

## **Substitution/Re-Entry**

1. A substitute may enter the game into any position in the line-up (including the Flex Position)
2. Substitutions are NEVER to be forecasted.

**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, with their number and the outgoing player's number, to the plate umpire before she takes her position in the batter's box.*

2. All players may re-enter the game one time. This includes both starters AND substitutes. All re-entries must resume the same position in the line-up at the time they left the game. If a player leaves the game a second time, they are unable to return. LIKE SUBSTITUTIONS, RE-ENTRIES MAY NOT BE FORECASTED! (i.e. "Jones will be hitting for Smith, Smith will re-enter on defense.")

**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.*

3. 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.

**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.*

## **Courtesy Runner**

1. 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. 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. Also, a pinch-hitter or pinch-runner (including a re-entry) has no defensive status, therefore, no Courtesy Runner is permitted for that player. (EXCEPTION: In the top of the first inning, the visiting team has not yet played defense; the pitcher/catcher is defined as the player indicated on the line-up.)

2. A Courtesy Runner must be a player who has not yet been in the game at any point. This means that any starters or substitutes who are currently on the bench are NOT eligible to be a Courtesy Runner.

**Example:** *Courtesy runner A12 runs for the Catcher in the second inning. In the fourth inning, A12 enters the game at shortstop. In the fifth inning, the starting shortstop re-enters the game to hit. A12 is NO LONGER ELIGIBLE TO COURTESY RUN!*

3. 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.

**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.*

4. 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 it can only be done so as a substitution. The Pitcher or Catcher can replace a Courtesy Runner already on base without penalty or substitution.

**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.*

## **DP/Flex**

1. The Flex is a player who plays only defense and must play defense at all times to remain in the game. The Flex is listed in the tenth position in the line-up, however only the first nine actually hit.
2. The DP, or Designated Player, is a player who must always bat when their position in the line-up is due to bat, and, upon safely reaching base, must run the bases in order to remain in the game.
3. 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 wishes to do so, it must be listed on the line-up at the beginning of the game.
3. Any nine of the ten players listed on the line-up may play defense at any time. This includes the DP. The DP may play defense for any other player (**EXCEPT FOR THE FLEX...more to follow in #4**) at any time, and it is not necessary to report this “defensive switch” to the Plate Umpire. However, if there is a new Pitcher or Catcher, it is good practice to notify the umpire in order to avoid any confusion with regard to Courtesy Runners.
4. If the DP wishes to play defense for the Flex, then the Flex has left the game (again, the Flex **MUST ALWAYS PLAY DEFENSE**), and the team is officially playing with nine players. The Flex must use her re-entry in order to return, which would bring the team back to ten players. (**Note:** 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.)
5. If the Flex wishes to play offense (as a batter **OR** as a runner), she may only enter into the position occupied by the DP. This will mean that the DP has left the game, and the team will officially be down to nine players. 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. (**Note:** There is no substitution charged against the Flex, 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.)
6. 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 (including the beginning of the game) and as many times as they would like, provided there are eligible substitutes available to continue doing so.
7. As with any other general substitution or re-entry, if the DP is currently not in the lineup when the Flex’s position is due to bat (for instance, if the Flex entered the batting order to run for the DP in a previous inning, and the team maintains a nine-player lineup to that point) and the coach wants the DP to bat, the coach must officially re-enter the DP before she takes her position in the batter’s box. The DP may also report her re-entry directly to the umpire.