



Double Plays

A double play occurs when two outs are made for one batted ball. There must be at least one runner on base and less than two outs for a double play situation. There are several ways this can occur. The two most common are:

FLYBALL - When there is at least one runner on base, the defense catches the batted ball in the air for the first out, and then throws to or tags the base before the runner tags up.

GROUNDBALL - On a hit ground ball, the fielder throws to the lead baseman for the first out. The lead baseman then turns and throws to the preceding base for the second force out.

NOTE: With a runner on first and less than two outs, a ground ball to the infield presents a good opportunity to record two outs

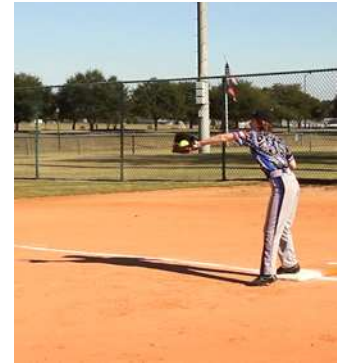
Skill Progression – Double Plays ~ Grounders

Your Athlete Can	Never	Sometimes	Often
On ground balls hit to the 3 rd base side of the infield, the second baseman will be the pivot man taking the throw at second base, tagging the base, and then throwing to first base. On ground balls to the 1 st base side, the shortstop will be the pivot man	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The fielder should throw the ball quickly and accurately, but not as hard as possible. The throw should be at the target (glove), in front of and on the glove side of the pivot man	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The pivot man should approach the base in a straight line with his/her glove near his/her non-throwing shoulder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After catching the throw, the pivot man should step on the base, then step across the base and throw the ball to first base	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After the throw to first base, the pivot man should continue away from the base to avoid a collision with the runner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the fielder is close to second base after fielding a ground ball, he/she may choose to step on the base and make the throw to first base unassisted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals			



Teaching Points – Double Plays

1. The pivot man should catch the throw with both hands. This will allow the throwing hand to smother the catch quickly, and make the throw to first base.
2. Have the pivot man look for the hitter running to first base before making the throw. Do not attempt a throw if there is not a chance of it beating the runner to first base.
3. The pivot man should get to the base as quickly as possible. This will prevent the fielder from trying to throw to a moving target. Also, make sure the pivot man touches the base while holding the ball to record the first out.



Faults & Fixes Chart – Double Plays

Error	Correction	Drill Reference
2 nd baseman covers the bag when the pitcher fields a grounder	Shortstop should take throws from the pitcher at second base when trying to turn a double play at first	Part V ~ Pitcher Execution
2 nd baseman pivots incorrectly	Practice footwork and timing of receiving thrown ball, tagging bag and turning to throw to first	Part II
SS pivots incorrectly	Practice footwork and timing of receiving thrown ball, tagging bag and turning to throw to first.	Part I, III, IV, V



Double Plays Drills

As softball coaches, we know that game momentum can easily be changed by a double play ball ending a scoring threat. It's very exciting to witness the execution of getting two outs off a single ground ball. The following drills are based on turning the double play from 2nd base to 1st base. Many various double play situations can be implemented into the drill format. Ex. If there are runners on 1st and 2nd, or if bases are loaded, do you want to try to stop the runs from scoring if there are no outs by throwing from home to first?

Part I ~ Shortstop Execution

- On the field: Shortstop, 2nd baseman, 1st baseman
- 2 base runners: Runner at home going to 1st base, and a runner at 1st base going to 2nd base (extra runners nearby to alternate in)
- Coach stands at home plate with bucket of balls.
- The coach will hit ground balls to Shortstop.
- On contact, the base runners will advance to 1st base and 2nd base at full speed.
- The shortstop will execute the double play with the 2nd baseman.
- The 2nd baseman will practice their footwork on catch/throw situation and throwing through the advancing runner.
- REPETITION REPETITION REPETITION!!

Variation: "take-it-yourself-shortstop" Repeat the drill with the Shortstop executing all the parts of the double play: fielding, tagging 2nd base, and throwing the ball to first.

Part II ~ 3rd Baseman Execution

- Same format as above except coach will hit grounders to the 3rd baseman
- The 3rd baseman will execute the double play with the 2nd baseman
- Throws will be from 3rd to 2nd to 1st

Part III ~ 2nd Baseman Execution

- Same format as above except coach will hit grounders to the 2nd baseman
- The 2nd baseman will execute the double play with the shortstop (who will receive the throw at 2nd base from the 2nd baseman)
- Throws will be from 2nd to SS to 1st

Part IV ~ 1st Baseman Execution

- Same as above except coach will hit grounders to the 1st baseman
- The 1st baseman will execute the double play with the shortstop
- Throw will be from 1st to 2nd to 1st

Note: The 1st baseman fields the grounder, throws to 2nd, and then goes to 1st to record the second out. If they tag their base first, then the runner going to 2nd, must be tagged out since there is no longer a force play there. A variation of this situation is having the 2nd baseman cover the bag for the 1st baseman.

Part V ~ Pitcher Execution

- Same as above except coach will hit grounders to the Pitcher
- Throw will be from pitcher to 2nd to 1st
- Usually the Shortstop will receive the ball at 2nd base.

