

# NFHS NEW DESIGNATED HITTER RULE 2020

- Player may be listed as both the fielder and the DH.
- Player may be substituted for defensively and still be the DH.
- Once the DH is substituted for on offense, the role of DH is extinguished for the game and only one player may occupy that spot in the batting order.
- If the pitcher or catcher are listed as P/DH or C/DH they are NOT allowed courtesy runners.
- The player listed in the starting lineup as fielder/DH may come out of the game in either role and re-enter once.

Sanders is listed as the P/DH, hitting in the third position in the batting order. In the fifth inning, McNeely enters the game as pitcher with Sanders reaching his pitch count limit. Sanders continues as DH for McNeely.

**Ruling:** Legal

3. Sanders  /DH  
McNeely (5) P

In the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, substitute Jackson enters to pitch replacing McNeely. Sanders remains the DH for Sanders.

**Ruling: Legal**

3. Sanders  /DH

~~McNeely (5) P~~

Jackson (6) P

In the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, Sanders returns to defense as the catcher and is still listed as the DH.

**Ruling:** Legal

Sanders was a starter and is eligible to re-enter the game once.

3. Sanders ~~P~~/DH/C

~~McNeely (5) P~~

~~Jackson (6) P~~

With Dolan listed in the starting lineup as the 2B/DH and batting 4<sup>th</sup> in the order, the coach wants to bring in Tatelman to hit for Dolan.

**Ruling:** If substitute Tatelman comes in 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 batting order.

4. ~~Dolan 2B/DH~~  
Tatelman 2B

In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, Montalbo replaces Colgate as the starting P/DH as pitcher. In the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, Colgate sprains his ankle as he slides into 2<sup>nd</sup> base on a double. Colgate cannot continue and requires 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 spot already occupied by Montalbo. However, if the coach has Montalbo pinch run for Colgate, Montalbo may continue to pitch and hit for himself.

9. Colgate  P/DH  
Montalbo (4) P

In the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, Colgate sprains his ankle as he slides into 2<sup>nd</sup> base on a double. Colgate cannot continue and requires a pinch-runner.

9. ~~Colgate~~  ~~/DH~~  
Montalbo (4) P

The DH role is extinguished; if Montalbo runs for Colgate he may remain in the game. If another player runs for Colgate, Montalbo is done for the game and the new player occupies the 9<sup>th</sup> spot in the batting order.

9. ~~Colgate~~ — ~~B~~ /DH  
Montalbo P

9. ~~Colgate~~ — P/DH  
~~Montalbo~~  
New Sub

The DH role is extinguished; if Montalbo runs for Colgate he may remain in the game. If another player runs for Colgate, Montalbo is done for the game and the new player occupies the 9<sup>th</sup> spot in the batting order.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, Federico, who is listed fourth in the batting order as P/DH, and hitting fourth, sprains his ankle running the bases and is taken out of the game replaced by McGinnis.

Ruling: Legal

4. ~~Federico — P/DH~~  
McGinnis (4) P

In the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, Federico re-enters to pinch hit for McGinnis.

4. ~~Federico P/DH~~  
~~McGinnis (4) P~~  
Federico (6) P

OR

In the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, Federico re-enters to play defense for Russell at first base with McGinnis still pitching.

**Ruling: Illegal.** Federico and McGinnis are locked into the same lineup spot and cannot be in the game on defense at the same time.

4. ~~Federico P/DH~~

McGinnis (4) P

Federico (6) 3



Batter interferes with the catcher. Batter is out and runner is either returned to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

### 7.3.5.c

Making any other movement, including follow through interference, which hinders actions at home plate or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner.

### Penalty

When an attempt to put out a runner at any other base is unsuccessful, the batter is out and all runners must return to bases occupied at the time of the pitch. If the pitch is a third strike and in the umpire's judgment interference prevents a possible double play (additional outs), two may be ruled out.



Batter is entitled to the batter's box in this situation, but he may not interfere with the catcher such as follow through interference or stepping across the plate. If he does interfere, the batter is out and the runner is returned to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.



Batter does not have to vacate the batter's box in this situation, but he may not interfere with the catcher such as follow through interference. If he does interfere; With less than 2 outs the RUNNER is out. (Call the pitch). With 2 outs the batter is out and the run does not score.

### 7.3.5 Penalty



Batter must vacate the batter's box in this situation as he has time to react.

### 7.3.5d

Failing to make a reasonable effort to vacate a congested area when there is a throw to home plate and there is time for the batter to move away.



Runner at third interfered with the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman.  
Runner is out, strike on the batter for a foul ball.  
If it is a fair ball, runner is out and batter is  
awarded first base. Other runners either return  
to bases occupied at the time of the pitch or  
advance one base if they are forced.

8.4.2g

...he hinders a fielder on his initial attempt to  
field a batted ball.



Coach interference. Batter is out.

7.4.1f:

Any member of the offensive team or coach other than the runner(s) interferes with a fielder who is attempting to field a foul ball.