

Protocol – Use of an Off-Field Umpire to manage line up cards and substitutions

Rationale: In order to speed up the game, an off-field umpire will be assigned to each game with the sole responsibility to manage the line-up cards including substitutions. The following guidelines will apply to the off-field umpire:

- 1) The off-field umpire will be dressed in umpire uniform and at the pre-game plate meeting will stand beside the plate-umpire. During this meeting the plate umpire will introduce the off-field umpire as the umpire who will take substitutions. After the plate umpire verifies the line-ups, the plate umpire will keep the original line-ups and the off-field umpire will work with an exact copy of the line-up.
- 2) The off-field umpire will locate her/himself in a visible area behind the backstop. Line-up changes should be taken from team coaches/managers at the closest gateway. Once the changes have been given to the off-field umpire, the off-field umpire shall signal the plate umpire to resume the game.
- 3) The coaches/managers are obliged to report all substitutes to the off-field umpire. This meets with the all requirement to inform the Plate Umpire of any changes, offensively or defensively including Replacement Players and Temporary Runners. All other rules applying to substitutions, re-entry etc., remain in effect.
- 5) The off-field umpire will immediately inform the scorekeepers and the opposing team of all changes reported. Between innings, if time allows, the off-field umpire will advise the plate umpire of the substitution(s) that have occurred. The plate umpire will keep a record of all conferences.
- 6) All appeals of batting out of order, illegal substitutes, illegal re-entry etc. must be made to the plate umpire. The plate umpire shall consult with the off-field umpire and then make a determination as quickly as possible.