

8U Workout Plan

Revised 10/3/2020

SANITIZE HANDS BEFORE STARTING

0:00 Warmup: To prepare the body for softball movements

Stationary:

1. Cat Stretch 3 reps/T-Spine 3 reps each side/Hip Raises 3 reps

Movement:

2. Knee Huggers/Bear Crawl/Monster Kicks/Skips (**eliminate if time does not allow**)

0:10 Arm Care

Arm Care: grab two balls

1. Pronation Swings 5/Cuban Press 5/Two Arm Throws 5
2. 5 Staggered reverse pivots behind head (15ft)
3. 5 Staggered pull apart (15ft)

0:20 Throwing and receiving: Throwing tasks designed to develop healthy throwing patterns for arm care and movement efficiency. To pick up target visually and move appropriately to hit target. Receiving tasks are design for player to pick up release points of thrower or batted ball to perceive speed and direction of the ball in order to secure ball and transfer into a throw.

Tasks: To acquire target visually and hit the target with different footwork at various distance (moving to throw). Receivers want to get gloveside palm behind the ball.

Equipment set up: 4 Buckets of age and development appropriate balls, 4 catch net with target, cones for distance markers, fungo bat

1. **THROW:** 5 MLB pitcher (25ft)
 - a. **RECEIVING:** No receiving on this one
2. **THROW:** 5 Reverse kneel, face away, find target, stand replace throw into net, (25ft)
 - a. **RECEIVING:** Secure ball any way they can with foot on cone (base). Overhand feed from volunteer sitting on bucket or knee
3. **THROW:** 4 Shuffle Step ball in glove/Force Play receiving (one hand) (30ft)
 - a. **RECEIVING:** Force Play receiving (one hand, catch over glove side toe) w/ Overhand feed from volunteer sitting on bucket or knee
4. **THROW:** 4 Shuffle Step ball on the ground, bare hand (30ft)
 - a. **RECEIVING:** Force Play receiving (one hand, catch over glove side toe) w/ Overhand feed from volunteer sitting on bucket or knee
5. **RECEIVE AND THROW:** 4 Quick transfer receiving (two hands, receive middle of body) throw to net (25ft)
 - a. Underhand feed from volunteer sitting on bucket
6. **RECEIVE AND THROW:** 4 Relay receiving (player back to target, catch glove side, throw into net (35ft)
 - a. Overhand feed from volunteer sitting on bucket

HARD STOP: Sanitize Hands

0:30 2 groups on infield/2 groups in OF

1. Groundball receiving w/counting the hops out loud (no throws)
 - a. 5 balls right at
 - b. 5 balls barehand
 - c. 5 balls glove side
2. Groundball receiving w/counting the hops out loud (no throw) (**IF TIME**)
 - a. 10 balls mix direction/ mix bunts (watch top hand)

3. Flyball receiving w/ counting time ball in air (no throw)
 - a. 5 balls short distance (25ft)
 - b. 5 balls medium distance (35ft)
 - c. 5 balls longer distance (40 ft)

0:35 Swap IF and OF groups – Repeat same as above

0:40 HARD STOP: Sanitize Hands

0:43 Hitting: Purpose: To develop players internal visual cueing for perception of speed and direction of pitched ball. To provide intent to their swing, i.e. hit ball over the screen. A player's perception and intent will allow them to provide the movement necessary to accomplish task.

Tasks: Depending on age and ability level we ultimately want them to hit ball hard on a line head high or over front toss net. This can occur over any infielder's head depending on the location of the pitched ball. For inexperienced players we want make any type contact while swinging fast as they can into fair territory. Contact ability is the main focus, if consistent contact then impact quality (how hard and far) should be focus.

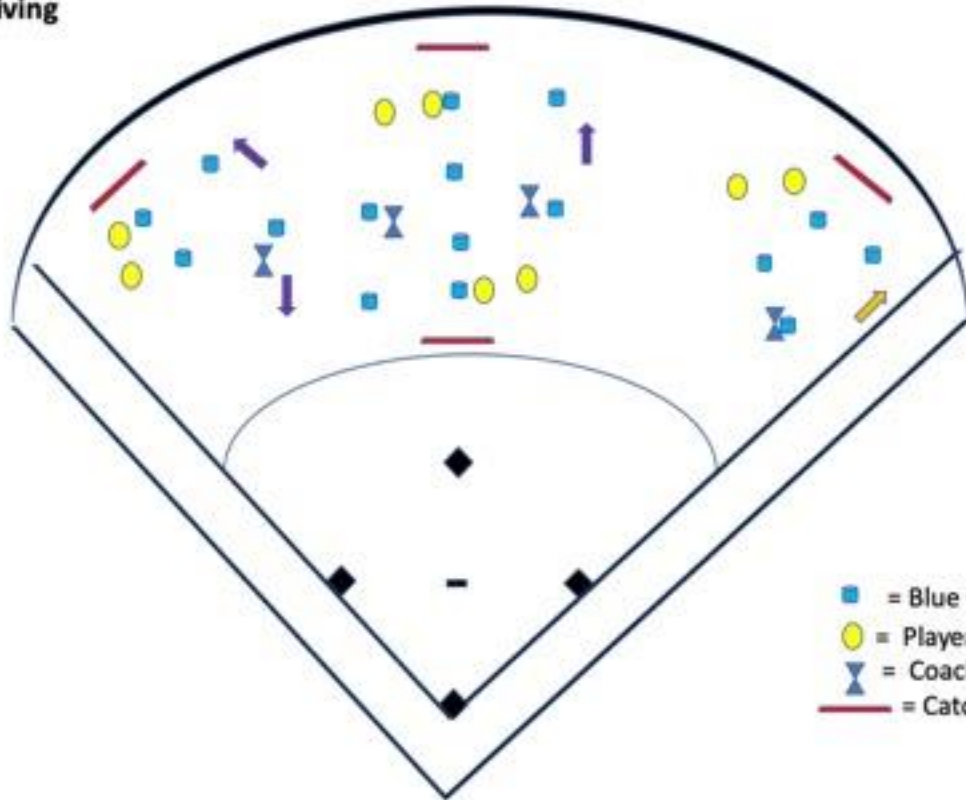
Equipment set up: 4 Buckets of TCB whiffle balls, 4 front toss screens, 4 catch nets for backstop, 4 throw down home plates, 4 buckets for tosser to sit on, Cones set up at where infielders would be for visual targets

1. 5 outside pitches (coach toss from bucket)
2. 5 inside pitches (coach toss from bucket)
3. 5 high pitches (coach toss from bucket)
4. 5 low pitches (coach toss from bucket)
5. 5 slow pitches (lob) (coach toss from bucket)
6. If time 5 mixed speed and locations

1:00 END HARD STOP: Sanitize Hands grab gear and exit 3rd base side

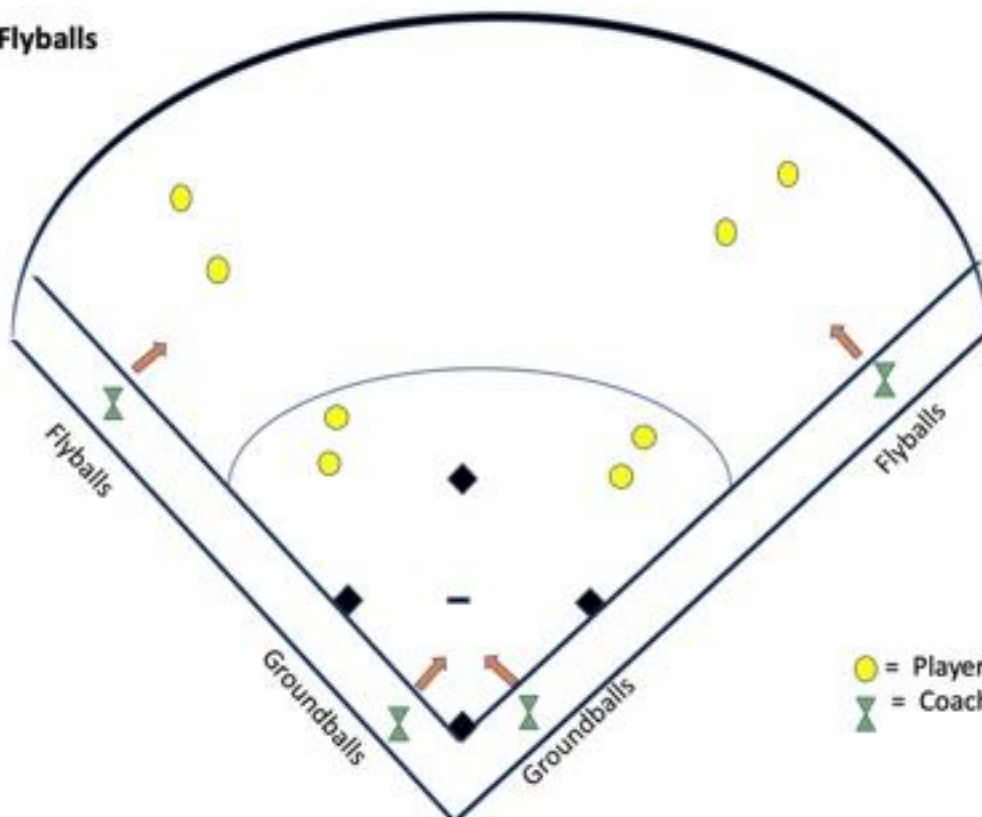
***REMINDER:** We are here to give them experience working towards completing a task. We are here to facilitate the environment for growth through task rich environment. Task failure gives them a chance to grow OVER TIME. IF they can complete the tasks GREAT! Celebrate and reinforce the PROCESS, not the task completion. We will be developing players with a growth mindset instead of a fixed mindset! Let the environment and tasks be their guide to figure out movement solutions. Remember perception drives movement! No point to give mechanical cues when the problem may be perception, they may not have information to move appropriately. When in doubt give visual cues, this will help them toward movement autonomy!

Throwing & Receiving



- = Blue Cone
- = Player
- ⌘ = Coach
- = Catch net screen

Groundballs & Flyballs



- = Player
- ⌘ = Coach

HITTING

