

## NFHS Softball - DP/FLEX Simplified

1. A <b>DP</b> does not have to be used.	7. If the starting <b>DP</b> plays defense for the <b>FLEX</b> player, the <b>FLEX</b> player has left the game and the team continues with 9 players.
2. If used it must be noted on the starting lineup.	8. The <b>FLEX</b> player can bat or run, but only in the original <b>DP's</b> position. Therefore, the <b>FLEX</b> player and the <b>DP</b> can never be on offense simultaneously.
3. A team using the <b>DP</b> starts the game with 10 players on the lineup card, but could end the game with 9 or 10.	9. When the <b>FLEX</b> player bats for the <b>DP</b> , the <b>FLEX</b> player bats in position of the original <b>DP</b> . The <b>DP</b> is considered to have left the game, but the <b>FLEX</b> player has not.
4. The STARTING <b>DP</b> can play defense for any of the other 9 players in the lineup.	10. If the <b>DP</b> re-enters the game, she must do so in her original batting order position and the <b>FLEX</b> player could: (A) move back to the No. 10 position in the lineup, or (B) leave the game. If the <b>FLEX</b> player moves back to the 10 <sup>th</sup> position in the lineup, the team resumes the game with 10 players and the <b>FLEX</b> player has never left the game.
5. If the starting <b>DP</b> plays defense for a player listed within the first 9 batting positions in the lineup, that player will continue to bat in her original position in the lineup and has not left the game.	11. A substitute can enter the game for either the <b>DP</b> or the <b>FLEX</b> position. The substitute can enter on defense, or as a pinch hitter or pinch runner.
6. The player listed in the 10 <sup>th</sup> position in the lineup will play defense only and will be called a <b>FLEX</b> player. The <b>DP</b> and the <b>FLEX</b> player can play defense simultaneously.	

### REMINDERS:

- 1) The **DP** can never be on **DEFENSE ONLY**.
- 2) The **FLEX** player can never be on **OFFENSE ONLY**.
- 3) The **DP** and **FLEX** player can never be on offense at the same time.
- 4) The **STARTER** and the **SUBSTITUTE** cannot be in the game at the same time.
- 5) The starting **DP** and **FLEX** player have one re-entry just as any other player.
- 6) Once the game is started with the **DP/FLEX** positions in the lineup, those positions are available for the entire game.
- 7) The penalty for illegal re-entry of the **DP** or **FLEX** player is always restriction to the bench/dugout.
- 8) If the player is on offense, she is called out. If the player is on defense, the team on offense may have the choice of taking the result of the play or accepting the penalty.

## **TROUBLESOME RULE**

1. Use of the DP-FLEX is optional and not mandatory.
2. The DP is the designated player who may bat anywhere in the batting order from 1-9. The FLEX is the flexible player and is listed in the 10<sup>th</sup> position in the line-up. The FLEX may not bat in the 10<sup>th</sup> position.
3. The DP-FLEX roles may be suspended but are never terminated.
4. The DP may play defense for any player, including the FLEX player.
5. When the DP plays defense for any player in the batting order, that player will continue to bat but not play defense.
6. When the DP plays defense for the FLEX, the FLEX must leave the game.
7. The FLEX and all substitutes for the FLEX may enter the batting order as a batter or runner only in the DP position. The change suspends the 10<sup>th</sup> position in the line-up.
8. Courtesy runners may not be used for the DP if the DP is batting for the pitcher or catcher, but a pinch runner may be used.
9. The starting DP, the starting FLEX and any substitutes for the DP and FLEX may leave the game and re-enter the game once.
10. A starting FLEX and a substitute for the FLEX may not be in the game at the same time.
11. The DP and the FLEX may play defense at the same time.
12. The DP may play defense for any player and at any position.
13. The DP and the FLEX may not play offense at the same time.
14. A FLEX who enters the batting order and returns to FLEX is not considered to have left the game regardless of how many times such changes are made.