

Tagging

Apart from the 'force play' another method of putting a baserunner out is to **'tag'** the runner. This technique involves a fielder 'tagging' the runner with the ball, whether it be in the bare hand or held securely in the glove, whilst the runner is **between** bases and therefore liable to be 'put out'. It is important for developing players to learn the correct and safe technique for tagging runners between the bases and at the base.

The following are great examples of a bent leg slide and the catcher making a tag during a game.

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Making the tag play

In most cases a tag should be made with two hands in order to keep the ball secure in the pocket, the glove closed tightly and the throwing hand placed over the top of the glove. If the play is going to be close then the player can take the throwing hand off the glove and tag one handed as this is a quicker motion (although the ball may be less secure).

Tagging at the base

If the 'tag' is to be applied to a runner coming into a base, the fielder should:

- 1 Go directly to the base in enough time to wait for the throw
- 2 Assume a position slightly off the base (whether to the infield or outfield side of the base) so as to not obstruct the play, with knees bent, glove ready and eyes on the incoming throw
- 3 Catch the thrown ball in the glove; assist with the free hand coming over the top of the glove
- 4 Bend the knees deeply and sweep both hands downward in the direction of the base

- 5 'Tag' the part of the runner's body most advanced toward the base.

The glove and ball should be brought up immediately after the tag so the ball will not be knocked loose and the fielder can look for another play if needed.



In this tag the player has used a sweeping motion in order to demonstrate the tagging action and make a subsequent play.

Tagging between bases

The process of 'tagging' a baserunner between bases is as follows:

- 1 In all but extreme cases, the ball should be securely held in the glove by both hands (one hand may be used only when the fielder is unable to get close to the baserunner and needs to reach out in order to 'tag' the baserunner).



- 2 The fielder, whilst holding the ball, should stand slightly to the side of the base path and the oncoming runner. As the runner approaches, the fielder should assume a position that will enable them to tag the runner with both hands, knees flexed and hands together over the ball slightly away from the body.



- 3 The fielder should apply the 'tag', with both hands, to the body of the baserunner. The glove and ball should be brought up immediately after the tag so the ball will not be knocked loose and the fielder can look for another play if needed.



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- 4 If the fielder is still some distance from the baserunner, they should tag with one hand as this method is quicker although less secure.

