

UNDERSTANDING 2020 DH RULE 3-1-4b

3-1-4b can be complicated. However, it will be much easier to understand if the following concepts are remembered.

Coaches will now have 3 options at game time: No DH, the Federation DH, or the new option. The use of options 2 or 3 must be declared at the start of the game or the umpires will assume that no DH is being use.

P/DH stands for position player/DH, not necessarily P/DH.

- 1) If a team chooses to use the P/DH it, it must be used on the lineup card prior to the start of the game.
- 2) The starting P/DH and any substitution for the P/DH are locked into the same place in the lineup.
- 3) The DH is terminated if there is a pinch-hitter or pinch-runner for the DH.
- 4) The DH is terminated if a substitute or former substitute for a defensive player subsequently participated in an offensive role. (Same as the current DH Rule).
- 5) The starting P/DH has re-entry rights.

Knowing the above should give coaches, players and umpires a basic understanding of 3-1-4b. In reality, it is expected that in the overwhelming majority of the time, this rule will simply be used as intended, to allow a starting pitcher to be replaced as pitcher and continue as the DH.

UNDERSTANDING 2020 DH RULE 3-1-4b

3-1-4b can be complicated. However, it will be much easier to understand if the following concepts are remembered.

Coaches will now have 3 options at game time: No DH, the Federation DH, or the new option. The use of options 2 or 3 must be declared at the start of the game or the umpires will assume that no DH is being use.

P/DH stands for position player/DH, not necessarily P/DH.

- 1) If a team chooses to use the P/DH it, it must be used on the lineup card prior to the start of the game.
- 2) The starting P/DH and any substitution for the P/DH are locked into the same place in the lineup.
- 3) The DH is terminated if there is a pinch-hitter or pinch-runner for the DH.
- 4) The DH is terminated if a substitute or former substitute for a defensive player subsequently participated in an offensive role. (Same as the current DH Rule).
- 5) The starting P/DH has re-entry rights.

Knowing the above should give coaches, players and umpires a basic understanding of 3-1-4b. In reality, it is expected that in the overwhelming majority of the time, this rule will simply be used as intended, to allow a starting pitcher to be replaced as pitcher and continue as the DH.

3.1.4 Situation E: Prior to the start of the game at the pre-game conference meeting, the (a) home team's coach presents the PU a lineup card with Holaday the DH for Feldhausen the RF and the (b) visiting team coach presents a lineup card with Sullivan listed as the RF/DH.

Ruling: Legal in both (a) and (b). Teams may choose to use either the DH option or no DH for a particular game as long as they declare their intentions prior to the start of the game.

3.1.4 Situation F: Sanders is listed as the P/DH, hitting in the 3rd spot in the order. (a) In the 5th, McNeely enters as the pitcher with Sanders reaching his pitch count limit. Sanders continues as DH for McNeely; (b) in the 6th, substitute Jackson enters to pitch for McNeely. Sanders remains the DH for Jackson; and (c) in the 7th, Sanders returns to defense as the catcher and is still listed as the DH,

Ruling: Legal in (a), (b) and (c).

3.1-4 Situation G: Kruger is listed as the RF/DH, hitting 3rd in the order. In the 5th, substitute Brodell enters as the right fielder with Kruger still the DH for Brodell.

Ruling: This is legal.

3.14 Situation H: Dolan is listed as the 2B/DH in the lineup, batting 4th in the order. The coach wants to bring in Tatelman to hit for Dolan.

Ruling: If substitute Tatelman comes to hit (or run) for Dolan, the role of the DH is terminated for the game. If eligible, Dolan may re-enter the game on defense and bat in the same spot in the order.

3-1-4 Situation I: 4th inning, Montalbo replaces Colgate as the starting P/DH as pitcher. In the 5th, Colgate sprains his ankle as he slides into 2nd base on a double. Colgate cannot continue and needs a pinch-runner.

Ruling: If an eligible substitute enters the game to pinch-run for Colgate, the role of the DH is terminated and Colgate is removed from the game. The coach may substitute another player, but this will end Montalbo as the pitcher since the substitute enters the game in the batting order already occupied by Montalbo. However, if the coach has Montalbo pinch-run for Colgate, Montalbo may continue to pitch and hit for himself.

3-1-4 Situation J: 4th inning, Federico, listed 4th in the order as P/DH and hitting 4th, sprains his ankle running the bases and is taken out of the game replaced by McGinnis, who later has an at bat. Later in the 6th inning, Federico re-enters to (a) pinch-hit for McGinnis or (b) play defense for Russell at 1st base with McGinnis still pitching.

Ruling: Legal in (a); illegal in (b). Federico and McGinnis are locked into the same lineup spot and cannot be in the game on defense at the same time.

3.1.4 Situation E: Prior to the start of the game at the pre-game conference meeting, the (a) home team's coach presents the PU a lineup card with Holaday the DH for Feldhausen the RF and the (b) visiting team coach presents a lineup card with Sullivan listed as the RF/DH.

Ruling: Legal in both (a) and (b). Teams may choose to use either the DH option or no DH for a particular game as long as they declare their intentions prior to the start of the game.

3.1.4 Situation F: Sanders is listed as the P/DH, hitting in the 3rd spot in the order. (a) In the 5th, McNeely enters as the pitcher with Sanders reaching his pitch count limit. Sanders continues as DH for McNeely; (b) in the 6th, substitute Jackson enters to pitch for McNeely. Sanders remains the DH for Jackson; and (c) in the 7th, Sanders returns to defense as the catcher and is still listed as the DH,

Ruling: Legal in (a), (b) and (c).

3.1-4 Situation G: Kruger is listed as the RF/DH, hitting 3rd in the order. In the 5th, substitute Brodell enters as the right fielder with Kruger still the DH for Brodell.

Ruling: This is legal.

3.14 Situation H: Dolan is listed as the 2B/DH in the lineup, batting 4th in the order. The coach wants to bring in Tatelman to hit for Dolan.

Ruling: If substitute Tatelman comes to hit (or run) for Dolan, the role of the DH is terminated for the game. If eligible, Dolan may re-enter the game on defense and bat in the same spot in the order.

3-1-4 Situation I: 4th inning, Montalbo replaces Colgate as the starting P/DH as pitcher. In the 5th, Colgate sprains his ankle as he slides into 2nd base on a double. Colgate cannot continue and needs a pinch-runner.

Ruling: If an eligible substitute enters the game to pinch-run for Colgate, the role of the DH is terminated and Colgate is removed from the game. The coach may substitute another player, but this will end Montalbo as the pitcher since the substitute enters the game in the batting order already occupied by Montalbo. However, if the coach has Montalbo pinch-run for Colgate, Montalbo may continue to pitch and hit for himself.

3-1-4 Situation J: 4th inning, Federico, listed 4th in the order as P/DH and hitting 4th, sprains his ankle running the bases and is taken out of the game replaced by McGinnis, who later has an at bat. Later in the 6th inning, Federico re-enters to (a) pinch-hit for McGinnis or (b) play defense for Russell at 1st base with McGinnis still pitching.

Ruling: Legal in (a); illegal in (b). Federico and McGinnis are locked into the same lineup spot and cannot be in the game on defense at the same time.