



# SNZ TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Issued for SNZ by Umpire-in-Chief -Wayne Saunders  
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The Designated Runner (DR) Rule is a Softball New Zealand approved rule only and does not appear in the Rulebook. The following update now includes Caseplays and amended Rule references

- a. A “**Designated Runner**”, referred to as the **DR**, may be used in the game for any base runner provided that it is known prior to the start of the game, and his/her name is entered on the line up sheet. The **DR** is to be listed in **position 11** in the batting order.
- b. The **DR** may enter the game once only in each innings to run for any base runner. **Note: “Time” is to be requested and granted, prior to the base runner leaving a base to be replaced by the DR. Leaving a base before “Time” is granted will place the base runner in jeopardy as per Rule 8 sec. 9d.**
- c. Any base runner replaced by the **DR** returns to the game on completion of the innings, or at his/her next turn at bat, whichever is the sooner. **No re-entry is required.**
- d. The **DR** may be substituted by a legal substitute who then becomes the **DR**. The provisions of **Rule 4 Sec 8 and penalties for violations apply.**
- e. The **DR** substituted as in d, may not re-enter the game.
- f. The **DR** may not enter the game on defense, nor may the **DR** bat. Violation shall be considered an illegal re-entry. **Effect – Rule 4 Sec. 7.**

## Case Plays:

**DR1:** R1 is on 1<sup>st</sup> base. In the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the defense is granted TIME to confer with the pitcher. During the defensive conference the **DR** replaces R1 at 1<sup>st</sup> base, but is not reported to the umpire. On the next pitch to B2, the **DR** safely steals to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. The defense then appeal for the non-notified entry into the game of the **DR**.

**Ruling:** Treat as an unreported substitute. Declare the **DR** ineligible, and replace with a legal substitute. All advances are legal. Note: If no legal substitute is available, record an out and the game shall continue with no **DR**. **Rule 4 Sec 8g Effect Offense e.**

**DR2:** Blue team commences the game with a **DR**. In the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning B2 makes base and is legally replaced by the **DR**. In the 5<sup>th</sup> inning B2 picks a walk and is once again legally replaced at 1<sup>st</sup> by the **DR**. A number of safe hits and some errors results in B2 once again bats. He hits a single and the offense again replaces him at 1<sup>st</sup> base with the **DR**. On the next pitch, the **DR** safely steals to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. The defense then appeal that the **DR** has already been used in this inning.

**Ruling:** Treat as an illegal re-entry. The **DR** and the coach are ejected from the game. All advances are legal. Returning B2 is considered a re-entry (Rule 4 Sec8e EXCEPTION). B2 is considered to have left the game as the **DR** was not entitled to entry the game under this rule **Rule 4 Sec 8g Effect Offense e. & Rule 4 Sec 8b**

**DR3:** R1 at 3<sup>rd</sup> base, R2 at 1<sup>st</sup> base. B4 hits a single to F9 scoring R1 as R2 advances to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. B4 runs through 1<sup>st</sup> base and returns to the foul portion, R2 is just off 3<sup>rd</sup> base creeping toward home, when the offense request TIME to replace B4 with the **DR**.

**Ruling:** The umpire shall not grant TIME until all runners have returned to their base. Should B4 leave the field of play prior to retouching the fair portion of 1<sup>st</sup> base, treat this as a dead ball appeal for a missed base. On appeal declare B4 out. The **DR** is not considered to have entered the game. **Rule 2 Sec h NOTE b NOTE.**

**SNZ notifies that the Designated Runner (DR) Rule shall not be used at any age grade National Tournaments including Secondary and Primary School Tournaments.**