

DP/Flex – The DP/Flex rule is actually one of the simplest and most misunderstood rules in softball.

If a team will be using the DP/Flex they must so indicate on the lineup card.

First, consider the DP/Flex to be like one person, but split in two. The Flex plays defense and the DP bats (plays offense). So far very easy.

OK, so who can play defense? Any 9 can play defense except that if the DP comes in for the Flex on defense, the Flex has left the game (this is a substitution with respect to the Flex).

OK, so who plays offense? If the Flex comes in on offense (bats, runs bases) they can do so ONLY for the DP. If Flex plays offense, the DP has left the game (this is a substitution with respect to the DP).

Prior to the introduction of the Extra Player (EP) that was all there was to the DP/Flex rule.

The EP complicates the DP/Flex rule because the EP can play defense in place of the Flex (but is NOT allowed to play offense in place of the DP). If the EP plays defense in place of the Flex then the Flex has left the game (this is a substitution with respect to the Flex) UNLESS the Flex is playing offense in place of the DP.

In general, if the Flex or DP is not participating in the game, they have been substituted out. Just like any player, they may re-enter one time, back into their same role, that is back into the same spot in the lineup.