

NFHS DH Fundamentals:

1. The coach has two options when presenting the opening line-up: DH or no DH. After handing in the line-up he is committed to that choice.
2. The existing role of DH can be removed under certain conditions. The role of DH can never be added or restored under any circumstance.
3. Once the role of DH is eliminated, it is gone for the remainder of the game.
4. The DH may bat for a player at any defensive position.
5. The defensive player for whom the DH bats can be listed on the starting lineup either as the DH himself, or as a teammate of the DH.
6. If the DH and the defensive player for whom the DH is batting are separate teammates, this is referred to as a ten-player DH lineup. If the defensive player for whom the DH is batting is himself, this is referred to as a nine-player DH lineup.
7. If the DH and the person for whom the DH is batting on the starting lineup are teammates, they (or their substitutes) must stay exclusively on their side of the field (offense or defense) or the role of DH ends. The one who crosses over now owns the spot in the lineup and it reverts to a traditional non-DH lineup. The other is now a replaced player.
8. The player for whom the DH is batting in a lineup owns the same spot in that lineup as the DH for the entire game. Any entry into the game offensively must occur at that spot in the lineup.
9. The DH and the teammate for whom he is batting may never occupy the game at the same time either offensively or defensively.
10. For a game in which the game begins with the DH batting for himself, he is the only possible DH for the entire game. Any offensive replacement ends the role of DH for the rest of the game.
11. Defensive substitution is allowed without affecting the role of DH. Standard substitution rules apply, including the starting player may re-enter once (defensively) if the role of DH is still intact.
12. Any defensive substitute for the DH is allowed to play offense.
 - a. The original P/DH re-entering after being substituted for defensively only may return as the re-entered P/DH.
 - b. If the substitute is a player other than the original DH, the role of DH is ended. The substitute occupies the spot in the lineup of original DH and the lineup reverts to non-DH. The former DH is now a replaced starter and may still re-enter.