



Softball Training Modules

for

Primary & Middle School Players

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7.3 Situational Play – Fly Balls & Line Drives

This Module 7.3 describes Play Situation Knowledge and Decision Making Skills Senior 1st Team Players should master to become effective Fielders at that level. Module 4, which describes Fielding & Throwing techniques used in the game of Softball, should be reviewed in conjunction with this Module.

Fly Balls and Line Drives that are either dropped or fall to the ground before being caught become Ground Balls and the Fielders' response to them is covered in Module 7.2

This Module 7.3 describes Situational Play options for caught Fly Balls and Line Drives.

The pages that follow describe the tasks for each of the 9 Players on the Fielding Team for Plays where Fly Balls and Line Drives are caught. These are divided into two categories:

- first, the Back-Up and base covering responsibilities when a Fly Ball or Line Drive is caught by a Teammate and
- secondly, the location the Player (who has caught the ball) should Throw or Toss the ball to stop opposing team Runners from advancing to the next base or Home Plate.

Note: A base runner must **“Tag-Up”** his base on a caught fly ball (or line drive) before attempting to advance to the next base. To record a double play **OUT** on a caught fly ball, the defensive team must apply a “Tag-Out” with ball in hand or glove to a base runner who has not Tagged-Up his base

Senior 1st Team Players should demonstrate a high degree of knowledge in respect to the tasks associated with their Playing Position when Fly Balls and Line Drives are caught. Intermediate goals can be developed for 2nd team and Middle School Players so that over a 2 to 3 year period, they can also achieve 1st Team knowledge standards.

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| <i>Goals: (to be developed)</i> |
|---------------------------------|

**1 Pitcher - Fielding Plays on Fly Balls & Line Drives
hit into either Fair (or Foul) Territory**

| <u>Pitcher's Field Position on Teammate's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| <u>Ball Fielded By:</u> | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| Catcher | Cover Home Plate | Cover Home Plate | Cover Home Plate |
| 1 st Baseman | Cover 1 st Base | Cover 1 st Base | Cover 1 st Base |
| 2 nd Baseman | Back-Up 1 st Base | | |
| 3 rd Baseman | | | |
| Shortstop | | | |
| Left Fielder | Back-Up 3 rd Base or Home Plate | | |
| Centre Fielder (Left) | | | |
| Centre Fielder (Right) | Back-Up Home Plate | | |
| Right Fielder | | | |
| <u>Base Runner Situation</u> | <u>Pitcher's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | |
| | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| No Runners on Base | Catch & Return to Pitcher's Plate | | Catch Fly Ball or Line Drive & End Inning |
| Runner on 1 st Base | Catch & Return to Pitcher's Plate <i>Notes (1, 2)</i> | | |
| Runner on 2 nd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1 st & 2 nd | | | |
| Runner on 3 rd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd (Bases Full) | | | |
| Runners on 1 st & 3 rd | | | |
| Runners on 2 nd & 3 rd | | | |

- Notes: (1) Throw to any Base for a Double Play by **Tag-OUT** where Runners have not "Tagged-Up
- Otherwise hold the ball & walk it in back to the Pitcher's Plate
- (2) Same as Note (1) but LOOK Runners back at 3rd and 2nd before Throwing to 1st Base
- Legend: BU (Backup Fielder); CO (Cut-Off Man); 1B (1st Base Bag); 2B (2nd Base Bag) etc.

**2 Catcher - Fielding Play on Fly Balls & Line Drives
hit into Fair (or Foul) Territory**

| <u>Catcher's Field Position on Teammate's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | | |
|--|---|---------------------|--|
| <u>Ball Fielded By:</u> | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| Pitcher | Cover Home Plate In all Situations where A Teammate Catches a Fly Ball or Line Drive | | |
| 1 st Baseman | | | |
| 2 nd Baseman | | | |
| 3 rd Baseman | | | |
| Shortstop | | | |
| Left Fielder | | | |
| Centre Fielder (Left) | | | |
| Centre Fielder (Right) | | | |
| Right Fielder | | | |
| <u>Base Runner Situation</u> | <u>Catcher's Fly Ball Plays</u> | | |
| | <u>0 Outs</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| No Runners on Base | Catch & Toss to Pitcher | | Catch Fly Ball & End Inning |
| Runner on 1 st Base | Catch & Give ball to Pitcher <i>Notes (1, 2)</i> | | |
| Runner on 2 nd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1 st & 2 nd | | | |
| Runner on 3 rd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd (Bases Full) | | | |
| Runners on 1 st & 3 rd | | | |
| Runners on 2 nd & 3 rd | | | |

- Notes:
- (1) Throw to any Base for a Double Play by **Tag-OUT** where Runners have not "Tagged-Up"
 - Otherwise hold the ball & give it to the Pitcher to take back to the Pitcher's Plate
 - (2) Same as Note (1) but LOOK Runners back at 3rd and 2nd before Throwing to 1st Base

3 First Baseman - Fielding Plays on Fly Balls & Line Drives hit into Fair (or Foul) Territory

| <u>1st Baseman's Field Position on Teammate's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | | |
|--|--|--------------|--|
| <u>Ball Fielded By:</u> | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| Pitcher | Cover 1st Base In all Situations where A Teammate Catches a Fly Ball or Line Drive | | |
| Catcher | | | |
| 2 nd Baseman | | | |
| 3 rd Baseman | | | |
| Shortstop | | | |
| Left Fielder | | | |
| Centre Fielder (Left) | | | |
| Centre Fielder (Right) | | | |
| Right Fielder | | | |
| <u>Base Runner Situation</u> | | | |
| | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| No Runners on Base | Catch & Toss ball to Pitcher | | Catch Fly Ball or Line Drive & End Inning |
| Runner on 1st Base | Catch & Give ball to Pitcher <i>Note (1)</i> | | |
| Runner on 2nd Base | Catch & Give ball to Pitcher <i>Notes (1, 2)</i> | | |
| Runners on 1st & 2nd | | | |
| Runner on 3rd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Bases Full) | | | |
| Runners on 1st & 3rd | | | |
| Runners on 2nd & 3rd | | | |

- Notes:
- (1) Throw to any Base for a Double Play by **Tag-OUT** where Runners have not "Tagged-Up"
 - Otherwise hold the ball & walk it in & give it to the Pitcher at the Pitcher's Plate
 - (2) Same as Note (1) but LOOK Runners back at 3rd and 2nd before Throwing to the Pitcher covering 1st Base

**4 Second Baseman - Fielding Plays on Fly Balls & Line Drives
hit into Fair (or Foul) Territory**

| <u>2nd Baseman's Field Position on Teammate's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|---|
| <u>Ball Fielded By:</u> | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| Pitcher | Cover 2 nd Base | | |
| Catcher | | | |
| 1 st Baseman | Cover 1 st Base | | |
| 3 rd Baseman | Cover 2 nd Base | | |
| Shortstop | | | |
| Left Fielder | | | |
| Centre Fielder (Left) | | | |
| Centre Fielder (Right) | Move to: Right Field Cut-Off Man Position | | |
| Right Fielder | | | |
| <u>2nd Baseman's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | | |
| <u>Base Runner Situation</u> | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| No Runners on Base | Catch & Toss to Pitcher | | Catch Fly Ball or Line Drive & End Inning |
| Runner on 1 st Base | Catch & Give ball to Pitcher <i>Note (1)</i> | | |
| Runner on 2 nd Base | Catch & Give ball to Pitcher <i>Notes (1, 2)</i> | | |
| Runners on 1 st & 2 nd | | | |
| Runner on 3 rd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd (Bases Full) | | | |
| Runners on 1 st & 3 rd | | | |
| Runners on 2 nd & 3 rd | | | |

- Notes:
- (1) Throw to any Base for a Double Play by **Tag-OUT** where Runners have not "Tagged-Up"
 - Otherwise hold the ball & walk it in & give it to the Pitcher at Pitcher's Plate
 - (2) Same as Note (1) but LOOK Runners back at 3rd and 2nd before Throwing to 1st Base

**5 Third Baseman - Fielding Plays on Fly Balls & Line Drives
hit into Fair (or Foul) Territory**

| <u>3rd Baseman's Field Position on Teammate's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | | |
|--|--|--------------|---|
| <u>Ball Fielded By:</u> | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| Pitcher | Cover 3 rd Base | | |
| Catcher | Back-Up Catcher | | |
| 1 st Baseman | Cover 3 rd Base In all other Situations where A Teammate Catches a Fly Ball or Line Drive | | |
| 2 nd Baseman | | | |
| Shortstop | | | |
| Left Fielder | | | |
| Centre Fielder (Left) | | | |
| Centre Fielder (Right) | | | |
| Right Fielder | | | |
| <u>Base Runner Situation</u> | <u>3rd Baseman's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | |
| | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| No Runners on Base | Catch & Toss to Pitcher | | Catch Fly Ball or Line Drive & End Inning |
| Runner on 1 st Base | Catch & Give ball to Pitcher <i>Note (1)</i> | | |
| Runner on 2 nd Base | Catch & Give ball to Pitcher <i>Notes (1, 2)</i> | | |
| Runners on 1 st & 2 nd | | | |
| Runner on 3 rd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd (Bases Full) | | | |
| Runners on 1 st & 3 rd | | | |
| Runners on 2 nd & 3 rd | | | |

- Notes:
- (1) Throw to any Base for a Double Play by **Tag-OUT** where Runners have not "Tagged-Up"
 - Otherwise hold the ball & walk it in & give it to the Pitcher at the Pitcher's Plate
 - (2) Same as Note (1) but LOOK Runners back at 3rd and 2nd before Throwing to 1st Base

**6 Shortstop - Fielding Plays on Fly Balls & Line Drives
hit into Fair (or Foul) Territory**

| <u>Shortstop's Field Position on Teammate's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | | |
|--|---|---------------------|--|
| <u>Ball Fielded By:</u> | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| Pitcher | BU Pitcher | BU Pitcher | BU Pitcher |
| Catcher | Cover 3 rd Base | | |
| 1 st Baseman | Cover 2 nd Base | | |
| 2 nd Baseman | | | |
| 3 rd Baseman | Cover 3 rd Base | | |
| Left Fielder | Move to: Left Field Cut-Off Man Position | | |
| Centre Fielder (Left) | | | |
| Centre Fielder (Right) | Cover 2 nd Base | | |
| Right Fielder | | | |
| <u>Shortstop's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | | |
| <u>Base Runner Situation</u> | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| No Runners on Base | Catch & Toss to Pitcher | | Catch Fly Ball or Line Drive & End Inning |
| Runner on 1 st Base | Catch & Give ball to Pitcher <i>Note (1)</i> | | |
| Runner on 2 nd Base | Catch & Give ball to Pitcher <i>Notes (1, 2)</i> | | |
| Runners on 1 st & 2 nd | | | |
| Runner on 3 rd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd (Bases Full) | | | |
| Runners on 1 st & 3 rd | | | |
| Runners on 2 nd & 3 rd | | | |

- Notes:
- (1) Throw to any Base for a Double Play by **Tag-OUT** where Runners have not "Tagged-Up" - Otherwise hold the ball & walk it in & give it to the Pitcher at the Pitcher's Plate
 - (2) Same as Note (1) but LOOK Runners back at 3rd and 2nd before Throwing to 1st Base

**7 Left Fielder - Fielding Plays on Fly Balls & Line Drives
hit into Fair (or Foul) Territory**

| <u>Left Fielder's Field Position on Teammate's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|--|
| <u>Ball Fielded By:</u> | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| Pitcher | Back-Up 3rd Base | | |
| Catcher | | | |
| 1 st Baseman | | | |
| 2 nd Baseman | | | |
| 3 rd Baseman | | | |
| Shortstop | Back-Up Shortstop | | |
| Centre Fielder (Left) | Back-Up Centre Fielder | | |
| Centre Fielder (Right) | Back-Up 3rd Base | | |
| Right Fielder | | | |
| <u>Base Runner Situation</u> | <u>Left Fielder's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | |
| | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| All Situations | Catch & Run Ball into the Infield <u>unless</u> Runners Tag-Up and try to advance after the Catch In which case, Plays are as follows | | |
| No Runners on Base | Catch & Throw ball to Cut-Off Man or 2 nd Base | | Catch Fly Ball or Line Drive & End Inning |
| Runner on 1st Base | Catch & Throw to Cut-Off Man or 3 rd Base <i>Note (1)</i> | | |
| Runner on 2nd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1st & 2nd | Catch & Throw to Cut-Off Man or Home <i>Note (1)</i> | | |
| Runner on 3rd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Bases Full) | | | |
| Runners on 1st & 3rd | | | |
| Runners on 2nd & 3rd | | | |

Notes: (1) **LOOK & Throw** to 2nd or 3rd Base if Runners have advanced without "Tagging-Up"

**8 Centre Fielder - Fielding Plays on Fly Balls & Line Drives
hit into Fair (or Foul) Territory**

| <u>Centre Fielder's Field Position on Teammate's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|--|
| <u>Ball Fielded By:</u> | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| Pitcher | Back-Up 2nd Base | | |
| Catcher | | | |
| 1 st Baseman | | | |
| 2 nd Baseman | | | |
| 3 rd Baseman | | | |
| Shortstop | | | |
| Left Fielder | Back-Up Left Fielder | | |
| Right Fielder | Back-Up Right Fielder | | |
| <u>Base Runner Situation</u> | <u>Centre Fielder's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays</u> | | |
| | <u>0 Out</u> | <u>1 Out</u> | <u>2 Out</u> |
| All Situations | Catch & Run Ball into the Infield <u>unless</u> Runners Tag-Up and try to advance after the Catch In which case, Plays are as follows | | |
| No Runners on Base | Catch & Throw to Cut-Off Man or 2 nd Base | | Catch Fly Ball or Line Drive & End Inning |
| Runner on 1st Base | Catch & Throw to Cut-Off Man or 3 rd Base <i>Note (1)</i> | | |
| Runner on 2nd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1st & 2nd | Catch & Throw to Cut-Off Man or Home <i>Note (1)</i> | | |
| Runner on 3rd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Bases Full) | | | |
| Runners on 1st & 3rd | | | |
| Runners on 2nd & 3rd | | | |

Notes: (1) **LOOK & Throw** to 1st, 2nd or 3rd Base if Runners have advanced without "Tagging-Up"

**9 Right Fielder - Fielding Plays on Fly Balls & Line Drives
hit into Fair (or Foul) Territory**

| Right Fielder's Field Position on Teammate's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays | | | |
|---|--|--------------|--|
| Ball Fielded By: | 0 Out | 1 Out | 2 Out |
| Pitcher | Back-Up 1 st Base | | |
| Catcher | | | |
| 1 st Baseman | | | |
| 2 nd Baseman | Back-Up 2 nd Baseman | | |
| 3 rd Baseman | Back-Up 1 st Base | | |
| Shortstop | | | |
| Left Fielder | Back-Up 2 nd Base | | |
| Centre Fielder (Left) | | | |
| Centre Fielder (Right) | Back-Up Centre Fielder | | |
| Right Fielder's Fly Ball & Line Drive Plays | | | |
| Base Runner Situation | 0 Out | 1 Out | 2 Out |
| All Situations | Catch & Run Ball into the Infield <u>unless</u> Runners Tag-Up and try to advance after the Catch In which case, Plays are as follows | | |
| No Runners on Base | Catch & Throw to Cut-Off Man or 2 nd Base | | Catch Fly Ball or Line Drive & End Inning |
| Runner on 1st Base | Catch & Throw to Cut-Off Man or 3 rd Base <i>Note (1)</i> | | |
| Runner on 2nd Base | | | |
| Runners on 1st & 2nd | | | |
| Runner on 3rd Base | Catch & Throw to Cut-Off Man or Home <i>Note (1)</i> | | |
| Runners on 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Bases Full) | | | |
| Runners on 1st & 3rd | | | |
| Runners on 2nd & 3rd | | | |

Note: (1) **LOOK & Throw** to 1st, 2nd or 3rd Base if Runners have advanced without "Tagging-Up"