



Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
EXPERIMENT TO USE AN EXTRA HITTER IN SOFTBALL
APPROVED FOR MIDDLE LEVEL and HIGH SCHOOL SUBVARSITY
2017 SPRING SEASON

The WIAA Executive Board approved an experiment for the use of an Extra Player (EP) during high school sub-varsity and middle level softball contests. This modification is similar to the Extra Player (EP) that is allowed for slow pitch (NFHS 3-3-7).

For questions regarding the experiment, contact WIAA Assistant Executive Director John Miller.

If a team approaches an umpire prior to the game stating that they are using an EP, direct the umpire to allow the EP.

The approved experiment is as follows:

- A team would be allowed to use a tenth hitter or extra player ("EP") in high school subvarsity and middle level softball games.
- The use of an "EP" does not change or alter the use of the DP/Flex. The DP/Flex is separate and shall be administered as such.
- The use of an "EP" would be optional and **WOULD NOT BE MANDATORY**. If one team chooses to use an "EP" it will **NOT BE REQUIRED** that the opposing team also use the "EP" during that contest.
- The extra hitter will be declared on the line-up as the "EP". The "EP" will act as any other starter and cannot be eliminated during the course of the game. An "EP" cannot be added to the lineup after the umpire accepts lineups at the home plate meeting.
- The "EP" may hit in any spot in the batting order, but the "EP" spot in the batting order may not change during the game.
- A player that begins the game as an "EP" or becomes an "EP" at any time thereafter is not required to remain solely as the "EP". The "EP" may be entered into the game defensively. This means that a coach can make defensive moves that include the "EP", including swapping a defensive player for the "EP". In short, the coach can shuffle ten players in the batting order among the nine defensive positions. These are defensive swaps, not substitutions.
- The "EP" role may not be eliminated during the game. Once you start with an "EP", you must keep the "EP" for the entire game. An out will be called if the "EP" turn to bat is reached and there are no players to fill the position.
- The starting batting order must be followed in order throughout the contest.
- Changing of the "starting batting order" once the game begins is strictly prohibited.
- Player Re-Entry for the "EP" is governed by the official re-entry rule as stated in the Official NFHS Softball Rule Book.
- Any of the starting players on the official line-up card may withdraw and re-enter once provided such player occupies the same batting order position wherever they are listed on the line-up.
- Regular re-entry rule applies.
- The player occupying the "EP" position is ineligible as a courtesy runner.