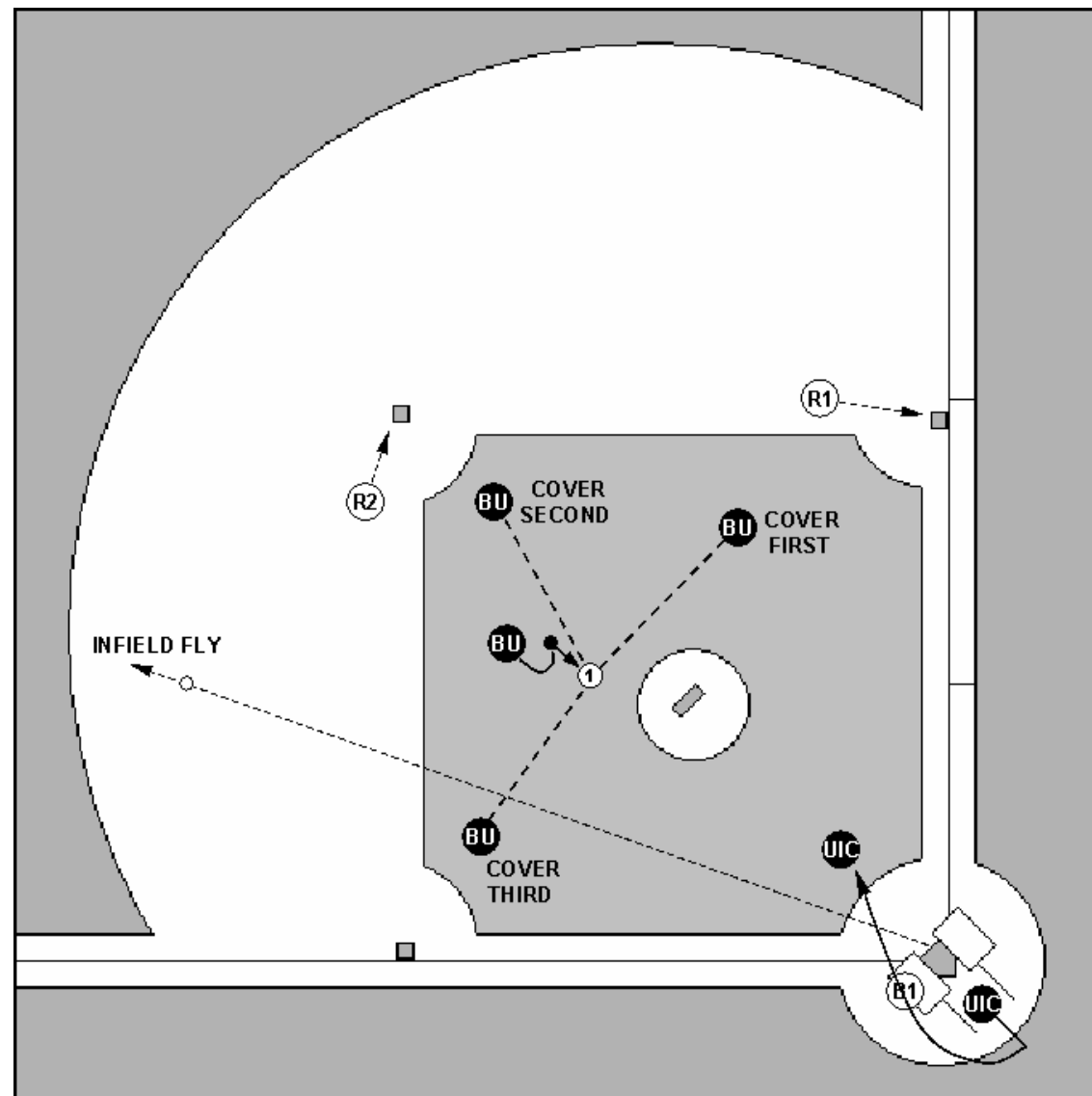


Case Study 19 – Infield fly

Game Situation: Runners on first and second, fewer than two outs

Action on the field: Fly ball hit in the infield

When the ball is hit: As UIC, read the ball hit in your area. React by staying near home plate; move into position to see the play; let your partner know what you're doing; make the call on the batted ball. As BU, read the ball hit to UIC's area; check to see that he gets the same read. Move to avoid hindering any fielder; observe R2, R1, B1 and the play; cover all plays on the bases.

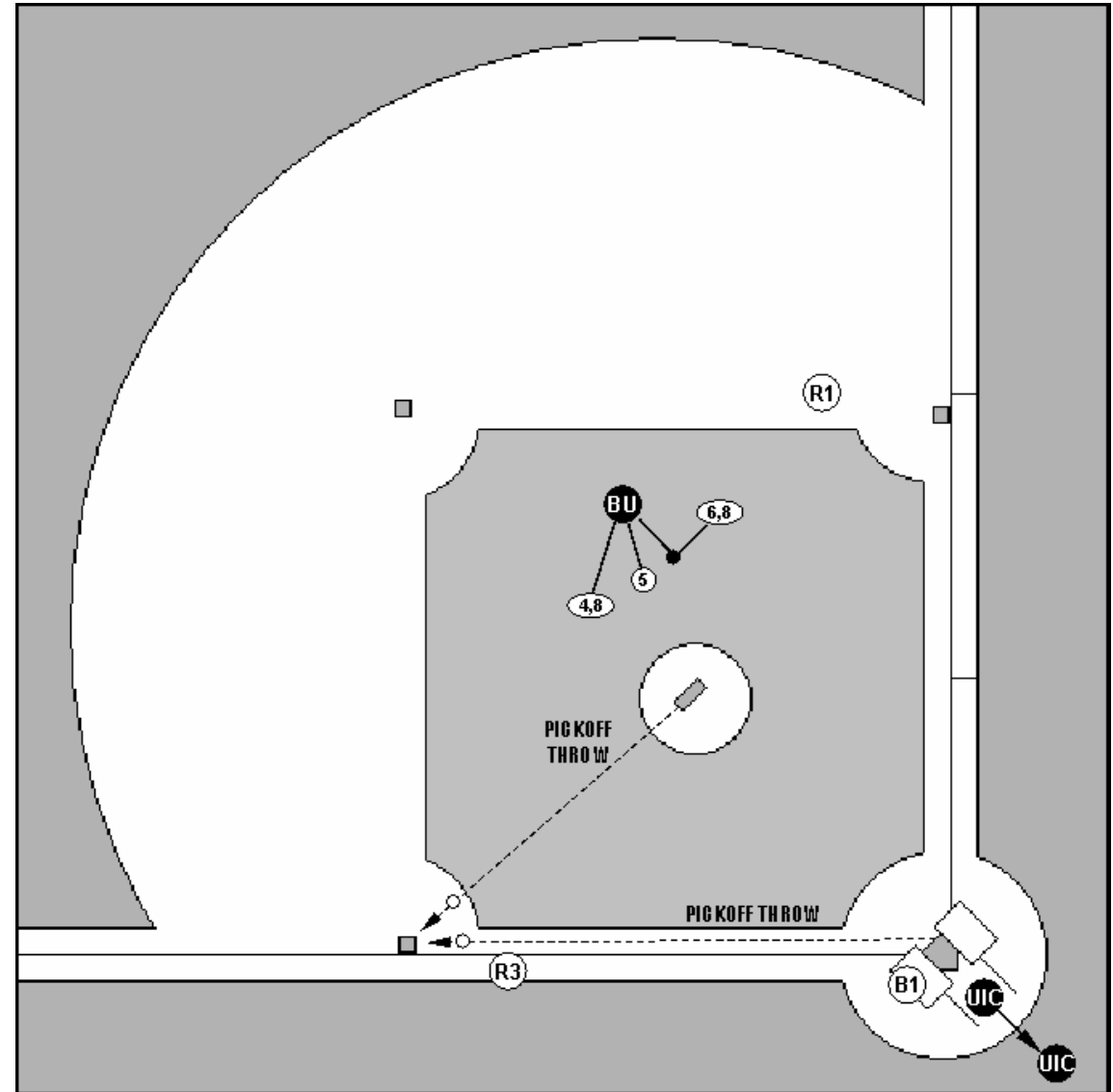




Case Study 29 – Pickoff play

Game Situation: Runners on first and third
Action on the field: Pitcher or catcher attempts pickoff

When the play begins: As UIC, step back from the catcher and observe the action. As BU, react cautiously on a move to third, aggressively on a move to first as you watch the pitcher or catcher carefully. As the play begins, move directly toward home plate at least one (ideally two) steps to open your angle; as the throw is made turn to the play, set and make the call.



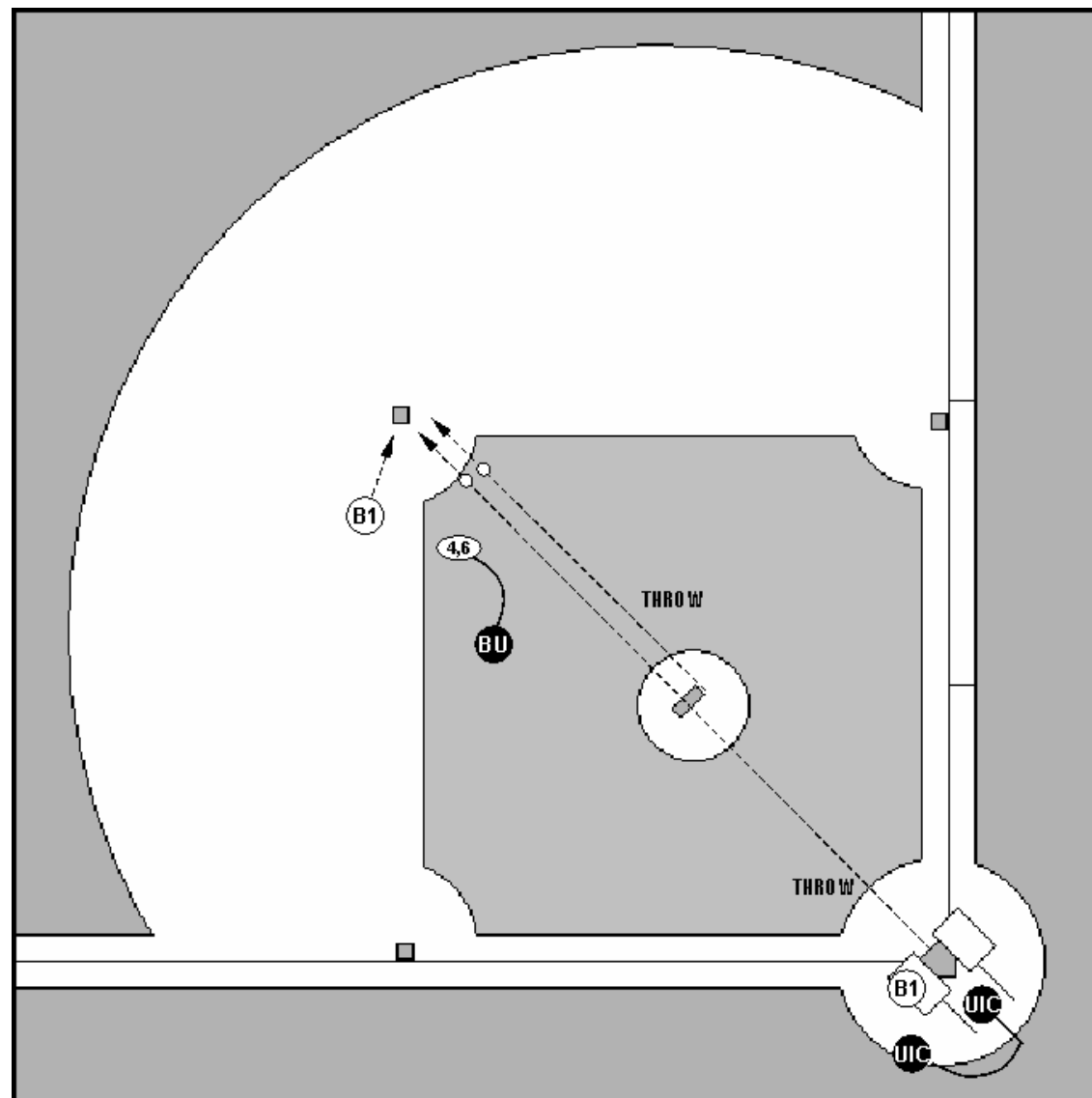


Case Study 36 – Second base pickoff

Game Situation: Runner on second

Action on the field: Pitcher or catcher attempts pickoff

When the play begins: As UIC, step back from the catcher and observe the action. As BU, hold your set position as you watch the pitcher or catcher carefully. As the *throwing motion* begins, move directly toward the cutout at least two steps, turn to the play, set and make the call.

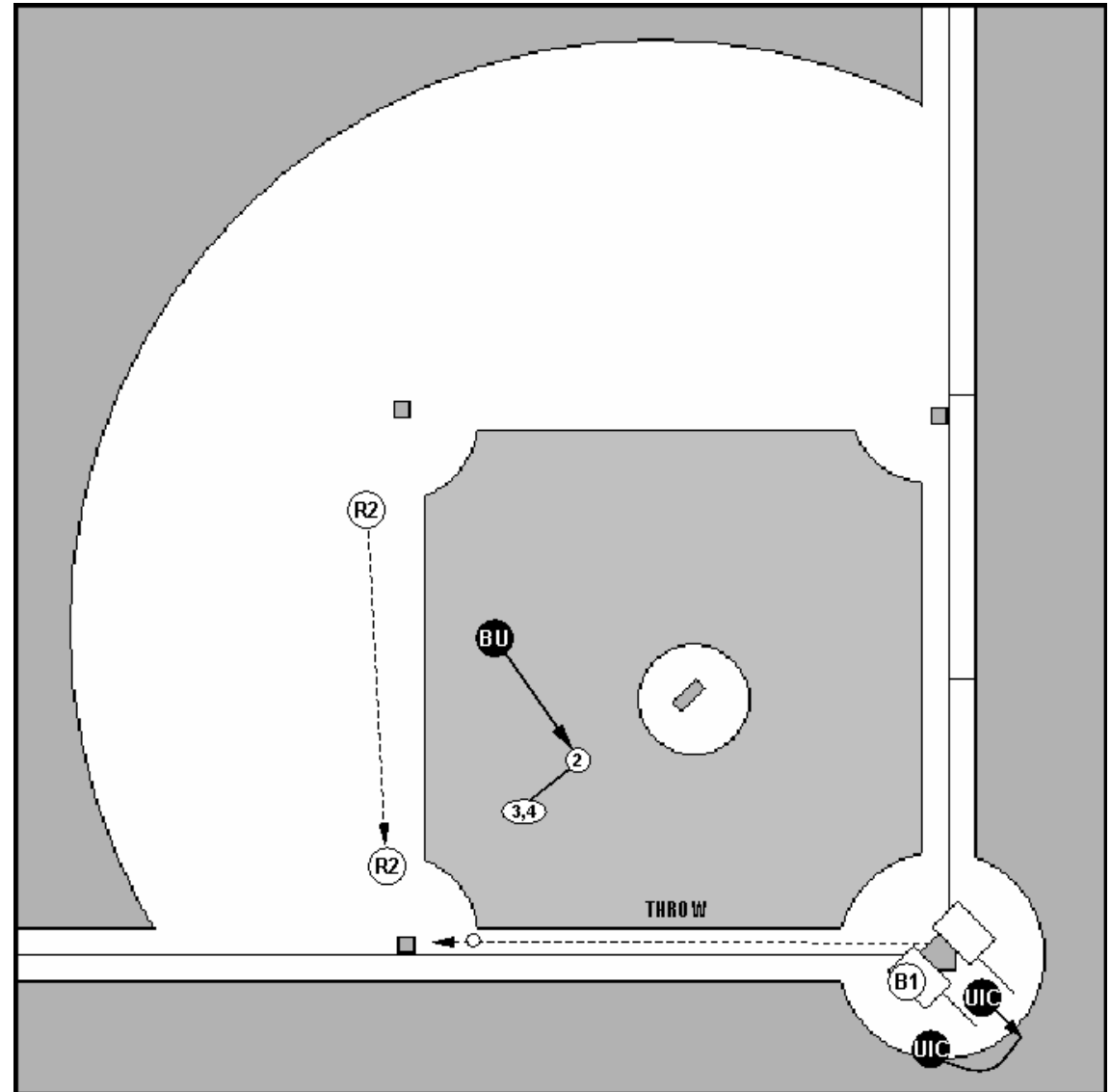




Case Study 37 – Third base steal

Game Situation: Runner on second
Action on the field: R2 steals

When the play begins: As UIC, remain in your set position to rule on the pitch, then step back from the catcher and observe the action. Be alert for interference by B1. As BU, glance over your right shoulder at R2 as F1 delivers. Remain in your set position until the pitch clears the batter, then react aggressively. Move toward the midpoint of the third-base line, watch the catcher's release, let the ball turn you to the play, step toward the third-base cutout, set and make the call.

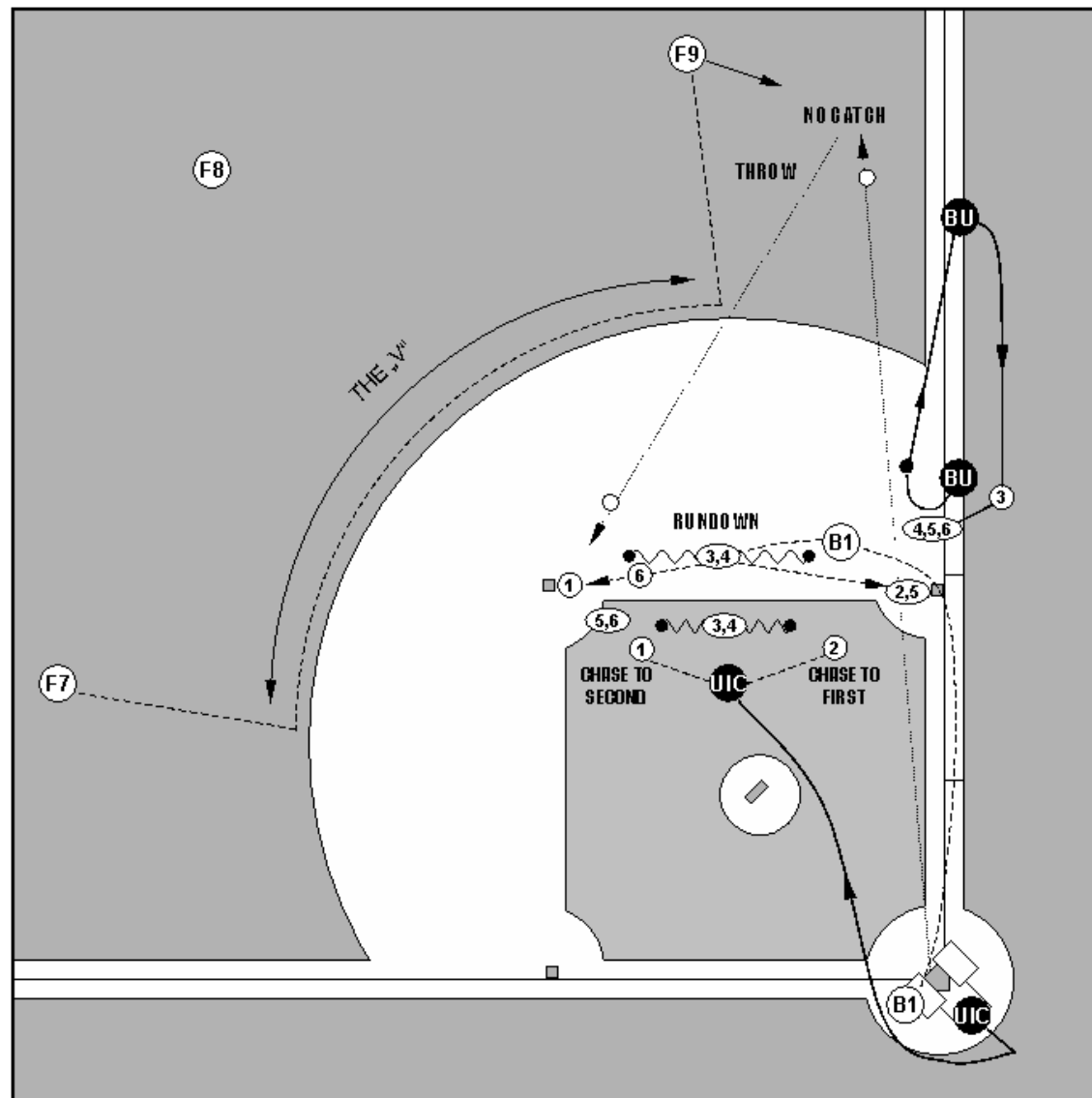




Case Study 54 – UIC rundown between first and second

Game Situation: No runners on base
Action on the field: B1 singles to right, rundown develops, UIC has initial coverage

When rundown begins: As UIC, you will be in the infield grass on or behind the first-base side of the mound; you'll have primary coverage. Turn and face the ball, pause and read the situation; flow with the play until BU arrives. As BU, you'll be on the outfield grass; you will provide supporting coverage on the first-base side. Move to the area, wait for the play to move away from you, then step to the cutout and tell UIC you are in position.



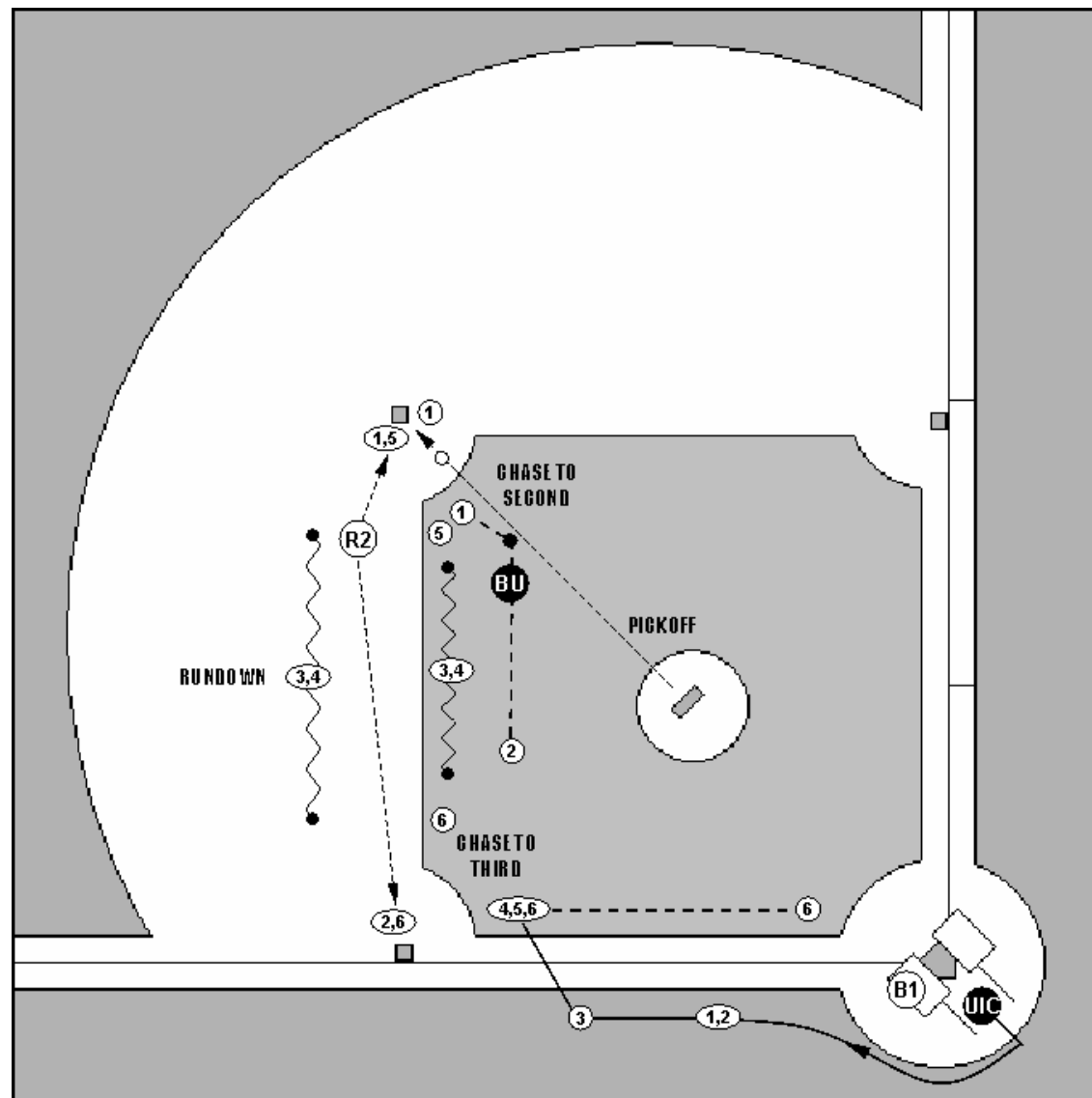


Case Study 55 – BU rundown between second and third

Game Situation: Single runner (R2) near second base

Action on the field: Rundown begins, BU has initial coverage

When the rundown begins: As UIC, you will provide supporting coverage on the third-base side. Move to the area, wait for the play to move away from you, then step to the cutout and tell BU you are in position. As BU, you'll be somewhere on the infield grass behind the mound; you'll have primary coverage. Turn and face the ball, pause and read the situation; flow with the play until UIC arrives.





Case Study 56 –Rundown between third and home

Game Situation: Single runner (R3) near third base

Action on the field: Rundown

When the rundown begins: Because the rundown is between third and home, the umpires will divide responsibility equally at the midpoint of the baseline. That requires careful communication *before* a call any time the runner is near the middle of the baseline. As UIC, move to foul ground and take responsibility for the home plate side of the play; make all calls when the runner is nearer you than BU. As BU, remain on the infield grass and take responsibility for the third-base side of the play; make all calls when the runner is nearer you than UIC.

