



May 16, 2022

NFHS Softball Weekly Rule Interpretations

Situation 1: Team A is utilizing the DP/FELX in their lineup. In the fifth inning the DP bats and gets on base safely. The coach of Team A asks for time and tells the plate umpire that they want the FELX to run for the DP. When the plate umpire reports this to Team B their coach verifies that the DP has now left the game and the plate umpire tells them “No, the FLEX and DP are tied together so the FLEX can run for the DP without there being a substitution.” **RULING:** Incorrect ruling. Since the DP is the offensive specialist if they do not play offense, this is a substitution since they have now left the game. If the FLEX does play offense they have to do so in the DP’s position in the lineup, once the DP leaves the game they have one re-entry as all players do. (2-57-1, 3-3-2c)

Situation 2: Team B is utilizing the DP (batting 3rd)/FLEX(playing 1st base) with three substitutes S1, S2 and S3. After the lineup is official Team B’s coach tells the umpire that the FLEX is going to bat for the DP. In the first inning the FLEX reaches first base safely, Team B’s coach asks to re-enter the DP to run for the FLEX, and the FLEX will continue to play defense. In the third inning, the coach wants the FLEX to again bat for the DP. The FLEX reaches first base safely and Team B’s coach asks to enter S1 in the DP spot to run for the FLEX and the FLEX will continue to play defense. In the fourth inning Team B again wants the FLEX to bat for the DP. Team A’s coach objects, saying that the FLEX can only bat twice as they cannot re-enter the game more than once. The umpire rules that Team B’s actions are legal and the FLEX can again bat for the DP. **RULING:** Correct ruling. Since the FLEX continued to play defense they never left the game. They are allowed to continue to bat for the DP and then return to playing defense only as long as there are eligible substitutes to continue to fill the DP position. (3-3-6d)

Situation 3: Team A is utilizing the DP/FLEX (pitching). In the third inning F4 is not feeling well and the coach from Team A has the DP play defense for F4 but F4 continues to bat in their spot in the lineup. When F4 bats and reaches first base safely Team B’s coach appeals that Team A did not report F4 re-entering the game. The umpire rules that Team A’s actions are legal, the DP playing defense for someone other than the FLEX is not a substitution. **RULING:** Correct ruling. The DP may play defense at any position. When playing defense for someone other than the FLEX that player continues to bat but not play defense and that player has not left the game. (3-3-6e)

Situation 4: Team B is utilizing the DP/FLEX who is pitching. In the fifth inning, the coach of Team B brings F4 in to pitch and the DP to play defense as F4. The umpire informs Team A’s coach “F4 is the new pitcher and the DP is playing defense for the FLEX”. Team A’s coach objects stating that if the DP is playing defense for the FLEX then they must be the new pitcher. The umpire rules that Team B’s actions are legal. **RULING:** Correct ruling. When the DP plays defense for the FLEX, the FLEX player has left the game. Although the DP is playing defense for the FLEX, they can play any defensive position. There is no requirement that the DP play the position the FLEX was previously playing. (3-3-6e&f)