

MINNESOTA BASEBALL RULE EXPERIMENT

Baseball Rule 3-1-4

Modify: ART. 4 . . . The Pitcher may be listed as starting Pitcher/Designated Hitter on the lineup card presented to the umpire-in-chief and official scorer prior to the start of the game. (This will appear as a nine player lineup for the game but has a tenth player listed due to the dual position listing of the starting pitcher.) A hitter may (not mandatory) be designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game. A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup except for the pitcher. The pitcher can concurrently play pitcher and designated hitter. A designated hitter for said a player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer. Failure to declare a designated hitter prior to the game precludes the use of a designated hitter in that game. If during the course of the game the player is replaced as the pitcher; he can remain in the game in the role of the designated hitter. If during the course of the game the player is replaced as the designated hitter, he can remain in the game as the pitcher. The player (pitcher) shall be locked into his original slot on the lineup card as pitcher/designated hitter/ or both and may re-enter the game in either position as any other starter can as long as he has not been removed from both positions.

If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter. The player who was the designated hitter may re-enter as the designated hitter under the re-entry rule. A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation. The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when:

- a. the defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter, batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch runs for the designated hitter; or
- b. the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position (except the starting pitcher); or
- c. if the player is replaced in both roles, pitcher and designated hitter.

Rationale: At the high school level, in many programs, the best pitcher is also one of the best athletes. This change will protect the starting pitcher from over use of his throwing arm by having to stay in the game; and will keep the team from having to lose their best player/hitter. The best pitcher/athlete can now continue to hit once he has been replaced on the mound. He will hit for the new pitcher and any other pitcher that would come into the game. This will continue until the designated hitter is put into the game as a position player. The safety part of this rule is the pitcher does not leave the game and does not need to be put into the field to stay in the game. With the rule that is in place right now, the coach would lose not only the pitcher a hitter which hinders the chance for success in this contest. By allowing the pitcher to be listed as Pitcher/Designated Hitter at the beginning of the game we have protected the player from overuse and we have kept the playing of the contest level for both teams. This rule addendum is for keeping pitcher's arm safe and teams competitive. The Designated Hitter will still be able to be used as it is at this time, as this merely gives another option for the use of the Designated Hitter.

2014-15 Baseball Rules Supplement

2014-15 Rule Changes:

1-5-1: . . . it is mandatory that . . . wear a batting helmet that has a non-glare (not mirror-like) surface and meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.

2-16-1: A foul ball is a batted ball:

- f. that hits the batter in the batter's box; or
- g. that hits the ground or home plate and then hits the batter or the bat which is held by the batter, while he is in the batter's box.

2-21-4: Follow through interference is when the ball hits the catcher after the batter has swung at the pitch and hinders action at home plate or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner.

2-21-5: Backswing interference is when a batter contacts the catcher or his equipment prior to the time of the pitch.

3-3-1f: Deleted the restriction of using video monitoring and replay equipment.

3-3-1 PEN: Deleted the accompanying penalty that was in place for a violation of this rule

5-1-1n: Clarifies that when backswing interference occurs, the ball is dead immediately.

7-3-5c: Interfere with the catcher's fielding or throwing by: c) making any other movement, including follow-through interference, which hinders actions at home plate or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner.

7-3-7: Clarifies the rules for backswing interference by the batter.

7-3-7 PEN: Added that the penalty for backswing interference is that the ball is immediately dead.

Speed Up Rules: Clarified that when a courtesy runner is used for a catcher or pitcher, and that catcher or pitcher bats a second time in the same inning, that player will bat and if they reach base the player may run for themselves or have the courtesy runner run in their place.

MINNESOTA RULE EXPERIMENT: SEE LANGUAGE ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE

2015 NFHS Points of Emphasis:

1. Helmet maintenance and usage – helmets shall be inspected on a regular basis and must be free of cracks, cuts or missing parts, with proper ear pads. Helmets may not have tape.
2. Pitching substitution/change – the coach must make his substitution know to the umpire-in-chief and score-keeper; relieve the game pitcher; instruct his players quickly; and head back to the dugout area by the time the relief pitcher has finished his 8 warm-up pitches.
3. Sportsmanship – Celebrations around or near home plate: the area around home plate must be kept clear when there is a game winning hit so that the umpire can verify that the runners properly touch the plate. Hovering around third base or home plate by the base runners shall also not be allowed, at this can lead to unsportsmanlike behavior.
4. Sportsmanship – Post-game ejections: Umpires have jurisdiction until they leave the field and may issue game ejections to players or coaches after the game has ended. Umpires shall also file incident reports with the MSHSL any time an ejection occurs. After the umpires have left the field they cannot issue an ejection but they still have jurisdiction that allows them to file an incident report with the MSHSL when there is inappropriate behavior on the part of coaches, players or fans.