

Effect: Failure to have the required number of eligible players to start or continue a game will result in a forfeit.

SECTION 2 - AMERICAN DISABILITY ACT RULE

These Rules shall be subject to requests for reasonable modification for purposes of complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) unless such modifications would change the fundamental nature of the activity or would pose a significant risk to the safety of other participants. A person who, because of a disability, would like a reasonable modification to the Rules in order to participate should advise the applicable Local Association Member, league, tournament director, and/or event organizer of the requested modification, why it is needed, and how the modification would avoid disability discrimination, including how the modification will address the player's specific disability. Such modification requests should be made sufficiently in advance so that an individualized inquiry may be undertaken to decide whether to allow the requested modification. Such an inquiry will include consideration of the participant's specific circumstances and the purpose of the rule, policy, or practice at issue. It is highly recommended that participants provide notice of such requests to the applicable Local Association Member, league, tournament director, and/or event organizer sufficiently in advance of and prior to or during the league or tournament.

- A. This rule may be used for a player that has been determined by the American Disabilities Act of July 25, 1990, to be physically challenged. As a result of the player's disability, the player can play either offense or defense.
- B. In appropriate circumstances, the following Rules may be used in the event a person is determined to be an ADA Player. In order for these ADA Flex Player, EP and DP rules to apply, the ADA player's specific disability shall correspond to the need for the application of these Flex Player, EP and DP rules.
- C. Teams using a physically challenged player on offense or defense must have 11 players. If the physically challenged player can play both, 10 players are needed.
- D. When a physically challenged person plays offense only, the team will follow the EP rule as written. There would be 11 hitters including the ADA player, and only 10 who play defense.
- E. When a physically challenged player plays defense only, they will be listed as the FLEX and placed last in the line-up. The team has the option to bat 10 or 11 players (if the EP is also used). When using a FLEX, it must be made known prior to the start of the game.
- F. If a team starts the game with the FLEX option, the FLEX player can never play offense. If this person for any reason cannot continue to play and the team has no

other physically challenged player for a substitute, the EP can now play defense.

- G. The FLEX position has the same re-entry status as any other starting position as long as the person substituted is also determined to be physically challenged under the ADA program. The original FLEX player may re-enter only in the same spot in the line-up.
- H. (Coed) When a FLEX or two FLEX players, one male and/or one female are used, the name(s) must be inserted at the end of the line-up. The EP or two EP's can be listed anywhere in the first 10 positions.

Note: *This special rule has been adopted to accommodate the athlete who is physically challenged. The intent is not to change the game and/or not to deprive any player from playing who would normally play, therefore, when using the EP, the normal EP rules will be followed including substitutions and re-entry. If the EP is used in addition to the FLEX, the FLEX must play defense and any of the other 11 players will be eligible to play defense. Only 11 are allowed to bat.*
- I. The DP/FLEX rule in fast pitch accommodates the ADA rule.
- J. Any eligible player on the official line-up, including available substitutes, may be used as a courtesy runner for an ADA player. Unlimited courtesy runners are allowed each inning.
- K. A participant who is hearing-impaired may use a sign language interpreter or other auxiliary hearing aid during play to assist that hearing-impaired participant. A sign language interpreter shall be allowed in the dugout, on the field of play (fair or foul territory), or in other areas in order to be able to provide communication to the hearing-impaired participant, but such sign language interpreter shall be subject to any other rules, policies or practices generally applicable to participants, including submitting to and passing an annual background check screening, if applicable. Any concerns, issues or requests concerning the specific location of such interpreters on the field of play shall be resolved by the umpire(s) during gameplay and such concerns or requests shall be addressed to and resolved by the applicable Local Association Member, league, tournament director, and/or event organizer in advance of gameplay. It is highly recommended that participants provide notice of such requests to the applicable Local Association Member, league, tournament director, and/or event organizer sufficiently in advance of and prior to or during the league or tournament registration process prior to the start of a season or tournament.
- L. Subject to the requirements of this rule, any player with a disability, including a diabetic condition, who needs to come out of the ball game while on offense or defense due to the disability, including when batting due to a sugar imbalance caused by diabetes, may have a replacement player substitute for the player until such time as the disability subsides. In order to qualify under this rule, the player with the disability must be disclosed and noted by the player's manager to the umpire at the home plate conference at the outset of play. In the umpire's discretion, the umpire may waive the requirement

that the subject player be disclosed at the home plate conference at the outset of play. For purposes of this rule, the term disability shall be defined and construed consistent with the definition of disability in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

SECTION 3 - DESIGNATED PLAYER (Fast Pitch)

- A.** A designated player (DP) may be used for any player provided it is made known prior to the start of the game and the player's name is indicated in the line-up as one of the nine in the batting order (or any position in the batting order for Junior Olympic Fast Pitch).
- B.** The name of the player for whom the DP is batting (FLEX) will be placed in the 10th position (or the last position in Junior Olympic Play) in the line-up.
- C.** The starting player listed as the DP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game. The DP and the DP's substitute, or the substitute's replacement, may never play offense at the same time.
- D.** The DP may be substituted for at any time by a pinch-hitter, pinch-runner or the FLEX. If the starting DP is replaced on offense by the FLEX the DP will leave the game. If replaced by a substitute the DP position remains in the line-up. A starting DP may re-enter one time, as long as the DP returns to the original position in the batting order.
 - ① If replaced by the FLEX the number of players are reduced from 10 to nine. If the DP does not re-enter, the game may legally end with nine players.
 - ② If the DP re-enters and the FLEX was batting in the DP's position, the FLEX can return to the 10th position and play defense only or leave the game.
- E.** The DP may play any defensive position. Should the DP play defense for a player other than the one for whom the DP is batting (FLEX), that player will continue to bat but not play defense, and is not considered to have left the game. If the DP plays defense for the FLEX, the FLEX is considered to have left the game, the number of players are reduced from 10 to nine. The FLEX can re-enter the game one time.
- F.** The person being batted for (FLEX) may be substituted for at any time, by a legal substitute, an EP, (the FLEX is no longer in the game) or the DP for whom the FLEX is playing defense. The FLEX may re-enter the game one time, in the 10th position or in the DP's position in the batting order.
- G.** If returning to the 10th position, the FLEX will again play defense only but may play any defensive position.
- H.** If the FLEX returns to the DP's position the FLEX will play offense and defense; there will be only nine players in the batting order.
- I.** Placing the defensive only player (FLEX) into one of the first nine positions for someone other than the DP is considered an illegal player. The illegal player shall be disqualified. Rule 4, Section 6F[2]. The FLEX replacing the DP is not considered a substitution for the FLEX. The DP, who has left the game, can re-enter the game one time.