

## What are Scouts Looking For? (Infielders)

Infielders with intentions of playing at the next level should be aware of what scouts and college coaches are looking for in recruits. Armed with this inside knowledge, serious players can work to improve specific aspects of their game in order to impress those watching.

Baseball Factory's scouts look at over 2,000 players each year and evaluate them based on criteria similar to that used by college coaches and professional scouts.

Position players are graded on the following five tools.

### Tool

**Hitting** - Approach to hitting (load, stride, lower body action, bat path), balance, quality of contact, consistency of contact, hand speed, bat speed, hand-eye coordination

**Power** - How far the player can hit the ball, action of the ball off bat, type of swing, speed of bat through the zone, strength in body that is translated to ball at contact

**Fielding** - Ability to use feet, ability to use hands, range, ability to control body, fielding position, approach to ball, pace of play

**Throwing** - First 10 feet of throw out of hand (Velocity), last 10 feet of throw into target, arm angle at release, arm action, speed of arm through release, amount of effort exerted during throwing motion, amount of time taken to release of throw

**Running** - General/overall speed (60 yards), baseball/usable speed (Home to 1B)

Baseball Factory's professionals have ranked the above tools in order of importance according to position:

**1B** 1. Hitting 2. Power 3. Fielding 4. Throwing 5. Running

**2B** 1. Fielding 2. Hitting 3. Running 4. Throwing 5. Power

**SS** 1. Fielding 2. Throwing 3. Running 4. Hitting 5. Power

**3B** 1. Hitting 2. Fielding 3. Power 4. Throwing 5. Running

According to Baseball Factory's Director of Scouting, Andy Ferguson, college coaches and professional scouts look for in infielders:

**1. Ability to use hands/glove** - play on ball, exchange from glove into throwing hand

**2. Ability to move feet** - athletic ability/agility, overall quickness, life in steps

**3. Arm strength** - speed of the ball out of hand, action of throw into target and ability to make throws off balance and on the run 4. Footwork/body control - understanding of routes and body position on variety of plays

The most common faults among young infielders include:

**1. Playing flat-footed or on heels/stationary feet.** Successful infielders are able to keep their feet moving, stay on the balls of their feet and maintain an athletic position.

**2. Deep and defensive play on ball - glove under body lets ball get in on body.** Infielders must be aggressive with hands and use the glove. They should also make a play on the ball instead of reacting to what the ball does.

**3. Exchange/Release with too much wasted motion.** The game speeds up as you move up levels. Get rid of the ball quickly - no one can outrun a thrown ball so get it on the way quickly.

High school athletes should take a proactive role in making themselves a better player. Extra practice outside of the high school, summer and fall ball seasons will separate the serious players from the pack. Hard work will be duly noted by on looking scouts and college coaches.

**For more information on scouting or other related topics, please send emails to [newsletter@baseballfactory.com](mailto:newsletter@baseballfactory.com) or to speak with a Baseball Factory Representative call 800.641.4487.**