

## **NFHS DH RULE GUIDANCE 2020-21**

In FHSAA this year we are using the DH as written by NFHS and not Florida interpretation

Line-up card submittal - 3 Options per Rule 3-1-4

- Straight Nine
- Traditional DH
- Player/DH

### **STRAIGHT NINE:**

- Teams not required to use a DH. If a lineup is submitted without a DH there are only 9 players and referred to as "straight 9"- 9 players in line up, all playing defense and all batting.
- If a DH is not designated at the start of the game, the team forfeits the right to use one later in the game.
- Suggest you confirm with Coach "so coach you're going straight 9 without a DH?" or "using a DH and which type" to avoid any confusion later

### **TRADITIONAL DH**

Provides a great deal of flexibility as not just for the pitcher

- Must be declared prior to the start of the game
- DH may be designated for any one of starting players- not just the pitcher
- With Traditional DH team has 10 starters, each has one re entry under the substitution rule 3-1-3
- Both the DH and the player for whom he is batting may independently have substitutes
- The DH and player for whom batting for are locked into that spot in the batting order.
- The starting DH and any substitutes and the player for whom batting and any substitutes can NEVER be in the game defensively at the same time
- DH is terminated for remainder of game when the defensive player for whom the DH batted pinch hits or pinch runs for the DH or when the DH or any previous DH assumes a defensive position

### **PLAYER/DH**

A player starts the game as both the defensive player and as a DH. Considered 2 separate positions

- A player/ DH may be any of the starting 9 players
- The defensive role may be substituted by any legal substitute but only the starting player/DH can ever occupy the DH (offensive) role
- If another player substitutes into the defensive role, the original player/DH may re-enter defensively one time and retain the player/DH status. This will count as the starter's one and only re-entry.
- The player/DH and any substitutes in the defensive role are locked into that spot in the batting order.
- The player/DH and any substitutes cannot be on defense at the same time
- The DH role is terminated for the remainder of the game if a substitute (including the player already in the defensive role) pinch hits or runs for the player/DH.

NOTE: A catcher or pitcher who is the player/DH cannot have a courtesy runner. Although not specifically addressed in the 2020 rule book and casebook as per NFHS interpretation. While on offense the player/DH is considered to be in the DH role and not pitcher or catcher, therefore not eligible for a courtesy runner.

Line up card management is very important. Know who has re-entry rights. If not sure whether a change can be made or not confer with your crew to sort it out to provide proper enforcement and avoid confusion.