

## Rule 4 - Players & Substitutions Addition

### Insert New **Sec. 5 Optional Designated Hitter Rule (“DH”)**:

- a. In the **75+, 80+, and 85+ Divisions only**, A hitter may be designated to bat for the starting pitcher and subsequent pitchers in any game without otherwise affecting the status of the pitcher(s) in the game. A Designated Hitter for the pitcher, if any, must be selected prior to the game and must be included in the lineup cards presented to the Umpire.

**Example:** Line-up card would state Pitcher Smith/DH Jones

- b. It is not mandatory that a team designate a hitter for the pitcher, but failure to do so prior to the game precludes the use of a “DH” for that team for that game.
- c. Any substitute hitter for a “DH” becomes the Designated Hitter. A replaced DH shall not re-enter the game in any capacity.
- d. The DH may be used on defense, continuing to bat in the same position in the batting order, but the pitcher must then bat in the place of the substituted defensive player, unless more than one substitution is made. Consistent with Rule 4, no player may bat in more than one spot in the batting order. Once a “DH” assumes a position on defense, such move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for that team for the remainder of the game.

**Example:** A player named as “DH” is moved to play defensively, there is no longer a Designated Hitter, and the pitcher must now bat in place of the removed player. In other words, if the “DH” is batting in the 4<sup>th</sup> batting position and the original defensive player was batting in the 6<sup>th</sup> batting position, the “DH” will remain batting 4<sup>th</sup> and the PITCHER then bats in the 6th batting position. The Pitcher no longer has a “DH”.

- e. Courtesy runners are allowed for the “DH” as with all batter runners in the game.
- f. A Designated Hitter is “locked” into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation of the Designated Hitter.
- g. Once the game pitcher is switched from the mound to a position on defense, such move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for that Team for the remainder of the game, and the player that was designated as the “DH” is removed from the game and may not return to the game in any capacity.
- h. Once a player bats or is listed in the batting order and then enters the game to pitch, such move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for that Team for the remainder of the game.
- i. If a player on defense goes to the mound (i.e., replaces the pitcher), this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter’s role for that Team for the remainder of the game, and the player that was designated as the “DH” is removed from the game and may not return to the game in any capacity.