

FIELDING BUNTS

Catchers must field any bunt within six feet of home plate and must be able to make this play consistently. It calls for agility in getting to the ball and often a rushed throw to, so quickness and throwing accuracy are essential. The catcher has two roles in bunt situations.

First, when the bunt is fielded by another player, the catcher must help the fielder by calling which base to play. In the second role, the catcher fields the bunt without hesitation. The judgement part of the play, i.e. selecting the most appropriate base, comes with experience in game situations. Throwing accuracy has to be learned through practice.

THROWING POSITION

The key to success on these plays, is to field the ball in a good position to throw. This is not always simple and needs to be practised. Here is the procedure;

- 1. EXPLODE OUT FROM BEHIND THE PLATE, FLIPPING THE MASK OFF AT THE SAME TIME.**
- 2. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, APPROACH THE BALL WITH THE FEET IN LINE WITH THE TARGET BASE.**
- 3. STAY LOW, WITH BOTH HANDS IN FRONT OF THE BODY.**
- 4. PLAY THE BALL OFF THE BACK FOOT, SCOOPING IT UP WITH BOTH HANDS.**
- 5. IF TIME PERMITS, STRAIGHTEN UP TO THROW, OTHERWISE THROW FROM THE CROUCH.**

THIRD BASE LINE

- 6. ON BUNTS TOWARDS THIRD BASE, ANOTHER TECHNIQUE IS TO MOVE STRAIGHT TO THE BALL, FIELD IT WITH THE BACK TO 1st BASE, THEN PIVOT TO THE GLOVE SIDE AND THROW.**

BUNT DRILL

- 1. SET UP SIX BALLS IN A SEMI CIRCLE, 6' IN FRONT OF HOME PLATE, SPREAD BETWEEN 1ST AND 3RD BASE LINES.**
- 2. CATCHER ASSUMES NORMAL CROUCH POSITION.**
- 3. ON SIGNAL, OR WHEN READY, THE CATCHER MOVES QUICKLY FROM THE CROUCH, ATTACKS THE FIRST BALL ON THE 3RD BASE SIDE, FIELDS IT AND THROWS TO THE BASE CALLED.**
- 4. REPEAT THIS PROCESS WITH ALL SIX BALLS, THROWING TWICE TO EACH BASE.**
- 5. VARY THE DRILL BY USING A PITCHER TO START THE ACTION, AND VARY THE THROWS FROM DIFFERENT LOCATIONS TO DIFFERENT BASES.**