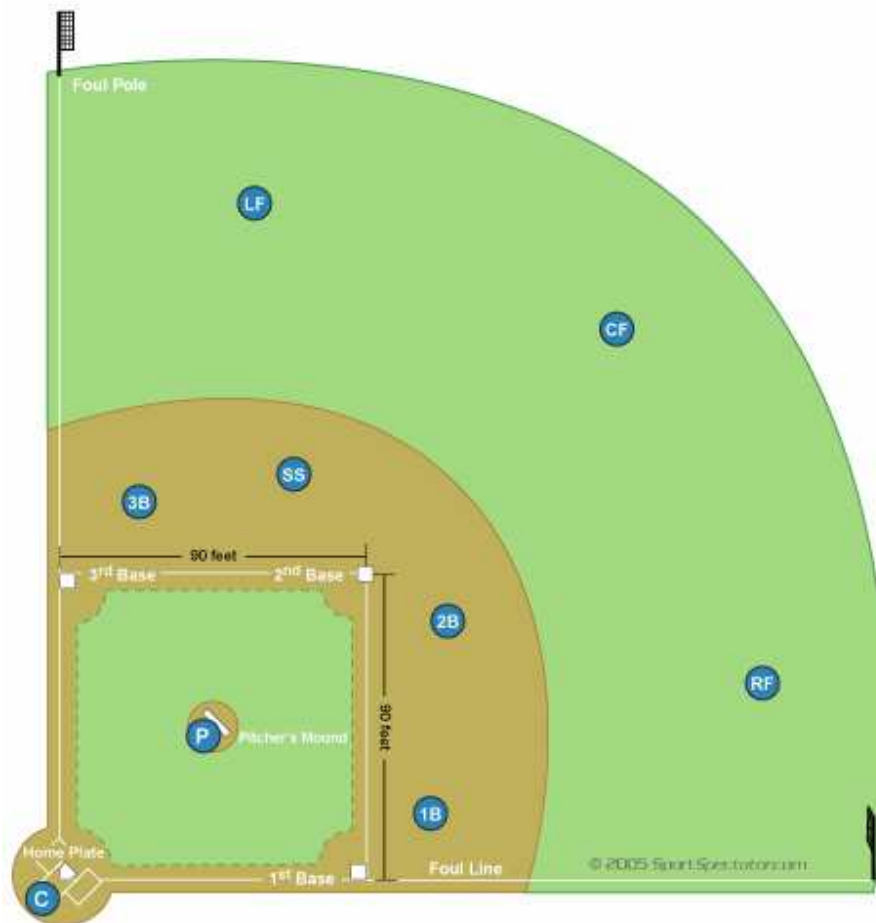


DEFENSIVE POSITIONS

At the TEEBALL level, coaches should be actively teaching players about all aspects of the game. A good part of that is defensive positions. Ultimately, we need to be able to have the players understand where each position is, and what the duties are of that position. Each position is unique, and the sooner we can start to teach our players, the more interesting the game becomes.



Bases: A baseball “diamond” consists of four bases placed in a square. The bases are 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, and home plate.

Infield: The area around the four bases, the surface of which is generally grass and packed dirt.

Outfield: The grassy area beyond the infield.

Foul Lines: Two lines (first and third base line) that distinguish fair territory from foul territory. A ball that hits the foul line is called fair.

Foul Poles: Poles stationed at the end of each foul line to distinguish fair territory from foul territory for balls hit over the outfield fence. A ball that hits the foul pole is a [home run](#).

Pitcher's Mound: The raised area in the middle of the diamond from which the pitcher throws the ball.

Batter's box: Box marked with chalk near home plate that a batter must stay within while batting.

Positions

Two teams compete in each baseball game. Nine players man the field, while nine batters hit in a predetermined order for each team, known as the “batting order” or “lineup.” The players who have defensive positions, often called “fielders,” are the same ones that bat during the other half of the inning. The nine defensive positions can be grouped into two general categories: infielders and outfielders.

Infielders

P **Pitcher:** Pitches the ball from the pitcher's mound to the catcher.

C **Catcher:** Crouches behind home plate and receives pitches thrown by the pitcher. Also receives throws from fielders attempting to make outs at home plate.

1B **First Baseman:** “Fields,” or defends, balls hit near the 1st base line. Receives throws from fielders attempting to make outs at 1st base.

2B **Second Baseman:** Fields balls hit near 2nd base. Receives throws from fielders attempting to make outs at 2nd base. Often involved in a **double-play**.

3B **Third Baseman:** Fields balls hit near the 3rd base line. Receives throws from other fielders attempting to make outs at 3rd base.

SS **Shortstop:** Fields balls hit between the second baseman and third baseman. Covers 2nd base when the ball is hit to the second baseman.

Outfielders

Three outfielders — left fielder, center fielder and right fielder — attempt to catch balls hit into their portion of the outfield. Balls hit to the outfield are generally ground balls or fly balls hit past the infield.