

Guide to using the EP rule

From page 20 of the 2014 Rule Book:

Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth 13-15 Baseball Division – A team may elect to add a tenth player to the batting order for district, state, and regional tournament competition, and World Series. Prior to the beginning of the game, this player will be indicated in the lineup as the “EP.” The “EP” will be treated as any other starter, and cannot be eliminated during the course of the game. NOTE: if a team’s lineup starts with 10 players, the team must finish with 10 players. Penalty shall be a forfeit.

What “The ‘EP’ will be treated as any other starter” means:

- The EP can be put in any spot in the batting order from one to 10.
- On defense this 10th player (EP) is treated as any defensive player, but one of the 10 defensive players position is “on the bench.”
- In a defensive inning, the EP may be swapped into the game for one of the nine position players. The player replaced on the field assumes the “on the bench” position but remains in the batting order.
- These swaps do not change the batting order; the EP stays in their original spot and the position player stays in their original spot.
- A substitute player can be inserted into the batting order for the starting EP and takes the same spot in the batting order as the starting EP.
- The starting EP can re-enter the game in the same position in the batting order as the substitute EP.
- The substitute EP cannot re-enter the game after being removed.
- The use of an EP is optional, but if a team begins a game with and EP (a 10 player batting order) they must finish the game with an EP.
- If a team starts with an EP they must field a team of 10 players or the game is forfeited to the opposing team.
- When a team starts with nine players (no EP) per rule 4.17 the game is forfeited is the team cannot field nine players.

Pitching restrictions:

The EP can be switched with the pitcher with the following restrictions:

- They are eligible to pitch under the innings restriction rule in effect for the level of play.
- A pitcher removed from the game by a second trip to the mound or by depletion of eligible innings cannot return to the mound. They remain eligible to play other positions including the “EP bench” position as long as the meet the reentry rule requirements.
- Per rule 3.03 a player cannot be moved to another position and return to the mound more than once per inning. This includes the “EP bench” position.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CT Cal Ripken Baseball Umpire in Chief

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Revised (changed “EH” to EP” and revised the quoted rule)

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Phil Marcoux

CT Babe Ruth Leagues, Chairman