

9 Legged Monster Defense

Middle Infielders

2B Defense:

1. Every pitch –
 - a. How many outs?
 - b. Where is the play? Force or tag?
 - c. Communicate to players – fingers and voice.
2. Every pitch - Ready, ready. "Hit it to me!"
3. Cover 2B on:
 - a. Balls hit to infield between 2B and 3B.
 - b. Balls hit to LF and LCF
 - c. Stolen base attempt when a right-handed batter is up.
4. Cut-off on balls hit to RF and CF thrown to 2B.
 - a. Cut-off position is straight line between ball and 2B.
 - b. Only "cut off" balls that are off line or you are told to.
5. Back up throws from home to 2B on stolen base attempt when a left-handed batter is up.
6. Back-up all throws back to pitcher. 3-4 steps towards grass in front of 2B.

Short Stop Defense:

1. Every pitch –
 - a. How many outs?
 - b. Where is the play? Force or tag?
 - c. Communicate to players – fingers and voice.
2. Every pitch - Ready, ready. "Hit it to me!"
3. Cover 2B on:
 - a. Balls hit to infield between 1B and 2B.
 - b. Steals to 2B
 - c. Balls hit to RF and CF
 - d. Stolen base attempt when a left-handed batter is up.
4. Cut-off on balls hit to LF and LCF thrown to 2B and all fields for 3B.
 - a. Cut-off position is straight line between ball and 2B or 3B.
 - b. Only "cut off" balls that are off line or you are told to.
5. Cover 3B on bunts down left field line.
6. Back up throws from home to 2B on stolen base attempt when a right-handed batter is up.
7. Back-up all throws back to pitcher. 3-4 steps towards grass in front of 2B.

Corner Infielders

1B Defense:

1. Every pitch –
 - a. How many outs?
 - b. Where is the play?
 - c. Communicate to players – fingers and voice.
2. Every pitch - Ready, ready. "Hit it to me!"
3. Cover 1B on all infield hits and shallow RF hits. Unless hit to you! Field first!
4. Charge ground balls – keeper or baby-toss to P for out.
5. Cut-off on balls thrown to Home from LCF, CF, RCF, & RF.
 - a. Positioned in infield grass unless hit to the outfield fence.

3B Defense:

1. Every pitch –
 - a. How many outs?
 - b. Where is the play? Force or tag?
 - c. Communicate to players – fingers and voice.
2. Every pitch - Ready, ready. "Hit it to me!"
3. Charge bunts – throw to 1B for out.
4. Cover 3B – get that lead runner.
5. Cut-off on balls thrown to Home from LF.
 - a. Positioned in infield grass unless hit to the outfield fence.

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Pitcher Defense:

1. Every pitch –
 - a. How many outs?
 - b. Where is the play?
 - c. Be thinking – learn to be a “smart” pitcher.
2. After every pitch – become an infielder. “Hit it to me!”
3. Main infielder for charging bunts and bloopers. Go to 1B on all bunts.
4. Sprint to offer to cover 1B on ANY ball hit to the right side of the infield.
5. Back-up 3B and Home (rule: 2 bases ahead of base runner).
 - a. Back-up 3B with runner on 1B
 - b. Back-up Home with runner on 2B or 3B
6. Sprint home on passed balls with runner on 3B.

Catcher Defense:

1. Position demands leadership, toughness, athleticism and durability.
2. Should inspire and encourage teammates with hustle and a willingness to sacrifice body.
3. Quarterback of defense – communicate.
4. Make your pitcher look good and feel confident.
 - a. Look good – give him a “strike-zone” target for every pitch.
 - b. Feel confident – that you will block balls in dirt. He should not be worried about passed balls with runners on base. You’ve got his back.

Outfielders

Left-fielder Defense:

1. Every pitch - How many outs? Where is the play?
2. Every pitch - Ready, ready. “Hit it to me!”
3. Balls hit to center field – sprint to back-up CF
4. Balls hit to right field – sprint to back up throw to 2B
5. Throw through cut-off man.
 - a. 2B with no runners on base
 - b. 3B with runner on 1B
 - c. Home with runner on 2B

Center-fielder Defense:

1. Every pitch - How many outs? Where is the play?
2. Every pitch - Ready, ready. “Hit it to me!”
3. Sprint to back-up LF or RF
4. Move into position to back up throws from catcher to 2B on steals
5. Throw through cut-off man.
 - a. 2B with no runners on base
 - b. 3B with runner on 1B
 - c. H with runner on 2B

Right-fielder Defense:

1. Every pitch - How many outs? Where is the play?
2. Every pitch - Ready, ready. “Hit it to me!”
3. Balls hit to center field – sprint to back-up CF
4. Balls hit to left field – sprint to back up throw to 2B
5. Sprint to back-up all throws to 1B.
6. Throw through cut-off man to:
 - a. 2B with no runners on base
 - b. 3B with runner on 1B
 - c. Home with runner on 2B