

Base Running Tag up Styles and Situations



1. **Regular Tag Up.** The base runner should know the situation on when to tag up. This depends on the score, the inning, the number of outs, the wind, the outfielder's arm strength, depth of the baseball, etc.
2. **Tagging Up at 3rd Base.** The 3rd base coach should let the base runner know if he wants him to tag from 3rd base, but he should let the base runner break to home plate when the base runner sees the baseball being caught. Some coaches have the base runner brake to home plate when the coach says "go." This method many times makes the base runner leave early. With the fly ball hit down the left field line or corner the base runner should have his right foot on the base, so he doesn't have to look across this body. On all other fly balls the left foot should be the push off foot. This also keeps the hips lined up to home plate.
3. **Tagging up at 2nd Base.** The base runner really needs to decide to tag up at 2nd base, as it's more effective than having a coach yell to the base runner to advance. Again, the base runner needs to know the game's situation and if there is a runner on 3rd base he needs to make sure he's tagging to home plate. This would be called a tag and read situation.
4. **Tagging up at 1st Base.** This should be done on deep, but routine, fly balls. The base runner needs to have some speed as well. They can always tag and read the throw. Another time a base runner on 1st base needs to tag up is on routine fly balls with runners on 1st and 3rd base and the outfielder makes a high or lazy throw to home plate.
5. **Fake Tag Up.** If the base runner is not going to tag up he should fake tag up to at least draw a throw from the outfield. Many times an over throw will happen, allowing base runners to advance bases.
6. **Tag Up and Read.** Trail base runner should tag up about half speed and read where the outfielder's throw is going. If the throw is not to the base they are advancing to or a high overthrow is made, they should advance to the next base. They need to make sure the base runner in front of them, if there are any, also advances.
7. **No Tag Up.** There are certain situation when tagging up is not recommended. When a team is trailing by a lot of runs, when it's late in the game and the team is losing by a few runs or when the scouting report says an outfield has a great arm they shouldn't tag up.
8. **Deep Fly Ball Tag Up.** With base runners on base and a high fly ball that is a potential homerun or warning track fly ball the base runner should look to tag up. This shouldn't be done on a line drive potential homerun. The general rule is when a base runner sees the outfielder's back he should be moving to the next base and when he sees his chest he should be looking to tag up.
9. **Double Tag Up.** In a deep ball park with the wind blowing out and a ball hit to the warning track in the center field area a base runner on 2nd base with some speed should be thing about tagging from 2nd base to home plate. The 3rd base coach would make the decision on sending him. With a strong wind it will be more difficult to make good strong throws. If the cut off player mishandles the throw or is lazily catching the throw the coach can send the speedy runner. This is a great momentum builder.
10. **Tagging Up During BP.** The base runners on each base should work on tagging up at each base on deep fly balls hit during batting practice.