

# SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

## A PERSPECTIVE ON SINGLE-MAN MECHANICS

When working single-man mechanics, for any agency, the field mechanics are the same. **Your number one priority** is lining yourself up along either baseline to determine whether the batted ball is foul or fair when landing near the outfield foul lines.

**Your second priority** is to determine whether the ball is caught or not caught. Both priorities require proper hustle and angle “positioning” in determining these situations.

On a routine play to the infield or outfield you should position yourself in the infield where if an error occurs (no runners on base), you will be ahead of the batter-runner if he / she decides to advance to second base or beyond. **Basically you try to create a triangle as far as foot positioning, with the center of the triangle being the pitcher’s rubber.** Your **main responsibility becomes the lead runner with multiple runners on base.** When working single-man mechanics you should make a concentrated effort to keep the ball, the runner, the base and the defensive player always in front of you. When an overthrow occurs at 3B you should position yourself inside the diamond for a possible call at home plate, never to the outside of the infield.

**Don’t go on the field thinking that since you do not have a partner and are not being evaluated that this gives you the right to “just go through the motions”.** Both managers and ballplayers appreciate an umpire that hustles and is in the proper position to make a call whether it is routine or a bang-bang play.

**Over 70% of our assigned games warrant single-man mechanics, it is very important to practice and learn these concepts.**