



Infield Defense

Hands, footwork, range, double-play turns, and pre-pitch positioning. Premium edition includes prescribed drill blocks for advancing each level.

PLAYER: _____ AGE / LEVEL: _____ COACH: _____ DATE: _____

LEVEL	MASTERY CRITERIA	NEXT-LEVEL DRILL PLAN	MARK
ROOKIE BALL	Athletic ready position before the pitch Fields slow rollers cleanly with two hands Knows where to throw on a force play	Bare-hand work, alligator drill, walk-through positioning.	☐
LOW-A	Charges the ball under control Fields one-hop ground balls in front of feet Makes accurate throw from short distance (40 ft)	Short-hop drill, chair drill, charge-and-throw progression.	☐
HIGH-A	Reads hop and stays in athletic position through release Backhand & forehand reads on routine balls Knows situations: where to throw with runners on	Short-hop barehand series, decision-making fungo (situational).	☐
DOUBLE-A	Average to plus range at position Turns routine 6-4-3 / 4-6-3 with footwork < 1.0 sec Charges slow rollers, throws on the run	Full-speed fungo, double-play turn drill, communication reps.	☐
TRIPLE-A	Plus range to glove and arm side Fields backhand on the run, makes throw on a line Communicates rotations & bunt coverage clearly	Lateral-range drill, glove-side run-throwing, comm chart practice.	☐
MAJOR LEAGUE	Top-tier defender at position (varsity SS / 3B level) Makes the spectacular play look routine Holds runners with strong arm + quick release	Reaction-ball drills, multi-step DP turns, video of best MLB peer.	☐
ALL-STAR	Recruitable defender — elite range, hands, arm Plus instincts: positions self pre-pitch correctly Defines the team's defensive identity	Year-round elite defensive maintenance, scouting integration.	☐

HOW TO USE THIS RUBRIC

Evaluate the player against every level's criteria, lowest first.
Assign the highest level where they meet ALL criteria.
The next level's criteria become this season's focus.
Re-evaluate at mid-season & end-of-season checkpoints.

TYPICAL LEVEL BY AGE

4-6 (T-Ball)	Single-A → Double-A
7-8 (Coach Pitch)	Double-A → Triple-A
9-10 (Kid Pitch)	Triple-A → Major League
11-12 (Little League)	Low-A → Double-A
13-14 (Travel)	Double-A → Triple-A
15-16 (JV)	Triple-A → Major League
17-18 (Varsity)	Major League → All-Star
College / Elite	All-Star