

National Federation of State
High School Associations



NFHS SOFTBALL

DP/FLEX

Take Part. Get Set For Life.™

DP/FLEX RULE

3-3-6

- DP/FLEX Rule allows for more participation and flexibility in the game.
- Gives coaches an option:
 - not to use the DP/FLEX at all, or
 - use the DP/FLEX option to its fullest extent.



DP/FLEX RULE

3-3-6

- A DP does not have to be used.
- If used it must be noted on the starting lineup card.
- A team using the DP starts the game with 10, but could end with nine or 10.
- Practical application and sample exercises to follow.



THE LINEUP CARD

- The DP is the offensive player and must remain in same batting position for entire game.
- The name of player for whom the DP is batting (FLEX) will be placed in the No.10 position in lineup.



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

THE LINEUP CARD

- If replaced by a substitute, the DP position remains in the lineup.
- A starting or substitute DP may re-enter one time, as long as the DP returns to the original position in the batting order.



SUBSTITUTING FOR THE DP

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



SUBSTITUTING FOR THE DP

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

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



THE FLEX MAY PLAY OFFENSE

- If the FLEX bats or runs for the DP, the DP leaves the game
- The FLEX (Green) is now batting in the No. 7 position



Lineup down to nine

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



THE DP RE-ENTERS

- The DP (Cooper) re-enters to bat or run
- The FLEX (Green):
 - Returns to the No. 10 position
 - Plays defense only
 - Has never left the game

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



THE DP MAY PLAY DEFENSE FOR THE FLEX

- Cooper goes in to pitch
- Green has left the game
- Lineup down to nine
- Green may re-enter



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

THE DP MAY PLAY DEFENSE

- The DP may also play defense at any position.
- 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

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



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

ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTION

- The FLEX **may not** go into one of the first nine positions for someone other than the DP.
- An illegal substitution results.



KEY POINTS

- The role of the DP/FLEX is never terminated.
- A team may go from 10 to nine players and back to 10 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 **can never** be on offense only.
- The DP and the FLEX **can never** be on offense at the same time.
- The DP and the FLEX **can** play defense at the same time.





DP/FLEX RULE

SAMPLE EXERCISES



SAMPLE LINEUP CARD

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

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	B. HARRIS		6
		SUB.		
17	2	S. ABLE		4
		SUB.		
20	3	C. THOMAS		8
		SUB.		
24	4	D. JONES		DP
		SUB.		
15	5	R. ALEXANDER		3
		SUB.		
22	6	B. MOORE		2
		SUB.		
25	7	A. COOPER		7
		SUB.		
7	8	K. MORRIS		5
		SUB.		
3	9	E. RODGERS		1
		SUB.		
18	10	M. GREEN (FLEX)		9
		SUB.		
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		S. HOWELL		
4		B. BAKER		
6		C. SMITH		
55		D. 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 EXERCISE #1

Green
(FLEX)
running for
Jones (DP)

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



SAMPLE EXERCISE #1

Note –

- Jones has left the game.



SAMPLE EXERCISE #2

- Two innings later, Green singles to left.
- The offensive coach asks for time to make a change.
- "Smith running for Green and Green will still be playing right field."



SAMPLE EXERCISE #2

Smith (sub) running for Green (FLEX) is recorded as a sub for Jones and becomes the new DP

Green remains in the game playing right field only



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

SAMPLE EXERCISE #2

Note –

- Since Green will continue to play defense, Smith enters the game for the first time as the new DP.
- Since Green (FLEX) is still playing defense they have NOT left the game.



SAMPLE EXERCISE #3

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



SAMPLE EXERCISE #3

Jones (DP)
re-enters for
Smith

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



SAMPLE EXERCISE #3

Note –

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



SAMPLE EXERCISE #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 EXERCISE #4

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

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



SAMPLE EXERCISE #4

Note –

- Jones the DP is now playing offense and defense.
- Thomas still bats in the 3rd position in the lineup is playing offense only and has NOT left the game.



SAMPLE EXERCISE #5

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

Thomas goes
back to center
field

NO.		PLAYER	RE	POS.
19	1	B. HARRIS		6
		SUB.		
17	2	S. ABLE		4
		SUB.		
20	3	C. THOMAS		8
		SUB.		
24	4	<u>D. JONES</u>		9 DP
6		Smith		DP
15	5	R. ALEXANDER		3
		SUB.		
22	6	B. MOORE		2
		SUB.		
25	7	A. COOPER		7
		SUB.		
7	8	K. MORRIS		5
		SUB.		
3	9	E. RODGERS		1
		SUB.		
18	10	M. GREEN (FLEX)		9
		SUB.		
NO.		SUBSTITUTES		POS.
10		S. HOWELL		
4		B. BAKER		
6		C. SMITH		
55		D. 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).

