

Infield Fly

# Infield Fly definition

**INFIELD FLY:** A fair fly ball, not including a line drive or an attempted bunt, which can be caught by an infielder, pitcher or catcher with ordinary effort when first and second or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two outs.

Definitions USA Softball (2025)

# Infield Fly purpose

What is the purpose of the infield fly and how do we judge an infield fly.

The purpose is to **PROTECT** the offense. It prevents the defense getting a “cheap” double play because the runners have to wait for the ball to be touched to leave the base.

We judge a infield fly when it reaches it highest point and an infielder can “with normal effort” make a catch.

When is an Infield fly not an infield fly

We do **NOT** look up at the ball. We look at the fielders.

For example:

- a. The 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman backs up a few steps to the edge of the grass and camps under the ball. Yes, this is an infield fly.
- b. The shortstop is running hard with her back to the infield into left field. Probably not since they are not using normal effort.
- c. If the outfielder is charging in and calls off the infielder, it can still be an infield fly.

## Mechanic for Infield Fly

When either the plate or base umpire recognize an infield fly, the umpire will use their right arm and point up with their index finger and “loudly” announce “infield fly” for the fielder closest to them.

The batter is out. The ball is live.

**DO NOT CALL TIME.** Even though the batter is out, there can be interference. Why? The ball is live and runners can be put out.

Can we make a mistake when announcing an infield fly. Sure we can. Should we make a mistake? **NO**

Can we fix this mistake? **Yes.**

How? If we recognize there is a mistake we need to fix it then. We can wave off the call by loudly saying....”No, No infield fly”.

If the defense still thinks there is an infield fly, you “fix” the mistake by calling time. Place the batter-runner at 1<sup>st</sup> and all runners return unless forced. Be prepared for some “chipping from the players.