

Lineups, Substitutions, and Batting Out of Order

Plate Meeting

About 5-7 minutes before the scheduled start time of the game, the umpires will meet with representatives from both teams at home plate. The purpose for this meeting is to exchange lineups, discuss ground rules, and remind players and coaches about sportsmanship.

Lineups

First, the home team's representative will hand the plate umpire two copies of his/her lineup. Then the visiting team's representative will hand the plate umpire two copies of his/her lineup. The plate umpire will check over both lineups for obvious errors. If the lineups are acceptable, then the plate umpire will hand each representative a copy of the opposing team's lineup and the umpire will keep one copy of each. These are the official lineups for the game and **the umpire will document all substitutions that occur after that point**. This includes Speedup Rule substitutions, i.e., courtesy runners.

Substitutions

A head coach may make a substitution at any time the ball is dead. The head coach should inform the umpire of every change at the moment it occurs, but there is no penalty if he fails to do so. A player is considered as having entered the game as soon as the head coach announces the substitution to the umpire. If the head coach fails to do so, then the player is considered as having entered the game when:

- a) If a pitcher, he takes his position on the pitching rubber and the ball is put in play.
- b) If a fielder, he takes the position generally occupied by that fielder and the ball is put in play.
- c) If a batter, he enters the batter's box, and the ball is put in play.
- d) If a runner, he takes a position near the base occupied by the player he is replacing, and the ball is put in play.

When a starter is removed from the lineup, he may re-enter the lineup one time during the game provided it is in the same position in the batting order. If it is a pitcher, he may not re-enter the game as a pitcher. Players who were not in the starting lineup may not be re-entered into the game once they are taken out.

Normal Procedure for a Substitution

The head coach should inform the plate umpire of the change. The umpire will document the change on the official lineup, and then inform the opposing head coach of the change. Finally, the umpire will inform the official scorer (and the PA announcer, where applicable) of the change.

Speed-up Rule

When either the pitcher or the catcher is on base, the head coach may put in a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner is not a normal substitution and has no effect on the lineup. This runner must be a player who has not yet participated in the game. If the head coach chooses to run for both the pitcher and the catcher, then different runners must be used for each. This rule may be utilized regardless of the number of outs. Note: A player that has been used as a courtesy runner may not be used as a substitute for another player during the same half inning in which he ran.

Removing the DH

The following rules apply to the designated hitter:

- If the player for whom the designated hitter is batting comes up to bat, there is no longer a designated hitter allowed for the rest of the game.
- If the designated hitter comes in to play a position in the field, there is no longer a designated hitter allowed for the rest of the game.
- If no designated hitter is listed in the starting lineup, then no designated hitter may be used in that game.

Batting Out of Order

There are two main things to remember when dealing with a batting out of order situation:

1. The proper batter is the one who is out, and the lineup should then pick up from that point on.
2. Once an improper batter completes his time at-bat, and a pitch is delivered to the next hitter, the previous at bat becomes legalized, and the lineup picks up from that point on.

If a discovery of an improper batter leads to an appeal by the defense before a pitch is delivered to the next batter, then the proper batter is declared out, and the person following the proper batter in the lineup is the next proper batter. Any outs or advances that occurred as a result of the illegal at bat are nullified; runners are returned to the positions they held when the improper batter came to the plate. (Exception: any advances or outs achieved during the at bat due to passed balls, steals, wild pitches, pickoffs, etc. shall stand).

BULLDOGS BASEBALL		
#	NAME	POS
34	DWYER	2B
17	PETERS	CF
5	THOMPSON	1B
25	L. SMITH	3B
16	HERNANDEZ	DH
13	JACOBS	RF
9	CASEY	SS
14	MICHAELS	C
12	JEFFERSON	LF
7	WENDELL	P
#	SUBSTITUES	
30	ANDREWS	
11	OLIVER	
35	P. SMITH	
18	HOWARD	
31	JONES	
8	ALBERT	

Consider the above lineup in these situations:

Example 1

In the 2nd inning, Jacobs is due up to bat. Instead, Casey bats and hits a double. The defense's coach notices the problem and brings it to your attention before the next pitch. **Ruling:** Jacobs is declared out. Casey is removed from second base and is now due up to bat.

Example 2

In the 4th inning, Dwyer is due up to bat with one out and a runner on second. Peters bats instead and hits an RBI single. Thompson then comes up to bat and the pitcher delivers two pitches to make the count 1-1. The defense realizes the error that occurred and brings it to your attention. **Ruling:** Since a pitch was delivered to the next batter, Peters' at-bat becomes legal. Peters stays at first and the run counts. Since Thompson is the next hitter in the lineup after Peters, Thompson is the correct hitter. He stays up to bat with a 1-1 count.

Example 3

In the 7th inning, Jefferson is scheduled to lead off the inning. Instead, Oliver comes up to bat and hits a game tying homerun. The defense's head coach runs out to you before the next pitch and says, "He batted out of order. He should be out!" **Ruling:** Oliver did not bat out of order since he was not in the lineup before that point. He was simply an *unannounced substitute* and therefore, his at-bat was legal. The homerun counts and Dwyer is the next hitter. *(Since High School Rules allow a starter to re-enter a game one time, Jefferson can be put back into the lineup if his coach chooses to do so.)