



***THE DP/FLEX
RULE FOR USA
AND NFHS
SOFTBALL***



The DP/FLEX RULE

- DP rule replaces DH rule.
- But.....



THE DP/FLEX RULE

- With the **DP** rule you can do everything you did with the **DH** rule plus a whole lot more!
- The **DP** position is never terminated



BEGINNING THE GAME

- A **DP** does not have to be used.
- If used it must be noted on the starting lineup.
- A team using the **DP** starts the game with 10, but can play or end with 9 or 10.



THE LINEUP CARD

- The DP is an offensive player and must be listed in one of the nine batting positions
- The name of player for whom the DP is batting (FLEX) must be placed in 10th position in lineup

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	HARRIS		6
		SUB.		
17	2	ABLE		4
		SUB.		
20	3	THOMAS		8
		SUB.		
24	4	JONES		7
		SUB.		
15	5	ALEXANDER		3
		SUB.		
22	6	MOORE		2
		SUB.		
25	7	COOPER		DP
		SUB.		
7	8	MORRIS		5
		SUB.		
3	9	RODGERS		9
		SUB.		
18	10	BROWN (FLEX)		1
		SUB.		
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		HOWELL		
4		BAKER		
6		SMITH		
55		GREEN		



THE LINEUP CARD

- A starting DP may re-enter one time but must return to the original position in the batting order.
- A starting FLEX may re-enter one time but must return to the 10th position on the lineup card.



SUBSTITUTING FOR THE DP

- The DP may be replaced by:
 - Substitute hitter or runner
 - FLEX
- In all cases, the DP has left the game, with one re-entry permitted.



SUBSTITUTE HITTER OR RUNNER FOR THE DP

- Baker runs for Cooper
- Cooper (DP) has left the game and has a re-entry remaining
- Baker is now the DP

NO.	PLAYER	RE	POS.
19 1	HARRIS		6
	SUB.		
17 2	ABLE		4
	SUB.		
20 3	THOMAS		8
	SUB.		
24 4	JONES		7
	SUB.		
15 5	ALEXANDER		3
	SUB.		
22 6	MOORE		2
	SUB.		
25 7	COOPER		DP
4	BAKER		
	SUB.		
7 8	MORRIS		5
	SUB.		
3 9	RODGERS		9
	SUB.		
18 10	BROWN (FLEX)		1
	SUB.		
NO.	SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10	HOWELL		
4	BAKER		
6	SMITH		
55	GREEN		



THE FLEX MAY PLAY OFFENSE FOR THE DP

- If the FLEX bats or runs for the DP, the DP leaves the game
- The FLEX (Brown) is now batting in the 7th position
- Lineup down to 9

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	HARRIS		6
		SUB.		
17	2	ABLE		4
		SUB.		
20	3	THOMAS		8
		SUB.		
24	4	JONES		7
		SUB.		
15	5	ALEXANDER		3
		SUB.		
22	6	MOORE		2
		SUB.		
25	7	COOPER		DP
		SUB.		
7	8	MORRIS		5
		SUB.		
3	9	RODGERS		9
		SUB.		
18	10	BROWN (FLEX)		1
		SUB.		
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		HOWELL		
4		BAKER		
6		SMITH		
55		GREEN		



THE DP RE-ENTERS

- The DP (Cooper) re-enters to bat or run
- The FLEX (Brown):
 - Returns to #10 position
 - Plays defense only
 - Has never left the game

NO.	PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1 HARRIS		6
	SUB.		
17	2 ABLE		4
	SUB.		
20	3 THOMAS		8
	SUB.		
24	4 JONES		7
	SUB.		
15	5 ALEXANDER		3
	SUB.		
22	6 MOORE		2
	SUB.		
25	7 COOPER		DP
	SUB.		
7	8 MORRIS		5
	SUB.		
3	9 RODGERS		9
	SUB.		
18	10 BROWN (FLEX)		1
	SUB.		
NO.	SUBSTITUTES	POS.	
10	HOWELL		
4	BAKER		
6	SMITH		
55	GREEN		



THE DP MAY PLAY DEFENSE

- The DP may play defense for the FLEX
- The DP may play defense for any player in the top nine positions of the batting order



THE DP MAY PLAY DEFENSE FOR THE FLEX

- Cooper goes in to pitch
- Brown has left the game
- Lineup down to 9
- Brown may re-enter

NO.	PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1 HARRIS		6
	SUB.		
17	2 ABLE		4
	SUB.		
20	3 THOMAS		8
	SUB.		
24	4 JONES		7
	SUB.		
15	5 ALEXANDER		3
	SUB.		
22	6 MOORE		2
	SUB.		
25	7 COOPER		DRI
	SUB.		
7	8 MORRIS		5
	SUB.		
3	9 RODGERS		9
	SUB.		
18	10 BROWN (FLEX)		+
	SUB.		
NO.	SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10	HOWELL		
4	BAKER		
6	SMITH		
55	GREEN		



THE DP MAY PLAY DEFENSE

- If the DP plays defense for a player other than the FLEX, that player still bats and has not left the game



THE DP MAY PLAY DEFENSE

for another player

- Cooper plays second base and still bats 7th
- Able no longer plays defense but still bats 2nd
- Able has not left the game

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	HARRIS		6
		SUB.		
17	2	ABLE		X
		SUB.		
20	3	THOMAS		8
		SUB.		
24	4	JONES		7
		SUB.		
15	5	ALEXANDER		3
		SUB.		
22	6	MOORE		2
		SUB.		
25	7	COOPER		DP-4
		SUB.		
7	8	MORRIS		5
		SUB.		
3	9	RODGERS		9
		SUB.		
18	10	BROWN (FLEX)		1
		SUB.		
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		HOWELL		
4		BAKER		
6		SMITH		
55		GREEN		



ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTION

- You CANNOT:
- Place the FLEX player into the first nine positions for someone other than the DP...
- Results in an illegal substitution.



KEY POINTS

- The role of the DP/FLEX is never terminated.
- A team may go from 10 to nine players and back to 10 players any number of times during the game.
- The game may end with 10 or nine players.



EASY REMINDERS

- The DP **can never** be on defense only.
- The FLEX player **can never** be on offense only.
- The DP and the FLEX **can never** be on offense at the same time.



EASY REMINDERS

- The DP and the FLEX **can** play defense at the same time.



NFHS DP/FLEX RULE



***SAMPLE
EXERCISES***



SAMPLE LINEUP CARD

- All samples will use this card and progress through a series of substitutions

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	HARRIS		6
		SUB.		
17	2	ABLE		4
		SUB.		
20	3	THOMAS		8
		SUB.		
24	4	JONES		DP
		SUB.		
15	5	ALEXANDER		3
		SUB.		
22	6	MOORE		2
		SUB.		
25	7	COOPER		7
		SUB.		
7	8	MORRIS		5
		SUB.		
3	9	RODGERS		1
		SUB.		
18	10	GREEN (FLEX)		9
		SUB.		
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		HOWELL		
4		BAKER		
6		SMITH		
55		BROWN		



SAMPLE EXERCISE #1

- “Jones” (DP) bats and gets on base safely
- The offensive coach asks for time for a change
- “Green will run for Jones”



SAMPLE EXCERCISE #1

- Green (FLEX) running for Jones (DP)

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	HARRIS		6
		SUB.		
17	2	ABLE		4
		SUB.		
20	3	THOMAS		8
		SUB.		
24	4	JONES		DP
		SUB.		
15	5	ALEXANDER		3
		SUB.		
22	6	MOORE		2
		SUB.		
25	7	COOPER		7
		SUB.		
7	8	MORRIS		5
		SUB.		
3	9	RODGERS		1
		SUB.		
18	10	GREEN (FLEX)		9
		SUB.		
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		HOWELL		
4		BAKER		
6		SMITH		
55		BROWN		



SAMPLE EXERCISE #1

- Note –
- Jones has left the game



SAMPLE EXCERCISE #2

- Two innings later, Green singles to left
- The offensive coach asks for time to make a change
- "Smith in to run as the DP and Green will still be playing right field" (now playing with 10)



SAMPLE EXCERCISE #2

- Smith (sub)
(now the DP)
running for
Green (FLEX)
- Green remains
in game playing
right field -
defense only

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	HARRIS		6
		SUB.		
17	2	ABLE		4
		SUB.		
20	3	THOMAS		8
		SUB.		
24	4	JONES		DP
6	SUB.	SMITH		DP
15	5	ALEXANDER		3
		SUB.		
22	6	MOORE		2
		SUB.		
25	7	COOPER		7
		SUB.		
7	8	MORRIS		5
		SUB.		
3	9	RODGERS		1
		SUB.		
18	10	GREEN (FLEX)		9
		SUB.		
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		HOWELL		
4		BAKER		
6		SMITH		
55		BROWN		



SAMPLE EXERCISE #2

- Note –
- Smith enters the game for the first time and is the new DP
- Green (FLEX) has NOT left the game – back to defense only



SAMPLE EXCERCISE #3

- In the 4th inning, the offensive coach asks for time to make another change
- “Jones to re-enter and bat for Smith”



SAMPLE EXCERCISE #3

- Jones (DP) re-enters for Smith

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	HARRIS		6
		SUB.		
17	2	ABLE		4
		SUB.		
20	3	THOMAS		8
		SUB.		
24	4	JONES		DP
6	SUB.	SMITH		DP
15	5	ALEXANDER		3
		SUB.		
22	6	MOORE		2
		SUB.		
25	7	COOPER		7
		SUB.		
7	8	MORRIS		5
		SUB.		
3	9	RODGERS		1
		SUB.		
18	10	GREEN (FLEX)		9
		SUB.		
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		HOWELL		
4		BAKER		
6		SMITH		
55		BROWN		



SAMPLE EXERCISE #3

- Note –
- Jones has used her re-entry
- Smith has left the game and has a re-entry remaining



SAMPLE EXCERCISE #4

- In the next half inning, the defensive coach asks for time to make another change
- “Jones (DP) will play defense in center field for Thomas”



SAMPLE EXCERCISE #4

- Jones (DP) to play defense in center field for Thomas

NO.	PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1 HARRIS		6
	SUB.		
17	2 ABLE		4
	SUB.		
20	3 THOMAS		8
	SUB.		
24	4 JONES		DP-8
6	SUB. SMITH		DP
15	5 ALEXANDER		3
	SUB.		
22	6 MOORE		2
	SUB.		
25	7 COOPER		7
	SUB.		
7	8 MORRIS		5
	SUB.		
3	9 RODGERS		1
	SUB.		
18	10 GREEN (FLEX)		9
	SUB.		
NO.	SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10	HOWELL		
4	BAKER		
6	SMITH		
55	BROWN		



SAMPLE EXERCISE #4

- Note –
- Jones the DP is now playing offense and defense
- Thomas still bats in the 3rd position in the lineup and is playing offense only



SAMPLE EXCERCISE #5

- An inning later, the defensive coach asks for time to make another change
- “Jones will move to right field and play defense for Green; Thomas will go back to center field.”



SAMPLE EXCERCISE #5

- Jones (DP) to play defense in right field for Green (FLEX)

Thomas goes back to center field

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	HARRIS		6
	SUB.			
17	2	ABLE		4
	SUB.			
20	3	THOMAS		8 &
	SUB.			
24	4	JONES		DF 8 9
6	SUB.	SMITH		DP
15	5	ALEXANDER		3
	SUB.			
22	6	MOORE		2
	SUB.			
25	7	COOPER		7
	SUB.			
7	8	MORRIS		5
	SUB.			
3	9	RODGERS		1
	SUB.			
18	10	GREEN (FLEX)		9
	SUB.			
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		HOWELL		
4		BAKER		
6		SMITH		
55		BROWN		



SAMPLE EXERCISE #5

- Note –
- Jones (DP) is still playing offense and defense
- Green (FLEX) has left the game since she is not playing defense (still has a re-entry remaining)



DP/FLEX RULE



QUESTIONS?