

## 2012 IACO SOFTBALL OFFICIALS CLASS

### Module 3

#### Lineups, Substitutions, and DP/Flex

### Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Introduction

- ▣ At the end of this Module, the student should be able to:
  - Know the basic concepts of substitution and re-entry
  - Understand the role of a courtesy runner and its implementation
  - Comprehend the roles of a Designated Player and Flex, and how to manipulate those roles throughout the course of a game
  - Properly maintain a lineup card

### Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Card

- ▣ DEFINITION:
  - Batting Order
    - The list of a team's active players which determines the order in which that team takes their turns at bat
    - The order of batters can never be changed

### Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Card

- ▣ DEFINITION:
  - Defensive Position
    - A player's defensive designation which relates to their relative location on the field and their duties while on defense
    - A team **MUST ALWAYS** have a Pitcher and a Catcher while on defense

### Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Card

- ▣ DEFINITION:
  - Starter
    - One of 9 (or 10) players listed in the lineup
    - Active participant in the contest
    - Listed in the Batting Order with their jersey number, first & last name, and defensive position

### Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Card

- ▣ DEFINITION:
  - Reserve
    - Any player who are not in the starting lineup and is an eligible substitute
    - **MUST** be properly listed on the lineup card with jersey number and first & last name

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Card

- DEFINITION:
  - Designated Player (DP)
    - A player who, in order to maintain DP status MUST take every turn at bat, AND
    - Upon safely reaching base, MUST run the bases until she is put out, she scores, or the team's turn at bat ends

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Card

- DEFINITION:
  - Designated Player (DP)
    - The use of a DP is optional
    - If used, MUST be used in conjunction with a Flex
    - When listed properly on the Lineup Card, the DP will occupy one of the first nine positions in the batting order
      - Under fielding position, "DP" is written
    - It is possible for a DP to play defense, which will be covered in more detail later

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Card

- DEFINITION:
  - Flex Player (Flex)
    - A player who, in order to maintain Flex status, MUST be on defense for every pitch while her team is in the field

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Card

- DEFINITION:
  - Flex Player (Flex)
    - Listed in the 10<sup>th</sup> position on the lineup card, but does not bat nor run
      - EXCEPTION: It is possible for a Flex to play offense with a special lineup maneuver, which will be covered later
    - A Flex's designation should be written next to their fielding position in the tenth spot in the batting order
      - EXAMPLE: "Flex/5" or "Flex/3B"

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Card

- Lineup Card
  - Each of the 9 (or 10) Starters must be listed in the batting order with the following information
    - First initial and last name
    - Jersey number
    - Defensive position (or DP)

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Card

- Lineup Card
  - All of a team's eligible Reserve Players must be listed on the lineup card with the following information
    - First initial and last name
    - Jersey number
  - If a player is not properly listed on the lineup card, she may not legally become a Substitute
    - Players who will be arriving late to the game must still be listed on the lineup card to be eligible

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ DEFINITION:
  - Substitute
    - A reserve who officially enters the lineup, replacing another player

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ DEFINITION:
  - Re-Entry
    - A player who was previously in the lineup and was replaced, then became an active member in the lineup once again
    - This definition does not distinguish whether the player was originally a Starter or a Reserve
    - All players may re-enter the game one time into the same position in the batting order from which they left

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ DEFINITION:
  - Courtesy Runner
    - An eligible player who replaces the pitcher or catcher as a runner
      - No substitution is charged

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Lineup Card Responsibilities
  - All lineup maneuvers must be tracked by the plate umpire and subsequently announced to the opposing team and/or official scorer
  - These include
    - Substitutions
    - Re-Entries
    - Courtesy Runners
    - Flex playing offense
    - DP playing defense FOR THE FLEX

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Lineup Card Responsibilities
  - Defensive switches need not be announced nor tracked
    - EXCEPTION: For courtesy running purposes, the Pitcher and Catcher must always be clearly identified

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Substitution
  - A substitute may enter the game into any position in the lineup
    - This includes the Flex Position
  - A Substitution is noted on the lineup card by writing the substitute's jersey number on the lineup card in the same position in the batting order that the substitute will replace

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Substitution
  - Substitutions are NEVER to be forecasted
  - RATIONALE:
    - Injuries, game situations, or a coach changing his/her mind could alter a coach's lineup situation
    - Once a change is announced by the umpire, it becomes official and cannot be altered without making another official lineup change

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Substitution
  - *EXAMPLE: A coach wishes to use a pinch-hitter for the players due up third and fifth in the inning. The substitutions shall not be allowed until the player comes to bat. When done properly, the head coach may call time before the at-bat begins and announce the substitute to the plate umpire, or the pinch-hitter may report, giving their number and the outgoing player's number to the plate umpire before she takes her position in the batter's box.*

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Substitution
  - NOTE: In the previous example, if forecasted substitutes are accepted and the second hitter of the inning injures herself running the bases, the coach would not be allowed to use either of the "forecasted" pinch-hitters to fill the injured player's position in the lineup

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Substitution
  - PRACTICAL APPLICATION:
    - If a coach forecasts substitutions, then for the sake of game fluidity, it would be acceptable to write them on your lineup card then announce the substitution later when it actually occurs
    - Ask the coach to announce his/her substitution when it actually occurs
    - This takes you out of a potential "trick bag", putting the onus entirely upon the coach should an unforeseen event occur

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Re-Entry
  - All players may re-enter the game one time
    - This includes both starters AND substitutes
  - All re-entries must resume the same position they held in the lineup at the time they left the game
  - A re-entry is noted on the lineup card by circling the jersey number of the re-entering player

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Re-Entry
  - All players may re-enter the game one time.
  - If a player leaves the game a second time, they are unable to return.
  - Like Substitutions, Re-Entries cannot be forecasted!
    - i.e. "Jones will be hitting for Smith, Smith will re-enter on defense."

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Re-Entry
  - *Example: A6 is batting in the sixth position in the line-up. In the third inning, substitute A25 enters into the game in the sixth position in the line-up. In the fifth inning, A6 re-enters the game to catch. A25 must leave the game. If A25 re-enters the contest, A6 must leave and cannot return.*

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Re-Entry
  - Any number of players may occupy the same position in the line-up, but only one may actually be in the game at any time

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Re-Entry
  - *EXAMPLE: A8 is a starter in the eighth position in the line-up. In the bottom of the third inning, substitute A14 pinch-hits for A8. A14 hits a double, and is lifted for a pinch-runner, A33. All three players are "married" to the eighth position in the order. All of them are permitted one re-entry, but only one of them may actually be in the line-up at any time. A8, A14, and A33 cannot move to any other slot in the line-up.*

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Re-Entry
  - **PRACTICAL APPLICATION:** For easy reference, the active player in a particular position in the batting order has their number circled
    - ▣ If no players have their number circled, then the active player is the last jersey number written in that position

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Courtesy Runner
  - A Courtesy Runner is permitted (not mandatory) to run for either the Pitcher or the Catcher should they safely reach base
  - No substitution is charged for a Courtesy Runner

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Courtesy Runner
  - The Pitcher/Catcher is defined as the player who played that position on defense in the previous half-inning, NOT the player who WILL be playing that position in the next half-inning

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Courtesy Runner
  - In the top of the first inning, the visiting team has not yet played defense, therefore,
    - By rule, the pitcher/catcher is defined as the player indicated on the line-up
    - If a substitution has occurred, then by rule, the pitcher/catcher is the player who was substituted for the original pitcher or catcher

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Courtesy Runner
  - A pinch-hitter or pinch-runner (including a re-entry) has no defensive status, therefore, no Courtesy Runner is permitted for that player

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Courtesy Runner
  - Only Reserve Players are eligible to be Courtesy Runners
    - This means that any Starters or players who have been Substitutes are NOT eligible to be courtesy run, even though they might currently be on the bench
  - A Courtesy Runner is noted in the margin or on the back of the lineup card
    - The courtesy runner's jersey number is written, along with the position for which she is running

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Courtesy Runner
  - *EXAMPLE: Courtesy runner A12 runs for the Catcher in the second inning. In the fourth inning, A12 enters the game at shortstop for A6. In the fifth inning, A6 re-enters the game to hit.*
    - *Even though A12 is on the bench, she lost her eligibility to courtesy run when she officially entered the game as a Substitute in the fourth inning.*

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Courtesy Runner
  - A Courtesy Runner runs for the position (Pitcher/Catcher), not the player
    - More than one player may run for either position, HOWEVER...
    - Once a Courtesy Runner runs for the Catcher, they may not run for the Pitcher, and vice versa

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- ▣ Courtesy Runner
  - *EXAMPLE: The starting pitcher is A1. The starting catcher is A2. In the second inning, A2 hits a single, and A44 becomes the Courtesy Runner for the Catcher. In the next at-bat, A1 walks, and A55 becomes the Courtesy Runner for the Pitcher. In the fourth inning, A2 goes in to pitch. In the fifth inning, A2, now the Pitcher, hits a double.*
    - *A44 cannot be A2's Courtesy Runner, as she was running for the Catcher. A55, or any other bench player who has not yet been in the game, may be A2's Courtesy Runner.*

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- Courtesy Runner
  - PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Many coaches will announce a Courtesy Runner to run for a player number (“#17 running for #2”). If the umpire announces a Courtesy Runner the same way, a SMART opposing coach could later attempt to argue that a SUBSTITUTION was made.
    - TECHNICALLY, he/she would be correct, SO...

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- Courtesy Runner
  - PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Keep yourself out of the “trick bag” by verifying to the coach that the player is running for the Pitcher/Catcher, then make the proper announcement to the opposing team
    - “#17 Courtesy Running for the Catcher”

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- Courtesy Runner
  - Once a Courtesy Runner runs in any inning, no other player may be a Courtesy Runner for that position in that inning
    - If another player is desired (or out of necessity), then a Substitution must be made
  - The Pitcher or Catcher can replace a Courtesy Runner already on base without penalty or substitution

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Lineup Management/In-Game

- Courtesy Runner
  - EXAMPLE: Catcher A2 hits a single. A18 becomes the Courtesy Runner for the Catcher. A18 steals second base, but is injured on the play.
    - The Catcher may go out and run at second base, OR...
    - Another player may go out and run as a substitute. The substitute would count against A2, meaning that she would have to re-enter the game in the next half inning to catch, provided that this is not the second time that she has left the game.

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Comprehension
  - It is EXTREMELY important to fully understand the role of the DP & Flex and how it is implemented in the game of softball!!!

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Comprehension
  - Even though strides have been made over the years, the vast majority of coaches still do not fully understand the rules regarding DP/Flex and may unintentionally attempt to make an illegal move

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Comprehension
  - Those coaches who DO understand the rule can sometimes use this knowledge to INTENTIONALLY make an ILLEGAL move

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Comprehension
  - It is the duty of the softball official to prevent ANY illegal lineup maneuver BEFORE IT OCCURS!!!
    - Improper application of the DP/Flex rules can cause the umpire to fall into the largest "trick bag" in existence

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- The Flex
  - A player who plays defense and must play defense at all times to remain in the game
  - Listed in the tenth position in the lineup, however only the first nine actually hit

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- The DP (Designated Player)
  - A player who must always bat when their position in the line-up is due to bat in order to remain in the game
  - Upon successfully reaching base, she must also run the bases to remain in the game
  - The batting position of the DP listed on the lineup card at the beginning of the game will be the only eligible position for a DP throughout the course of the game

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- The DP (Designated Player)
  - The batting position of the DP listed on the lineup card at the beginning of the game will be the only eligible position for a DP throughout the course of the game
  - If a Reserve Player becomes a substitute and is placed into the DP's position in the batting order, that player becomes the new DP
    - There is no other way for a player to gain DP status

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- DP/Flex Relationship
  - A DP cannot exist without a Flex, and vice versa
  - It is not required for a team to have a DP/Flex, HOWEVER...
  - If a team does wish to use them, both a Designated Player and Flex must be listed on the line-up in the beginning of the game



## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- DP Playing Defense
  - Any nine of the ten players listed on the line-up may play defense at any time, including the DP
  - The DP may play defense for any other player at any time without a substitution being charged
    - EXCEPTION: If the DP plays defense for the Flex, a special situation arises, to be covered later...
  - No lineup card notation is necessary with this maneuver, except in the case of the exception above

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- DP Playing Defense
  - It is not necessary to report any “defensive switch” to the Plate Umpire (including those where a DP comes in to play defense), HOWEVER...
  - If DP will become the Pitcher or Catcher, it is good practice for the coach to notify the umpire in order to avoid any confusion with regard to Courtesy Runners

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- DP Playing Defense
  - If the DP wishes to play defense for the Flex, then the Flex has left the game
    - Again the Flex **MUST ALWAYS PLAY DEFENSE!**
    - If the Flex leaves the game, then the team would be officially playing with nine active players in the lineup
    - The Flex must use her re-entry in order to return, which would bring the team back to ten active players

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- DP Playing Defense
  - **PRACTICAL APPLICATION:** There is no substitution charged against the DP, as the DP continues to hit and thus has not left the game. The DP may go in and out on defense as many times as she would like, as long as she maintains her spot in the batting order

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Flex Playing Offense
  - The Flex **CAN** bat or run, HOWEVER...
  - The Flex may only enter into the position occupied by the DP

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Flex Playing Offense
  - This will mean that the DP has left the game, and the team will officially be down to nine active players in the lineup
  - This is noted on the lineup card by drawing an arrow from the Flex's batting position up to the DP's position in the batting order

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Flex Playing Offense
  - The DP, like all other players, is allowed one re-entry
  - If the DP re-enters, then the Flex is out of the batting order, and the team will once again be playing with ten players
  - This is noted by drawing an arrow from the DP's position in the batting order back down to the Flex's position

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Flex Playing Offense
  - PRACTICAL APPLICATION: For easy reference, the last arrow drawn will determine whether a team is down to nine active players or if a team has returned to ten active players
    - If this continues occurring, then counting the number of arrows drawn will assist in this determination
      - Odd number of arrows = nine active players
      - Even number of arrows = ten active players
      - This will be demonstrated in further detail in the exercise at the end of this Module

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Flex Playing Offense
  - PRACTICAL APPLICATION: There is no substitution charged against the Flex when she bats or runs for the DP, as the Flex maintains her role on defense. The Flex may go in and out of the batting order to bat and/or run as many times as she would like as long as she continues play defense.

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Resuming the Role of the DP
  - If a Flex is an active player on offense, the role of the DP can be resumed by
    - Re-entering the replaced DP back into her original spot in the batting order
    - Entering an eligible Reserve Player into the game by placing her into the position of the batting order originally held by the DP
  - In either case, the team will return to having ten active players

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Resuming the Role of the DP
  - The DP's role does not need to be resumed unless
    - The DP wishes to bat or run in her original spot in the order, OR...
    - The DP wishes to play defense
    - Make sure the coach makes the appropriate lineup maneuver at the appropriate time
    - Once again, do not accept a forecasted substitution!!

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- Terminating the Role of the Flex
  - The DP may play defense FOR the Flex
  - The Flex Position is then temporarily terminated
  - The team will then be down to nine active players in their lineup
  - This is noted on the lineup card by writing an "X" next to the jersey number of the player occupying the Flex Position

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- ▣ Resuming the Role of the Flex
  - The original Flex or eligible substitute may resume the role of a terminated Flex at any point in the game
  - To note this on the lineup card
    - Circle the jersey number of the re-entering original Flex, OR...
    - Write the letter "F" next to the substitute Flex's jersey number

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex DP/Flex Management

- ▣ DP/Flex Continuity
  - As long as a team begins the game with a DP/Flex, they may go down to nine players and back to ten at any point
    - This includes the very beginning of the game, before a pitch is thrown
    - A team may do this as many times as they would like, AS LONG AS...
      - Enough substitutes are available to continue doing so

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Review

- What must be listed on the lineup card in order for a player to be eligible to participate in a game?
- When is a forecasted substitute acceptable?
- How many times can a player RE-ENTER a game?
  - What happens when a player leaves the game a second time?
- Which position in the lineup can a RE-ENTRY occupy?

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Review

- How many players can be tied to the same position in the batting order?
  - How many of those players can be active at any one time?
- A courtesy runner is a SUBSTITUTE for which player(s)?
  - OK then, for which player(s) may a courtesy runner be used?

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Review

- How late into the course of a game may a team elect to begin using a DP/Flex?
- Which player must have a substitution charged against her if the Flex runs the bases?
  - How can the this player become active in the lineup again?

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Review

- If a team starts the game with a DP/Flex, how many times can that team go from having ten active players down to nine, then back up to ten?
  - ...as long as they have enough \_\_\_\_\_ (blank) \_\_\_\_\_ to continue doing so

## Substitutions, Re-Entry & DP/Flex Review

- Can a DP play defense WITHOUT a substitution being charged against any player?
  - When must a substitution must be charged against a player when the DP plays defense?
  - What happens to the role of the Flex when this occurs?
    - Can she re-enter later?