

LINEUP CARD

Keeping a good lineup card is like maintaining a checkbook. As long as the lineup card is given the proper attention from the pre-game through the completion of the game, a plate umpire won't have many, if any, lineup card dilemmas.

Lineups become official after they have been exchanged, verified and then accepted by the plate umpire during the pregame conference. NFHS lineup cards shall include first initial and last name, jersey number, position and batting order of each starting player and should include each eligible substitute. **(NFHS 3.1.3)**

- **PENALTY:** *After the lineup card has been submitted to and verified by the umpire and a change is subsequently made to a player/substitute name or number, or if a player/substitute is added to the lineup card, the umpire shall issue a team warning to the head coach of the team involved. Any further changes made to a player/substitute name or number results in the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game.*

- As the upcoming season begins, keep the following guidelines in mind when it comes to keeping a lineup card.
 1. Know where the scorekeepers are and the location of the official scorer.
 2. Carry an extra pen or pencil.
 3. Step away from the plate and take your mask off when a coach is reporting a change.
 4. Hold the mask under your arm, which looks more professional, not between your legs, and do not set it on the ground.
 5. Never put your pen or pencil in your mouth and don't bend over to record changes on your leg.
 6. Never take projected substitutions, take one change at a time.
 7. Do not accept or allow changes that are illegal. (If you are not sure consult with your crew)
 8. Record all offensive and defensive conferences for each team.
 9. Record all re-entries, substitutions, DP-FLEX changes and all warnings.
 10. When accepting changes during the game, ask the coach to remain with or near you as you record the changes. Repeat the names, numbers back to the coach for confirmation.

Be patient and make the best of the necessary evil of keeping a clean lineup card. You will not regret it!