

DP/Flex For The First Time User

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September 2013

Dear Rookie,

Thanks for opening this presentation and wanting to learn the basics of using the DP/Flex rule. The slides have a sample lineup on the left and an inning-by-inning narrative on the right so you can follow along as changes are made throughout the imaginary game. Changes are noted (although NOT in a format suggested by the Softball Umpire Program for lineup management by the plate umpire) for easy understanding . Once these basic steps make sense to you, you'll be ready to open the **DP/Flex Chalk Talk** also posted on www.SUP.ArbitersSports.com.

Dee

Starting Lineup

#	Name	Position
11	Leslie Leadoff	1
22	Glenda Goodbunter	2
33	Heidi Highaverage	3
44	Patti Powerhitter	4
55	Desiree Player	DP
66	Paula Protector	5
77	Reba Reliefchucker	6
88	Wanda Weakestlink	7
99	Susie Speeddemon	8
00	Felicia Fleetfoot	9

Substitutes

1 Betty Bencher 2 Donna Dugout
56 Sally Substitute

Player Information

Desiree Player is recovering from an ankle sprain but is still one of the best hitters on the team. She is not ready to play defense or run the bases so she will be the DP.

Right fielder **Felicia Fleetfoot** is a freshman slowly adjusting to college pitching so she will not bat often but her foot speed is advantageous on the bases and in the outfield. She will be the Flex.

Lineup

11 Leslie Leadoff	1
22 Glenda Goodbunter	2
33 Heidi Highaverage	3
44 Patti Powerhitter	4
55 Desiree Player	DP 00
66 Paula Protector	5
77 Reba Reliefchucker	6
88 Wanda Weakestlink	7
99 Susie Speeddemon	8
00 Felicia Fleetfoot	9

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In the second inning, **Desiree Player** leads off with a double. She will come out of the game but since she is a starter, she can re-enter one time later.

Felicia Fleetfoot will enter to run for **Desiree Player**. She can enter the DP spot in the batting order as often as she wants. This changes the lineup from 10 to nine players because **Desiree Player** is out of the game.

After **Felicia Fleetfoot** scores, there's no need to report any changes... **Desiree Player** is still out of the game and **Felicia Fleetfoot** is still the right fielder and is in the fifth spot of the batting order.

Lineup

11 Leslie Leadoff	1
22 Glenda Goodbunter	2
33 Heidi Highaverage	3
44 Patti Powerhitter	4
55 Desiree Player	DP 00
66 Paula Protector	5
77 Reba Reliefchucker	6
88 Wanda Weakestlink	7
99 Susie Speeddemon	8
00 Felicia Fleetfoot	9

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In the fourth inning when the fifth (DP's) spot in the batting order comes up, there are already two outs and no one on base so **Felicia Fleetfoot** remains in the lineup to get experience at bat but she strikes out so there are still no lineup changes and the team is still playing just nine players.

Lineup

11 Leslie Leadoff	1
22 Glenda Goodbunter	2
33 Heidi Highaverage	3
44 Patti Powerhitter	4
55 Desiree Player	DP 00 55 00
66 Paula Protector	5
77 Reba Reliefchucker	6
88 Wanda Weakestlink	7
99 Susie Speeddemon	8
00 Felicia Fleetfoot	9



Substitutes

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56 Sally Substitute

In the sixth inning, the fifth spot in the batting order is due up first. **Felicia Fleetfoot** currently occupies that spot but **Desiree Player** has not yet used her re-entry so she is reinserted in her original fifth spot in the batting order.

Desiree Player doubles but since she has already used her re-entry, if she is removed from offense, she will be done for the game. Coach enters **Felicia Fleetfoot** to run (benching **Desiree Player**) which is the start of a big inning that includes the team batting around. When the fifth spot in the batting order comes up again in the inning, Coach has several options...

Lineup

11 Leslie Leadoff	1
22 Glenda Goodbunter	2
33 Heidi Highaverage	3
44 Patti Powerhitter	4
55 Desiree Player	DP 00 55 00
66 Paula Protector	5
77 Reba Reliefchucker	6
88 Wanda Weakestlink	7
99 Susie Speeddemon	8
00 Felicia Fleetfoot	9

Substitutes

1 Betty Bencher 2 Donna Dugout
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- 1) letting **Felicia Fleetfoot** remain in the fifth spot to bat thus continuing to play nine players;
- 2) bring in #56 Sally Substitute off the bench for **Felicia Fleetfoot** making her also the right fielder and playing nine (although **Felicia Fleetfoot** still has her re-entry rights); or
- 3) bring in #56 Sally Substitute from the bench to bat in the fifth spot as the DP, allowing **Felicia Fleetfoot** to return to being the Flex and returning to playing 10 players.

Lineup

11 Leslie Leadoff	1
22 Glenda Goodbunter	2
33 Heidi Highaverage	3
44 Patti Powerhitter	4
55 Desiree Player	DP 00 55 00 56
66 Paula Protector	5
77 Reba Reliefchucker	6 OP
88 Wanda Weakestlink	7
99 Susie Speeddemon	8
00 Felicia Fleetfoot	9

Substitutes

1 Betty Bencher	2 Donna Dugout
56 Sally Substitute	6

In this case, Coach has entered Sally Substitute as the DP and Felicia Fleetfoot returns to just playing right field so the team is competing with 10 players again. Felicia Fleetfoot has not yet come out of the game defensively so she has not left the game yet.

As the team goes out on defense, coach decides to have Sally Substitute (the DP) play defense for Reba Reliefchucker who was the shortstop but is the team's second pitcher who needs to go warm-up for game two. Reba Reliefchucker becomes the OP and continues to bat in her spot of the batting order.

Lineup

11 Leslie Leadoff	1
22 Glenda Goodbunter	2
33 Heidi Highaverage	3
44 Patti Powerhitter	4
55 Desiree Player	DP 00 55 00 56
66 Paula Protector	5
77 Reba Reliefchucker	6 OP
88 Wanda Weakestlink	7
99 Susie Speeddemon	8
00 Felicia Fleetfoot	9

Substitutes

1 Betty Bencher	2 Donna Dugout
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In the team's final inning at bat, the DP spot in the batting comes up for one final time. It is currently occupied by Sally Substitute who can bat and if she gets on base, may run for herself ; or Felicia Fleetfoot may go into the DP spot and bat and if she gets on base, may run for herself; or Sally Substitute may bat and if she gets on base, Felicia Fleetwood may run for her in the DP spot; or a new substitute may enter the game as the DP for Sally Substitute or as the Flex for Felicia Fleetwood. If Sally Substitute is replaced, she is out of the game because substitutes cannot re-enter.

Regardless of that final decision, the DP/Flex options give the coach flexibility in its simplest form to replace:

- the DP who is just playing offense;
- the DP who is playing both offense and defense;
- the Flex who is just playing defense; or
- the Flex who is playing defense and offense in the DP's spot of the batting order.

Remember, the DP is only considered to have left the game if she is removed on offense and can therefore go in and out of any defensive positions as often as coach wants her to.

The Flex is only considered to have left the game if she is removed on defense and can therefore go in and out of the DP's spot in the batting order as often as coach wants her to.