

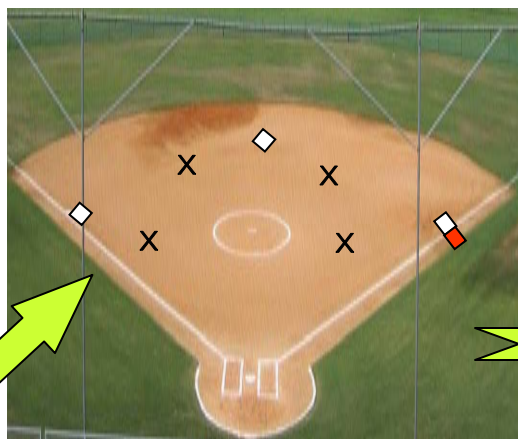
CHANGING YOUR SLAP FOR THE INFIELD

Instead of teaching your left handed hitting slappers to learn the standard chopping slap and then to learn to swing away from their slapping motion, it might be easier to think of having the same swing on all slaps, but to simple change angles of the swing based on the position of the defense.

Let's take a look and see what I mean....



Your slapper stands in the box in her normal stance, and looks to see how deep the infield is playing her...

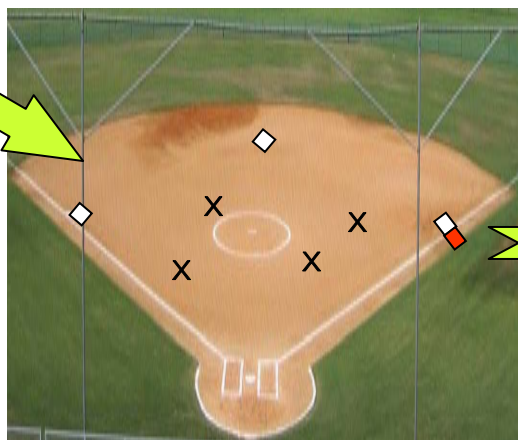


If the defense is back, or in a regular slap defense, then...



...the slapper ANGLES her slap DOWN to make the ball bounce high and give her more time to get closer to 1st base before the defense can get to the ball.

...if the defense is pulled in close thinking the batter can only slap or bunt, then...



...the slapper then ANGLES her swing STRAIGHT at the ball hitting the ball hard and OUT through the infield.



PRACTICING TO CHANGE THE ANGLE ON A SLAP:

Both swing angles should first be practiced off of a batting T – you can eventually add a few infielders (who are either UP or BACK) – before she tries it against live pitching or in a game.

A PRACTICE PROGRESSION:

1) The Batting T: place a ball on a batting T and practice 5 swings with a DOWN angle, and 5 swings with an OUT angle. Rotate with another slapper every 10 swings and repeat for 50 swings. Try and make the ball BOUNCE as high as possible on the DOWN angled swings.

2) The Batting T with some infielders: place a ball on a batting T and practice hitting the DOWN angle and the OUT angle, but this time base your swing angle on whether the infielders are playing close up (OUT angle) or farther back (DOWN angle). Have the infielders change their positioning at random. Also, have the batter call the infield position out loud at first so you know if they're reading it correctly.

3) Front Toss: Tosser stands in front of the hitter and behind a net – about 10-15 feet from the hitter – and tosses pitches to the slapper. The slapper works on hitting 5 balls DOWN and then 5 balls OUT. Rotate with another slapper for 10 swings and repeat for 50 swings

4) Slapping off Pitching: Tosser stands in front of the hitter and behind a net – about 10-15 feet from the hitter – and tosses pitches to the slapper. The slapper works on hitting 5 balls DOWN and then 5 balls OUT. Rotate with another slapper for 10 swings and repeat for 50 swings.



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