

## **SECTION 6 — Players and Substitutes**

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### **Players on a Team — SECTION 6.1.**

a. A team must have the required number of players present in the dug-out or team area to start or continue a game. Players listed in the starting lineup and not available at game time may be substituted for and re-entered later. The players and the numbers by which they are identified are as follows:

- 1) Without a designated player—nine positions: pitcher (1), catcher (2), first baseman (3), second baseman (4), third baseman (5), shortstop (6), left fielder (7), center fielder (8), right fielder (9).

*Note: If a team starts a game with nine players, a designated player may **not** be used.*

- b. A defensive player is entitled to change to a different defensive position at any time. The plate umpire and official scorekeeper need not be notified.
- c. After starting with nine players, a team can play shorthanded down to eight players, for any reason, other than an ejection. A shorthanded position in the lineup is a automatic out.
- d. A game may begin with 8 players, but when and if another player arrives, that player must be inserted into the lineup at the ninth batting position. Whenever a team is playing with only eight players, an out will be taken when the last position in the batting order appears.
- e. Under no circumstances shall a team be permitted to continue a game, offensively or defensively, with less than eight players.

### **Designated Player (DP) and Defense Only (FLEX) — SECTION 6.2**

The following regulations govern the use of a designated player (DP) and a defense only (FLEX):

- A. The DP's name, uniform number must be placed in one of the first 9 batting positions in the line up. The FLEX's name and uniform number must be placed in the 10th position on the line-up.
- B. The DP must remain in the same position in the batting order throughout the game and only bat/run for the FLEX-NO ONE ELSE.
- C. When the FLEX goes into bat in the DP position, it counts as a substitute for the DP because she has left the game for the time being. If the DP replaces the FLEX on defense, the line-up goes from 10 to 9 and if the FLEX re-enters, it counts as a charged substitution for the FLEX and the line-up goes back to 10.
- D. The DP and FLEX may not be in the batting order at the same time!!
- E. The DP and the FLEX can be on defense at the same time. This is how this works: The DP is still considered to be playing offense for

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the FLEX, but, can play defense for another batter in the order. That other batter is just batting now, and is not considered a DP.

### **Ejected Player/Coach/Personnel — SECTION 6.3.**

- a. Umpires have the authority to remove a player and/or other team personnel from further participation in a game for just cause.
- b. The order for the removal of a player, coach or team personnel must be obeyed in a timely manner.

**PENALTY — If the order for removal of a player, coach or team personnel is not obeyed in a timely manner, a one-minute forfeit warning shall be issued. If the warning expires, a forfeited game shall be declared.**

- c. An ejected player may remain in the dugout but may not communicate with opponents or umpires. An ejected coach must leave the playing field, dugout and grounds, and must not communicate with opponents or umpires. An umpire may also rule a player to leave the grounds.

**PENALTY — The ejected player who communicates with opponents or umpires must leave the site of competition.**

- d. Ejected non-playing personnel must leave the playing field and dugout and may not communicate further with the teams or umpires. They may occupy space along the right field and left-field foul lines beyond first base and third base or behind the home run fence, but they may not go behind the backstop near the dugout or bullpen, or along the infield portion of the first and third base lines.
- e. An ejected player or coach may not participate in the game again.

**PENALTY (d and e) — If the order for removal of a player, coach or team personnel is not obeyed in a timely manner, a one-minute forfeit warning shall be issued. If the warning expires, a forfeited game shall be declared by the umpires in favor of the team not at fault.**

### **Starting Player — SECTION 6.4.**

- a. Once the lineup card has been reviewed and submitted to the umpire, it becomes official.
- b. Each starter is entitled to be replaced and to re-enter the game one time as long as she assumes her original position in the batting order.

**Exception:** The FLEX may re-enter either in the designated player's position in the batting order or in her original (tenth non-batting) position in the lineup.

### **Substitute Player — SECTION 6.5.**

- a. Player Substitutions. Player substitutions shall be governed by the

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following:

- 1) Any player may be substituted for at any time when the ball is dead.
  - 2) The coach of the team making the substitution shall immediately notify the plate umpire at the time a substitute enters the game. Projected re-entries are not allowed.
  - 3) Substitutes shall be considered officially in the game when reported to the plate umpire.
  - 4) The substitute must take the place of the replaced player on the team's lineup card.
  - 5) The plate umpire shall record any substitutions on the lineup card and announce immediately, or cause to be announced any such substitutions.
  - 6) The plate umpire shall report the change to the scorer and the opposing team before the next pitch.
  - 7) If two or more substitutes of the defensive team enter the game simultaneously, the coach or a representative shall immediately designate to the plate umpire the position of each in the team's batting order.
  - 8) The batter may be removed before having received a pitch, whether or not she has completed her turn at bat and whether or not the side has been retired.
  - 9) Each substitute is entitled to be replaced and re-enter the game one time as long as they assume their original position in the batting order
  - b. **Pitcher substitutions.** Substitutions shall be governed by the following:
    - 1) The pitcher may be removed from the pitching position before having delivered a pitch, whether or not the first batter facing them has completed their turn at bat and whether or not the side has been retired.
    - 2) The umpire must remove the pitcher from the pitching position if the defensive team has already used its allotted three defensive conference in a seven-inning game, or for any charged conference in excess of one per inning in an extra inning game. The removed pitcher may not pitch again for the remainder of the game but may otherwise participate in the game. If the pitcher returns to the pitching position after being removed, and one pitch has been thrown, the pitcher is ejected from the game
- PENALTY — A pitcher who is removed by the umpire shall be ejected if they return to the pitching position and delivers one pitch.**
- 3) Following a pitching change, a relief pitcher may throw no more than

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five warm-up pitches. Play shall be suspended during this time.

**PENALTY — A ball shall be awarded to the batter for each warm-up pitch in excess of five. Exception: This penalty does not apply if the umpire delays the start of play for any reason.**

4) A pitcher is not entitled to warm-up pitches if they return to pitch in the same half inning.

**PENALTY — A ball shall be awarded to the batter for each warm-up pitch. Exception: This penalty does not apply if the umpire delays the start of play for any reason.**

c. **Injured player substitutions.** The following regulations govern substitutions for an injured player:

1) Substitutes for an injured player must be allowed adequate time to warm up. Play shall be suspended during this time.

2) If an injury to a batter-runner or runner prevents them from proceeding to an awarded base, the ball is dead and substitution may be made. The substitute must legally touch all awarded or missed bases not previously touched.

d. **Unreported substitutions.** The following regulations govern unreported substitutions:

1) If the coach in violation informs the plate umpire before the offended team's challenge, there is no penalty regardless of the length of time the unreported player was in the game. The unreported player shall be declared officially in the game.

2) If an unreported player is reported to the plate umpire by the opposing team before a pitch is made (legal or illegal); there is no penalty. The unreported player shall be declared officially in the game.

3) If the unreported player is reported by the defense before the offensive coach in violation informs the umpire and:

a) A pitch has been thrown, but the unreported player still is at bat.

**PENALTY — The unreported player is called out and declared officially in the game. Any advance by base runners while the unreported player was at bat is legal.**

b) The unreported player has completed their turn at bat, but the next pitch (legal or illegal) has not yet been thrown, or the pitcher and all infielders clearly have not vacated their normal fielding positions and have not left fair territory.

**PENALTY — The unreported player is called out and declared officially in the game. Any advance by base runners as a result of the unreported**

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**player becoming a batter-runner is nullified, and outs are also nullified.**

- c) The unreported player has completed their turn at bat, but a pitch (legal or illegal) has been thrown to the next batter, or the pitcher and all infielders clearly have vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory.

**PENALTY — If on base, the unreported player is called out and declared officially in the game. Any advance by base runners while the unreported player was at bat or due to her becoming a batter-runner is legal.**

- 4) If the unreported player is reported by the offense before the defensive coach in violation informs the umpire, and:
  - a) The unreported player has made a play, but the next pitch (legal or illegal) has not yet been thrown, the pitcher and all infielders clearly have not vacated their normal fielding positions and have not left fair territory, or it is the last play of the game, and the umpires have not yet left the field.

**PENALTY — The unreported player is declared officially in the game. The offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter return and assume the ball and strike count they had before the report of the unreported player with each runner returning to the base legally occupied at the time of the last pitch.**

- b) The unreported player has made a play, and the next pitch (legal or illegal) has been thrown, or the pitcher and all infielders have clearly vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory.

**PENALTY — The unreported player is declared officially in the game, and all play will stand. In addition, each runner on base at the time of the report is awarded one base.**

- c) The unreported player has not made a play, and the next pitch (legal or illegal) has been thrown.

**PENALTY — The unreported player is declared officially in the game, and all play will stand.**

*Notes:*

- 1. *If an unreported player is also an illegal player, the penalty for an illegal player applies.*
- 2. *Violation of the unreported player rule may be reported to the umpire at any time.*
- e) **Illegal Player(s).**
  - 1) Players who compete in the game but are not entitled to play include:
    - a) A starting player who was removed from the pitching position as a

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result of a second charged defensive conference in one inning returned to the pitching position and delivered one pitch.

- b) A player who is not listed on the lineup card.
- c) An ejected player entering or re-entering the game.
- 2) The following regulations govern illegal players:
  - a) If the coach in violation informs the plate umpire before the offended team's challenge, all play stands, regardless of the length of time the illegal player was in the game. The illegal player is ejected.
  - b) If the illegal player is reported to the plate umpire by the opposing team before a pitch is thrown (legal or illegal), the illegal player is ejected.
  - c) If the illegal player is reported by the defense before the offensive coach in violation informs the umpire and:
    - 1) A pitch has been thrown, but the illegal player is still at bat.

**PENALTY — The player is called out and ejected. Any advance by base runners while the player was at bat is legal.**

- 2) The illegal player has completed their turn at bat, but a pitch (legal or illegal) has not been thrown to the next batter, or the pitcher and all infielders clearly have not vacated their normal fielding positions and have not left fair territory.

**PENALTY — The illegal player is called out and ejected. Any advance by base runners as a result of the illegal player becoming a batter-runner is nullified.**

- 3) The illegal player has completed their turn at bat, but a pitch (legal or illegal) has been thrown to the next batter, or the pitcher and all infielders clearly have vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory.

**PENALTY — The player is called out and ejected. Any advance by base runners while the illegal player was at bat or due to her becoming a batter-runner is legal.**

- d) If the illegal player is reported by the offense before the defensive coach in violation informs the umpire and:

- 1) The illegal player has made a play, but the next pitch (legal or illegal) has not yet been thrown, or the pitcher and all infielders have not vacated their normal fielding positions and have not left fair territory.

**PENALTY — The player is ejected. The offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter return and assume the ball and strike count they had before the report of the illegal player with each runner returning to the base legally occupied at the time of the last pitch.**

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- 2) The illegal player has made a play, and the next pitch (legal or illegal) has been thrown.

**PENALTY — The player is ejected, and all play will stand. In addition, each runner on base at the time of the report is awarded one base.**

- 3) The illegal player has not made a play, and the next pitch (legal or illegal) has been thrown.

**PENALTY — The player is ejected and all play will stand.**

*Note: Violation of the illegal player rule may be reported to the umpire at any time.*

### **Re-entry — SECTION 6.6.**

- a. Any of the players, including a DP and FLEX, may be substituted and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the order. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the lineup at the same time.

**PENALTY — A player who illegally re-entered the game shall be ejected and subject to illegal player penalties.**

*Notes:*

- 1. Violation of the re-entry rule may be reported to the umpire at any time.*
  - 2. If a substitution violates both the re-entry and the player substitution rules, the illegal/unreported player shall be ejected and subject to illegal player penalties.*
- b. A starting player removed from the pitching position as a consequence of a second charged defensive conference in one inning may re-enter the game at another position but cannot return to the pitching position.

**PENALTY — The pitcher shall be ejected if they return to the pitching position and delivers one pitch.**

### **CR (Courtesy Runners) — SECTION 6.7.**

The team at bat may use a CR for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time. The pitcher and catcher are identified as those players who actually were playing those positions at the end of the previous half-inning. In the top of the first inning only, the pitcher and catcher are identified as the players listed as such on the lineup. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher is required to leave the game under this rule.

- a. The CR may:

- 1) run for either the pitcher or the catcher anytime during the same game.

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- 2) run for the DP if the DP was physically pitching or catching at the end of the previous half-inning.
  - b. The CR may not:
    - 1) run for both the pitcher and the catcher during the same game.
    - 2) have participated in the game previously as a player.
    - 3) be a substitute for any player during the half inning she ran as a CR.
    - 4) run for the DP if the DP is batting for the pitcher or the catcher.
    - 5) when on base, be replaced by another CR nor by the pitcher or catcher for whom she is running.

EXCEPTION: should an injury occur, another CR or the pitcher or catcher may run.
    - 6) be used during the inning a substitute entered to bat for the pitcher, even if she re-entered.
    - 7) be used during the inning a substitute entered to bat for the catcher, even if she re-entered.
- EXCEPTION: Should any offensive player be injured or unable to continue for any reason, with no substitutes available, the CR must be used to replace that player and enters the game as a substitute. If the CR is still on base, the pitcher or catcher for whom she is running must now return as a base runner.
- c. The coach of the team at bat must report each use of the CR to the plate umpire, otherwise, they are an unreported substitute. A player who is not eligible or violates the CR rule is considered to be an illegal substitute.