



# Designated Player & Flex Player



# How to Use a DP and FLEX in the Line Up

1. A Designated Player (DP) may be used for any defensive player (fielder); the selected defensive player is referred to as the FLEX.
2. The DP and FLEX positions must be listed on the line-up prior to the start of the game.
3. The DP must be indicated on the line-up as one of the nine (9) hitters in the order; the DP and the Flex have starting 9 rights.
4. The name of the player for whom the DP is batting (FLEX) will be placed in the 10th position in the line-up.



# Line Up Sheet - example

Designated  
Player

Softball New Zealand			
Team: <u>Team A</u> V <u>Team B</u>			
Tournament: _____			
Time: <u>2.00pm</u> Date: <u>01 August 2020</u>			
Batting Order	Shirt No	NAME (first) (Surname)	Pos
1	89	Ben Enoka	8
2	9	Cole Evans	6
3	20	Thomas Enoka	7
4	15	Pita Rona	DP
5	12	Nathan Nukunuku	3
6	3	Levi Wilson	4
7	13	Connor Peden	2
8	6	Brook Evans	5
9	11	Te Kirika Cooper Nicola	9
10	10	Daniel Chapman	1
		<b>SUBSTITUTES</b>	
12	1	Ryan Earley	
13	5	Taine Slaughter	
14	24	Seth Gibson	
15			
16			

Flex

# Scorebook - example

TOP		BOTTOM		Inn	Inn		
	No	PLAYERS	Pos	Pos	Pos	S	R
1	8	Cole Evans	6				
2	6	Isaac Fletcher	DP				
	5	Nik Hayes	1				

Designated  
Player entered  
on the first line  
as the batter  
for the flex.

Flex entered  
on the third  
line with the  
fielding  
position.

# DP Batting Order – Substitution and Scorebook



1. The DP, and any substitutes for the DP, must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
2. The DP may be substituted at any time by a pinch hitter or pinch runner. This player becomes the DP and has all the options of the DP position.
3. The starting DP and a substitute for the DP, can **NEVER** be in the game at the same time, unless either is in the game as a Replacement Player (e.g. Blood Rule).

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## Example

Issac Fletcher (DP) is substituted by Wayne Lauulu in the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. The vertical line indicates his first at bat

		Inn.	Inn.	S	R	1	2	3	4
		Pos	Pos						
6	Issac Fletcher	DP							
29	Wayne Lauulu	DP		3		a			
5	Nick Hayes	1				BB			



# FLEX Player – Substitution and Scorebook

1. The FLEX may be substituted for at any time. This player becomes the FLEX and has all the options of the FLEX position.
2. The starting FLEX and a substitute for the FLEX can NEVER be in the game at the same time, unless either is in the game as a Replacement Player.

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As this is a fielding change, we indicate this on the opposition side of the scoresheet.

**A** Indicates a pitching change..

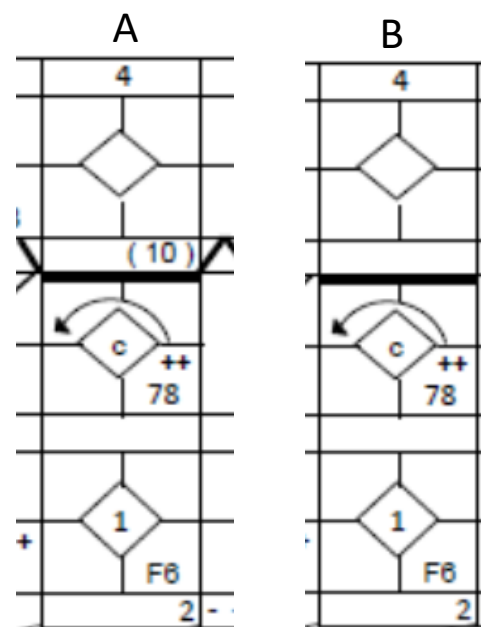
**B** indicates a fielding change for all other positions.

**Nick Hayes (FLEX)**

substituted by

**Daniel Chapman** in the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.

			Inn Pos	Inn Pos	S	R
6	Issac Fletcher	DP	/	/		
29	Wayne Laulu	DP	/	/	3	
5	Nick Hayes	1	/	/		
10	Daniel Chapman	1	/	/	4	
			/	/		



# Review – Case Study 1

CASE STUDY 1		Y	N
1.	Team 'A' starts the game with nine players. The coach wishes to enter a substitute in the game, as a DP, in the 2nd inning and place them at the end of the batting order. Is this legal?		✓
2.	The DP hits a pitched ball for a double. The coach then substitutes the DP with a pinch runner. Can the DP return to the game?	✓	
3.	Thomas Enoka is batting second and the DP is batting fifth in the line-up. In the 2nd innings, the coach wishes to have the FLEX bat for Enoka, as he believes the FLEX can bat anywhere in the line-up. Is this legal?		✓

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- FLEX replaces DP on offence (NOLA bats for FLETCHER).
- The players reduce from 10 to 9.
- FLETCHER has left the game. He will need to be re-entered to continue in the game.

The diagram illustrates the transformation of a sparse matrix into a dense matrix. On the left, a sparse matrix has two rows: 'Isaac Fletcher' with a value of 3, and 'Floyd Nola' with a value of 1. A red arrow points to the right, where the same data is represented in a dense matrix format. In this dense matrix, the value 3 for 'Isaac Fletcher' is represented by three 1s in the first row, and the value 1 for 'Floyd Nola' is represented by one 1 in the second row. The rest of the matrix cells are empty, representing 0s.

When entering his batting stats, enter them in the line adjacent to his name.

# DP replacing FLEX on Defence

The DP may replace the FLEX on defence (fielding). This reduces the number of players in the game from ten to nine.

## Example

FLETCHER will play right field from the third inning.

NOLA has temporarily left the game.

Players reduce from 10 to 9.

			Inn Pos	Inn Pos	S	R	1	2	3
6	Issac Fletcher	DP	3 / 9	/			a		78 ++
99	Floyd Nola	9	3 / -	/			BB		
			/	/					
			/	/					

# DP Re-entering Game



1. The starting DP may re-enter the game one time, BUT must return to the original DP position in the batting order.
2. If the DP re-enters and the FLEX was batting in the DP position, the FLEX shall return to the #10 position in the line-up and play defence only; or leave the game. If the FLEX is returned to the #10 position, they are not considered to have left the game.

## Example

Re-enter #6 DP (bottom of 4)

- DP had left the game and so must be re-entered.
- FLEX has not left the game at any time and does not needed to be re-entered.

		Inn.	Pos	Inn.	Pos	S	R	1	2	3	4
6	Issac Fletcher	DP	3				4	a			
99	Floyd Nola	1						BB		78	

## Note

The 2 vertical lines indicate the start and finish of the At Bat for the FLEX.

# Review – Case Study 2



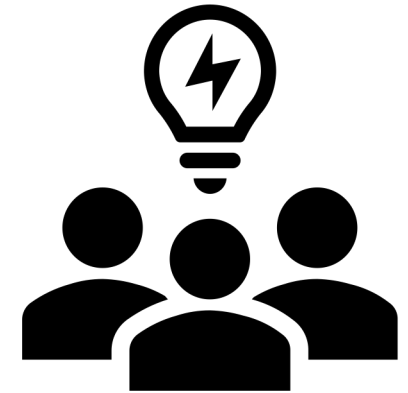
CASE STUDY 2		Y	N
4.	The defensive player (FLEX) for whom the DP is batting, starts the game in the pitching position. In the 5th inning the FLEX bats for the DP. Is this legal?	✓	
5.	The FLEX legally acts as a pinch runner for the DP. Later in the game, the DP re-enters. The FLEX returns to the #10 spot in the starting line-up. Is this legal?	✓	
6.	A team is using 10 players in their line-up with the DP batting third. The FLEX is playing right field. In the first and third innings, the DP gets on base and in each case the FLEX is put in to run for him. Is this legal?	✓	

# Discussion Point – Case Study Question 6

- ❖ A team is using 10 players in their line up, with the DP batting third.
- ❖ The FLEX is playing right field.
- ❖ In the first and third innings, the DP gets on base and in each case the FLEX is put in to run for him.
- ❖ DP left the game (in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning) for the second time.

## What happens next?

- The DP was substituted twice, so has now left the game.
  - The DP can be substituted by a bench player.
- OR
- The FLEX stays in the batting line up.



# FLEX Re-entering Game - examples

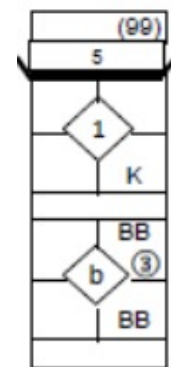
The starting FLEX may re-enter the game one time returning to their original FLEX position (#10) in the line-up, or take the place of the starting DP in the line-up.

If the FLEX re-enters in the No. 10 position, the DP shall continue to bat in the batting order, and play offence only.

## Example 1

NOLA (#99) re-enters as FLEX in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.

			Inn Pos	Inn Pos	S	R
6	Issac Fletcher	DP	/	/		
99	Floyd Nola	1	/	/	5	
10	Daniel Chapman	1	/	/	3	



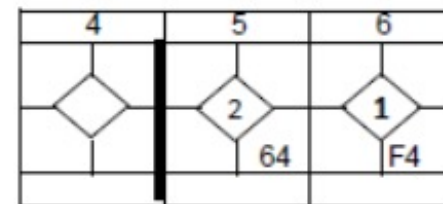
## NOTE

Remember to indicate the pitching change even though this is the original pitcher.

## Example 2

NOLA (#99) re-enters and replaces the DP in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.

			Inn Pos	Inn Pos	S	R
6	Issac Fletcher	DP	5	-		
99	Floyd Nola	1	/	/	5	
10	Daniel Chapman	1	/	/	3	



# Review – Case Study 3



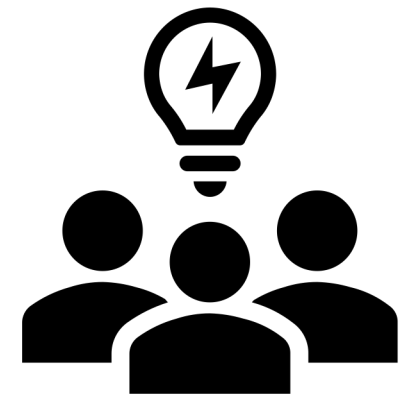
CASE STUDY 3		Y	N
7.	<p>The game starts with a DP.</p> <p>In the 5th inning, the FLEX bats for the DP.</p> <p>In the 6th inning, the coach announces that the DP is re-entering into his original batting position.</p> <p>The coach removes the FLEX from the game.</p> <p>Is this legal?</p>	✓	
8.	<p>The DP plays third base in the 2nd inning and second base in the 4th inning.</p> <p>Is this permitted?</p>	✓	
9.	<p>The FLEX, SLAUGHTER, is pitching.</p> <p>After several innings, the coach replaces DP NOLA with FLETCHER (a legal substitute).</p> <p>NOLA goes to the bullpen to warm up.</p> <p>After warming up, NOLA re-enters for FLETCHER and replaces SLAUGHTER as the pitcher.</p> <p>Is this legal?</p>	✓	

# Discussion Point – Case Study Question 9

- ❖ The FLEX, SLAUGHTER, is pitching.
- ❖ After several innings, the coach replaces the DP NOLA with FLETCHER (a legal substitute).
- ❖ NOLA goes to the bullpen to warm up.
- ❖ After warming up, NOLA re- enters for FLETCHER and replaces SLAUGHTER as the pitcher.

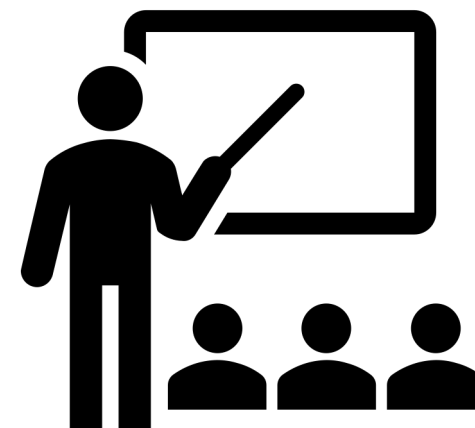
## Some points to note:

- SLAUGHTER has left the game and the players have reduced from 10 to 9.
- SLAUGHTER or a legal substitute, can return to the game later.
- FLETCHER can only return as a Replacement Player.



# Designated Player – Further Points

- ❖ The DP may play defence for any player at any position.
- ❖ The DP and the FLEX *can* be on defence (fielding) at the same time.
- ❖ Should the DP play defence for a different player other than the one for whom he is batting (the FLEX), that player (no longer fielding) will continue to bat as an Offensive Player Only (OPO) and is not considered to have left the game.
- ❖ The role of the DP/FLEX is never terminated. A team may go from ten to nine players and back to ten players any number of times during the game. The game may end with ten or nine players.





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2	7	Thomas Enoka	3	5	bpo		
3	12	Nathan Nukunuku	DP	5	3		
	10	Daniel Chapman	1				

# Review – Case Study 4

CASE STUDY: Are these examples legal?		Y	N
10.	The DP plays defence for the shortstop (not the FLEX) in the third inning. The coach then inserts the FLEX to bat for the shortstop.		✓
11.	The line-up cards are being reviewed by the teams at the pre-game meeting, at which time the defensive coach advises that he wishes to start the game with the DP playing the defensive position of the FLEX.	✓	
12.	The FLEX is injured and has to leave the game. The DP replaces the FLEX at the shortstop position.	✓	
13.	The DP begins the game playing offence for the FLEX, who is playing at left field. In the third inning the DP plays at left field and the FLEX leaves the game.	✓	
14.	The DP is batting for the FLEX. In the 4th innings, Sub#1 enters the game as a substitute for the FLEX. Later, the coach informs the umpire that the original FLEX will be re-entered, batting for the DP. Sub#1 continues fielding in the game.		✓



**You have now completed the  
Designated Player  
&  
Flex Player  
module**

