

Designated Player (DP) / Flexible Player (Flex) Rule Explanation:

What is Designated Player (DP) and a Flexible Player (Flex)?

Basically the DP is a player designated to BAT ONLY for one of the 9 starting defensive players, but with some **additional defensive options**. Prior to the start of the game you must choose which defensive player you want the DP to bat for. This player now becomes the FLEX and plays DEFENSE ONLY, but with some **additional offensive options**.

In the past the DP was called a DH (Designated Hitter) and could ONLY BAT. **NO defensive options**.

The DP gets listed in any one of the nine batting spots on the starting line up card. The FLEX player, for whom the DP is batting for, ALWAYS gets listed as the 10th player on the bottom of the starting line up card.

The intent of the new rule is to allow the DH type player to play some defense too and thus get more playing time.

The following is a breakdown of the new rule:

- 1) A DP does not have to be used. You can play the game with 9 starting players on the line up card. This must be declared on the line up card presented to the home plate official prior to the start of the game. You cannot switch and go to a DP later in the game.
- 2) A team using the DP starts the game with 10 Players on the line up. The DP is to be listed as one of the top 9 players with the 10th player ALWAYS being called the Flex, and must be listed in the 10th spot on the line up card.
- 3) The DP can just play offense and “BAT” and sit on the bench, or now she can play defense, at any time, for any of the other top 9 players listed on the line up card without penalty of having left the game for either player. The DP does not have to report to the home plate official that she is playing defense for any of the top 9 players on the line up card.

- 4) Example: Should the DP decide to play defense one inning for the left fielder, then the left fielder sits on the bench, but continues to bat in her normal listed spot on the line up card, along with the DP batting in her normal listed spot on the line up card. Whenever the DP is playing defense, the player she is playing for is considered to still be in the game, but she is “temporarily” on the bench but she still has to bat in her normal spot.
- 5) The player listed in the 10th position on the line up card is called the “Flex” Player, and plays DEFENSE ONLY. The DP and the Flex can be playing defense at the same time, it is just that the Flex does not bat. The DP could be playing defense for any of the other top 9 players listed on the line up card as mentioned above.
- 6) You can substitute for the DP and or Flex using the standard substitute and reentry rule with any player on the bench who has officially not been in the game yet. The DP and Flex would then also be subject to the standard reentry rule.

Here’s where it can get tricky if you are not careful with your line up card management and knowledge of the substitute and reentry rule.....

- 7) You can bring the FLEX player into the game to BAT or RUN for the DP if you like. This is the ONLY player and spot in the line up card you can allow the FLEX to BAT or RUN for. Your line up card now goes from 10 “official” players down to 9 players. You can legally end the game with 9 players with this scenario.
- 8) When you bring the FLEX into BAT or RUN for the DP, the DP has now “officially” left the game and is subject to the standard reentry rule. BUT the FLEX is not, because she is “officially” still in the game. She can also go back to her DEFENSIVE only spot later in the game, and you can bring the starting DP, or a substitute, back into the original DP batting spot. Your line card goes back to 10 “official” players in the game. When you bring the “starting” DP back into the game, she has now reentered once, and if removed again, will be out of the game. If you choose to substitute for the DP and bring her into the game in the DP spot on the line up card, she is now entered the game for the first time and is subject to the standard substitute reentry rule from there.

- 9) If you choose to bring the DP into the game to play DEFENSE for the FLEX, the FLEX player has now “officially” left the game and you down to 9 official players in the game. The game would continue and run as if it were a standard 9 player roster. The DP would still continue to bat in her starting line up spot.
- 10) A SUBSTITUTE can enter the game for either the DP or the FLEX Player. The SUBSTITUTE can enter on defense, or as a PINCH HITTER or PINCH RUNNER.

REMINDERS:

- 1) The DP can never be on DEFENSE ONLY.
- 2) The FLEX PLAYER can never be on OFFENSE ONLY.
- 3) The DP and FLEX PLAYER can never be on offense at the same time.
- 4) THE STARTER and the SUBSTITUTE can not be in the game at the same time.
- 5) The STARTING DP and FLEX PLAYER has one reentry just as any other player.