

# **Defensive Baseball – The Finer Details (by position)**

## **Second Baseman**

- Yells out, while signaling, the number of outs to these teammates and in this order – center fielder, right fielder, first baseman, shortstop, and pitcher
- Likes to be the engineer of the double play (4-6-3) and takes pride in accurate throws to the shortstop from glove side throws, back door pivots, and under-hand flips
- Likes to read the ground ball into the baseline, attack it, and initiate the (4U-3) double play
- Helps to “manage” the pitcher (motions to him to slow down or calm down, or directly tells him to do certain things, “hey, roll us a pair,” etc.)
- Takes great pride in his ability to charge the slow-roller and take away the push bunt for a hit
- Lives for the tag play at second on potential doubles to left and left-center, and the steal attempt with a right-handed hitter, and the back door pick from the pitcher when the shortstop is playing in the hole
- Understands and executes his role as the relay man on balls hit to deep right and right-center field, making his presence known (giving a target with two hands up) and then always opens up to the glove side
- Is vocal in taking the piggy-back trailer behind the shortstop on balls hit deep to left and left-center
- Works on jumping to catch the high throw, coming off the bag, or diving to block an errant throw to prevent the overthrow from the shortstop, third baseman, first baseman, pitcher or the catcher on a throw to second base
- Asks for timeout and initiates a mound visit in situations where the pitcher or the defense need conferring with to save the coach a charged visit
- Breaks to cover first on a bunt defense with a runner on second base
- Breaks to back-up first on all ground balls hit toward third base
- Thoroughly communicates with the defense prior to bunt defenses and first and third steal defenses and alerts them to it as soon as the situation occurs
- Works on drop steps on foul pops to the foul territory side of first base, and on balls hit to shallow center and right field and wants the ball on pops up in the shallow infield on the right side behind the mound or on balls down the first base foul line beyond the first baseman’s range
- Takes pride in being a “low” fielding infielder with range, a quick release and a strong arm
- Is a presence as a fielder who will range toward the hole or up the middle
- Is responsible for being the cut man on the first-and-third cut play, gives a target for the catcher, and fires a strike back to home if the runner on third breaks for home
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- Works hard on his communication and execution of either taking the ground ball or covering the bag on a ball hit in the hole with a runner on second base providing an alternative for the shortstop to take the out at third