

DESIGNATED HITTER

RULE 3-1-4

- **For the past 10 years High School Coaches wanted to have an additional option with a DH:
 - **Player/DH (a defensive player who is also a DH; enabling him to stay in the line-up to hit when he is removed on defense).****
- **Coaches felt it would better help to strategize how to keep their better players in the game, to contribute to the offensive output of the team and give another player a chance to participate on defense.**
- **In addition, considering the pitch count rules, this change would help pitchers to keep their bat in the game, but they can come out of the game to protect their arm from overuse.**
- **The NCAA DH rule was proposed but defeated.**

WHAT HAPPENED

- **The new option is NOT:**
 - The NCAA DH rule
 - The Softball DP/Flex
- **There are now 3 options a coach has:**
 - Use a straight 9 (no DH)
 - Use the standard DH (previous DH rule) – have 10 starters, 1 who is a DH for a starting defensive player
 - Use the player/DH – have 9 players with 1 player in a defensive role and additionally is the DH

Option 1 – Straight-Nine

1. Davis	12	LF
2. Green	10	3B
3. Black	16	CF
4. Sanders	22	P
5. White	23	C
6. Abel	24	1B
7. Lyle	18	2B
8. Jones	17	RF
9. Smith	7	SS

Option 2 – Traditional DH

1. Davis	12	LF	
2. Green	10	3B	
3. Black	16	CF	
4. Brown	11	P	Sanders 22 DH
5. White	23	C	
6. Abel	24	1B	
7. Lyle	18	2B	
8. Jones	17	RF	
9. Smith	7	SS	

Option 3 – Defensive Player/DH

1. Davis	12	LF
2. Green	10	3B
3. Black	16	CF
4. Sanders	22	P/DH
5. White	23	C
6. Abel	24	1B
7. Lyle	18	2B
8. Jones	17	RF
9. Smith	7	SS

WHAT DIDN'T CHANGE

- Use of a DH is not mandatory – coach can use a straight 9
- Option used must be declared before the game starts
- Team may use a different option than opponent
- Team may not switch to a different option during the game.
- Re-entry
 - Both the Standard DH (10th starting player) and Player/DH (one of 9 starting players) have 1 re-entry, same as any starting player
- The Standard DH option (10th starting player)
 - Same rule as previous years
 - Nothing has changed with this option

PLAYER/DH

- The starting designated hitter (DH) may now be any one of the starting defensive players, including the pitcher.
- A Player/DH then holds two positions: defensive player and designated hitter.

Order	Pos.	STARTERS		SUBSTITUTES	
		No.	Name	No.	Name
1	1	20	Tackett		
2	3	36	Evans		
3	2	18	Brewer		
4	8	99	Hopkins		
5	6	21	Holman		
6	4/DH	12	Thomas		
7	5	6	Goodwin		
8	7	11	Cook		
9	9	43	Cousins		

PLAYER/DH SUBSTITUTION

- In the case where one player is listed as a starting DH and a starting defensive player in the lineup, the role of the defensive player may be substituted for by any legal substitute.
- **NOTE:** Does not impact the DH position for the Player/DH.

Order	Pos.	STARTERS		SUBSTITUTES	
		No.	Name	No.	Name
1	1	20	Tackett		
2	3	36	Evans		
3	2	18	Brewer		
4	8	99	Hopkins		
5	6	21	Holman		
6	4/DH	12	Thomas	23	(4) White
7	5	6	Goodwin		
8	7	11	Cook		
9	9	43	Cousins		

PLAYER/DH SUBSTITUTION

- The original player/DH may re-enter defensively one time.

Order	Pos.	STARTERS		SUBSTITUTES	
		No.	Name	No.	Name
1	1	20	Tackett		
2	3	36	Evans		
3	2	18	Brewer		
4	8	99	Hopkins		
5	6	21	Holman		
6	4/DH	12	Thomas	23	(4) White
7	5	6	Goodwin		
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PLAYER/DH

ROLE OF DH ENDS

- With a player/DH option, the role of the DH ends when the DH is substituted for offensively.
- If a player PH/PR for the player/DH, that player is now the defensive player batting for himself. The DH has been terminated.
- When the Player/DH is substituted for offensively, it also substitutes for him defensively. He may re-enter if he has re-entry eligibility and will be in his original spot in the line-up.

Order	Pos.	STARTERS		SUBSTITUTES	
		No.	Name	No.	Name
1	1	20	Tackett		
2	3	36	Evans		
3	2	18	Brewer		
4	8	99	Hopkins		
5	6	21	Holman		
6	4/DH	12	Thomas		
	4	23	White		
7	5	6	Goodwin		
8	7	11	Cook		
9	9	43	Cousins		

DH ROLE ENDS

Standard DH

- DH, or any previous DH, assumes a defensive position
- Defensive player, or previous defensive player, for whom DH batted, bats, pinch-hits or pinch-runs for the DH

Player/DH

- When the Player/DH is substituted for offensively.

SUBSTITUTION

Standard DH

- The DH & Player for whom the DH bats are **BOTH STARTERS**
 - **SO BOTH HAVE RE-ENTRY ELIGIBILITY**
- They may be substituted for separately, just as any other player in the lineup

Player/DH

- The Player/DH has re-entry the same as any other starter.
- If replaced defensively, he may re-enter one time defensively
- If replaced offensively (DH role ends), may re-enter and play as any defensive player who bats for himself

Q AND A

- **How has the previous DH rule changed?**
 - It hasn't!
 - The Standard DH rule remains intact with no change from the previous rule.
- **Must both teams use the same DH option?**
 - No!
 - Each team has the ability to use one of the 3 options available: straight 9, standard DH, Player/DH.
- **Does the Player/DH have re-entry as the defensive player and as the DH?**
 - No!
 - The player has one re-entry only.

Q AND A

- **May the Pitcher/DH later become the RF/DH?**
 - Yes!
 - The position does remain locked in the batting order.