Baseball Defense
CUTOFF & RELAYS
Part 1

www.InsideBaseball.com
# Table of Contents

- Single to Left Field – Bases Empty ................................................................. 3
- Single to Center Field – Bases Empty ............................................................. 4
- Single to Right Field – Bases Empty ............................................................. 5
- Single to Left Field - Runners on 1st OR 1st and 3rd ...................................... 6
- Single to Centerfield – Runners on 1st, 1st and 3rd ....................................... 7
- Single to Right Field – Runners on 1st, 1st and 3rd ....................................... 8
- Single to Left Field – Runners on 1st and 2nd, Bases Loaded .......................... 9
- Single to Center Field – Runners on 1st and 2nd, Bases Loaded ...................... 10
- Single to Right Field – Runners on 1st and 2nd, Bases Loaded ...................... 11
- Double, Possible Triple Down Left Field Line – Bases Empty, Runner on 2nd, Runners on 2nd and 3rd ............................................................... 12
- Double, Possible Triple Down Left Field Line – Runner on 1st, 1st and 2nd, Bases Loaded .......................................................... 13
- Double, Possible Triple to Left Center – Bases Empty, Runner on 2nd or 3rd, Runners on 2nd and 3rd .................................................. 14
- Double, Possible Triple to Left Center – Runners on 1st, 1st & 2nd, or Bases Loaded .......................................................... 15
- Double , Possible Triple to Right Center – Bases Empty, Runners of 2nd, 2nd and 3rd ............................................................... 16
- Double, Possible Triple to Right Center – Runners on 1st, 1st and 2nd, Bases Loaded .......................................................... 17
- Double, Possible Triple Down Right Field Line – Bases Empty, Runners on 2nd, 2nd and 3rd .................................................. 18
- Double, Possible Triple Down Right Field Line – Runners on 1st, 1st and 2nd, Bases Loaded .......................................................... 19
Single to Left Field – Bases Empty

Pitcher: Back up towards 2B in case of overthrow from Left Fielder.
Catcher: Follow hitter to 1st base and backup 1st base in case of play at first.
1st Baseman: Make sure runner tags 1st base. Position to back up overthrow to 2nd base.
2nd Baseman: Cover 2nd base to take throw from left fielder.
3rd Baseman: Protect 3rd base. *
Shortstop: Cutoff position with alignment to 2nd base. *
Left Field: Field grounder and throw through cutoff man directly to 2nd base.
Center Field: Back up left fielder.
Right Field: Move in towards 1st base in case of overthrow to 2nd base and be ready to backup 1st base in case a play is made at 1st if the runner takes too aggressive of a turn.

*NOTE: If groundball single in 5-6 hole and both 3rd baseman and SS attempt to field the ball, both switch assignments and SS takes bag and 3rd baseman takes cutoff position. Voice Commands: CUT 1 or 2
Single to Center Field – Bases Empty

Positioning:
- Pitcher: Back up 2nd base area in case of overthrow.
- Catcher: Break towards 1st base to back up in case of throw from 2B.
- 1st Baseman: Watch runner tag base and back up overthrow to 2nd base.
- 2nd Baseman: Cover 2nd base to take throw from centerfield. *
- 3rd Baseman: Protect 3rd base area.
- Shortstop: Move to cutoff position with alignment to 2nd base. *
- Left Field: Back up centerfield.
- Center Field: Retrieve ball. Throw through cutoff man directly to 2nd base.
- Right Field: Back up centerfield.

*NOTE: 2B and SS can change position if ball is hit slightly toward the right field side of centerfield.
Single to Right Field – Bases Empty

Pitcher: Move to back up 2nd base area.
Catcher: Follow runner to 1st base. Back up 1st base area.
1st Baseman: Watch runner tag base. Cover 1st base.
2nd Baseman: Cutoff position with alignment to 2nd base.
3rd Baseman: Protect 3rd base area.
Shortstop: Cover 2nd base to take throw from right fielder.
Left Field: Move in toward SS area to backup throws to 2nd base from right fielder.
Center Field: Move toward ball, back up right fielder.
Right Field: Retrieve ball.

NOTE: If groundball single in hole, and both 1st Baseman and 2nd Baseman attempt to field ball, it’s possible the players will switch assignments, where the 1st Baseman becomes cutoff man on throw and the 2nd Baseman moves to 1st base area.
Single to Left Field - Runners on 1<sup>st</sup> OR 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Positioning:
Fly Ball: 
Ground Ball: . . . . . . .
Throw: 

Pitcher: Back up 3<sup>rd</sup> base in case of overthrow from Left Fielder.
Catcher: Protect home plate area.
1<sup>st</sup> Baseman: Make sure runner tags 1<sup>st</sup> base. Cover 1<sup>st</sup> base.
2<sup>nd</sup> Baseman: Watch runner touches 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
3<sup>rd</sup> Baseman: Cover 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Direct play with voice commands.
Shortstop: Cutoff position with alignment to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
Left Field: Field grounder and throw through cutoff man directly to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
Center Field: Back up left fielder.
Right Field: Move in between 1<sup>st</sup> base and 2<sup>nd</sup> base in case of overthrow to 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
NOTE: If ball gets by the left fielder, 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman and SS move into double cutoff position. 1<sup>st</sup> baseman becomes the trailer following the runner to 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
Single to Centerfield – Runners on 1\textsuperscript{st}, 1\textsuperscript{st} and 3\textsuperscript{rd}

### Pitcher:
Back up 3\textsuperscript{rd} base as deep as possible in case of an overthrow.

### Catcher:
Protect home plate and direct cutoffs and plays in front of you.

### 1\textsuperscript{st} Baseman:
Watch runner tag base and cover 1\textsuperscript{st} base.

### 2\textsuperscript{nd} Baseman:
Watch runner tag base. Cover 2\textsuperscript{nd} base.

### 3\textsuperscript{rd} Baseman:
Cover 3\textsuperscript{rd} base. Direct play to cutoff man.

### Shortstop:
Move to cutoff position with alignment to 3\textsuperscript{rd} base.

### Left Field:
Back up 3\textsuperscript{rd} base area.

### Center Field:
Retrieve ball. Listen for throw direction.

### Right Field:
Back up centerfielder.

**NOTE:** Voice commands: 1, 2, 3 or 4, and repeat, load and clear. CUT-CUT-CUT. No voice command on throw going through.
Single to Right Field – Runners on 1st, 1st and 3rd

Pitcher: Move to back up 3rd base as deep as possible in case of an overthrow.

Catcher: Protect home plate.

1st Baseman: Watch runner tag base. Cover 1st base.

2nd Baseman: Watch runner tag base. Cover 2nd base.

3rd Baseman: Cover 3rd base. Direct play to cutoff man.

Shortstop: Cutoff man to 3rd base, halfway between bases on a direct line to right field.

Left Field: Move in toward 3rd base area for backup.

Center Field: Move toward ball, back up right fielder.

Right Field: Retrieve ball.

NOTE: Voice commands: 1-2-3-4 -CUT.
Single to Left Field – Runners on 1st and 2nd, Bases Loaded

**Pitcher:** Take angle between 3rd base and home. Based on how play evolves, make an educated decision as early as possible to back up either 3rd base or home plate.

**Catcher:** Cover home plate. Direct play to cutoff man.

**1st Baseman:** Cutoff man to home plate.

**2nd Baseman:** Cover 2nd base.

**3rd Baseman:** Watch runner tag 3rd base. Cover 3rd base. Direct play to cutoff man.

**Shortstop:** Cutoff man to 3rd base.

**Left Field:** Make play, listen for play direction, throw through cutoff man.

**Center Field:** Move toward ball, back up left fielder.

**Right Field:** Move to backup 2nd base for overthrows. Retrieve ball.

**NOTE:** Voice commands when play develops from catcher.
Single to Center Field – Runners on 1\(^{st}\) and 2\(^{nd}\), Bases Loaded

**Positioning:**
- Pitcher: Take angle between 3\(^{rd}\) base and home plate. Based on how play evolves, make an educated decision as early as possible to back up either 3\(^{rd}\) base or home plate.
- Catcher: Protect home plate. Direct play to cutoff man if play comes home.
- 1\(^{st}\) Baseman: Cutoff man to home plate, if play goes to 3\(^{rd}\) base, hustle back to 1\(^{st}\) base.
- 2\(^{nd}\) Baseman: Watch runner touch base. Cover 2\(^{nd}\) base.
- 3\(^{rd}\) Baseman: Cover 3\(^{rd}\) base. Direct play to cutoff man if throw comes to 3\(^{rd}\) base.
- Shortstop: Cutoff man to 3\(^{rd}\) base. Lineup halfway between bases on a direct line to the outfielder throwing the ball.
- Left Field: Back up 3\(^{rd}\) base area.
- Center Field: Retrieve ball, depending on call, throw to either cut-off man located at pitcher’s mound, or throw through the cut-off man to 3\(^{rd}\) base.
- Right Field: Back up centerfielder.

**NOTE:** Voice commands: 1-2-3-4 -CUT and repeat. No verbal command on throw going through.
Single to Right Field – Runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bases Loaded

Pitcher: Take angle between 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home. Based on how play evolves, make an educated decision as early as possible to back up either 3<sup>rd</sup> base or home plate.

Catcher: Cover home plate. Direct play to cutoff man.

1<sup>st</sup> Baseman: Cutoff man to home plate. Cover 1<sup>st</sup> base if throw goes to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

2<sup>nd</sup> Baseman: Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

3<sup>rd</sup> Baseman: Watch runner tag 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Cover 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Direct play to cutoff man.

Shortstop: Cutoff man to 3<sup>rd</sup> base, closer to 2<sup>nd</sup> base bag.

Left Field: Move in toward 3<sup>rd</sup> base area for backup to throws to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

Center Field: Move toward ball, back up right fielder.

Right Field: Retrieve ball.

NOTE: Groundball single in hole when 1B and 2B cannot field the ball, 1B must get into cutoff position quickly, and 2B continues to cover 1<sup>st</sup> base. Pitcher starts over to cover 1<sup>st</sup> base, but must still back up necessary base even 3<sup>rd</sup> base if ball goes through. Voice commands when play develops from catcher.
Double, Possible Triple Down Left Field Line – Bases Empty, Runner on 2nd, Runners on 2nd and 3rd

Positioning:  
Fly Ball:  
Ground Ball: • • • •  
Throw:  

**Pitcher:** Back up 3rd base.

**Catcher:** Protect home plate area. Direct play with voice commands to cut-off man.

**1st Baseman:** Trail runner after watching him tag 1st base.

**2nd Baseman:** Trail behind SS and call play as it develops

**3rd Baseman:** Cover 3rd base. Watch all runners tag 2nd base.

**Shortstop:** Relay man on throw from outfield. Line up for play at 3rd base.

**Left Field:** Retrieve ball.

**Center Field:** Back up leftfielder.

**Right Field:** Back up 2nd base area.

**NOTE:** Adjust 2B responsibility according to ballparks with short leftfield lines. 2B does not become a trailer, but covers 2nd base. 1B becomes trailer of hitter into 2nd base in ballparks with deep leftfield lines.
Double, Possible Triple Down Left Field Line – Runner on 1\textsuperscript{st}, 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd}, Bases Loaded

**Positioning:**
- **Fly Ball:**
- **Ground Ball:** 
- **Throw:**

**Pitcher:** Back up home plate as deep as possible in case of overthrow.

**Catcher:** Protect home plate area. Direct play with voice commands to cut-off man.

**1\textsuperscript{st} Baseman:** Trail runner 2\textsuperscript{nd} base after watching him tag 1\textsuperscript{st} base.

**2\textsuperscript{nd} Baseman:** Trail man behind SS and call play as it develops.

**3\textsuperscript{rd} Baseman:** Move to cut of grass. Watch runner tag base. React to play as cut-off man or tag play at 3\textsuperscript{rd} base.

**Shortstop:** Relay man on throw from outfield. Line up for play at 3\textsuperscript{rd} base or home.

**Left Field:** Retrieve ball.

**Center Field:** Back up leftfielder.

**Right Field:** Back up 2\textsuperscript{nd} base area.

**NOTE:** 2B becomes trailer when depth to the outfield fence requires it. Keep the relay throw from the leftfielder in fair territory so that a throw to home plate will not be blocked out by the baserunner.
Double, Possible Triple to Left Center – Bases Empty, Runner on 2\textsuperscript{nd} or 3\textsuperscript{rd}, Runners on 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd}

Positioning:
Fly Ball: 
Ground Ball: • • • •
Throw: 

Pitcher: Back up 3\textsuperscript{rd} base, get as deep as possible in case of an overthrow.
Catcher: Protect home plate area. Direct play with voice commands.
1\textsuperscript{st} Baseman: Move to inside of bag (cut of grass). Trail runner to 2\textsuperscript{nd} base. Ready for a play if runner rounds base too far.
2\textsuperscript{nd} Baseman: Cover 2\textsuperscript{nd} base. If ball goes to fence, trail 25 ft. behind SS in line with throw to 3\textsuperscript{rd} base. Call play for SS.
3\textsuperscript{rd} Baseman: Cover 3\textsuperscript{rd} base. Watch runner at 2\textsuperscript{nd} base tag base.
Shortstop: Relay man on throw from outfield to 3\textsuperscript{rd} base. *
Left Field: Retrieve ball or back up centerfielder.
Center Field: Retrieve ball or back up leftfielder.
Right Field: Move in towards 2\textsuperscript{nd} base in case of overthrow to 2\textsuperscript{nd} base.

*NOTE: If throw is too high or will short hop the relay man, let it go to trailer to avoid mishandling the throw. Relay man depth dictated by arm strength and ability to make strong, accurate throw.
Double, Possible Triple to Left Center – Runners on 1st, 1st & 2nd, or Bases Loaded

Positioning:
Fly Ball: 
Ground Ball: • • • •
Throw:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pitcher</td>
<td>Take an angle between 3rd base and home. Based on how the play evolves, make a decision as early as possible to back up either 3rd base or home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catcher</td>
<td>Protect home plate area. Direct play with voice commands to cut-off man.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Baseman</td>
<td>Becomes cut-off man to home plate. Release to 2nd base if no play at home plate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Baseman</td>
<td>Cover 2nd base. If ball goes to fence, trail 25 ft. behind SS and call play as it develops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Baseman</td>
<td>Cover 3rd base. Watch all runners tag 2nd base. Stand on infield side of base, but avoid contact with runner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortstop</td>
<td>Relay man on throw from outfield. Line up for play at home plate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Field</td>
<td>Retrieve ball or back up centerfielder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center Field</td>
<td>Retrieve ball or back up leftfielder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Field</td>
<td>Cover 2nd base area as backup or take base if 1B does not release.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: On double, possible triple, with a runner on 1st base, infielders receiving relay throws always line up for home plate. No floating on play: Throw must come from primary position to 3rd base.
Double, Possible Triple to Right Center – Bases Empty, Runners of 2nd, 2nd and 3rd

Positioning:
Fly Ball: 
Ground Ball: • • • •
Throw: 

Pitcher: Back up 3rd base as deep as possible in case of overthrow.
Catcher: Cover home plate. Direct play to cutoff man.
1st Baseman: Trail runners to 2nd base after watching him tag 1st base.
2nd Baseman: Relay man to 3rd base.
Shortstop: React to 2nd base. Become trailer if ball goes to fence. Call play as it develops.
Left Field: Move in toward 3rd base area for backup to throws to 3rd base.
Center Field: Retrieve ball, or back up right fielder.
Right Field: Retrieve ball, or back up centerfielder.

NOTE: If throw is too high or will short hop the relay man, let it go to trailer to avoid mishandling the throw.
Double, Possible Triple to Right Center – Runners on 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bases Loaded

Positioning:  
Fly Ball:  
Ground Ball: • • • •  
Throw:  

Pitcher: Take angle between 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home plate. Based on how play evolves, make an educated decision as early as possible to back up either 3<sup>rd</sup> base or home plate.

Catcher: Cover home plate. Direct cutoff man to play.

1<sup>st</sup> Baseman: Cutoff man to home plate. If play develops at 3<sup>rd</sup> base, release and cover 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

2<sup>nd</sup> Baseman: Relay man to home plate or 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

3<sup>rd</sup> Baseman: Watch runner tag 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Cover 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Direct play to cutoff man.

Shortstop: React to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Become trailer if ball goes to fence. Call play as it develops.

Left Field: Move in toward 3<sup>rd</sup> base area for backup to throws to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

Center Field: Retrieve ball, or back up right fielder.

Right Field: Retrieve ball, or back up centerfielder.

NOTE: With a runner on 1B, infielders relaying throw always line up for home plate. No floating on play. Throw must come from primary position to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
Double, Possible Triple Down Right Field Line – Bases Empty, Runners on 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd}

**Positioning:**
- Fly Ball: 
- Ground Ball: • • • •
- Throw: 

**Pitcher:** Back up 3\textsuperscript{rd} base as deep possible in case of an overthrow.

**Catcher:** Cover home plate.

**1\textsuperscript{st} Baseman:** Trail 2B and call play. **

**2\textsuperscript{nd} Baseman:** Relay man to 3\textsuperscript{rd} base. *

**3\textsuperscript{rd} Baseman:** Watch runner tag 3\textsuperscript{rd} base. Cover 3\textsuperscript{rd} base. Direct play to cutoff man.

**Shortstop:** React to 2\textsuperscript{nd} base.

**Left Field:** Move in toward 3\textsuperscript{rd} base area for backup to throws to 3\textsuperscript{rd} base.

**Center Field:** Back up right fielder.

**Right Field:** Retrieve ball.

*NOTE: If the throw is too high or will short hop the relay man, let it go to trailer to avoid mishandling the throw.

**NOTE: Alignment in fair territory on the above situations.
Double, Possible Triple Down Right Field Line – Runners on 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bases Loaded

Positioning:
Fly Ball: 
Ground Ball: • • • • • 
Throw: 

Pitcher: Take an angle between home plate. Based on how the play develops, make an educated decision as early as possible to back up either 3<sup>rd</sup> base or home plate.

Catcher: Cover home plate.

1<sup>st</sup> Baseman: Trail 2B and call play. **

2<sup>nd</sup> Baseman: Relay man to 3<sup>rd</sup> base or home plate. *

3<sup>rd</sup> Baseman: Watch runner tag 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Cover 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Direct play to cutoff man.

Shortstop: Float to cutoff position to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. React back to 2<sup>nd</sup> base when necessary.

Left Field: Move in toward 3<sup>rd</sup> base area for backup to throws to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

Center Field: Back up right fielder.

Right Field: Retrieve ball.

*NOTE: If the throw is too high or will short hop the relay man, let it go to trailer to avoid mishandling the throw. Alignment to home plate in fair territory when 1<sup>st</sup> base is occupied.