UNDERSTANDING THE DH RULE

Things to remember about the lineup card:

1. All players, including a Designated Hitter or a Defensive player / Designated Hitter, are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made to alter the batting rotation.

2. Only the original starters may be withdrawn and re-entered once. This includes the DH or the DP/DH.

3. Defensive Positions may be exchanged at will, except a pitcher may switch to another position and return to pitch only once per inning.

   *Note: when multiple switches occur, always make sure you have 9 different defenders.*

4. When presented with a 10 player starting lineup, make sure the DH is listed immediately after the player he is batting for.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>23</th>
<th>HANSEN</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>FINNEY</td>
<td>DH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. When presented with a nine player lineup card utilizing the DP/DH option, Make sure there is a blank space under the defensive player designated to bat for himself.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>23</th>
<th>HANSEN</th>
<th>P/DH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: This blank space will allow for the probable insertion of additional player later in the game.*

*Note: The Position of DH can never be moved to a different slot in the batting order.*
The New Addition to the DH Rule:

The starting Designated Hitter may be any one of the starting defensive players. In effect any one of the starting defensive players may be the Designated Hitter for himself.

Things to remember:

1. As a defensive player the DP/DH can play any position and can be changed from one defensive position to another.

   ![Example: Hansen can start as the Pitcher and exchange positions with Coslett or any other player.](image)

2. We may substitute for the defensive part of the DP/DH. This is the reason for the blank spot under the player who is the DP/DH.

   ![Example: Hansen can start as the Pitcher and exchange positions with Coslett or any other player.](image)

3. The original DP/DH may re-enter on defense.

   ![Example: Hansen can start as the Pitcher and exchange positions with Coslett or any other player.](image)

   *Note: The DP/DH may only leave his defensive position and re-enter one time.*

4. There are now four ways, in the DP/DH option, that the DH is terminated.

   A. Someone pinch hits for him.

   B. Someone pinch runs for him.

   C. He leaves the game twice as a defensive player.

   D. The head coach declares he does not want a DH for the rest of the game.

   *Note: C and D are new rulings by the NFHS, and are not found in the rule book or case book.*
Questions and Answers

1. Would these be correct statements:

   A. If the DP/DH is replaced on offense, (PR, PH, ) the role of the DH is terminated.

   B. Any time the DH is replaced, as a hitter or a runner the role of DH is terminated.

   **Answer:** Both statements are true under the new option. The second statement is not true under the old option.

2. I have a question about casebook example 3.1.4 situation F, page 26, specifically situation C. Sanders is going to catch, where is the catcher going, Sanders is replacing Jackson, correct? Who is pitching?

   **Answer:** The casebook play does not mention all changes in this situation, but Sanders is re-entering for Jackson so Jackson is done. Since Sanders is catching, the former catcher or a substitute for him in that spot in the lineup will pitch. (double switch)

3. My confusion arises because p. 27, 3-1-4 indicates that the original DH can reenter as DH after he was pinch hit for, yet on the next page (28), 3-1-4 (b), it unambiguously indicates that the role of DH is terminated if the starting player/DH is substituted for either as a hitter or PR.

   **Answer:** To help with your confusion - The part of the rule on page 27 refers to the old DH rule, which is still an option. The part of the rule on page 28 refers to the new DP/DH option.

   These are two different options in the same rule

   **The old rule - you lose them when they sub in on defense.**

   **The new addition - you lose them when they sub in on offense.**
Questions and Answers Continued

4. Situation: Abel is the starting pitcher and starting designated hitter listed in the lineup. In the 3rd inning Baker enters the game as substitute pitcher and Abel continues as DH (Abel has been “removed” as pitcher, but remains in the game/lineup as DH). In the 5th inning Charles enters the game as substitute DH (DH is terminated for the remainder of the game, Abel has been “removed” from the game as DH and is for the first time in the game no longer in the lineup, Baker is removed from the game since Charles entered and DH was eliminated, Baker was a substitute so he is done for the game). So far so good!

So my question is this: Abel was “removed” from his defensive position (pitcher) in the 3rd Inning (but remained continuously in the lineup as DH). Abel was “removed” from the offensive DH position in the 5th inning. Can Abel re-enter again as a pinch hitter for Charles in the 7th inning? Or, was Abel done for the game the 2nd time he was “removed” and therefore ineligible to pinch hit in the 7th?

You gave an example today of the DP/DH being removed a 2nd time on defense and therefore needing to leave the game even though he was in the game continuously as DH. I understand this. Rule 3-1-3 allows an individual starting “player” (not “position”) to be withdrawn and re-entered once. Analogous to an ambidextrous pitcher counting both left- and right-handed pitches against his total pitch count, if a player is “removed” a second time (even if removed from a different position) he would be done for the game.

**Answer:** A simple answer to your question is that each of the original starters is permitted to re-enter the game one time and one time only. Able did, in a manner of speaking leave the game twice, but he is still entitled to re-enter and hit and/or play defense for anyone in his original spot in the batting order.

5. Am I correct that the NFHS now allows a coach to verbally terminate the role of DH and use a courtesy runner per #3 in this bulletin?


   **Answer:** Yes. There are now 4 ways the DH can be terminated when using the new DP/DH option.

   A. Someone pinch hits for him.
   B. Someone pinch runs for him.
   C. He leaves the game twice as a defensive player.
   D. The head coach declares he does not want a DH for the rest of the game.
Situation 1:

Jones is listed as the player/DH. Having pitched in the first two innings, he comes to bat in the third inning and hits a double. With Jones on second base, the coach tells the umpire that he wants to end the role of DH for Jones. He is ending the use of a DH for the game, making Jones only eligible to be the pitcher. The coach now wants to have a courtesy runner run for Jones.

**RULING:** This is legal. The coach may end the role of the DH, leaving the previous player/DH as only a defensive player. As Jones was the pitcher of record, having pitched in the last half-inning, he is eligible for a legal courtesy runner.

Situation 2:

Does a player/DH have a re-entry as the defensive player and also a re-entry as the DH?

**RULING:** No, any of the starting players may be removed from the game and re-entered once. The player may not be removed as a defensive player and removed later as the DH and re-enter twice in both capacities. He has one re-entry. (3-1-3).

Situations 1 and 2 above add 2 more ways the role of DH can be terminated when a team is using the Defensive Player/Designated Hitter option.