



SHORTSTOP

1. Has great range of motion - and throwing
2. Is able to catch a foul down LF line - including behind 3B, realizing that many fouls are easier caught by SS than 3B
3. Can turn two
4. Covers 2B on a steal if that's the plan
5. Knows count, outs, score, situational
6. Is in ready position before every pitch
7. Knows how to signal P when he wants a pickoff throw to 2B
8. Knows he cuts LF hit when play will be at 2B/3B
9. Knows to cover third when necessary on a bunt situation.
10. Backs up position, and squeezes the middle after every pitch with runners on the base.
11. SS should be the infield general making defensive calls
12. With a runner on 2B and a single to left field the SS needs to cover third base, as the third baseman will be the relay man to home plate.
13. On hit and runs the middle infielder should "shuffle to cover" second base and not cross his feet and run to second base. This allows you to react to balls hit behind you.
14. Knows how to FAKE the throw to 1B on a potential DP when runners are advancing—to catch off guard.
15. Communicates clearly who is covering 2B on a steal, hit to P, etc.
16. Always communicates with outfielders number of outs, situations, etc.
17. Stops the delayed steal. The main reason there are delayed steals—the middle infielders aren't covering second base between pitches.
18. On balls hit to the 5-6 hole with runners on first and 2nd—the SS should think about tossing the ball to third base to just get the force out.

DRILLS to PRACTICE at HOME

- Grounders, turning two, covering base.
- Practice covering base from different positions. Work on accurate low throws to first.
- Practice grounders to your right side and making the throw to 1st.
- Fielding fly balls in all directions. Covering 2B.

[Practice forehand and backhand short-hop catches](#)