

NFHS Softball - DP/FLEX Simplified

1. A DP does not have to be used.	7. If the starting DP plays defense for the FLEX player, the FLEX player has left the game and the team continues with 9 players.
2. If used it must be noted on the starting lineup.	8. The FLEX player can bat or run, but only in the original DP's position. Therefore, the FLEX player and the DP can never be on offense simultaneously.
3. A team using the DP starts the game with 10 players on the lineup card, but could end the game with 9 or 10.	9. When the FLEX player bats for the DP , the FLEX player bats in position of the original DP . The DP is considered to have left the game, but the FLEX player has not.
4. The STARTING DP can play defense for any of the other 9 players in the lineup.	10. If the DP re-enters the game, she must do so in her original batting order position and the FLEX player could: (A) move back to the No. 10 position in the lineup, or (B) leave the game. If the FLEX player moves back to the 10 th position in the lineup, the team resumes the game with 10 players and the FLEX player has never left the game.
5. If the starting DP plays defense for a player listed within the first 9 batting positions in the lineup, that player will continue to bat in her original position in the lineup and has not left the game.	11. A substitute can enter the game for either the DP or the FLEX position. The substitute can enter on defense, or as a pinch hitter or pinch runner.
6. The player listed in the 10 th position in the lineup will play defense only and will be called a FLEX player. The DP and the FLEX player can play defense simultaneously.	

REMINDERS:

- 1) **The DP can never be on DEFENSE ONLY.**
- 2) **The FLEX player can never be on OFFENSE ONLY.**
- 3) **The DP and FLEX player can never be on offense at the same time.**
- 4) **The STARTER and the SUBSTITUTE cannot be in the game at the same time.**
- 5) **The starting DP and FLEX player have one re-entry just as any other player.**
- 6) **Once the game is started with the DP/FLEX positions in the lineup, those positions are available for the entire game.**
- 7) **The penalty for illegal re-entry of the DP or FLEX player is always restriction to the bench/dugout.**
- 8) **If the player is on offense, she is called out. If the player is on defense, the team on offense may have the choice of taking the result of the play or accepting the penalty.**