

The Line-up

For PIAA Baseball

The Line-up

Tonight we will discuss matters involving the line-up, including:

- What information must we see on a line-up card.
- The use of a designated hitter.
- The use of courtesy runners.
- The use of substitutes and re-entry rules.
- Batting out of order.

Measurables:

You will be able to correctly answer the case plays presented on the subject matter at the end of this presentation.

1.0 Exchange of Line-up Cards at the Pregame Conference. (see Rules 4-1-1 thru 5)

- 1.1 The Line-up card, presented by either the head coach or team captain, SHALL include the NAME, shirt number, position and batting order of each starting player. The name and shirt number of each eligible substitute SHOULD also be listed.
(Note: There is no rule that makes this an absolute requirement; therefore there is no penalty for its omission.)

- 1.2 It is wise for the UIC to scan the line-up card given to him for any obvious errors or omissions. That is the time to ask the coach to verify his submission.
- 1.3 It is proper to accept the HOME team's line-up card first. Once delivered to the UIC, the line-up becomes official. The umpires are in charge of the playing field and have sole authority to determine when the game shall be called, suspended, or resumed on account of the weather, darkness, or the condition of the playing field.

2.0 Rules pertaining to the use of a Designated Hitter: (see Rule 3-1-4)

- 2.1 A hitter may be designated (not mandatory) for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and subsequent substitutes for that player in the game.
- 2.2 Failure to declare a designated hitter (DH) prior to the game precludes the use of the DH for that game.
- 2.3 The designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting must be clearly indicated on the line-up cards presented to the UIC and to the official scorer.
- 2.4 The DH and the player for whom he is batting are locked in their positions in the batting order.

- 2.5 No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting order.
- 2.6 If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the DH is used, that player becomes the new DH.
- 2.7 The player who was the DH may re-enter as the DH under the re-entry rule.
- 2.8 The role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when:
 - a. the defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the DH batted, subsequently bats, pinch hits or pinch runs for the DH; OR
 - b. the DH, or any previous DH assumes a defensive position.

3.0 Rules about the Pitcher: (Rules 3-1-1,2)

- 3.1 After the UIC has received the line-up card prior to the game, the player listed as pitcher shall pitch until the first opposing batter has been put out or has advanced to first base.
- 3.2 If the starting pitcher does not face one batter, he may play another position, but not return to pitch for the remainder of the game.
- 3.3 If a pitcher is replaced while his team is on defense, the substitute pitcher shall pitch to the batter then at bat, or any substitute for that batter, until such batter is put out or reaches first base, or until the third out has been made. (If a pitcher is incapacitated or guilty of flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct, this rule is ignored.)

- 3.4 A player may be removed as pitcher and returned as pitcher only once per inning, provided the return as pitcher does not violate either the pitching, substitution, or charged conference rule.
- 3.5 If the pitcher, because of an injury or being incapacitated, is replaced as pitcher and the above rule is not satisfied, or his replacement requires more warm up throws than permitted, he cannot return to the game as a pitcher.

4.0 Rules about Courtesy Runners: (see Speed -Up Rules, page 63)

- 4.1 At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or catcher.
- 4.2 The courtesy runner for the pitcher cannot be the same individual as the courtesy runner for the catcher.
- 4.3 Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game when their courtesy runner is announced and used.

- 4.4 If the offensive team sends a runner to run for the pitcher or catcher, and the UIC is not informed that he is a COURTESY RUNNER, then such a runner is considered a legal substitute for the runner he just replaced. You may do some preventive officiating and ask when this occurs.
- 4.5 Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners. Only an unused player can be used as a courtesy runner, or his substitute.

- 4.6 A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning. Only if an injury, illness, or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, may the courtesy runner be used as a substitute.
- 4.7 The UIC (or his partner) shall keep record of courtesy runner participation.
- 4.8 A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute.

5.0 Rules about Substitutes: (see Rule 3-1-1)

- 5.1 A substitute is a player who is eligible to replace another player already in the line-up.
- 5.2 If a legal substitute is entered into the game without reporting, there is no penalty. This can happen when an unannounced substitute enters the game (and the ball becomes live) when:
 - a. he takes the place of another runner.
 - b. he takes his place on the pitcher's plate.
 - c. he reaches the position usually occupied by the fielder he has replaced.
 - d. he takes his place in the batter's box.

- 5.3 An illegal substitute is one of the following:
- a. a player who re-enters the game without eligibility to do so.
 - b. a player who re-enters the game in the wrong position in the batting order.
 - c. a player who enters the game on defense while the player for whom he is batting is on defense.
 - d. when the player for whom the DH is batting enters the game as a batter or runner in a different position in the batting order.
 - e. a player who violates the courtesy runner rule.

- 5.4 For discovery of an illegal player on OFFENSE by an umpire or either team; that player shall be called OUT and restricted to the bench/dugout for the duration of the game.
- 5.5 If the illegal player is involved in a play, and is discovered before the next pitch, all outs made on that play stand. All other runners are returned to the base(s) occupied at the time of pitch.

5.6 If an illegal player is involved in a play while on DEFENSE, and is discovered before the first pitch to the next batter of either team; the team on offense has the option to let the play stand or to allow the batter to bat again. The illegal player shall be restricted to the bench/dugout for the duration of the game.

6.0 Re-entry Rules: (see Rule 3-1-3)

- 6.1 Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, including a player who was the DH, provided that player occupies the same position in the batting order whenever he is in the line-up.
- 6.2 A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter the game.

7.0 Batting Out of Order: (see Rule 7-1-1)

- 7.1 An IMPROPER batter is a player who is batting out of order (BOO), and is discovered before he becomes "legal" or "PROPER".
- 7.2 It is the duty of the defensive team to discover if the offensive team is batting out of order. Otherwise, the umpire should not impose any penalty.
- 7.3 If a base runner advances as a result of a stolen base, passed ball, or otherwise during the at-bat by an IMPROPER batter, such advance is legal.

- 7.4 There is only a narrow window of opportunity for the defensive team to have a penalty imposed for BOO. The violation must be cited to the UIC AFTER the IMPROPER BATTER has completed his time at bat and BEFORE the next pitch, or play, or attempted play is made.
- 7.5 If the defensive team challenges the batting order in this manner, the UIC must call time and check with the scorekeepers to verify the complaint.

- 7.6 If the offensive team is found to be in violation of BOO rules, the PROPER BATTER shall be called out. This means the player who should have just batted is OUT. Any outs made as a result of a ball put into play by the IMPROPER batter stand. The IMPROPER batter and any base runners cannot advance on such a play.
- 7.7 The next player who follows the PROPER batter (who was just called out) in the line-up now becomes the batter. This could very well be the same person who just batted.

- 7.8 If the offensive team discovers that they are batting out of order while the IMPROPER batter has not yet completed his time at bat, they need only to request and be granted time. They must send the PROPER batter to the plate to resume the batter's count and complete the at-bat. There is no penalty for this.
- 7.9 If the defensive team discovers that BOO occurred, but the pitcher has already delivered a pitch to the next batter, or a play or attempted play was made, the IMPROPER batter just became legal or PROPER. Now, the batting order picks up from there, even though the offense has skipped over a batter(s) in the batting order.

7.10 When the IMPROPER batter is the last one to bat in the inning, the team on defense has until all infielders have left the diamond to appeal.

8.0 Rules Pertaining to Injuries: (see Rules 3-1-5,6)

- 8.1 Each team is required to start a game with at least nine players. In PIAA baseball, they are permitted to finish with eight. An out will be called each time that spot in the batting order comes to bat.
- 8.2 If a team has less than eight players, they forfeit the game.
- 8.3 If a player becomes unconscious, he cannot be permitted to play for the rest of the day....not without a written note from a physician. There are NO EXCEPTIONS.

- 8.4 If a player is bleeding, or has an opened wound, or has a blood stained uniform or wound dressing, he cannot be permitted to play until he is treated & cleaned up.
- 8.5 It is the coach's responsibility to tend to his players. In the event of an injury to a player...let the coach handle it. There are liability risks if you become involved.
- 8.6 It is a matter of umpire judgment on how long to wait for a player to be attended and the game resumed.

Questions?

Review:

9.0 Keeping Track of Changes on your Score Card:

- 9.1 The UIC must keep his scorecards and a writing instrument easily accessible.
- 9.2 Your scorecard will list nine starting players, ten if a DH is being used. The player's NAME takes precedent over his uniform number.
- 9.3 It is highly recommended that you request the coach to also list all eligible substitutes at the bottom of his scorecard.

- 9.4 When you (the UIC) are informed of a substitution, call time, move away from home plate, put your mask under your arm, and record all changes given. Never take projected substitutions, and take one change at a time.
- 9.5 Starters may re-enter the game ONCE.
- 9.6 Substitutes when removed are finished.
- 9.7 Courtesy runners must be players who have not yet entered the game. No one who has entered the game can serve as a courtesy runner. Courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher MUST be different players. You must keep track of their game participation.

- 9.8 Any substitute who is re-entered into the game and is discovered is immediately removed from the game and is restricted to the bench for the duration of the game. If it happens to the same player again, he is to be ejected. If he was on offense when he is discovered, he also becomes an automatic out.
- 9.9 Batting out of order should only be cited by the defense. When they appeal, call time. Determine if a penalty should be applied based on the timeliness of the appeal. If yes, consult the scorebooks of both teams to insure the appeal should be upheld.

- 9.10 A team must start with at least nine players and cannot play with less than eight players. Once players become classified as INELIGIBLE, they cannot re-enter the game, not even for an injured or ejected player. The team is subject to forfeit.
- 9.11 There are a lot of rules here to remember. Some of these situations happen very infrequently, so it is difficult to accurately recall all the rules. When you have doubt, please immediately consult with your partner in private and make sure that you apply the rules correctly before you resume the game.

Test:

The following case studies are excerpts from
NFHS publication "Rules by Topic, 2010 edition"

(From pg 32, 1.1.2 situation A):

1. During the pre-game conference, head coaches of Team A and Team B hand their line-up cards to the UIC. Team A's starting players as well as all eligible substitutes are listed on the line-up card properly, but Team B's card lists only starting players. During the first inning, Team B wishes to pinch hit with a substitute player who is not listed on the line-up card. What is your ruling?

Ruling:

Legal. There is no violation or penalty if the substitutes names are not listed on the line-up card.

(From pg 36, 3.1.4 Situation C):

2.The second baseman, for whom the DH is batting, pinch hits or pinch runs for the DH.
What must happen?

Ruling:

The DH position is eliminated for the remainder of the game. However, the starting DH could re-enter as a player, but not in the role of DH. If he does re-enter, he must re-enter in the same position in the batting order, replacing the second baseman.

(From pg 37, CR4 Situation):

3. The catcher doubles with no outs. Two outs later the coach sends out a courtesy runner for the catcher. Is this allowed? What is your ruling?

Ruling:

A courtesy runner does not have to be entered when the catcher first reaches base. A courtesy runner may be entered at any time.

(From pg 38, CR7 Situation):

4. Hardy pinch-runs for the left fielder in the second inning, and then leaves the game. He is inserted as a courtesy runner for the catcher in the sixth inning. What happens here?

Ruling:

Assuming someone has noticed the violation, Hardy is illegal as a courtesy runner because he has already left the game. Hardy shall be called out and shall be restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game.

(From pg 38, CR8 Situation):

5. The coach from Team A sends out a courtesy runner for the pitcher in the second inning and fails to report the change to the UIC. What rules shall be applied?

Ruling:

Upon entering the game, the courtesy runner became an official substitute. There is no penalty. However, the pitcher has been replaced and may only return if he has re-entry eligibility. Since Team A's coach did not inform the umpire that the substitute was a courtesy runner for the pitcher, the umpire shall treat the change as a normal substitution. Therefore, the pitcher is out of the game.

(From pg 187, 3.1.1 Situation F):

6. Brown started the game as the right fielder. Miller replaces Brown in the third inning. In the seventh inning with two outs and runners on first and second, Brown re-enters without reporting. Brown hits a ground ball to the second baseman, who misplays it. All runners are safe. The defensive coach is granted time, and approaches the UIC to question if Brown had reported. How shall the UIC handle the inquiry?

Ruling:

Upon checking his line-up card, the UIC tells the coach that Miller is now out of the game, and Brown has legally been re-entered even though he failed to report. There is no penalty.

(From pg 179, 3.1.1 Situation I):

7.Campbell, who is an illegal substitute, scores before Randolph is put out at second base on a tag play for the third out of the inning. Both teams change positions, but before a pitch is thrown, the opposing team's coach informs the UIC that Campbell is an illegal substitute. How shall the UIC handle this?

Ruling:

Upon checking his line-up card and confirming that Campbell is, in fact, an illegal substitute, he rules that Campbell is Out, and the previous play is nullified. The run does NOT score, and both score books are adjusted. Since that was the third out of the inning, the lead-off batter in the next half inning will be Randolph. Campbell is restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.

(From pg 125, 7.1.1 Situation A):

8. With Johnson on first, Scott is the next batter in the batting order, but Daniels erroneously takes his place. The error is discovered by the opposing team personnel:

- a. after Daniels received two strikes.
- b. after Daniels is hit by a pitch.
- c. after he has hit a foul ball that is caught.
- d. after Daniels flies out and a pitch is delivered to Allen.

How do you handle each situation?

Ruling:

First, call time and verify the infraction by checking the scorebooks. The situations have different rulings as follows:

a. There is no penalty assessed. Insert the proper batter (Scott) to assume the count (0-2), and continue the game.

b. Remove Daniels from first base and call Scott Out. Return Randolph to first base. Daniels now bats (again).

c. Even though Daniels made the out, the out is charged to Scott. Daniels bats again.

d. Because a pitch is delivered to Allen, Daniels at-bat was legalized. There is no longer a Batting Out of Order situation. Allen should continue his at-bat.