

Description: The Shared Positions Batting Lineup

The Shared Batting Position Rule (2016 MSBL World Series)

All 55+/60+/65+/70+/73+ Divisions will use the Shared Batter Position Rule. The manager uses two players to share one batting position in the offensive lineup and during the game the manager decides who bats each time the batting position comes up. This can be implemented at the start of a game or can be added anytime during the game. He can then use the other player to run if he chooses to do so. There is no limit to the number of shared lineup positions. Any player sharing a batting position is locked in that position for the duration of the game and cannot be used in any other batting order position. This rule replaces both A/B and courtesy runners.

Other Information on Shared Batting Position Rule

The MSBL allows a batting order which is commonly known as a Shared Position lineup, authorized in MSBL Father-son Rule 3c (MSBL no longer publishes the Father-Son Rules). It is a modification of the A/B lineup, authorized in MSBL National Rule 3g (MSBL no longer publishes National Rules, only tournament rules). Basically it allows a team to use an A/B batting lineup, but players are not required to bat every-other time through the lineup. It is described in more detail below.

The Shared Position or Shared Player Lineup may be used to allow a team an unlimited number of designated runners (the B position) in lieu of courtesy runners , and the shared player does not need to bat every-other time through the order (he may not need to ever bat).

MSBL Father-Son Rule 3c (January 1, 2012) described the Shared Position lineup in some detail:

The tournament will use the "Shared Position" to enter two players in any offensive batting order position. Offensive substitution is unlimited for players sharing the same spot in the batting order once they are placed there (i.e., a batter and a runner for that batter may occupy the same position in the offensive lineup; neither player may appear in any other offensive lineup slot. Shared position must be Father/Father or Son/Son). A shared position in the offensive batting order may be initiated at any time, at the manager's discretion. Managers must notify opposing manager when players in shared-batting order positions are being switched. There are no courtesy runners. Use shared lineup position. A player batting in a "shared" slot may vacate and substitute for an injured player who does not have a "shared" spot, without penalty of an out.

Other clarifying details and examples

The Father-son rule fails to mention when a shared position must bat. The rule in practice since the 2017 World Series is what will be followed by the San Diego MDW tournament. If the

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shared position is designated prior to the start of the game, the shared position (B) does not need to bat until the original (A) player has reached base. Once A has reached first and B has run for him, the B player must bat the following time in the order. After that either A or B may bat at the manager's discretion. In other words, if the A batter was run for the 3rd time up, the players could bat A, A, A, B, A, A, A.

As the rules stated, shared lineup must be declared prior to start of game, but the individual player does not need to be declared until the manager adds him to the offensive lineup. Once a shared lineup is declared, there can be no courtesy runner. The catcher must still come off the bases when there are 2 outs.