



TM

Getting the Force Play Right

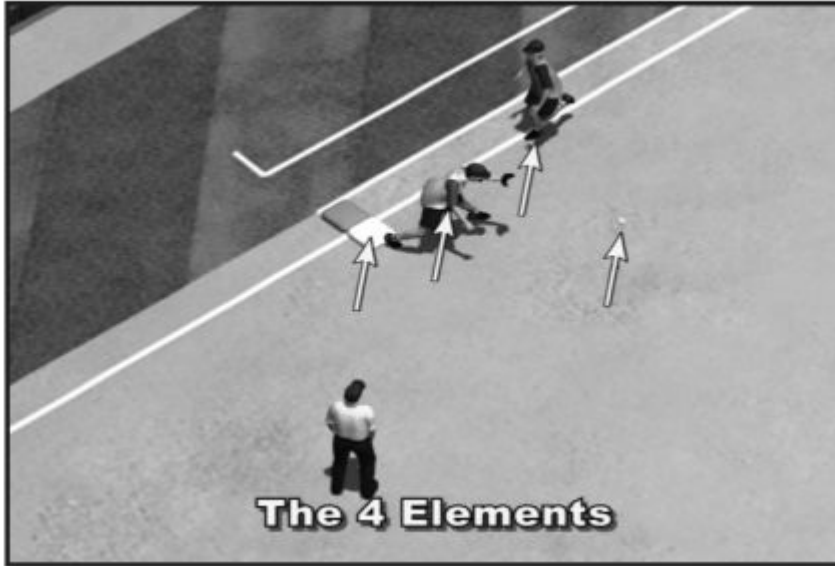
One of the most difficult plays we encounter as umpires is the what many call the **“Bang Bang”** play.

This play typically involves a force out with all four elements coming together at roughly the same time requiring the umpire to make a **decisive judgement call.**

Getting the Force Play Right

- **Four Elements**
- **Preparing for the Call**
- **Sell Mechanic**

Four Elements



What are the four elements?

- **The Ball**
- **The Base**
- **The Defender**
- **The Runner**

We must have all four elements before we make our calls!

Four Elements

Without the four elements we cannot accurately or credibly make the right call. Therefore it is extremely important we prepare to receive these elements as they come together.....this includes **proper calling distance**, an **unobstructed view** and the **proper body mechanics**.

Preparing for the Call

From the “A” or “B” positions we must move to the proper
calling distance of 18 - 21 feet.

From the “C” position we need to close the distance to the
force play as best we can...even a few quick steps closer can
make a big difference!

Preparing for the Call

In all cases when moving to the proper calling distance we must **become stationary before** the four elements come together. Why? We want our **eyes to be still** and this can **only be achieved if we are not moving!**

Preparing for the Call

Hustle to the best possible distance

STOP

Pick Up the Player fielding the ball

PROCESS

Where the fielder is going with the ball!

Preparing for the Call

This next step is crucial for getting the “BANG BANG” call right!

Immediately after the fielder has committed the ball to a specific force play....**TAKE YOUR EYES** to the base where the play will occur and Pick

Up the other three elements **BEFORE** the ball arrives !!!

DO NOT TRACK THE BALL ALL THE WAY TO THE DEFENDER!

Preparing for the Call

WHY?

If we track the ball all the way to the defender we are setting ourselves up for failure as we aren't allowing our brains anytime to **PROCESS** the **OTHER THREE ELEMENTS**....we essentially create an **EXPLOSION** of all four elements coming together at the same time...**NOT GOOD!!**

Taking our eyes to the play **BEFORE** the ball arrives allows more time to accurately process all four elements as they come together **WITHOUT** the **EXPLOSION !!**

Sell Mechanic

These “BANG BANG” plays may require a more pronounced OUT or SAFE Mechanic

We call these the Sell Safe or the Punch Out!

- From your Stationary Position
 - **Sell Safe** by stepping one foot forward with a quicker more enthusiastic or pronounced Safe Mechanic along with a louder verbal “**SAFE**” **Do not bring the arms back together...**hold the safe signal and then drop the arms to your side!
 - **Punch Out** by stepping with your **left foot forward** and giving a **shoulder high forward punching motion** while your **right foot sweeps** a little behind your left foot then **comes forward and equal with your left foot** creating a powerful shoulder width calling stance as you finish with a louder verbal “**OUT**”

PRACTICE THESE IN FRONT OF A MIRROR!!

Getting the Force Play Right

Remember these calls are **JUDGEMENT** calls!!!

NEVER GO FOR HELP ON PURE JUDGEMENT ALONE!!

The coach **MUST** have a legitimate question that involves an element **NOT JUST QUESTIONING** the timing of your call itself !!

Legitimate Questions are.....Pulled Foot, Tag or No Tag, Ball or No Ball

BE CONFIDENT NOT ARROGANT!