

Competitive Baseball/Softball

Shorthanded Rule

Shorthanded Rule – Guest Players from a DC Team

The purpose and spirit of this rule is for teams to be able to play games even if circumstances leave a team with only seven players to start a game. The main purpose of DC leagues is to PLAY BALL. DC always wants to provide the opportunity to play a game for the players that do show up.

Teams must have at least 7 players to start a game. If a team has at least seven players, the coach may request the other team provide players from their roster on an alternating basis to play defense only. This will be the last player listed in the batting order in the first inning or the last player to complete an at bat in the prior inning. For purposes of this rule, the team that is short of players will bat first (visitors) in the first inning.

Teams may borrow players from the opposing team for defensive purposes only. The shorthanded team will bat a fixed roster and **will not** have to take an out in the eight and nine positions of the batting order. If a team is short players (less than 9), the team may **only** pick up additional players from other DC teams in your league or a younger DC league (including your opponent). These players will count as part of your seven players required to start a game. Competitive teams may pick up players participating on either a DC Recreational league team or a DC Competitive League team.

You may pick up enough players to field 9 players. The pick up player(s) must bat at the bottom of the line up, preferred positions would be outfield, so that your regular players would get to play infield, however, this is not mandatory. A pick up player may not pitch, unless the opposing coach agrees to allow the player to pitch. This would be if your team is short of pitchers.

If a regular team member comes late to the game, he is added to the bottom of the line up and may play. The pick up players may continue to play, however, all regular team members should have priority to play in the field.

If a player comes late, they may enter the game and be added to the last position(s) in the batting line up. If a player becomes injured and cannot bat in his spot due to injury, the team will take an out in that spot the 1st time that player comes up to bat. After the first out, there will be no further penalty. The injured player may reenter the game in her batting spot at any time without penalty. EXCEPTION: If a team has only 9 players and one player becomes injured, then there would be an out for that batter for each time his spot comes up to bat.

Shorthanded/Pickup – Players from non DC teams

Temporary pickup players or guest players from non DC teams are not allowed. This is an insurance issue.

Non DC players may only play on a DC competitive team if the following is completed;

- 1) Player is added to the Teams USSSA player roster
- 2) Player is added to the Team's DC player roster

A Team cannot use the pickup player form USSSA has available for tournaments to add a temporary guest player for a game. The Teams must actually add the player to their USSSA roster and their DC roster. If a player is already on another USSSA roster, they must be dropped from that Roster and added to the new Team's roster. **NO**

EXCEPTIONS