

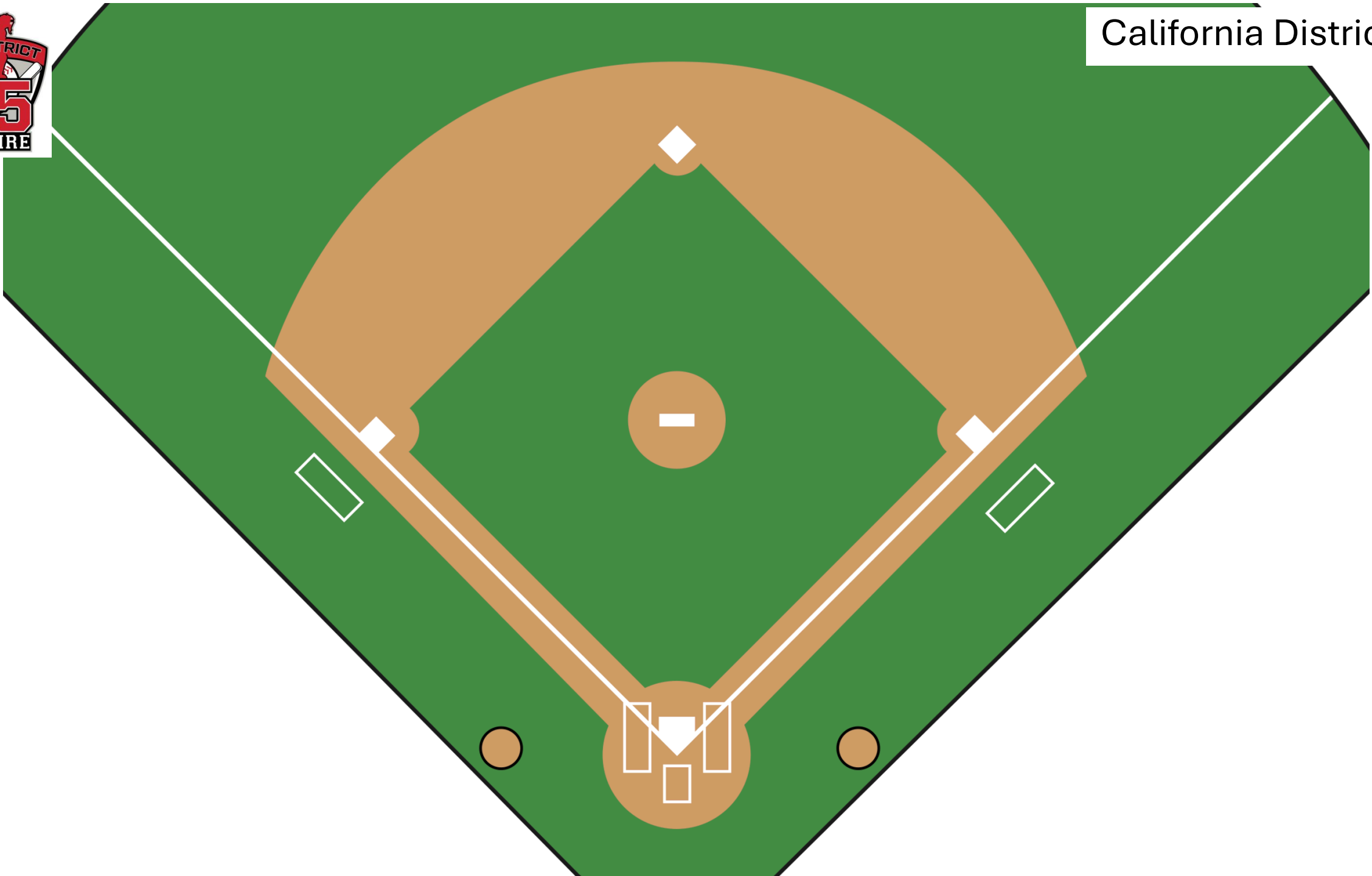
2026 Little League Four Man Rotations

California District 55





California District 55





PHILOSOPHY

PHILOSOPHY

1. **Front load umpires** ahead of the runners and plays whenever possible utilizing rotations.
2. **Assign responsibilities** and rotations to cover the plays with the highest probabilities in order of priority.
3. **When assigned to cover multiple bases in rotation**, the umpire must let the ball take them to the play. The umpire must remember not to overcompensate their position should they be required to make a call on a subsequent play at another assigned base.
4. **Prioritize freedom of movement** for fielders and runners so that umpires do not hinder any play as a result of their positioning or rotations. When assigned to cover a single base, this may require U1 / U3 to move into foul territory to observe playing action and adjust their position should a “play” (ball and runner coming together) develop.
5. **Umpire Communication** is imperative to ensure proper coverage and rotations. Communication must occur early and continuously throughout the development of the play. Communication should be both audible and visual.



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5. **Umpire Communication** is imperative to ensure proper coverage and rotations. Communication must occur early and continuously throughout the development of the play. Communication should be both audible and visual.



Fundamentals

Fundamentals

- 1. Umpires must know and execute the 4 Primary Priorities: (1) Priorities / Order of Operations: Fair/Foul, then C/NC, then everything else. (2) Proper Use of Eyes (PUEs); (3) Remain Chest to Ball; and (4) Play Positioning.**
- 2. Umpires are instructed to shorten up their Initial Pre-Pitch Starting Position:**
 - a) Never closer than 10-12 feet from the base in front of you.**
 - b) Never positioned parallel with the fielder in front of you nor in front of that fielder.**
 - c) Position slightly outside of the fielder's "halo," the 2-3 step range 360 degrees around the fielder.**
 - d) Position must allow you to see the shoe tops of the fielder in front of you for C/NC on a sinking line.**
- 3. When not in rotation, the umpire is responsible for all calls at their assigned base and will move to Point of Base (PoB) and remain Chest to Ball (CtB) to position for such plays.**



Fundamentals

- 1. Umpires must know and execute the 4 Primary Priorities:**
 - a) (1) Priorities / Order of Operations:**
 - i. Fair/Foul**
 - ii. Catch / No Catch (C/NC)**
 - iii. then everything else**
 - b) Proper Use of Eyes (PUEs)**
 - c) Remain Chest to Ball**
 - d) Play Positioning.**

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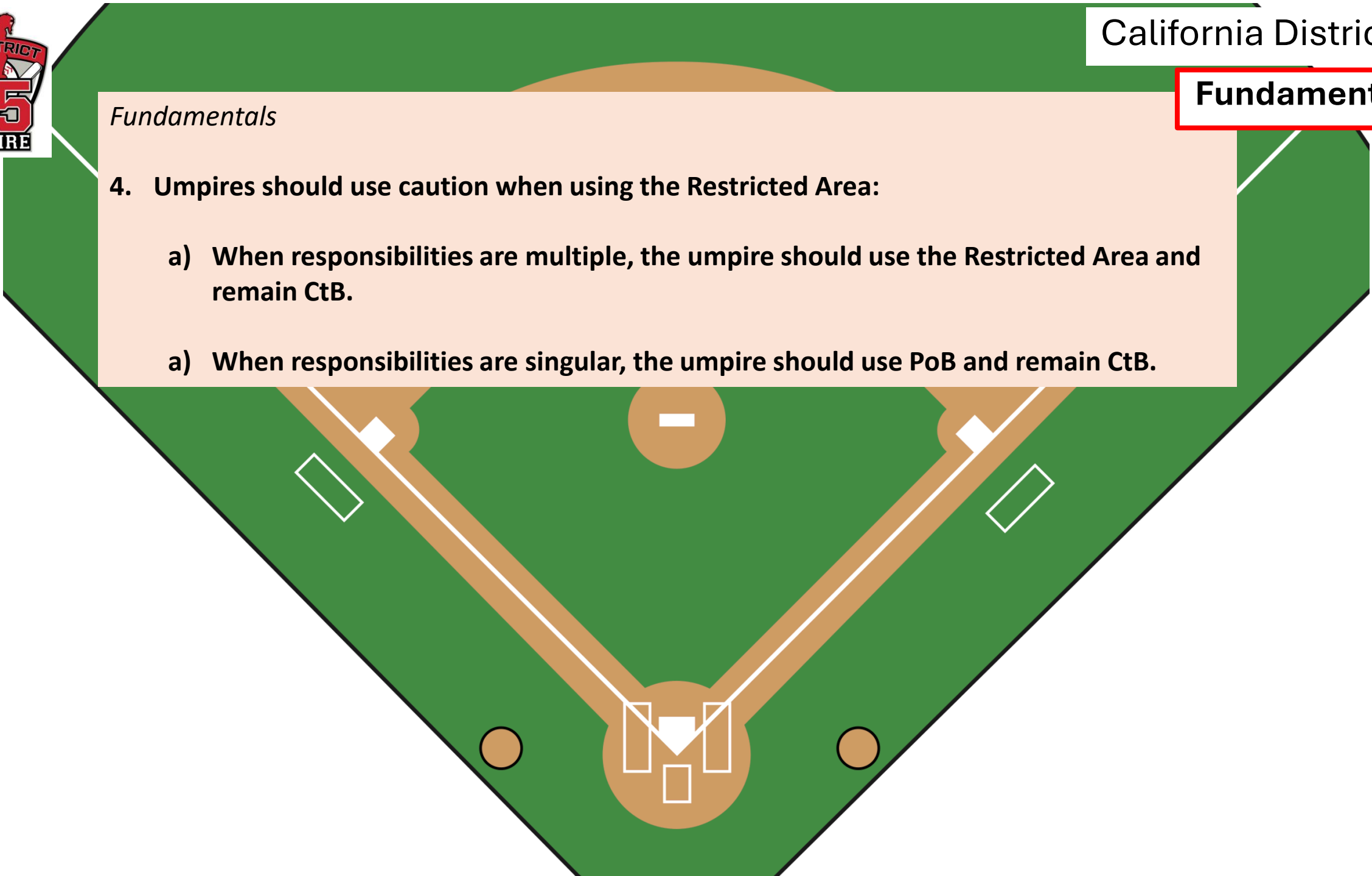
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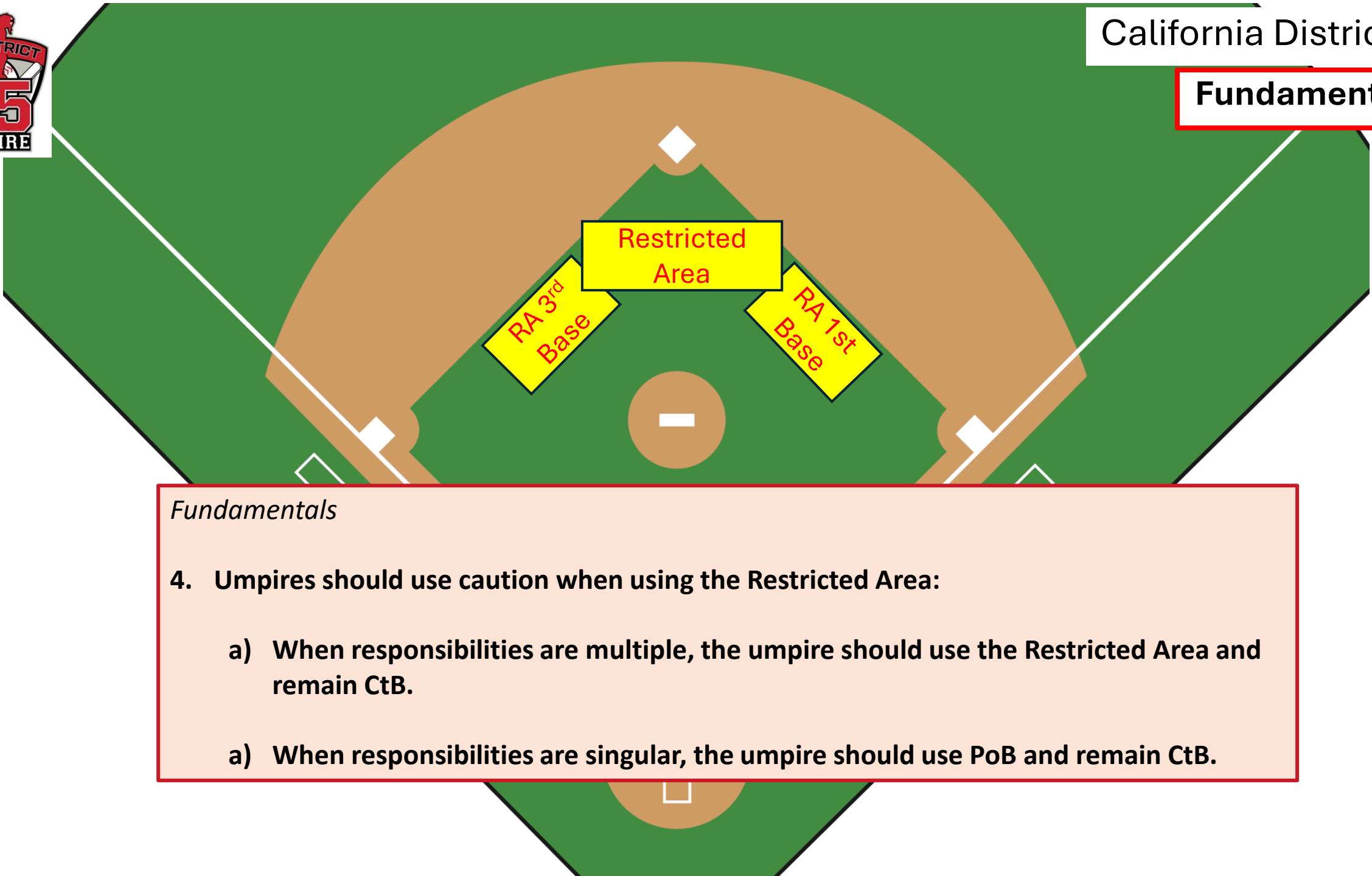


Fundamentals

4. Umpires should use caution when using the Restricted Area:

- a) **When responsibilities are multiple, the umpire should use the Restricted Area and remain CtB.**
- a) **When responsibilities are singular, the umpire should use PoB and remain CtB.**





Fundamentals

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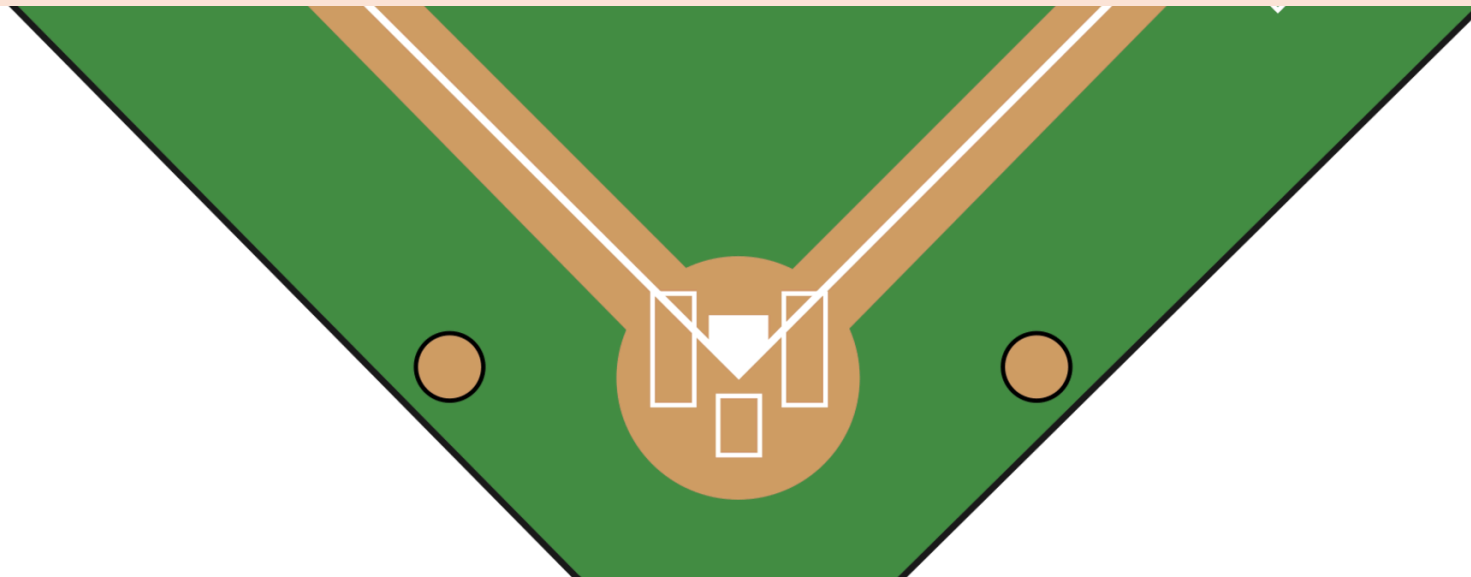
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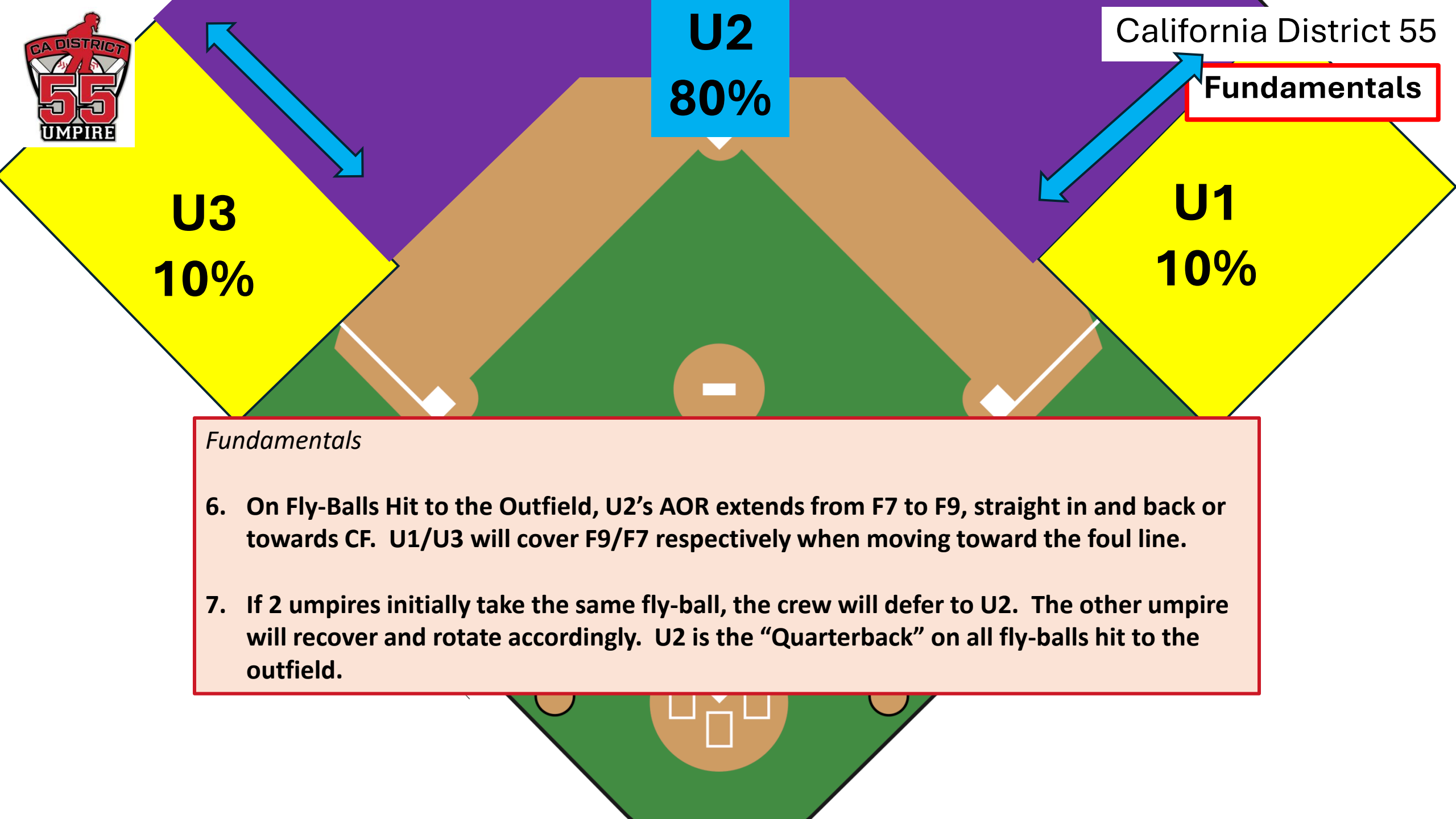


Fundamentals

Fundamentals

5. The appropriate umpire should be out to cover every fly-ball to the outfield. The remaining umpires will rotate appropriately to cover the open base using the Full or Fill rotation as dictated by the position of the runners.
6. On Fly-Balls Hit to the Outfield, U2's AOR extends from F7 to F9, straight in and back or towards CF. U1/U3 will cover F9/F7 respectively when moving toward the foul line.
7. If 2 umpires initially take the same fly-ball, the crew will defer to U2. The other umpire will recover and rotate accordingly. U2 is the "Quarterback" on all fly-balls hit to the outfield.





U2
80%

California District 55
Fundamentals

U3
10%

U1
10%

Fundamentals

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Fundamentals

8. When in rotation, retouches (tag-up attempts) will advance to the umpire positioned at the base ahead of the runner (Exception: R1 Only in Full Rotation = U1 Takes R1's retouch).

9. On Fly-Balls Hit in the Infield:
 - a) PU will take all C/NC fielded above the waist of the fielder or anytime C/NC occurs on the infield grass.
 - b) Open Glove Theory will apply on fly-balls or line-drives hit below the fielder's waist. The Open Glove Theory means the umpire to whom the fielder's glove is opening will be responsible for ruling C/NC.



Fundamentals

10. To execute the 4-Umpire System effectively, umpires must Think, Read, and Respond:

- a) **Think ahead pre-pitch – know what to “DOO:”**
- b) **Read: With the ball in the air, read the fielders and your partner(s):**
- c) **Respond: We should have the appropriate umpire out for C/NC on every-fly ball to the outfield:**



Fundamentals

Think ahead pre-pitch – know what to “DOO:”

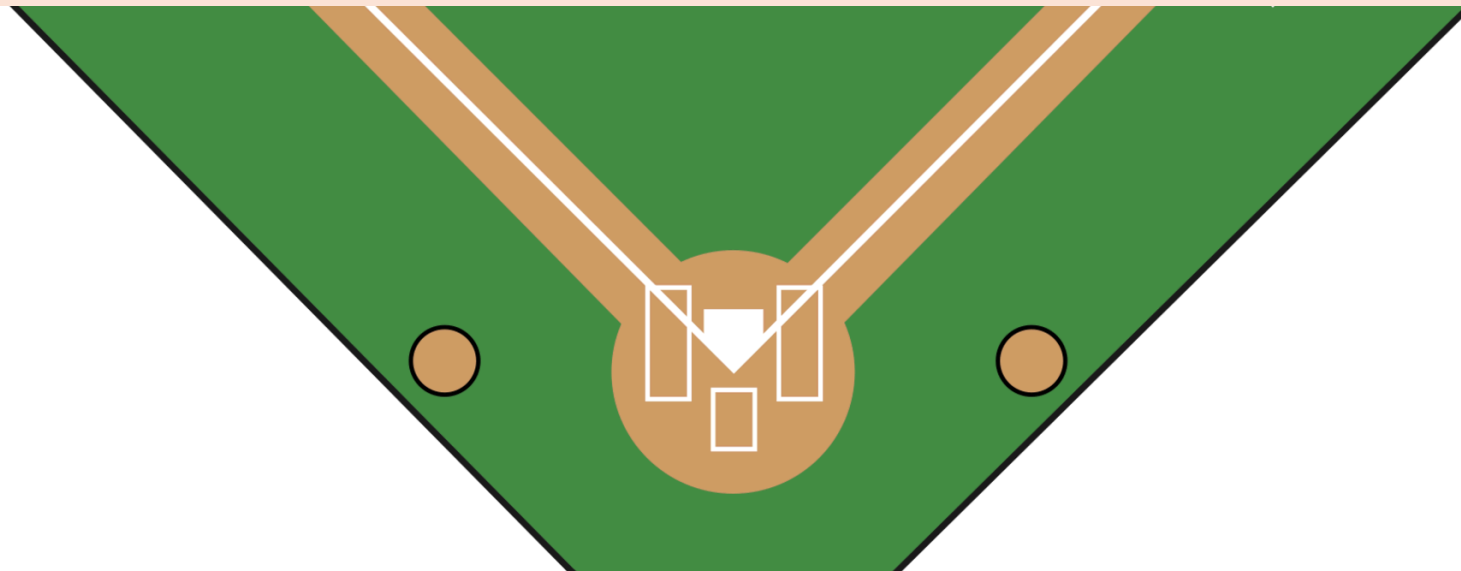
- a) Move Down to PoB, or
- b) Move Out to cover C/NC in their AOR, or
- c) Move Over to cover another base(s) in rotation.
- d) Pre-Pitch Communication – signal to your partners by pointing to your responsibility given the situation. Signals should be initiated by the Plate Umpire but must be done by all umpires.
- e) Check Fielders – knowing the positioning of fielders to help define each umpire’s AOR.



Fundamentals

Read: With the ball in the air, read the fielders and your partner(s):

- a) Read the fielder, not the ball. Remember that AOR is determined by the movement of the fielders. Do not look up at the ball and be sure to check the position of fielders each pitch.
- b) Read your partners and communicate. We defer to U2 and can use a non-verbal “stop hand” to communicate with one another.





Fundamentals

Respond: We should have the appropriate umpire out for C/NC on every-fly ball to the outfield:

- a) Commit aggressively on every fly-ball to the outfield in your AOR. “Leave no doubt that you are out.”
- b) Run parallel to the fielder attempting to catch the ball to avoid being straight-lined.
- c) Get as far as the play allows you and get set before the fielder attempts to make the catch.
- d) Timing & Proper Use of Eyes to confirm firm and secure possession and voluntary and intentional release BEFORE making a signal.
- e) Go out and stay out (unless returning to assist in a rundown, waiting for the play to go away from you to call yourself into the rundown).





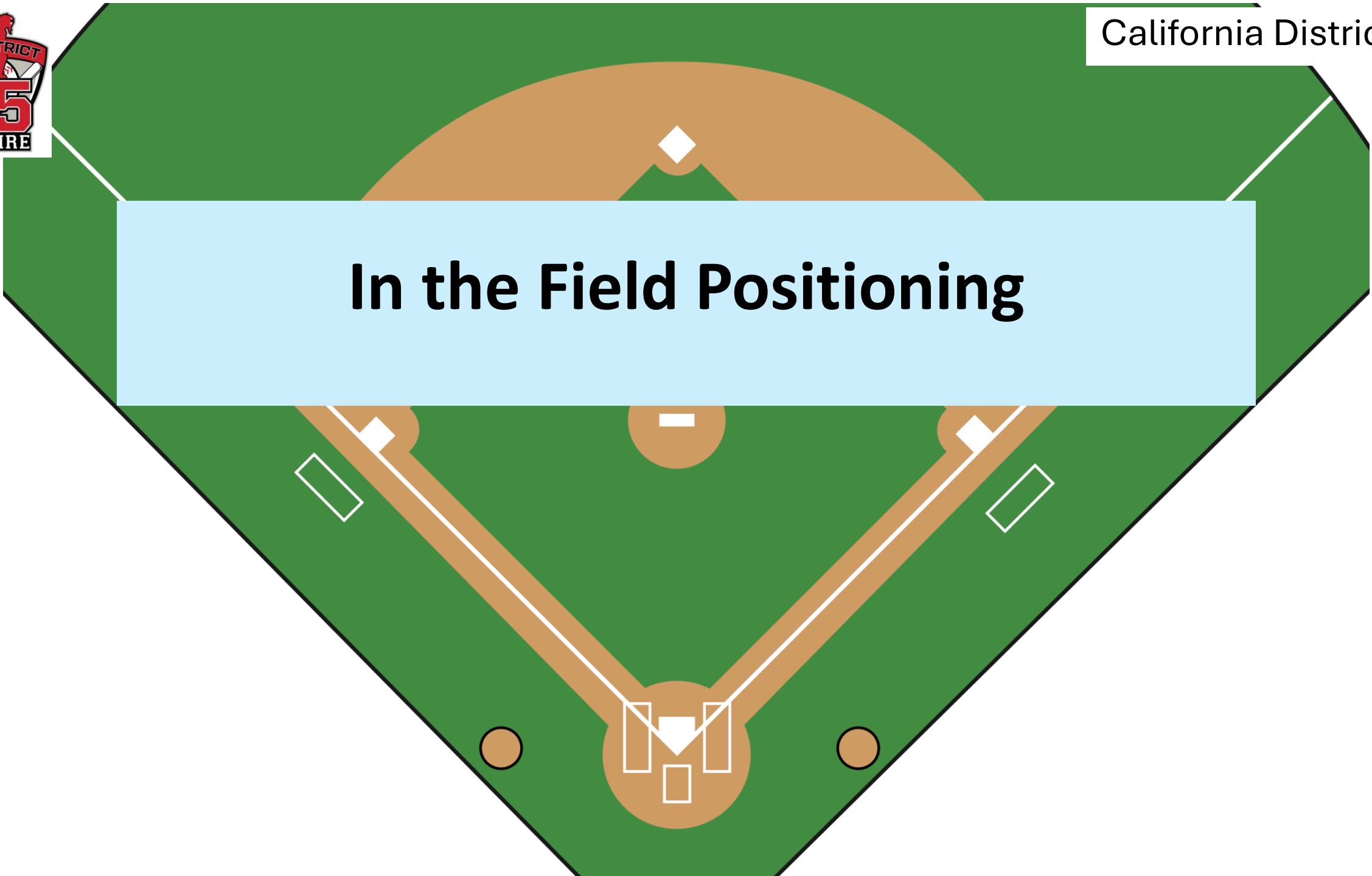
Fundamentals

Remember

Think, Read, and Respond



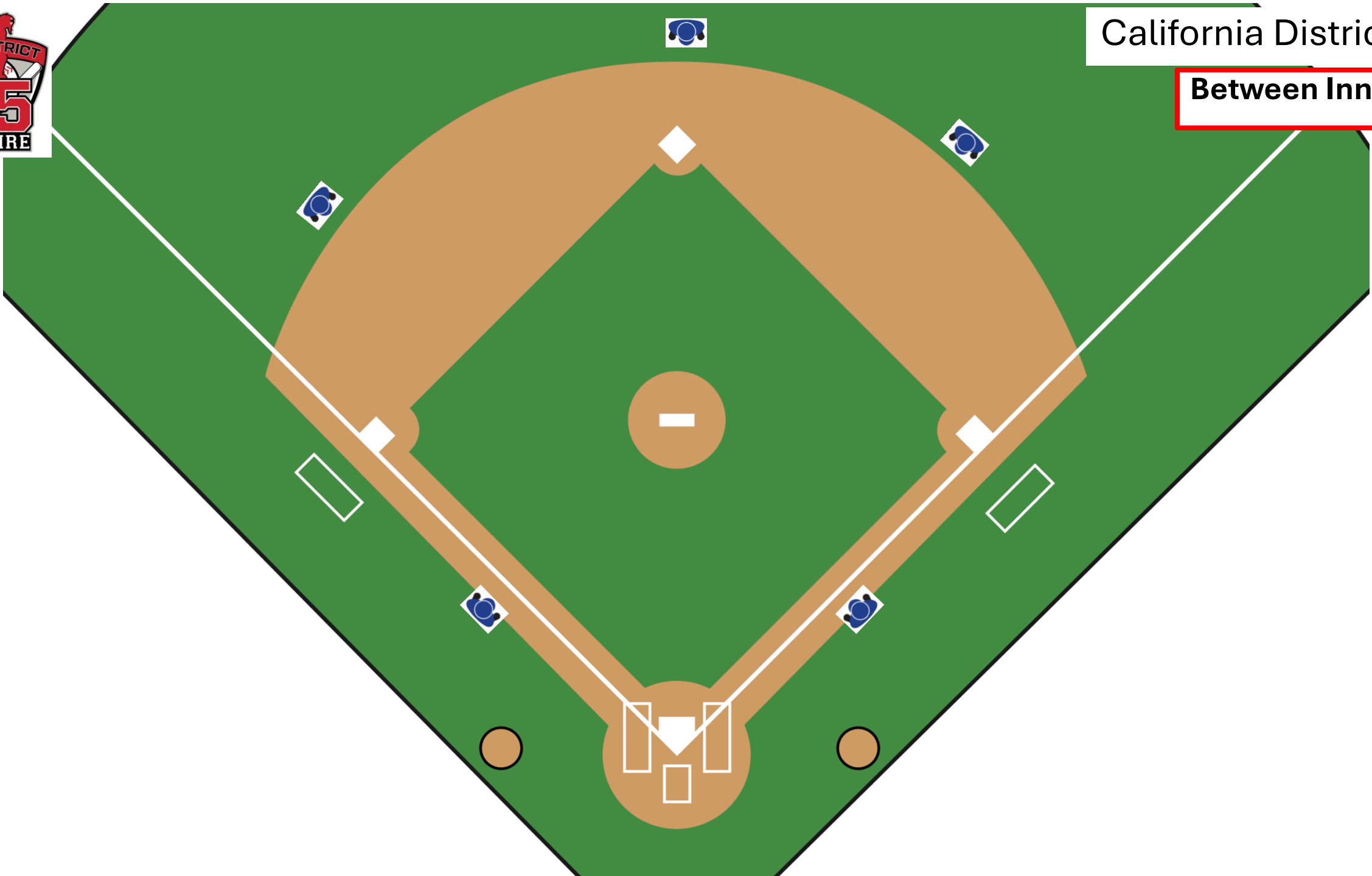
In the Field Positioning





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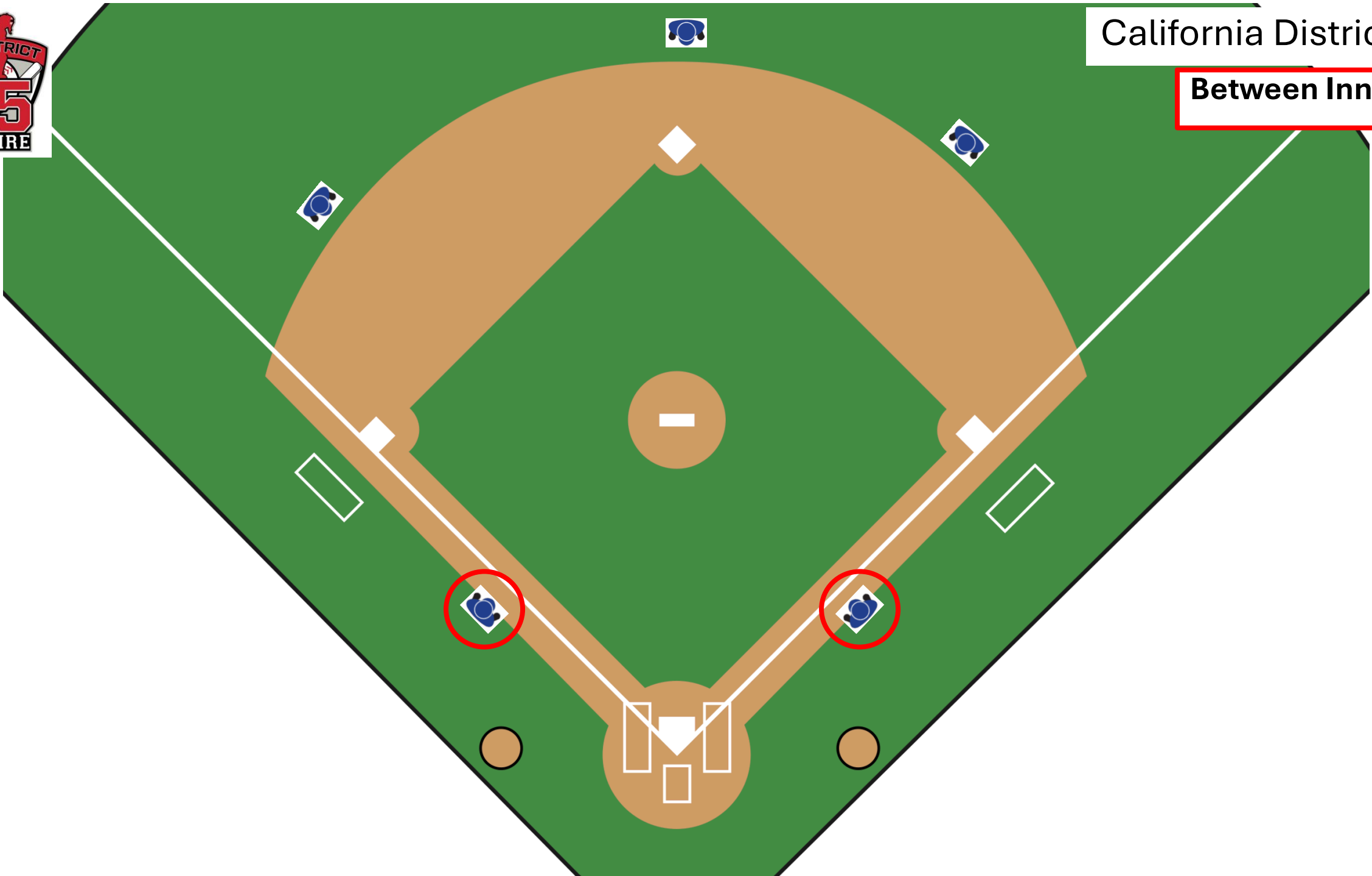
Between Innings





California District 55

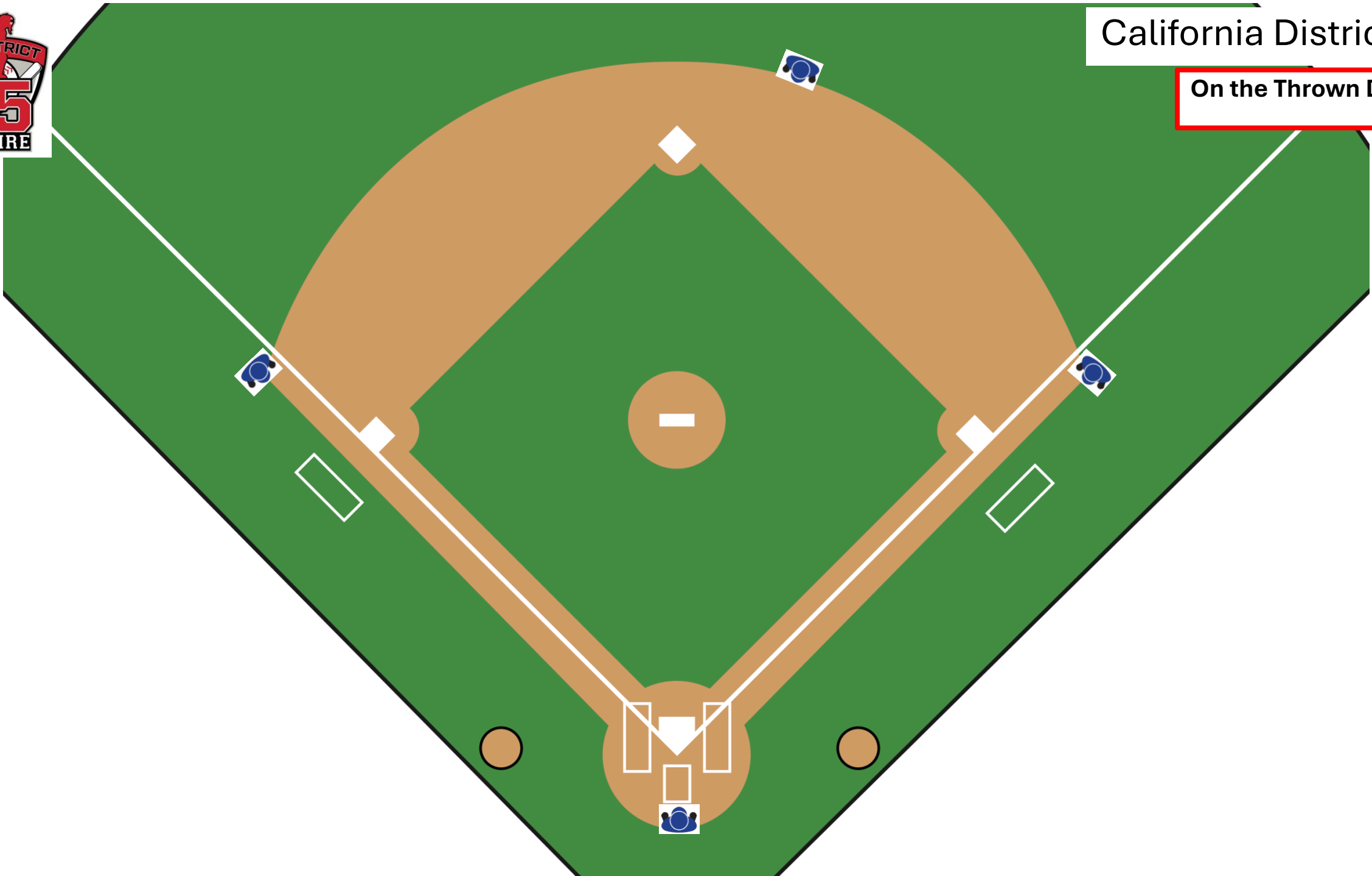
Between Innings





California District 55

On the Thrown Down





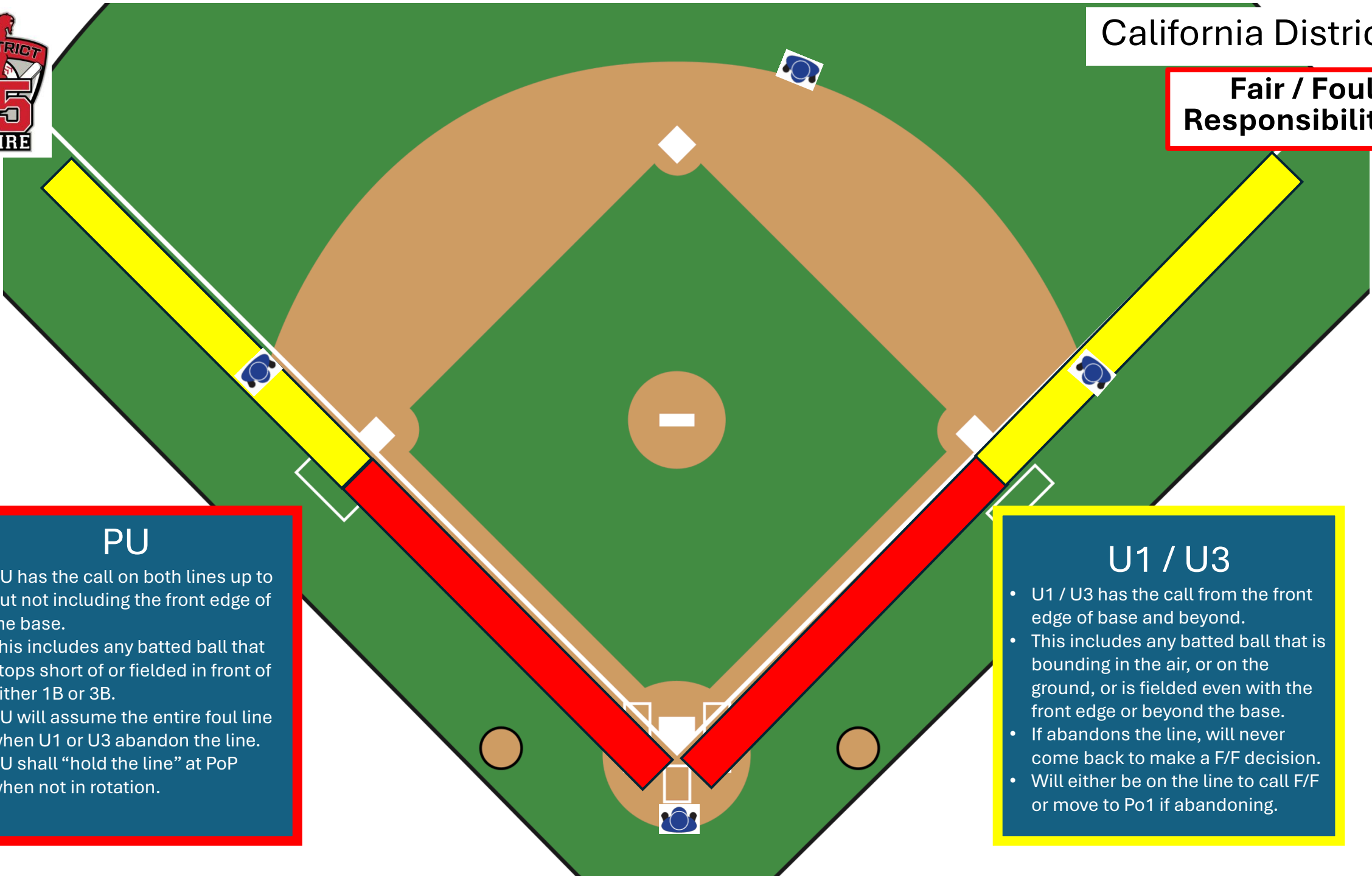
**Fair / Foul
Responsibilities**

PU

- PU has the call on both lines up to but not including the front edge of the base.
- This includes any batted ball that stops short of or fielded in front of either 1B or 3B.
- PU will assume the entire foul line when U1 or U3 abandon the line.
- PU shall “hold the line” at PoP when not in rotation.

U1 / U3

- U1 / U3 has the call from the front edge of base and beyond.
- This includes any batted ball that is bounding in the air, or on the ground, or is fielded even with the front edge or beyond the base.
- If abandons the line, will never come back to make a F/F decision.
- Will either be on the line to call F/F or move to Po1 if abandoning.

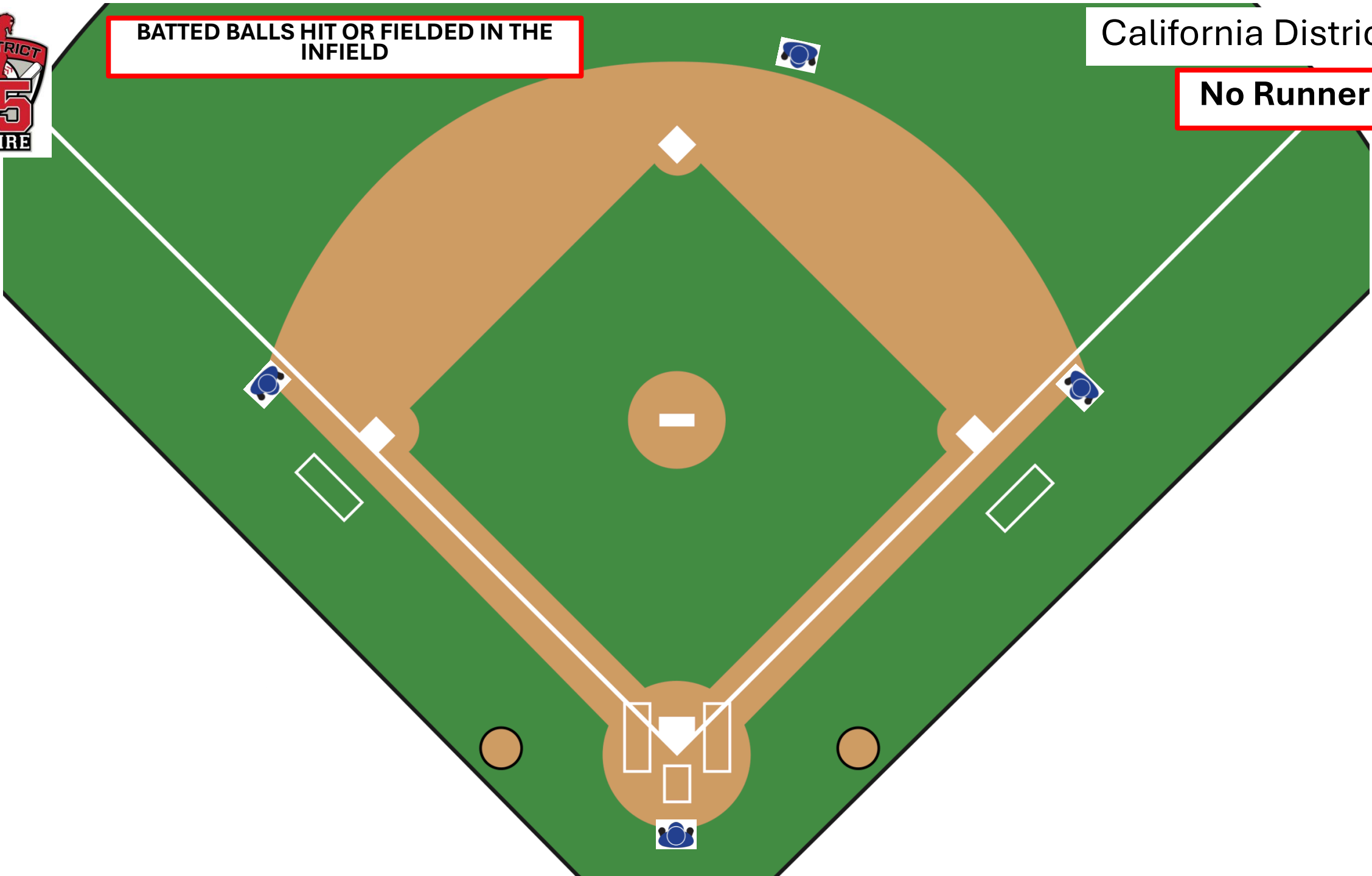




BATTED BALLS HIT OR FIELDED IN THE INFIELD

California District 55

No Runner On

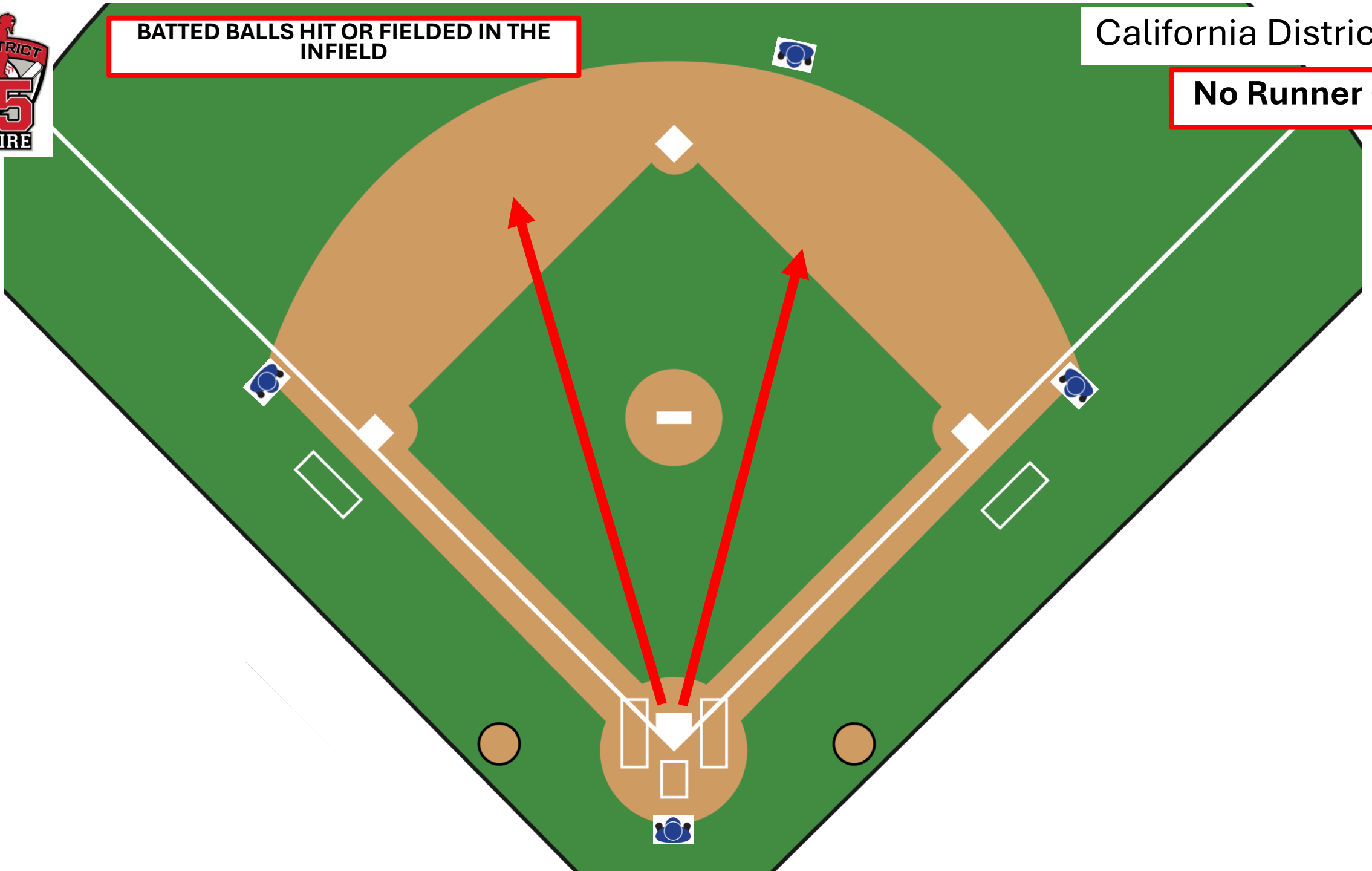




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California District 55

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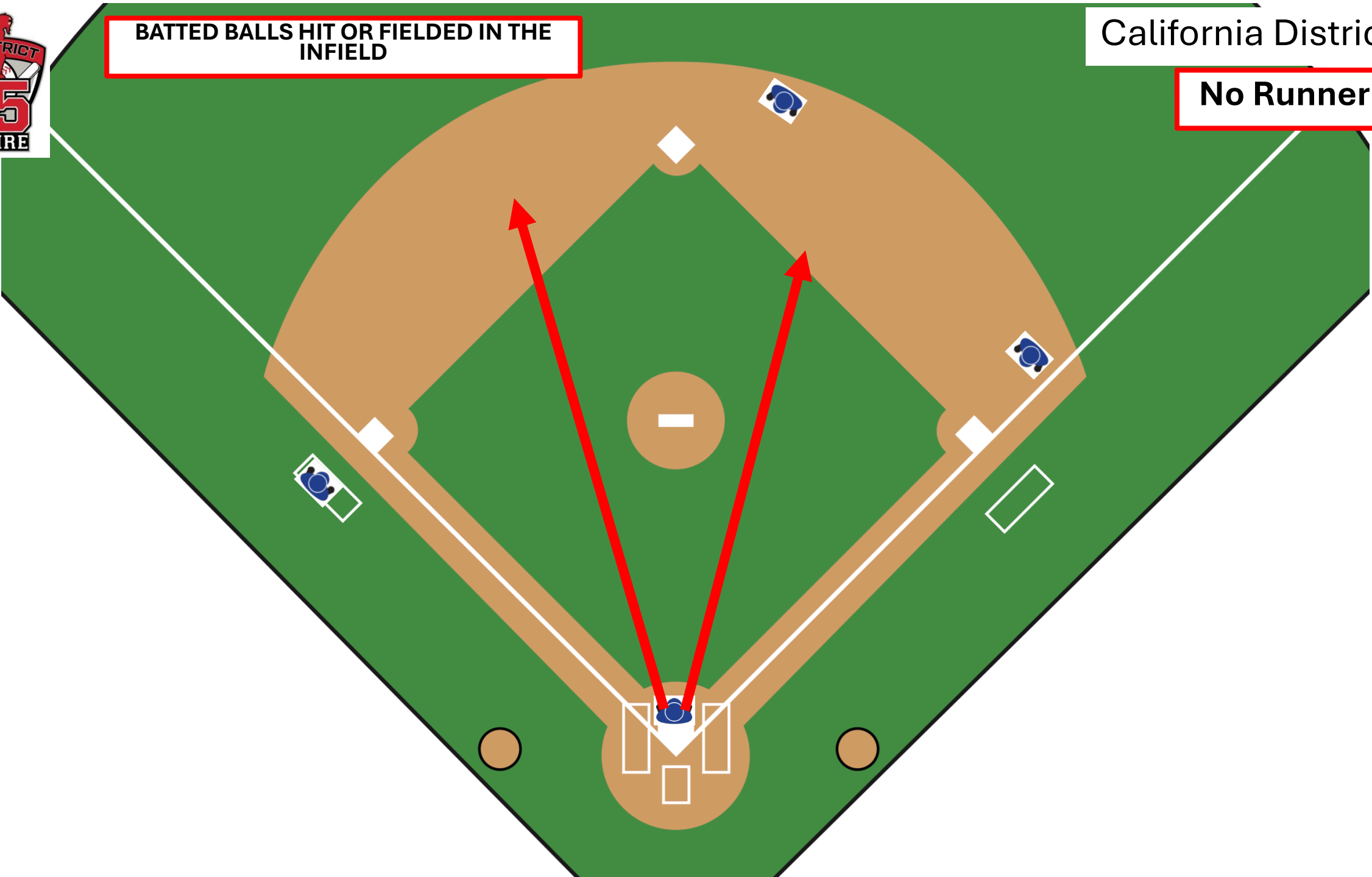




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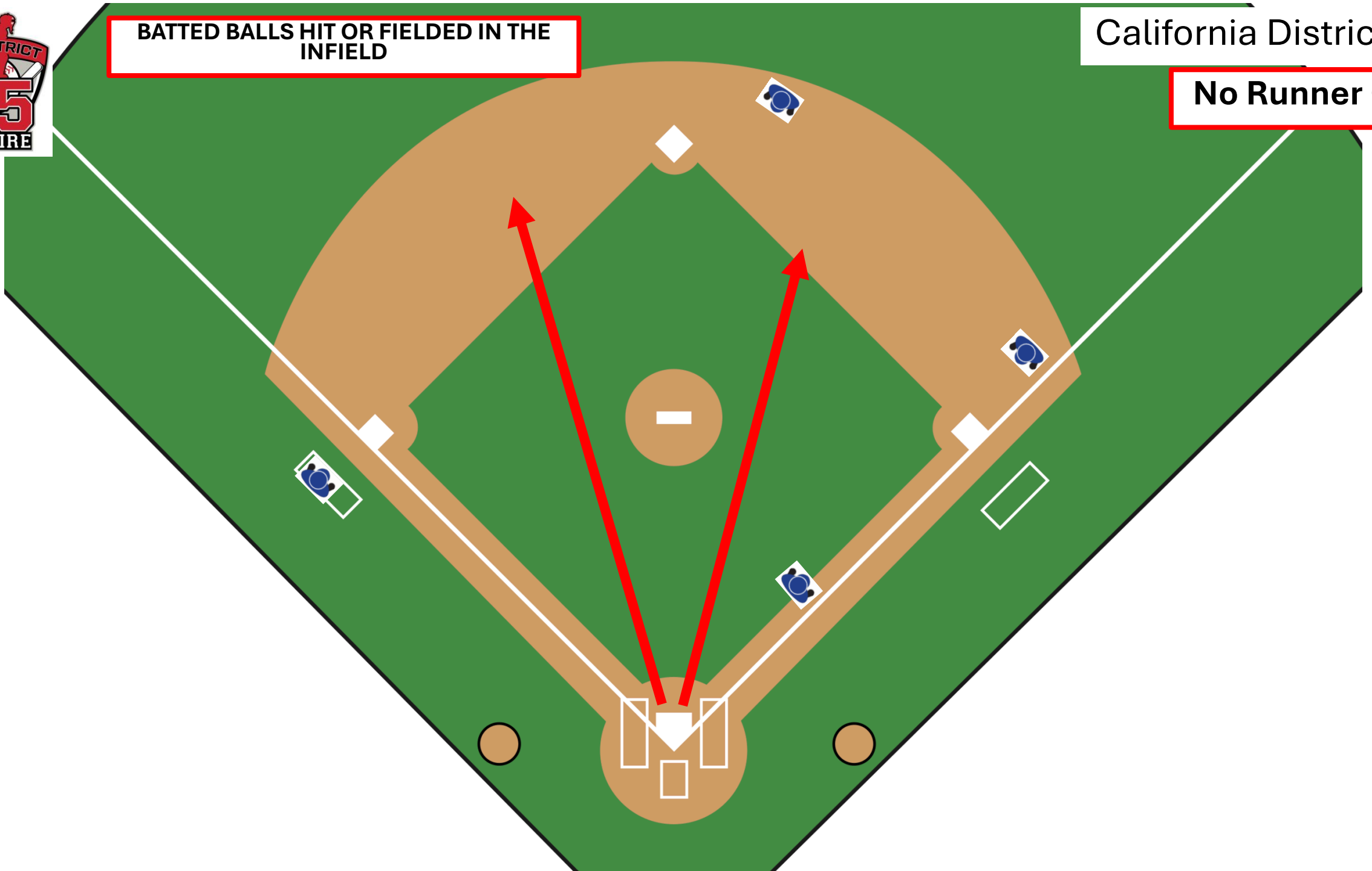




BATTED BALLS HIT OR FIELDED IN THE INFIELD

California District 55

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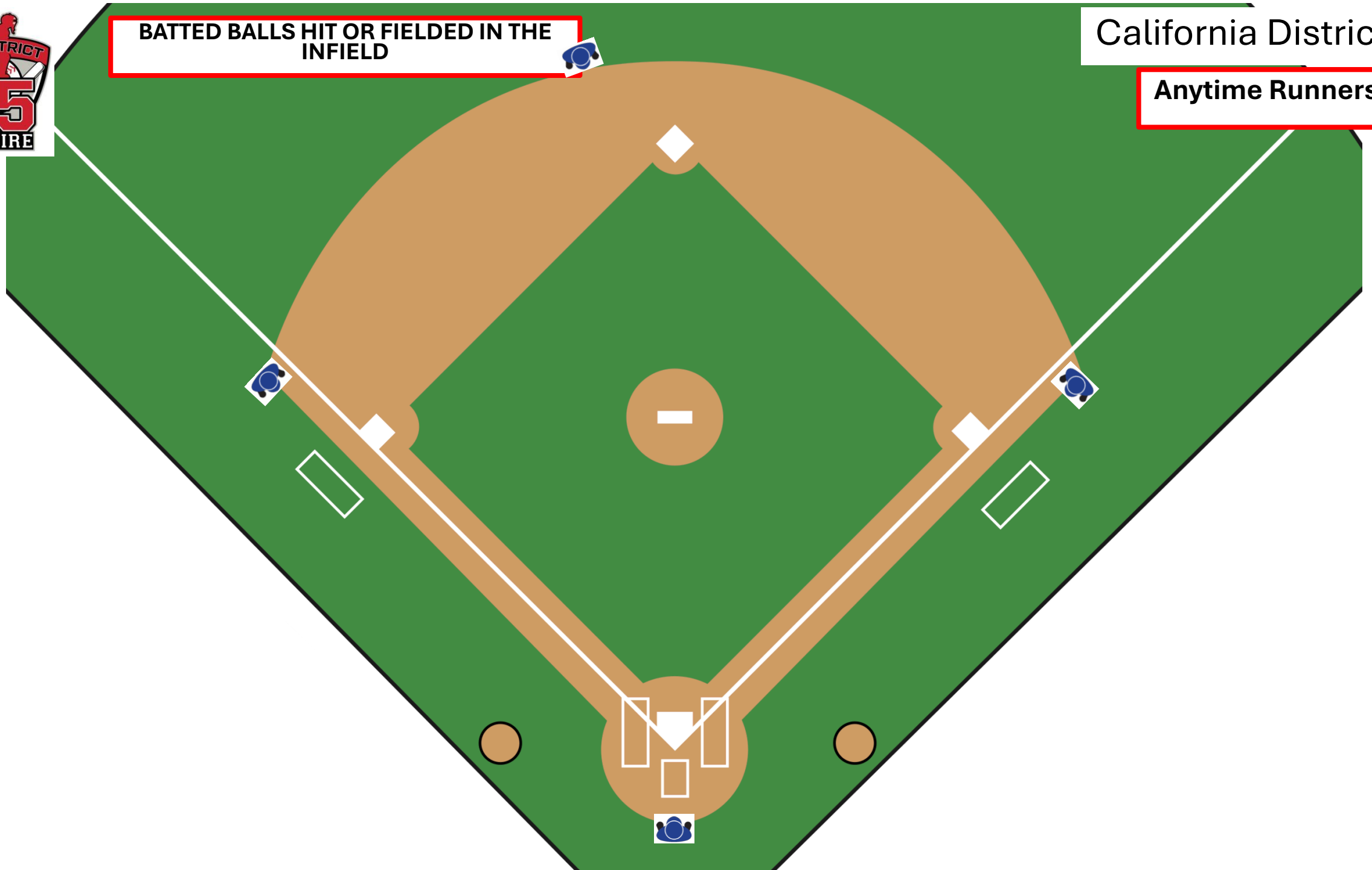




BATTED BALLS HIT OR FIELDED IN THE INFIELD

California District 55

Anytime Runners On

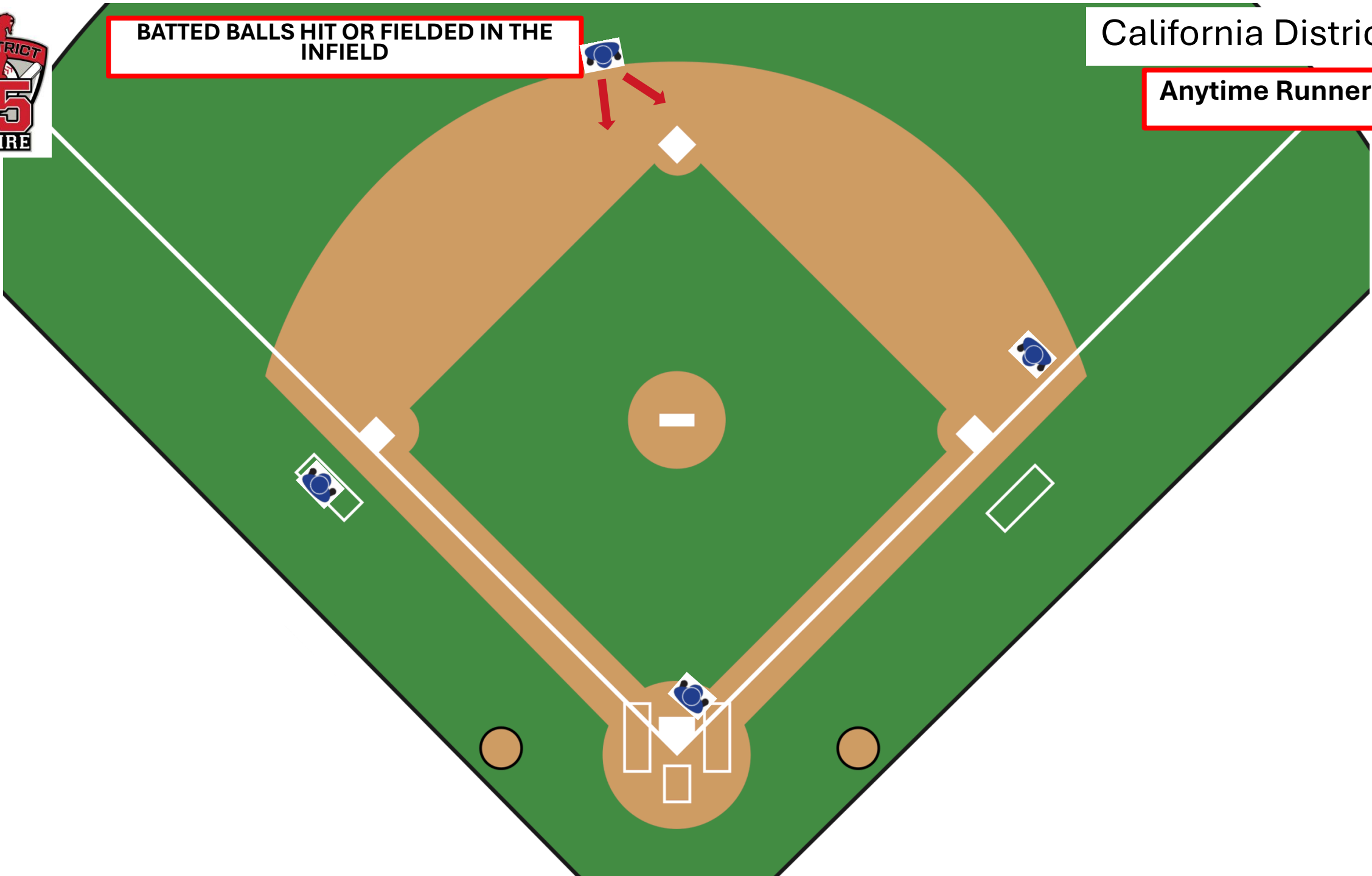




BATTED BALLS HIT OR FIELDED IN THE INFIELD

California District 55

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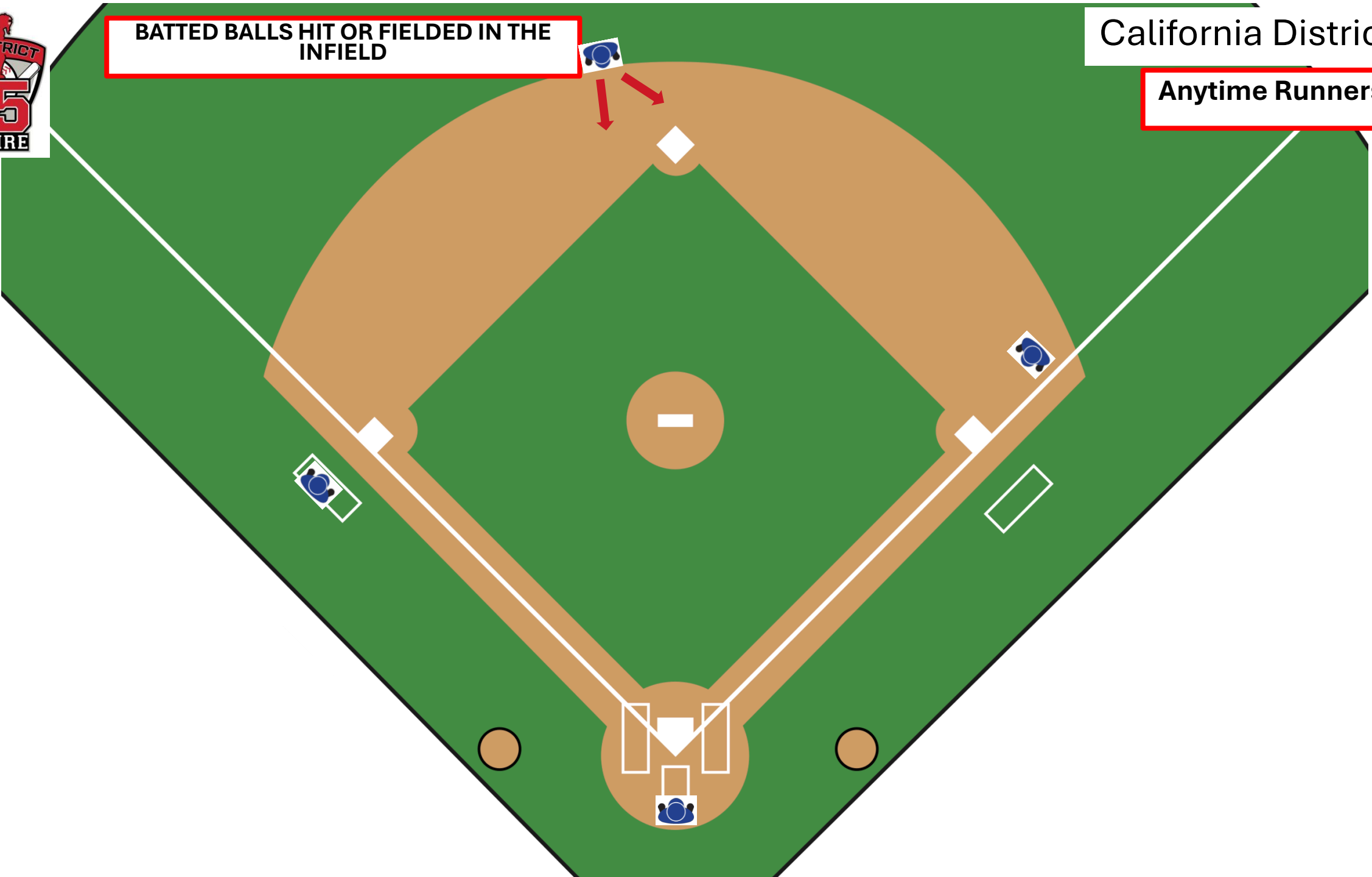




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California District 55

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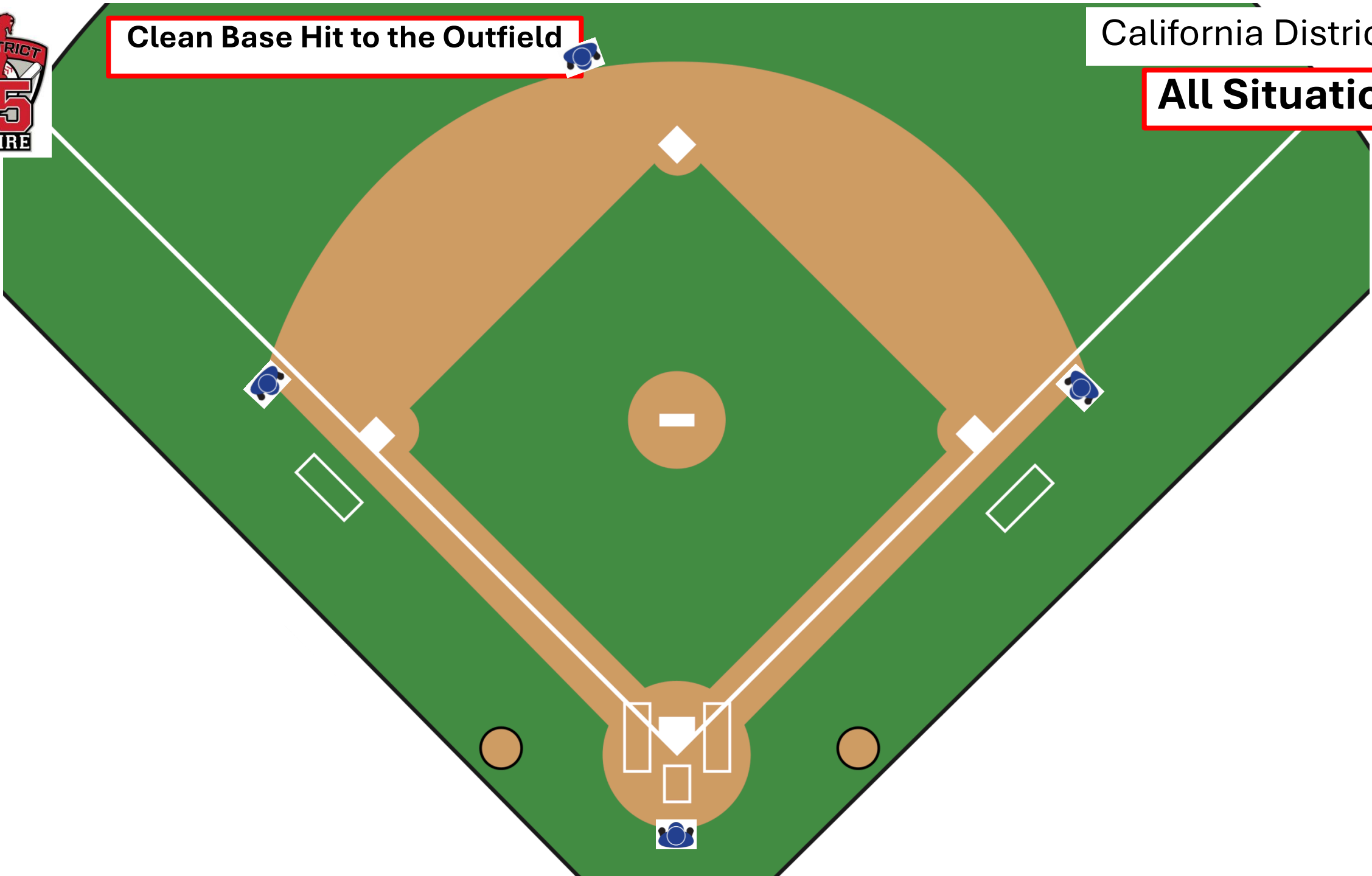




Clean Base Hit to the Outfield

California District 55

All Situations

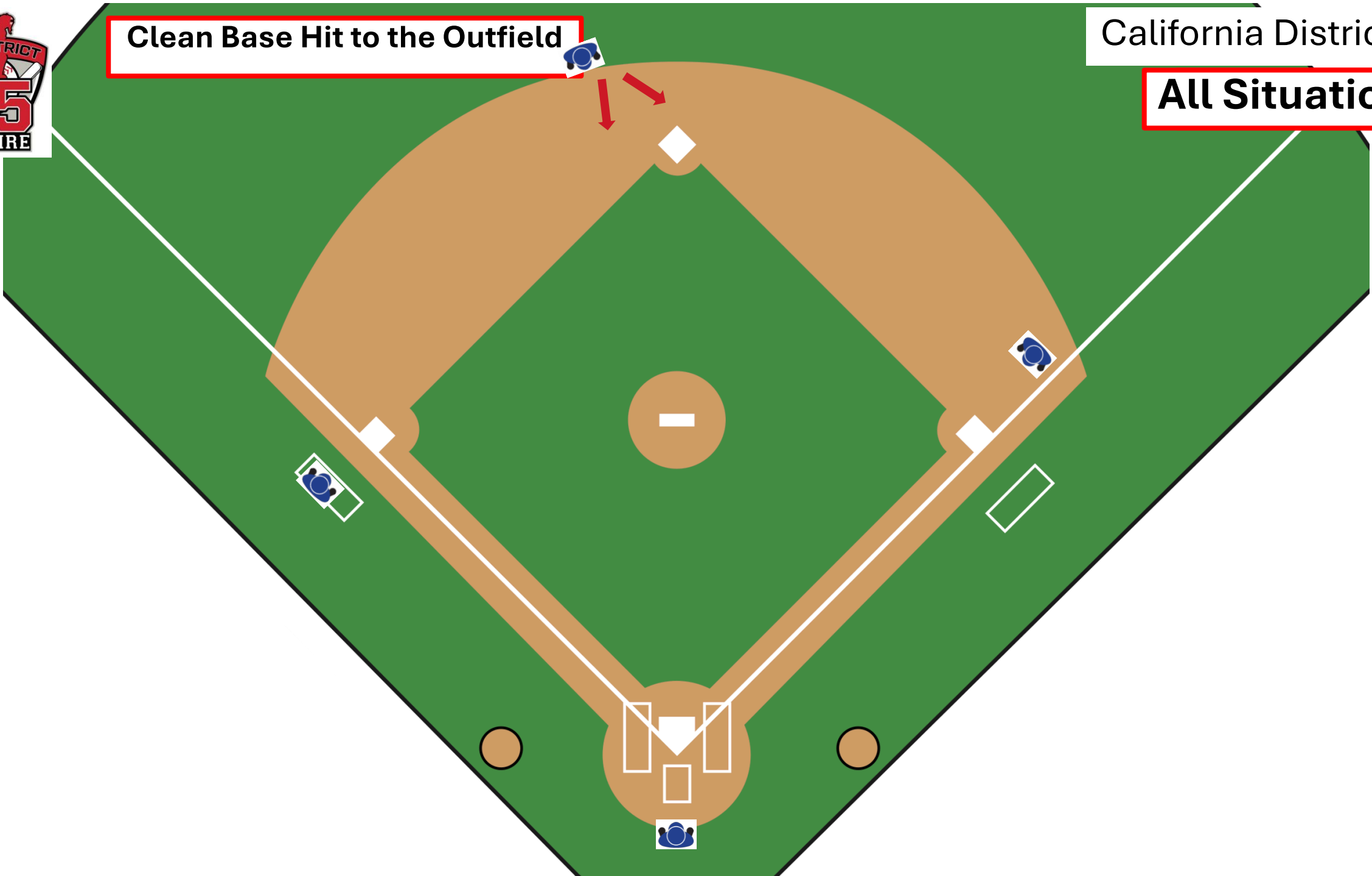




Clean Base Hit to the Outfield

California District 55

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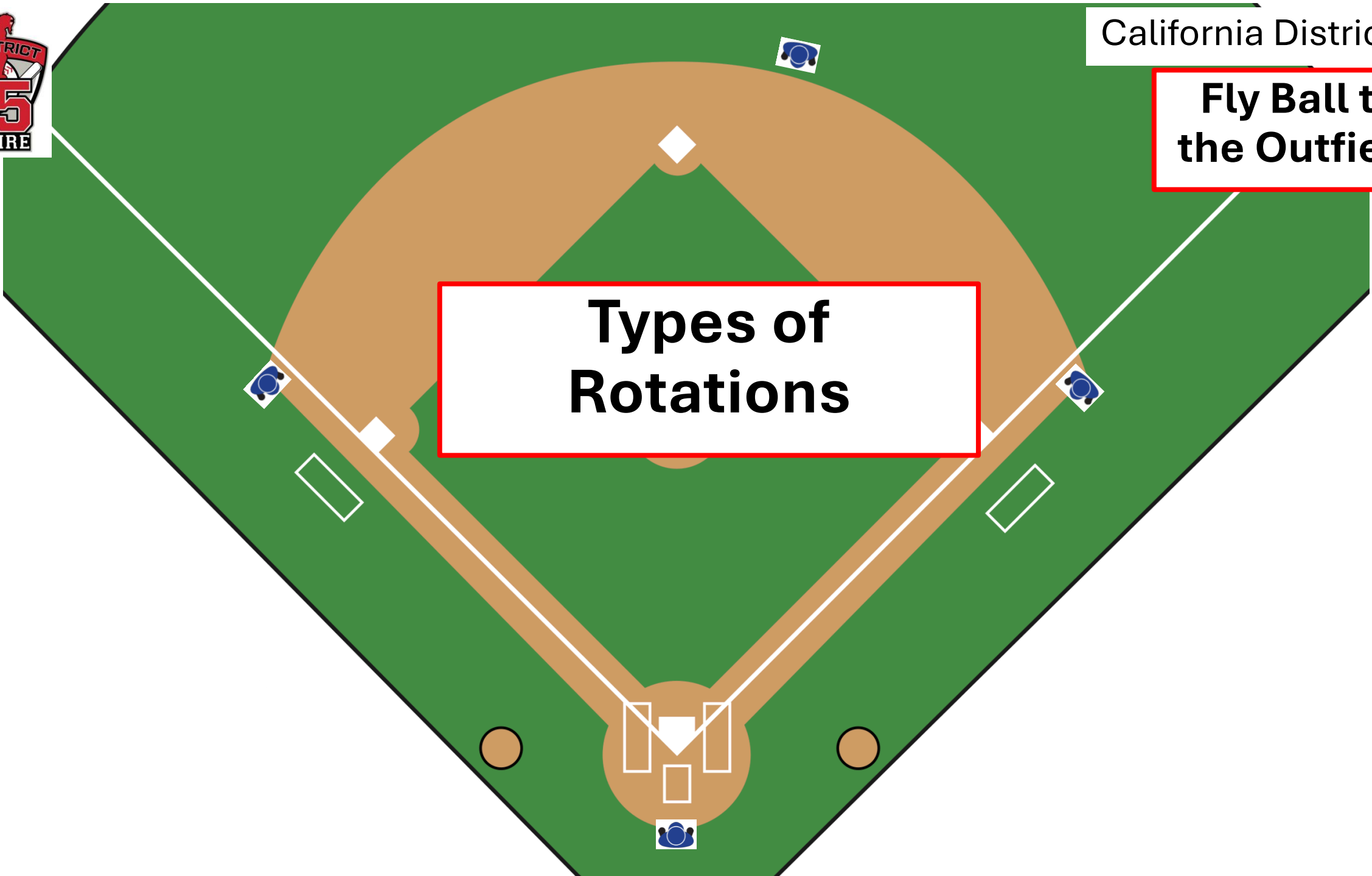




California District 55

**Fly Ball to
the Outfield**

**Types of
Rotations**





Types of Rotations

California District 55

Fly Ball to the Outfield

In our 4-Umpire System for the 60-Foot Diamond, the following is a list of the three types of rotations that will be utilized in this system:

- **FULL ROTATION** – used with NRiSP (NRO or R1 Only) when U2 or U3 leaves to cover C/NC.
 - Called the “Full Rotation” because everyone moves.
- **FILL ROTATION** – used with RiSP when U2 or U3 leaves to cover C/NC.
 - Called the “Fill Rotation” because either U2 or U3 fills the vacancy when U2/U3 leaves for C/NC.
- **U2 FILL** – used *anytime* U1 leaves to cover C/NC.
 - Called the “U2 Fill” because U2 will fill the RA whenever U1 leaves to cover C/NC.



Full Rotation

California District 55

Fly Ball to the Outfield

- **FULL ROTATION** – used with NRiSP (NRO or R1 Only) when U2 or U3 leaves to cover C/NC.

o Called the “Full Rotation” because everyone moves.

Movements: Everyone Moves in a Clockwise Rotation

- PU: Moves to Cover 3B in foul territory and remains in foul territory to apply wedge positioning for tag plays at 3B.
- U1: Observes the Batter-Runner’s Touch and then releases to cover HP at PoP with U2 or U3 picking up the BR back into 1B.
- U2: Leaves to cover C/NC in AOR **OR** moves to Po2 opposite the throw to position for tag plays at 2B (U2 will pick-up the BR back into 1B after U1 releases to HP) with U3 out.
- U3: Leaves to cover C/NC in AOR **OR** moves to Po2, opposite the throw, while remaining CtB to cover all plays at 2B (U3 will pick-up the BR back into 1B after U1 releases to HP) with U2 out.

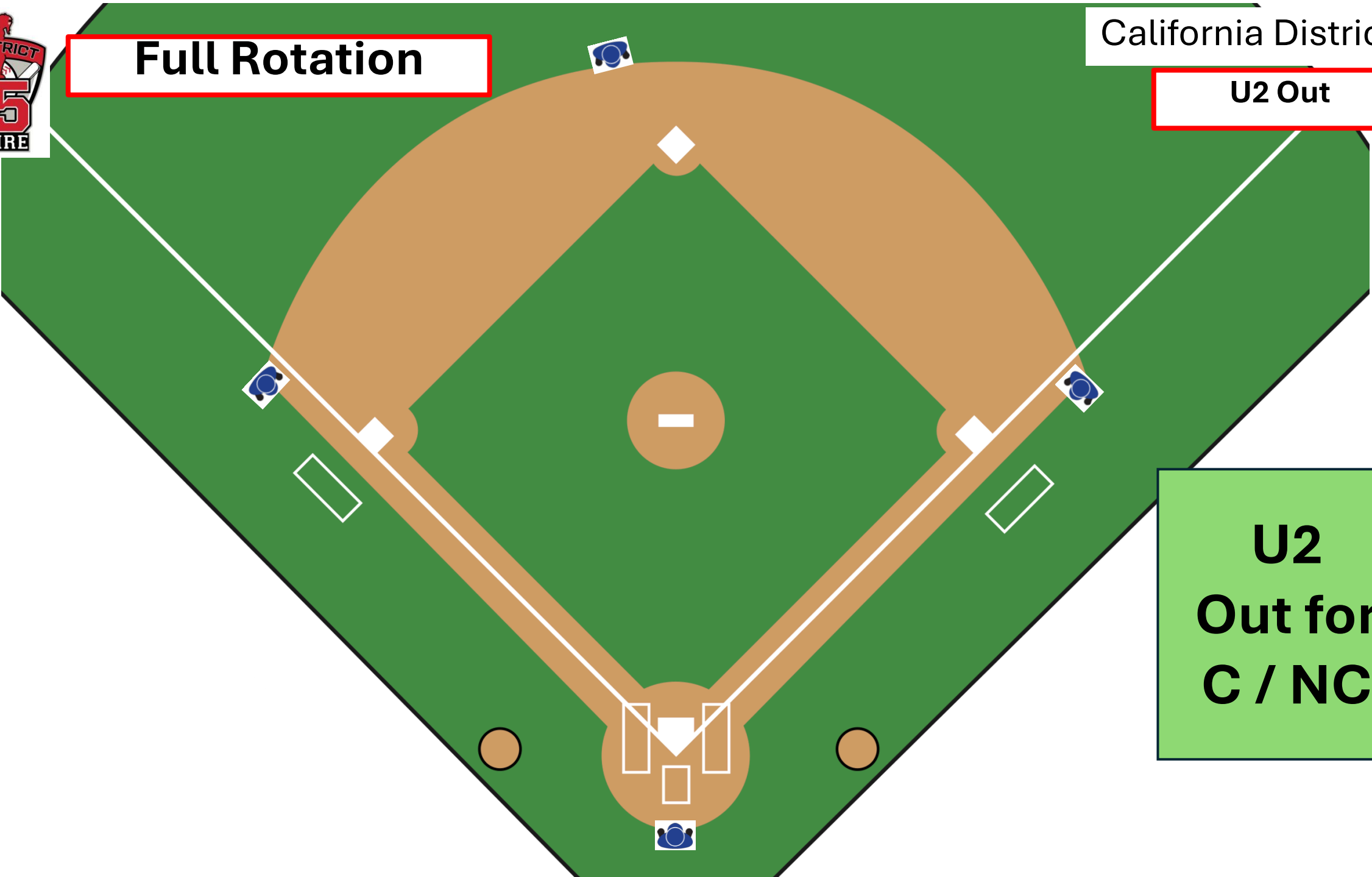


Full Rotation

California District 55

U2 Out

**U2
Out for
C / NC**



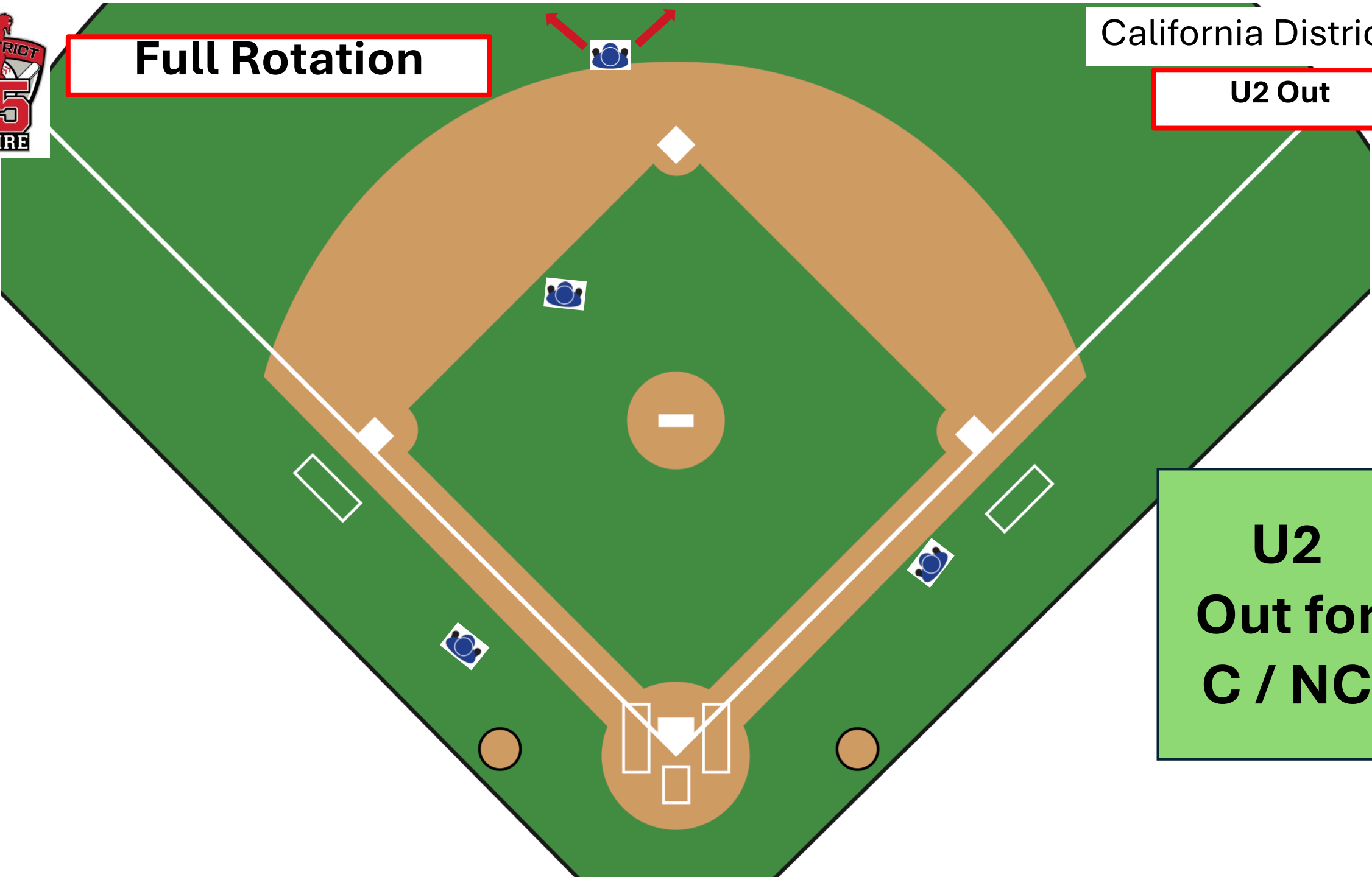


Full Rotation

California District 55

U2 Out

**U2
Out for
C / NC**



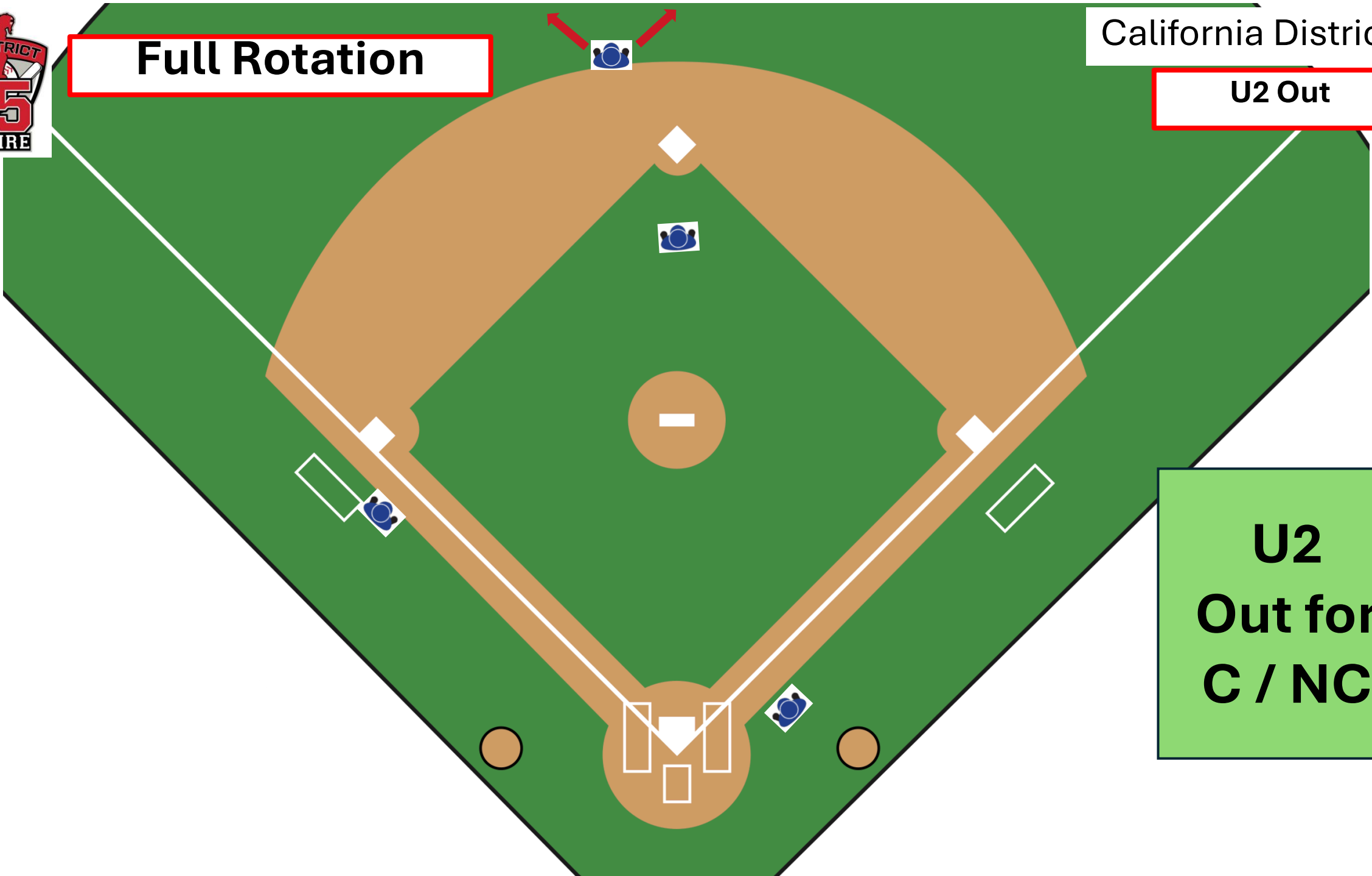


Full Rotation

California District 55

U2 Out

**U2
Out for
C / NC**



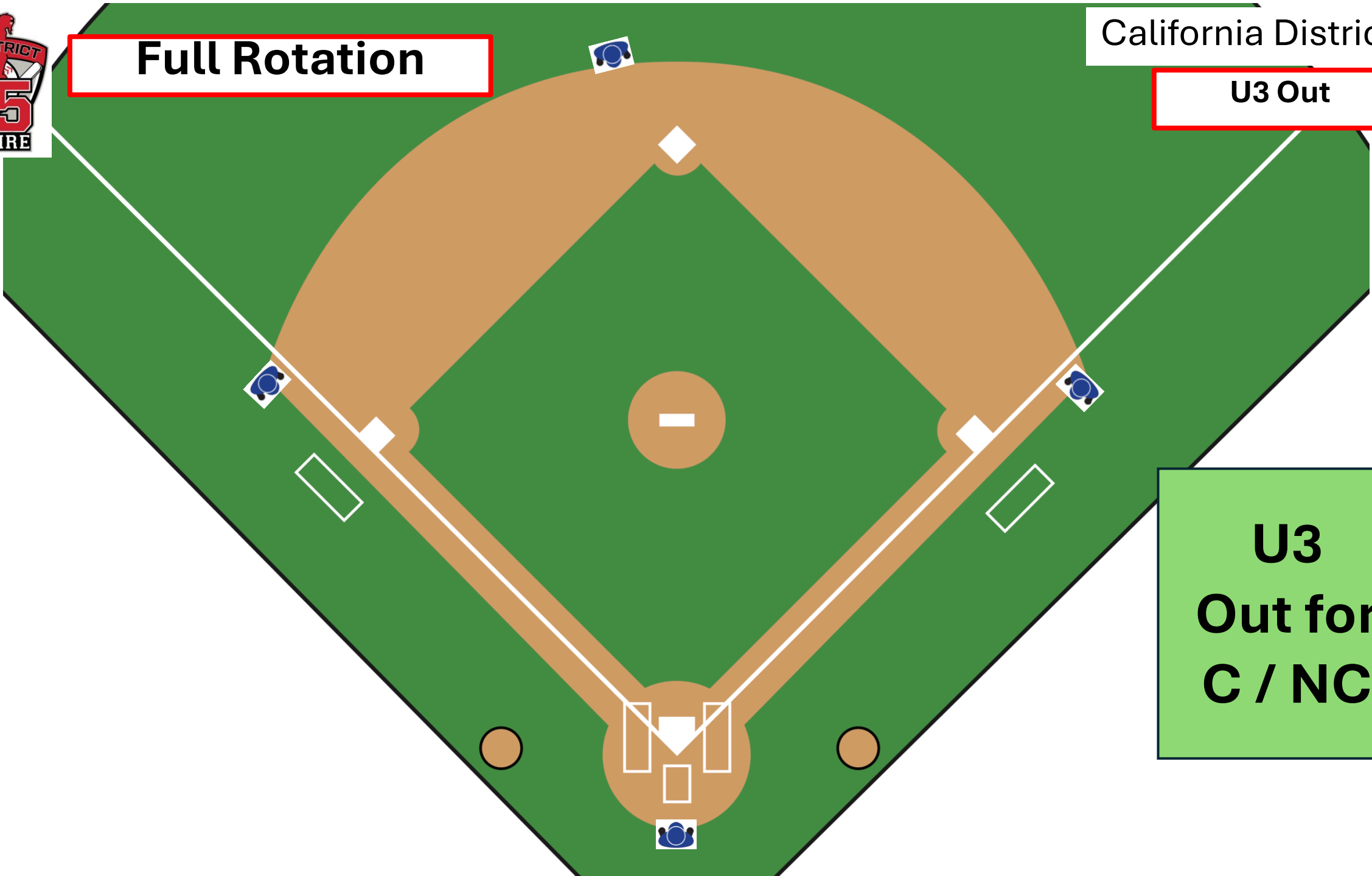


Full Rotation

California District 55

U3 Out

**U3
Out for
C / NC**

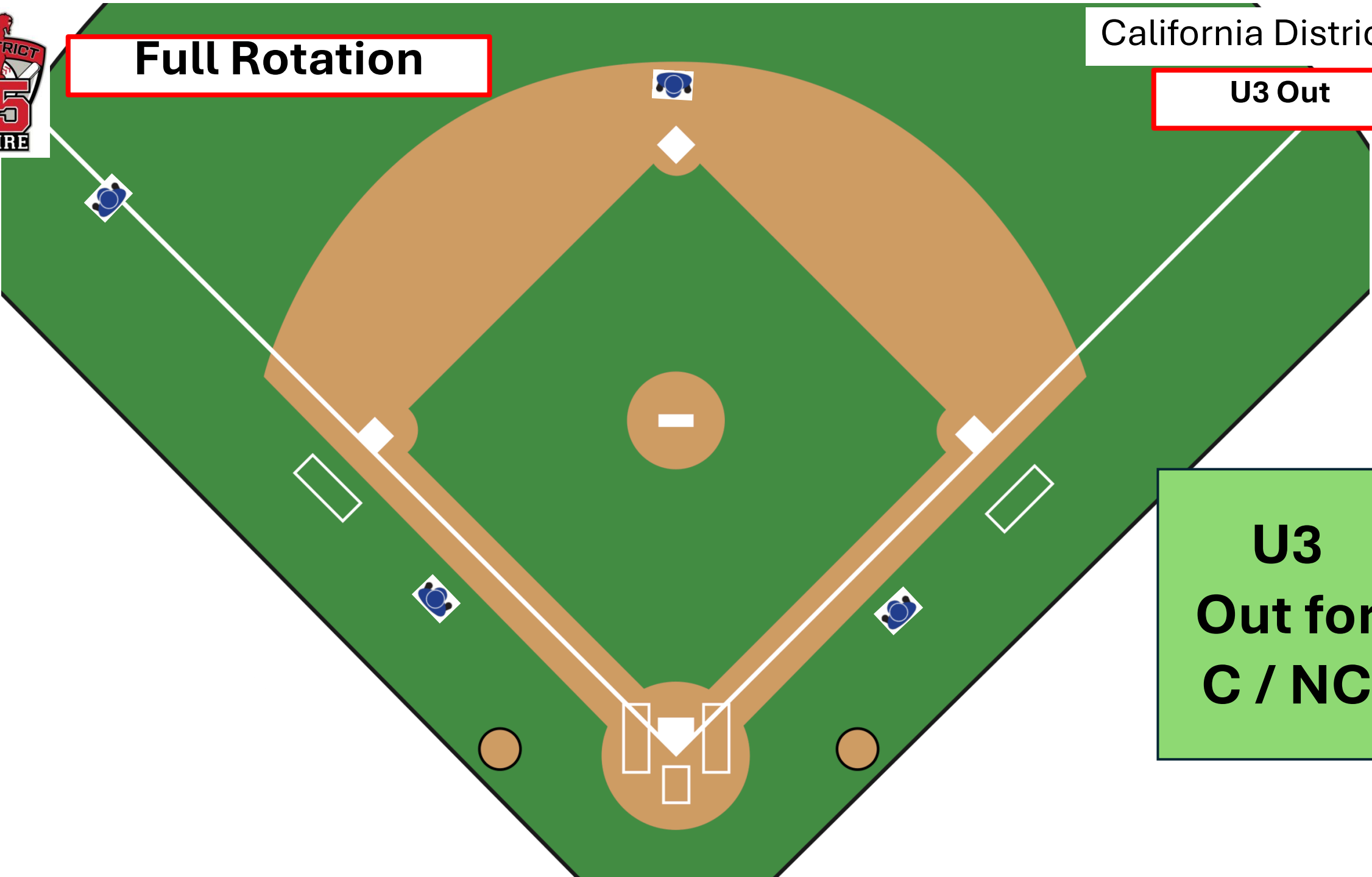




Full Rotation

California District 55

U3 Out



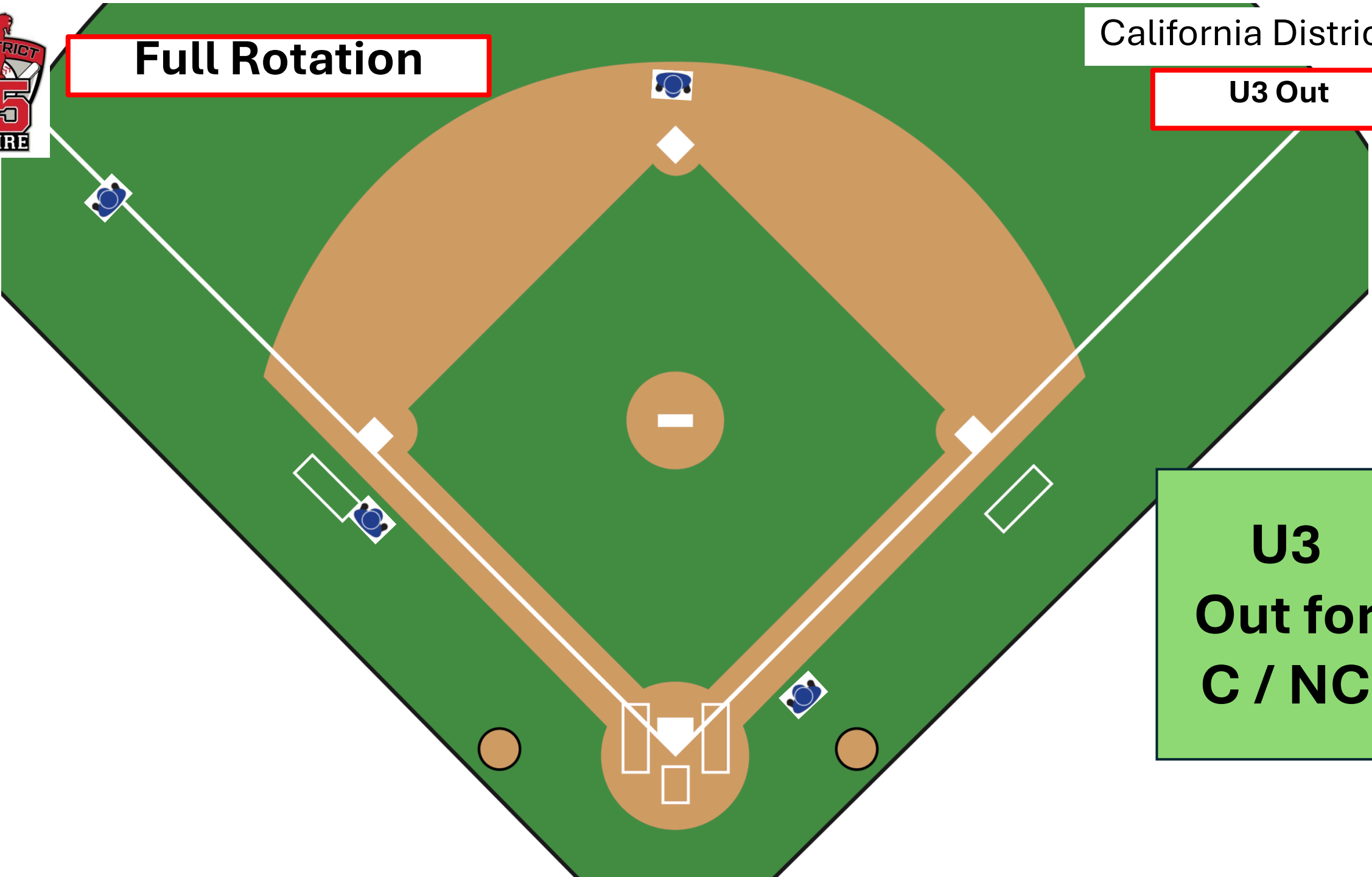
**U3
Out for
C / NC**



Full Rotation

California District 55

U3 Out



**U3
Out for
C / NC**



Fill Rotation

California District 55

RISP

- **FILL ROTATION** – used with RiSP when U2 or U3 leaves to cover C/NC.
 - Called the “Fill Rotation” because either U2 or U3 fills the vacancy when U2/U3 leaves for C/NC.

Movements: One Umpire (U2/U3) FILLS the Vacancy

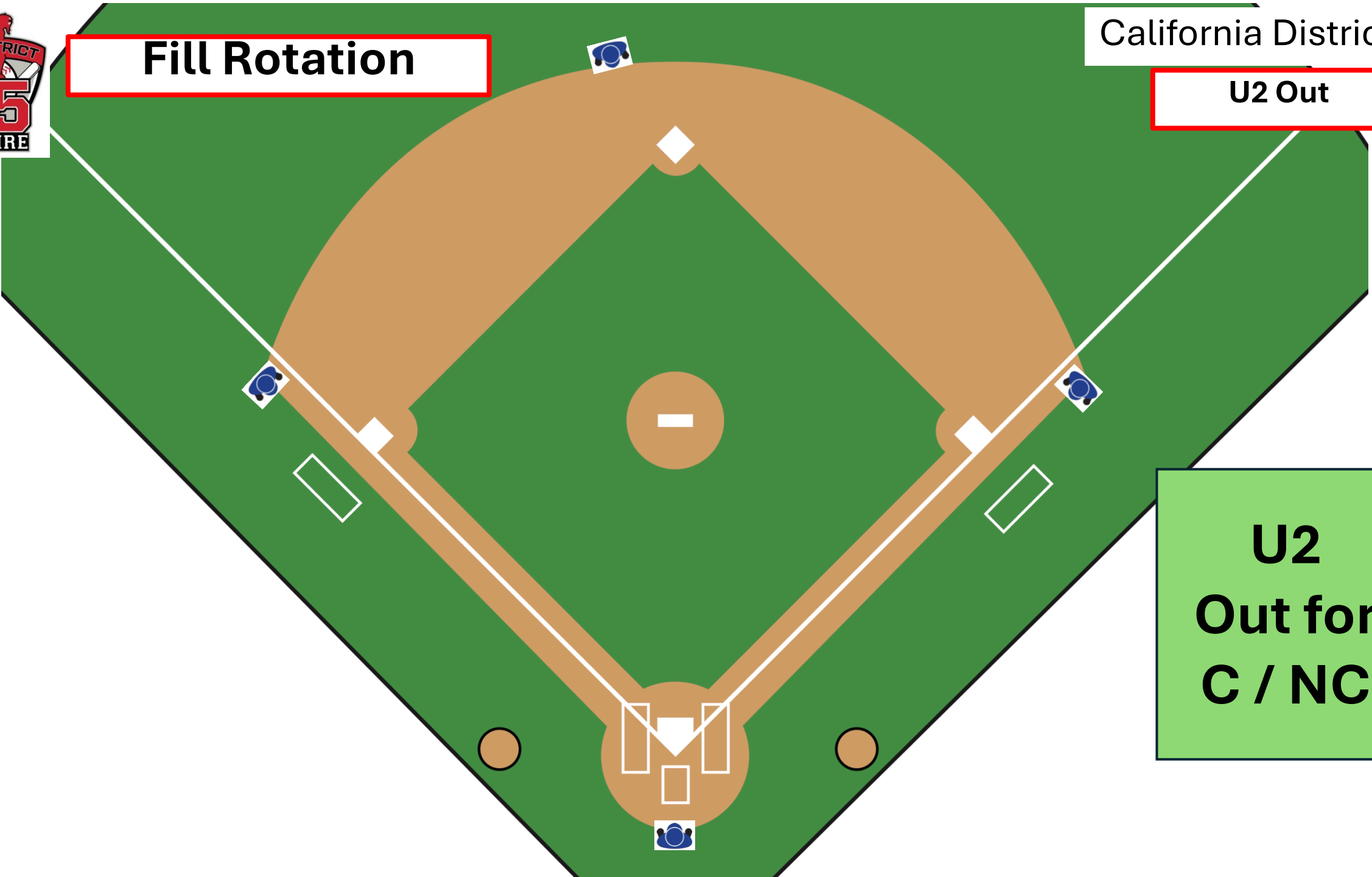
- PU: Stays at HP and uses PoP.
- U1: Moves to Po1 and is the “crew saver” to use Proper Use of Eyes (PUEs) to observe all action.
- U2: Leaves to cover C/NC **OR** moves to RA to cover plays at 2B and 3B with U3 out. U2 will slip to the outside once responsibilities become singular.
- U3: Leaves to cover C/NC in AOR **OR** moves to RA to cover plays at 2B and 3B with U2 out. U3 will slip to the outside once responsibilities become singular.



Fill Rotation

California District 55

U2 Out



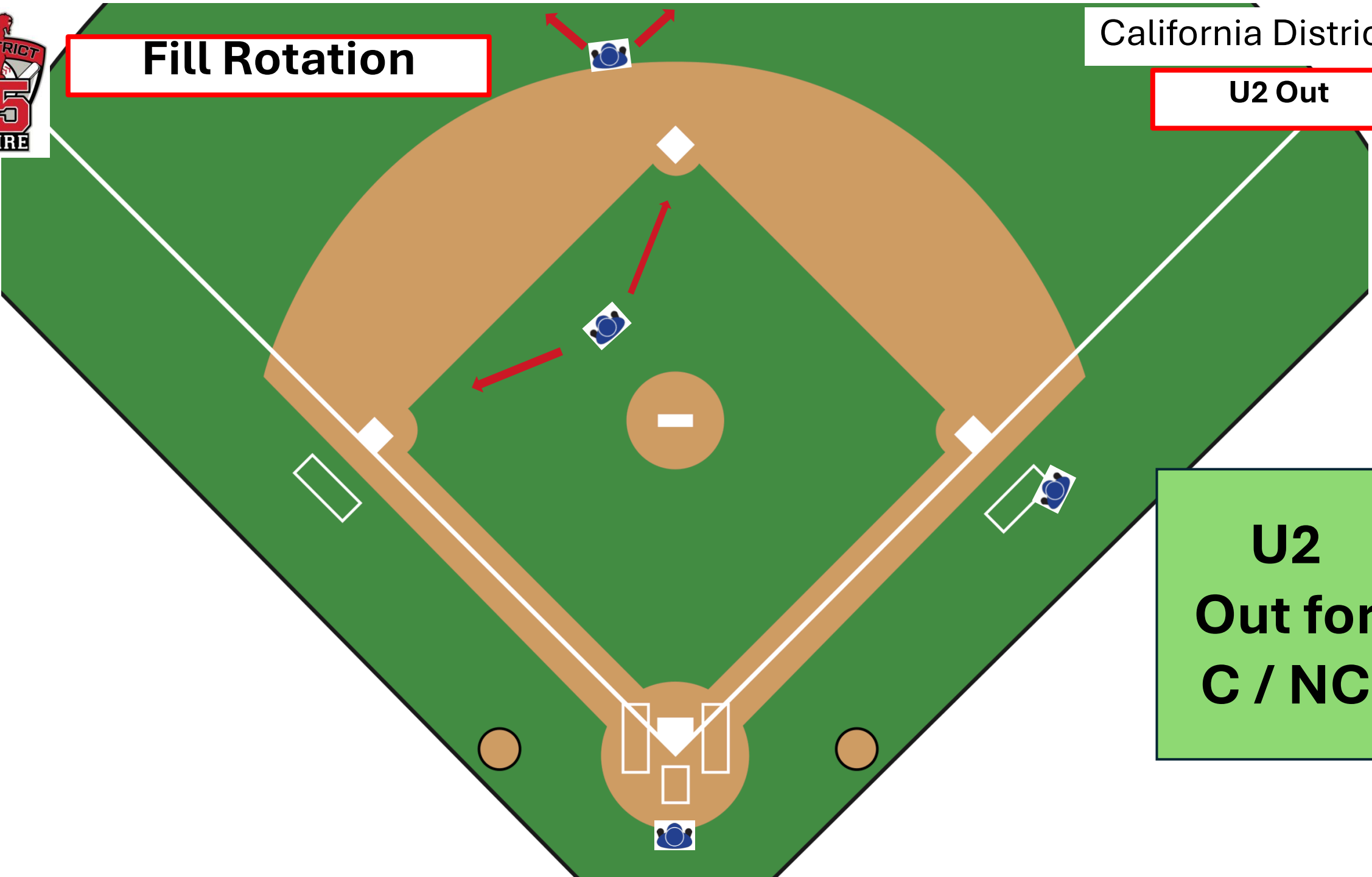
U2
Out for
C / NC



Fill Rotation

California District 55

U2 Out



U2
Out for
C / NC

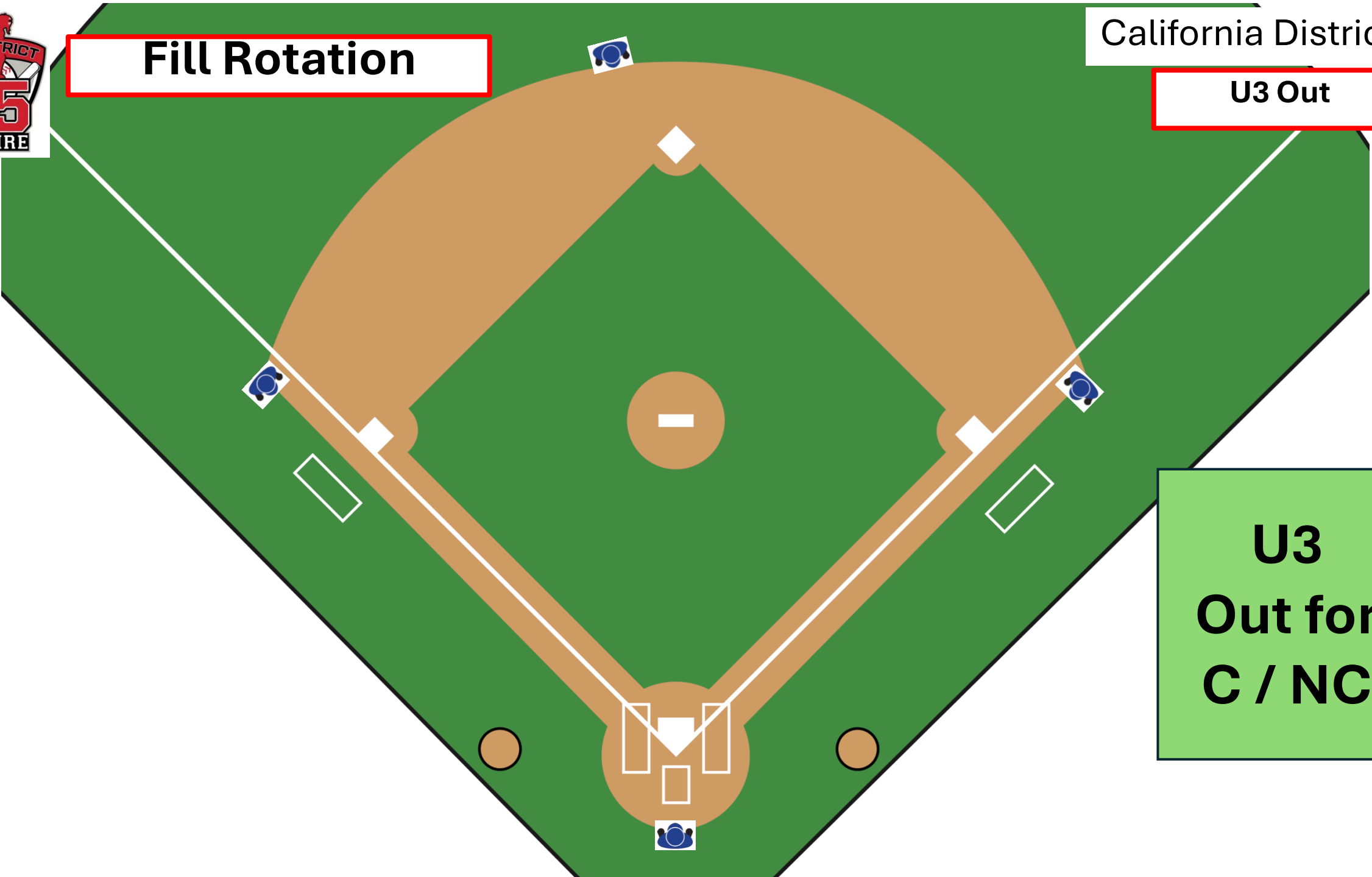


Fill Rotation

California District 55

U3 Out

U3
Out for
C / NC

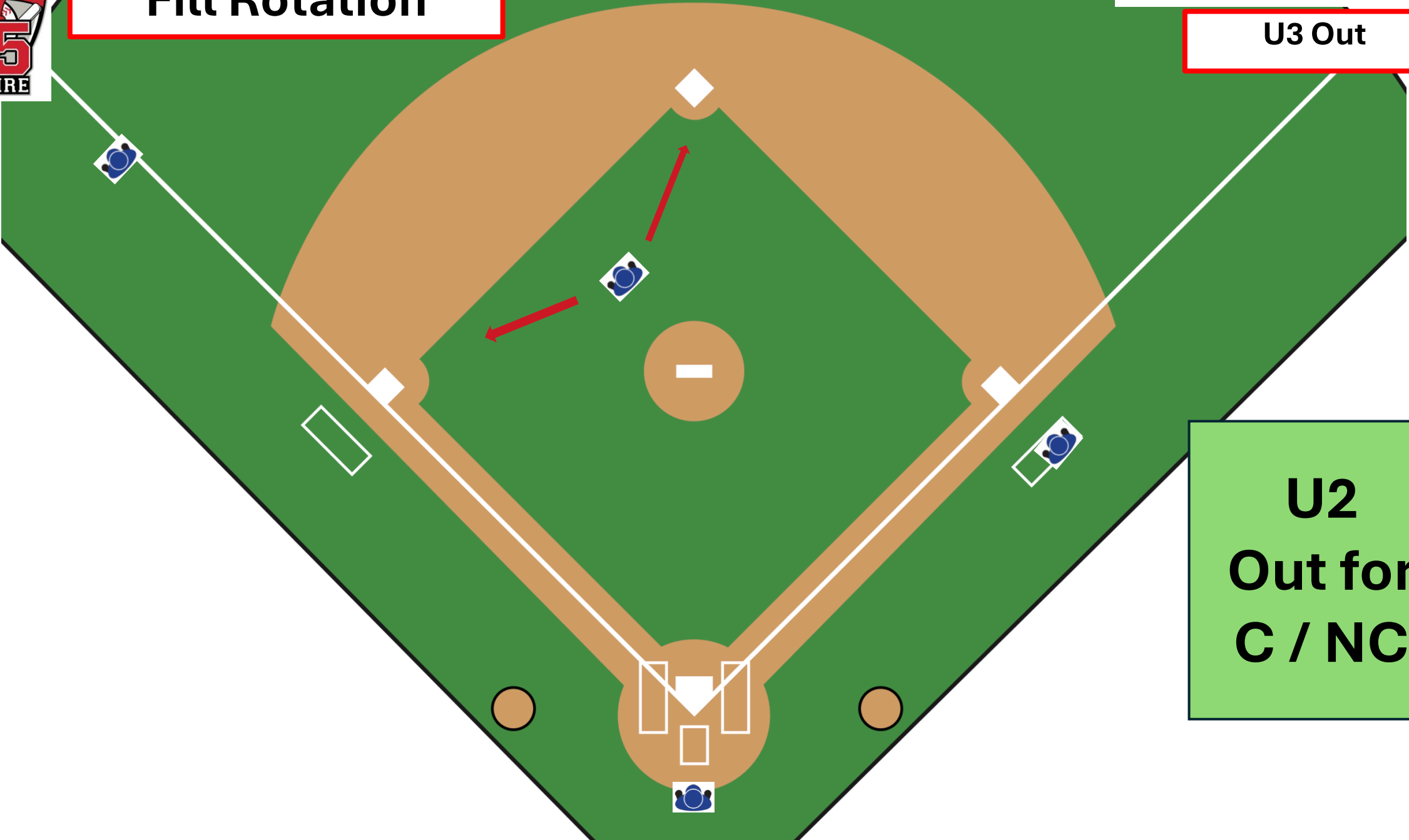




Fill Rotation

California District 55

U3 Out



U2
Out for
C / NC



U2 Fill

California District 55

Anytime U1
Goes Out

U2 FILL – used *anytime* U1 leaves to cover C/NC.
o Called the “U2 Fill” because U2 will fill the RA whenever U1 leaves to cover C/NC.

Movements: Results when U1 leaves to cover C/NC:

- PU: Stays at HP and uses PoP.
- U1: Leaves to cover C/NC.
- U2: fills to the right side of the infield in the RA and is responsible for all plays at 1B and 2B. U2 will slip to the outside once responsibilities become singular.
- U3: Moves to Po3 to position for tag plays at 3B.

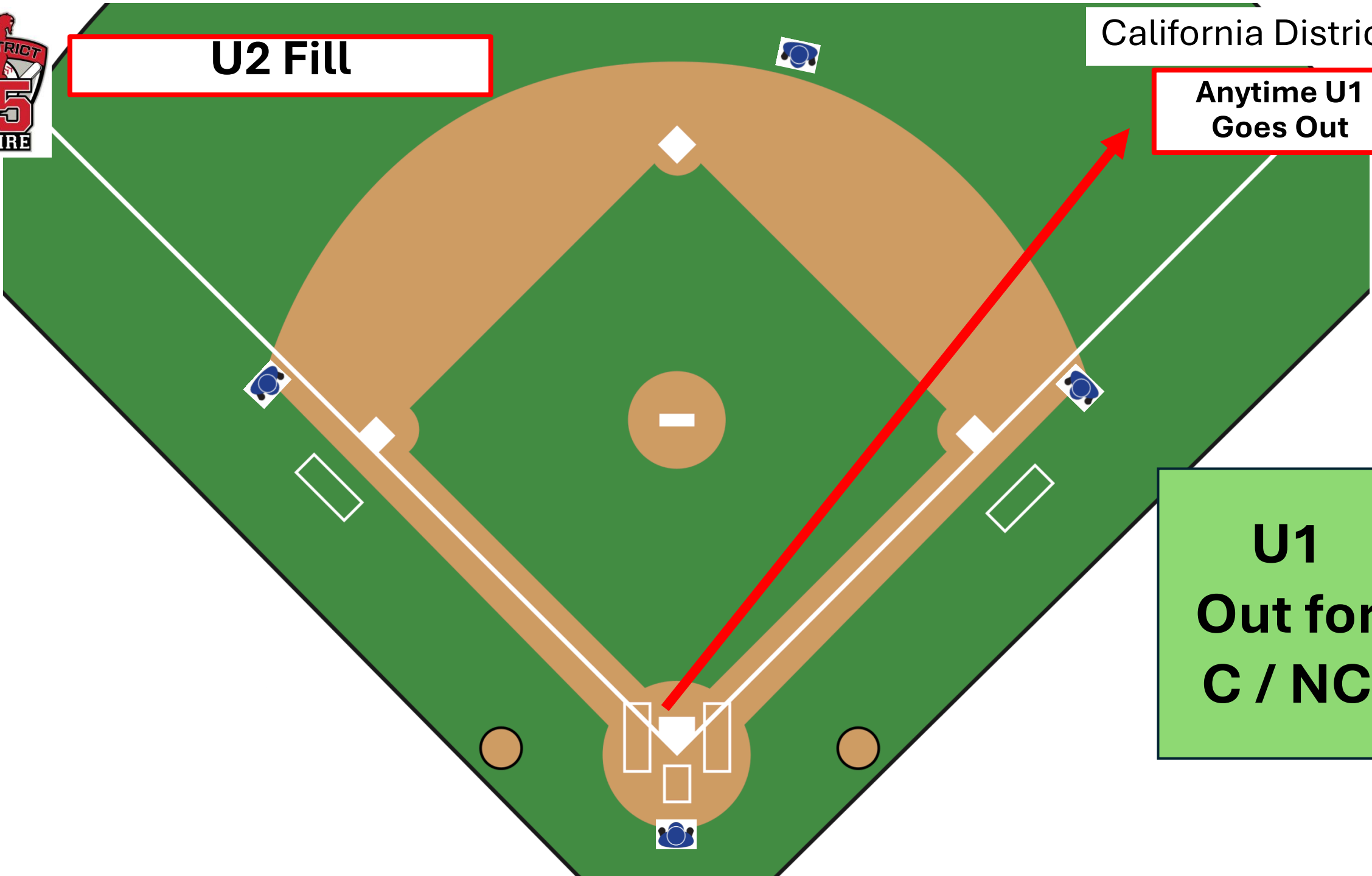


U2 Fill

California District 55

**Anytime U1
Goes Out**

**U1
Out for
C / NC**



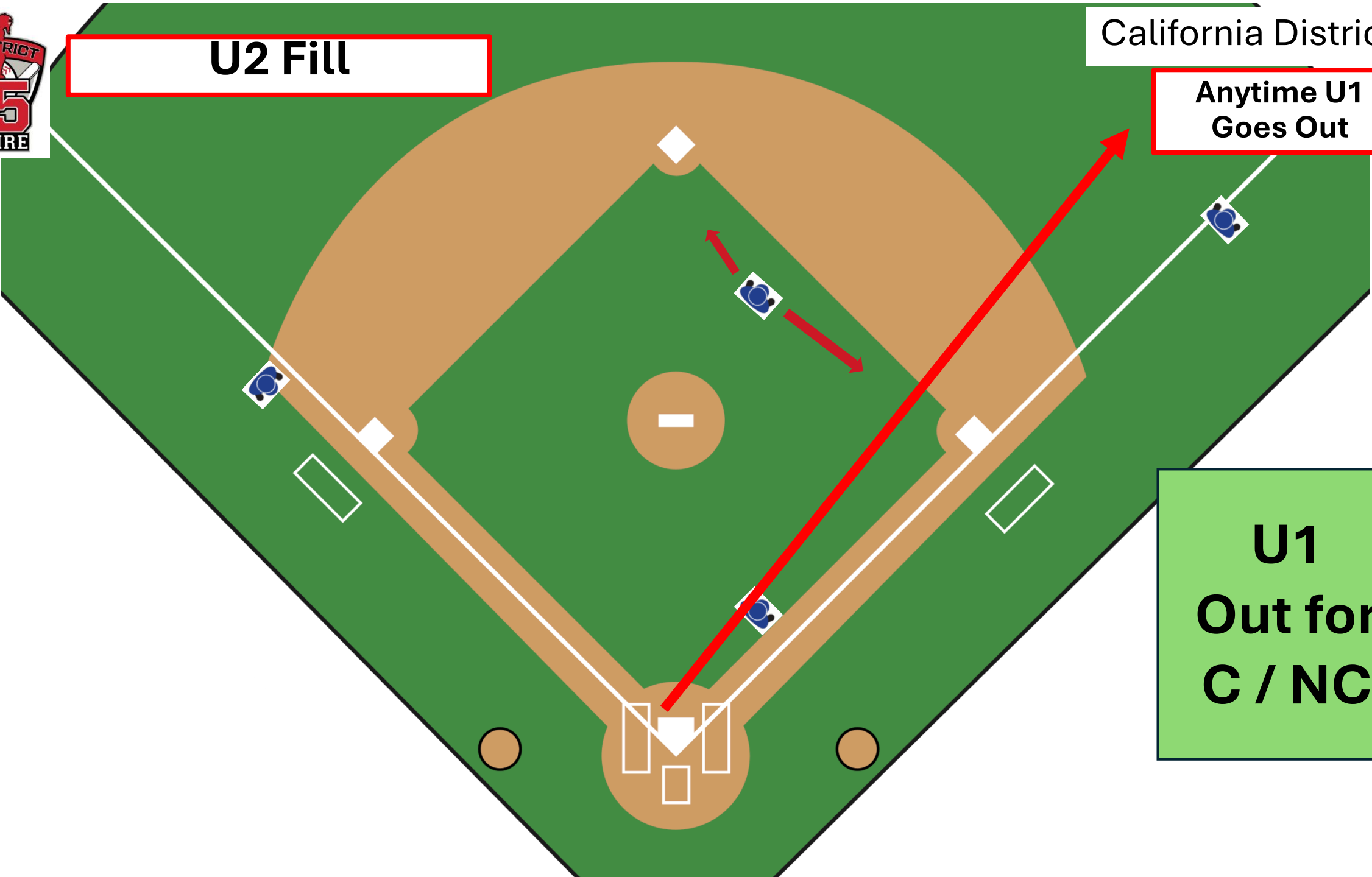


U2 Fill

California District 55

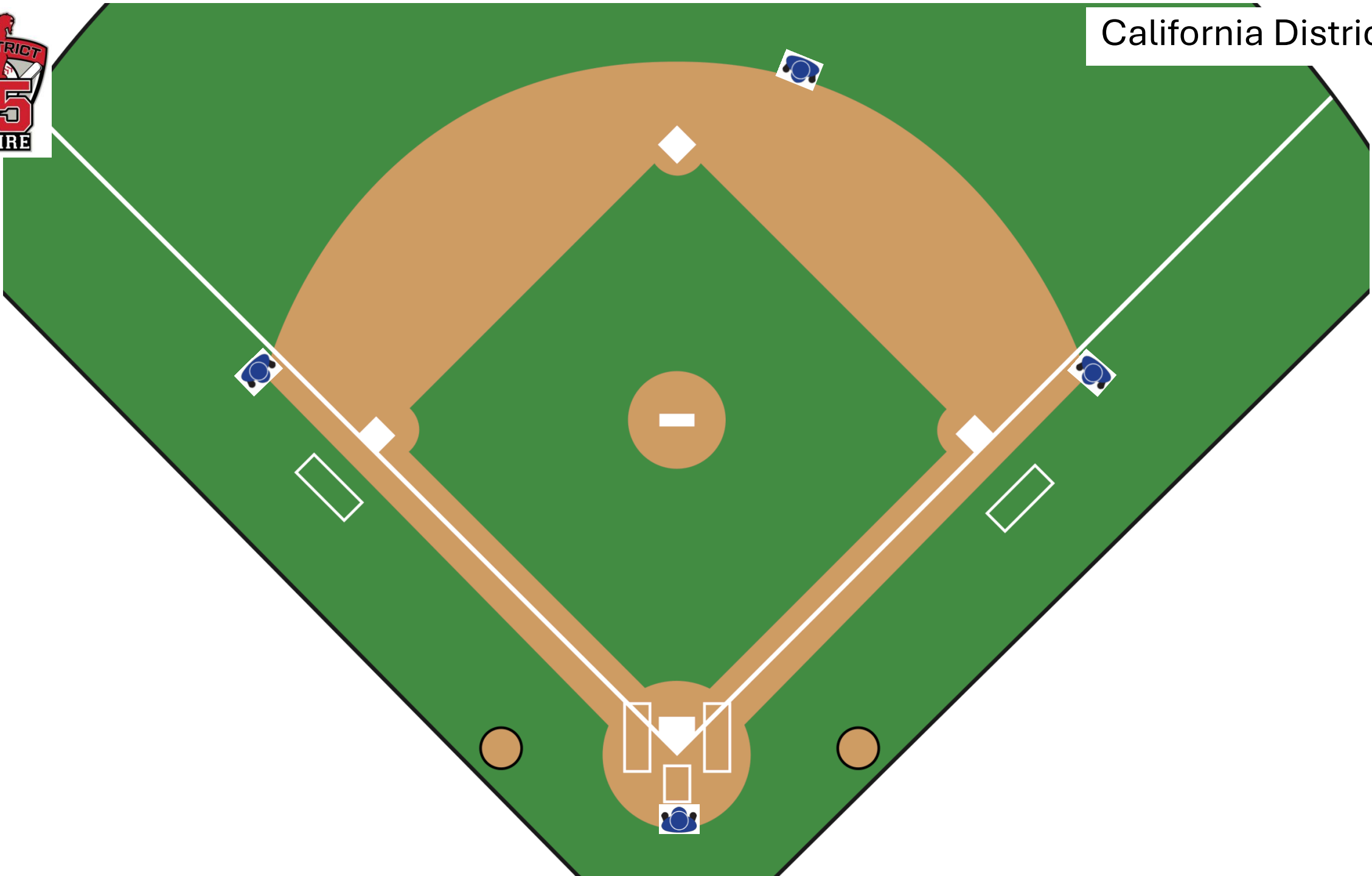
**Anytime U1
Goes Out**

**U1
Out for
C / NC**





California District 55





California District 55



**KEEP
CALM
AND
UMPIRE**



You can't handle the plate! Coach, we work in a ballpark that has fences. And those fences have to be guarded by men with plate shoes. Who's gonna do it? You?

You, Coach Weinberg? I have a greater responsibility than you can possibly fathom. You weep about balls and strikes and you curse the Men in Blue. You have that luxury.

You have the luxury of not knowing what I know: that interference calls, while tragic, probably get outs. And my existence, while grotesque and incomprehensible to you, gets outs...You don't want the truth.

Because deep down, in places you don't talk about at parties, you want me on that plate. You need me on that plate.