

DESIGNATED HITTER

Point-of-Emphasis (2020*)

Rule 3; Art 3 and 4

Comments on the Rule Change



2020* Point-of-Emphasis

Player/Designated Hitter Role: With the adoption of the changes to the **designated hitter rule**, teams now have three choices with respect to the use of a **designated hitter** in a specific game. First, a team may elect to not use a **designated hitter**. Such a team would have a “traditional” nine player line-up for that game. Second, a team may elect to use the same **designated hitter** rule that has existed for the last several decades. This option is selected when the team’s lineup card presented at the plate meeting has 10 players listed, one of whom is a **designated hitter** not playing defensively at the start of the game. Third, under the new change to the **DH rule**, a team may elect to have one player start the game as both a defensive player and **designated hitter**. This option is selected when the team’s lineup card presented at the plate meeting has nine players listed, one of whom has both a defensive position and **“DH”** written next to his name on the lineup card. If the third option is selected, a player can be substituted for the **DH** on defense and the starter will remain as the **DH**. However, if the third option is selected, the **DH** role is terminated if the starter is substituted for on offense. In either case, the starting defensive player/**DH** can re-enter if he has a re-entry remaining.

*Applies 2021-2022 NFHS Baseball Rules

COMMENTS ON THE 2020* RULES CHANGES:

Modified the Role of the Defensive Player and the Designated Hitter (3- 1-4) — Modifying the role of the defensive player and the designated hitter will assist coaches 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 will help pitchers (who are typically some of the better hitters) contribute offensively in the game, but still allow them to come out of the game to protect their arms from overuse.

*Applies 2021-2022 NFHS Baseball Rules



Rule 3, Section 1: Articles 3 thru 4, - Designated Hitter . . .

ART. 3 . . . Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, including a player who was the *designated hitter*, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. The pitcher is governed by the provisions of Article 2 above. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter. A starting pitcher who is replaced in the top of the first inning while his team is at bat shall be governed by the provisions of Articles 1 and 2 above.

ART. 4 . . . A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game. A designated hitter for said player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer. A team forfeits the use of a designated hitter if it fails to declare a designated hitter prior to the game. (Cont.) . . . →

If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter. The player who was the designated hitter may re-enter as the designated hitter under the re-entry rule. A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation. A designated hitter may be used in one of the two scenarios:

a. The designated hitter may be a 10th starter hitting for any one of the nine starting defensive players. If the designated hitter (DH) is used in this manner, the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when:

1. A substitute or former substitute for the defensive role subsequently participates in an offensive role; or

(Cont.) . . . →

Rule 3, Section 1: Articles 3 thru 4, - Designated Hitter . . .

2. The designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

b. The starting designated hitter may be any one of the starting defensive players. In this manner, the starting defensive player has two positions: the defensive player and the designated hitter. The role of the defensive player may be substituted for by any legal substitute. If the defensive player has been substituted for, the original player/DH may re-enter one time. The role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when:

1. A substitute or former substitute for the defensive role subsequently participates in an offensive role; or

2. The starting defensive player/DH is substituted for either as a hitter or a runner.

Designated Hitter Case Play 1:

3.1.4 Situation A: DH Smith who has been hitting for F3 in the fourth position in the batting order, hits a triple in the third inning and sprains his ankle sliding into third base. His coach has S1 enter the game to be a pinch runner for DH Smith. How does that affect the playing status of DH Smith and F3?

Ruling: *When a pinch runner or pinch hitter replaces the DH, that player becomes the DH. F3 would not be affected by the substitution. However, if DH were to play defense, F3 would have to leave the game.*



Study Guide Review . . . General Questions

- Study Guide **Due January 28**
- Look for Jay Allen's announcement of the posting of the Study Guide on our web page – (<https://cbuasouthbay.com>)
- **Tips** for Doing Well on Study Guide:
 - a. Internalize the rules in your mind, then rewrite challenging rules on a paper, or state them in your own words on your phone's voice recorder.
 - b. Form small study groups to discuss situations and context of challenging rules you personally come across.
 - c. Do not rely on "given" answers and expect to do well on your qualifying exam. While the qualifying exam's questions are directly from the study guide, the questions themselves **MAY NOT** be worded identically from the study guide. Therefore, internalize the questions' intent, but visually imagine the scenario and how you would rule.
- Questions from classroom on Study Guide?

