

Update on Courtesy Runner Rule:

A situation arose regarding the use of the Courtesy Runner for a pitcher and Catcher by the visiting team in the Top of the first inning,

The Team A, the Visiting Team identifies # 9 as their Catcher (batting 2nd) and # 12 as their DP (batting 3rd) on the starting line-up that they give to the umpire at the pre-game conference. #9 gets a single and requests and receives a courtesy runner. # 12 flies out and the following batter strikes out to end the inning.

As Team A goes out for defense in the bottom of the first, their coach says that the DP (# 12) will take over as catcher for #9.

The Umpires SHOULD NOT ALLOW this as Rule 8-9-2 states:

In the top of the first inning only, the pitcher and catcher are identified as those players listed on the line-up as the pitcher and catcher: **both must face at least on batter on defense.**

In the above situation, #9 must be the catcher for at least the first batter on defense, then the DP may replace her for any part of any or all future innings.

The above change was not in the Rules Book until last year and was not indicated as a change, emphasis, or clarification. Now we all should be aware of should we come across it in the future.