



# 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 10<sup>th</sup> position in lineup

	DI AVED	Inc.	noc
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
200000	SUB.		500 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000
7	8 MORRIS		5
	SUB.		76
3	9 RODGERS		9
	SUB.		
18	10 BROWN (FLEX)		1
	SUB.		
NO.	SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10	HOWELL	5	
4	BAKER		
6	SMITH		
55	GREEN		
			107



#### 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 10<sup>th</sup> position on the lineup card.



- 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
	sum.	
17	2 ABLE	4
	Sug.	
20	3 THOMAS	8
_20		°
	sun.	<del>-</del>
24	4 JONES	7
_	sue.	
15	5 ALEXANDER	3
	sue.	
22	6 MOORE	2
	sub.	
-25	7 COOPER	pp
4	sue. BAKER	
7	8 MORRIS	5
	SUB.	
3	9 RODGERS	9
	SUB.	
18	10 BROWN (FLEX)	1
	sue.	
NO.	SUBSTITUTES	POS.
10	HOWELL	
-4	BAKER-	
6	SMITH	
55	GREEN	
<u>'—</u> '		<u> </u>



#### 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 7<sup>th</sup> position
- Lineup down to 9

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1 /	HARRIS		6
	SUB.	, ,,,,,,		<u>ٽ</u>
17	_ T	ABLE		4
	 SUB.	12-00		
20		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	1	5
	SUB.			
3	9 F	RODGERS		9
	SUB.		T	
18	10	BROWN (FLEX)	1	1
	SUB.			
NO.	1101	SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10	HOW			
4	SMI	AKER		_
6 55	GRE			
	GKE	LIV	7	-
-	(			
_				



#### THE DP RE-ENTERS

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

NO.		PLAYER	RE	P08.
19	1	HARRIS	L	6
	sua.			
17	2	ABLE	П	4
	_		_	
-20	3	THOMAS		
_20	Н.	THOMAS	_	8
_	sue.		_	
24	4	JONES	Ш	7
	sua.			
15	5	ALEXANDER		3
	sue.			
22	6	MOORE	П	2
	SUB.	MOONE	_	
25	7	50005		-00
-25	Ħ	COOPER)		DP
	SUB.		1	
.7	8	MORRIS	1	5
	sum.		_	$\perp$
3	9	RODGERS	П	Ð
	sue.		T	1
18	10	BROWN (FLEX)		1
20	SUB.	ZPACOVAN II ZEDAN	_	
NO.	suB.	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

NQ.	PLAYER RE	POS.
19	1 HARRIS	6
	sus.	
17	2 ABLE	4
	SUB.	
2.0	3 THOMAS	8
	sus.	
24	4 JONES	7
	sus.	
15	5 ALEXANDER	3
	SUB.	
22	6 MOORE	2
	sus.	
25	7 COOPER	DRI
	sus.	
.7	8 MORRIS	5
	sus.	
3	9 RODGERS	9
	sus.	
-18	10 BROWN (FLEX)	1
	SUB.	
NO.	SUBSTITUTES	POS.
10	HOWELL	
4	BAKER	
6	SMITH	
55	GREEN	
I —		_

# 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 7<sup>th</sup>
- Able no longer plays defense but still bats 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Able has not left the game

NO.	PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1 HARRIS		6
	sus.		
17	2 ABLE		×
	SUB.		
20	3 THOMAS		8
	sus.		
24	4 JONES		7
	sua.		
15	5 ALEXANDER		3
	sus.		
22	6 MOORE		2
	SUB.		
25	7 COOPER		DP4
	sun.		
.7.	8 MORRIS		5
l_	SUB.		
3	9 RODGERS		9
	sun.		
18	10 BROWN (FLEX)		1
_	sus.		
MO. 10	SUBSTITUTES HOWELL		P08.
	BAKER	_	
4	SMITH	_	
55	GREEN	$\dashv$	
	OKELIV	$\dashv$	
-		$\dashv$	
_			



#### ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTION

- You <u>CANNOT</u>:
- 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

19   1	NO.	PL	AYER RE	POS.
17   2   ABLE   4   4	19	1 HARRI	S	6
SUB.   20 3   THOMAS   8   8		SUB.		
20   3   THOMAS   8   8   8   8   8   8   8   8   8	17	2 ABLE		4
SUB.   24 4   JONES   DP		SUB.		
24   4   JONES   DP	20	3 THOM	AS	8
SUB.		SUB.		
15   5   ALEXANDER   3   SUB.	24	4 JONE	S	DP
SUB.		SUB.		
22 6       MOORE       2         sub.       7         25 7       COOPER       7         sub.       5         sub.       1         sub.       1         sub.       9         sub.	15	5 ALEX	ANDER	3
SUB.		SUB.		
25   7   COOPER   7     7	22	6 MOOR	RE	2
SUB.		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	25	7 COOP	ER	7
SUB.   3   9   RODGERS   1		SUB.		
3 9 RODGERS 1 sub.  18 10 GREEN (FLEX) 9 sub.  NO. SUBSTITUTES POS. 10 HOWELL 4 BAKER 6 SMITH	7	8 MORE	RIS	5
SUB.		SUB.		
18       10       GREEN (FLEX)       9         sub.       NO.       SUBSTITUTES       POS.         10       HOWELL       4       BAKER       6         6       SMITH       SMITH       6	3	9 RODGE	RS	1
SUB.  NO. SUBSTITUTES POS.  10 HOWELL  4 BAKER  6 SMITH		SUB.		
NO. SUBSTITUTES POS.  10 HOWELL  4 BAKER  6 SMITH	18	10 GREE	N (FLEX)	9
10 HOWELL 4 BAKER 6 SMITH		SUB.		
4 BAKER 6 SMITH			TITUTES	POS.
6 SMITH				
	(/2 /2 /2 /2			
55 BROWN				
	55	BROWN		
	b <del></del>			
The state of the s				



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



Green(FLEX)running forJones (DP)

		DI AVED		
NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	HARRIS		6
	SUB.			
17	2	ABLE		4
	SUB.			
20	3	THOMAS		8
e 1	SUB.			
24	4	JONES		DP+
*********	SUB.	<b>k</b>		
15	5	ALEXANDER		3
	SUB.		\	
22	6	MOORE		2
	SUB.			
25	7	C00PER		7
	SUB.			
7	8	MORRIS	<u> </u>	5
	SUB.			
3	9	RODGERS		1
	SUB.			
18	10	GREEN (FLEX)		9
	SUB.			
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		HOWELL		
4		BAKER		
6		SMITH		
55		BROWN		



- Note –
- Jones has left the game



- 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)



- 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 >	1	DP
15	5	ALEXANDER	$oldsymbol{I}$	3
	SUB.		١ ١	
22	6	MOORE		2
	SUB.		1	1
25	7	C00PER		7
G	SUB.			
7	8	MORRIS	$\perp$	5
	SUB.			
3	9	RODGERS		1
	SUB.	/		.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
18	10	GREEN (FLEX)		9
	SUB.			
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		HOWELL		
4		BAKER		
6		SMITH		
55		BROWN		
_				



- 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



- In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the offensive coach asks for time to make another change
- "Jones to re-enter and bat for Smith"



Jones(DP) re-enters forSmith

			_
NO.	PLA	YER RE	POS.
19	1 HARRIS		6
	SUB.		
17	2 ABLE		4
	SUB.		
20	3 THOMA	15	8
	SUB.		
-24	4 CONES		DP
6	SUB. SMITH		DP
-	0.00	1	-
.15	3 ALEXA	ANDER \	3
	SUB.		
22	6 MOOR	E L	2
	SUB.		1
25	7 COOPE	R	7
9	SUB.		
.7	8 MORR	IS	5
	SUB.		
3	9 RODGET	RS	1
	SUB.	1.1	
18	10 GREEN	V (FLEX)	9
	SUB.		
NO.		TITUTES	POS.
10	HOWELL		
4	BAKER		
6	SMITH		
55	BROWN		
2			
7			, a)
E .			



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



- 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"



Jones(DP) to playdefense incenter fieldfor Thomas

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	HARRIS		6
	SUB.			
17	2	ABLE		4
	Н.	ADLL		
l —	3			
20	<b>3</b>	THOMAS		8
l —	sue.			I
-24	4	<del>CONES</del>	_	<b>D</b> ₽_8
	,	SMITH	$\overline{}$	DP
	SUB.		$\perp$	
15	5	ALEXANDER \	$oldsymbol{\perp}$	3
1	SUB.	,	١ ١	lΙ
22	6	MOORE	Τ	2
	SUB.			\
25	7	COOPER		7
	SUB.		Т	
7	8	MORRIS	T	5
	sua.		Γ	
3	9	RODGERS		1
	SUB.		7	
18	10	GREEN (FLEX)	۲	9
	SUB.			
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		HOWELL		
4		BAKER		
7		<del>SMITH</del>		-
55		BROWN		
		PROWIT		—
I—	<u> </u>			——
I —	_			I
$\equiv$				=



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



- 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."



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

Thomas goes back to center field

_	_				
	NO.	F	PLAYER	RE	POS.
П	19	1 HART			6
П		SUB.		_	
П	17	2 ABLE	=		4
П		sue.			
П	20		MAS		88
П		SUB.		_	
П	24	4 COA	-	DP	89
П	-24	CAA		_	DP
П	6	_		+	
П	15	- ALE	XANDER \	$\vdash$	3
П	_	SUB.		1	_
П	.22	6 MO	ORE	4	2
П	_	SUB.		$\perp$	1
П	25	7 COC	)PER	Щ	7
П	_	sue.		$\perp$	$\perp$
П	7	8 MO1	RRIS	$\perp$	5
П		sue.		L	
П	3	9 RODO	GERS		1
П		SUB.	1	7	
П	18	10 GRE	EN (FLEX)	¥	9
П		sue.			
П	NO. 10		BSTITUTES		POS.
П		HOWELL			
П	4	BAKET	₹		
П	-6	SMITH			
	<del>6</del> 55	BROWN			
	LŢ			=	=
_	_			_	



- 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?