

Mandatory Play/Substitutions Quick Reference Guide

Every rostered player present at the start of a game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time.

For the purpose of this rule, “six defensive outs” is defined as: A player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies such position while six outs are made; “bat at least one (1) time” is defined as: A player enters the batter’s box with no count and completes that time at bat by being put out, called out by an umpire or by reaching base safely.

Failure by a manager to ensure that mandatory play is not met may be grounds for suspension by the league’s board of directors. Refer to the rulebook for more detailed penalties.

- A substitute cannot be removed until he/she has met these mandatory play requirements. They would need to play 6 consecutive defensive outs and bat at least one time before the starter can return.
- Starters can only return to the same position in the lineup (starters and subs are married in the batting order). They can move anywhere defensively except for the pitching position. They may move to the pitching position subject to eligibility for that game.
- Starters ***do not*** need to get 6 consecutive defensive outs to meet mandatory play. As long as the starter plays 6 defensive outs sometime in the game, they would meet mandatory play requirements.

If a league adopts the continuous batting order (regular season only), all players would be considered starters. Mandatory play would be a total of 6 defensive outs for the game – free to play one inning on defense, sit one, play one, etc. The player still needs to play a total of 6 defensive outs and bat at least one time to meet the mandatory play requirement.

Courtesy runners are not permitted. However, you could use a special pinch runner (rule 7.14) to run for any player once per game and only one time per inning. The special pinch runner must be a player that is not in the active lineup (a substitute). If using the continuous batting order, a special pinch runner cannot be used since all players are in the active lineup.

