

INFIELD GUIDELINES

Tandem Relays

On all tandem relays, with nobody on base, the second baseman and shortstop will be the tandem with the first baseman trailing the runner to second base.

On tandem relays with a runner on 1B, and the ball hit down the right field foul line, the second baseman will be the lead man on the tandem with the first baseman as the trail – the shortstop will become the cut off on the throw to home plate.

Anticipate

- Know the situation.
- Know who the runners and batter are.
- Know the pitcher.
- Know where the other fielders are.
- Know who is on deck.
- Know the score.
- Know what the hitter did last time up.

Communication

- Communicate before every pitch.
- Let the other fielders know your positioning.
- Middle infielders need to communicate what pitch is coming with corner guys.

Positioning

- Regular depth....will vary depending on range and speed of hitter.
- Double play depth...rule of thumb for middle infield is 3 steps in 3 steps towards the bag.
- No doubles...corner infielders are a dive away from line and 10-15 feet behind base. Middle infield deepens as well.
- Hold...around 2 or 3 steps back from infield in.
- In...at edge of grass or 2 steps into grass (dictated by arm strength).

Fielding

- Stance-must allow for movement and balance. The farther away from the batter, the straighter you stand.
- Approach-first movement should be a jab step to right, this allows for a better angle to make the throw to first.
- Fielding-make sure to breakdown and be balanced with fielding. Field through the baseball.
- Slow rollers-VERY IMPORTANT to take the jab step to create a better angle on this throw. Field ball off left foot and throw off right.

Throwing

- Know how much time you have.
- Don't wait until last minute, make the throw right away and give the 1B time.
- Keep routine plays routine. ESPN does not cover Rawlings Tiger baseball.