

Technical Bulletin

Subject: Playing Rules - Multiple Illegal Re-entry appeals TB_2021-1

Date: 3/01/2021

When a non-appealed Illegal Re-entry occurs **and** the original player remains in the game, causing consecutive batters to become Illegal Re-entries, the following rules will apply:

- The non-offending team is only permitted to appeal the most recent Illegal Re-entry. This player and the head coach shall be ejected and the Effects for an illegal substitution also apply.
- A legal substitute must be entered into the game for the ejected player. All other Illegal Re-entries that are not the direct subject of the appeal are returned to their original position in the batting order without being considered an Illegal re-entry and all plays stand, except as noted.

NOTE:

- When the FLEX has entered on offense for a player other than the DP; and
- Is on base at the time of the appeal; and
- Is not the direct subject of the appeal; then
- The FLEX shall be removed from the base and returned to the tenth position on the line-up card. This is not an additional out, and the original player or a substitute does not take their place.

Case play:

The DP is batting in the number 9 position and the batter in position 1 in the line-up (B1) is due to bat. Either the Flex or a substitute comes off the bench, bats in the number one position and gets a hit and is on base. The change was never reported to the umpire.

We now have an Illegal (unreported) substitution for B1 and they are deemed to have left the game as a result. If it is the Flex that bats for B1 it is an Illegal re-entry. The defence do not appeal at this time.

B1 now comes to bat and is therefore hitting in the number 2 position. This is an Illegal Re-entry as B1 is in a different batting position in the line-up, so B2 is deemed to have left the game. This continues for a number of batters causing a cascading effect.

Under the current rules, the non-offending team can delay appealing until a number of Illegal Re-entries are in the game. The non-offending team could then decide to appeal each consecutive Illegal Re-entry which would result in not having enough offensive players or coaches to continue the game. This situation could also happen for defensive Illegal Re-entries.

This was not the intent of the Illegal Re-entry rule and therefore this new ruling will take effect from today.

A rule change will be recommended to the WBSC Congress to be considered for the next edition of the rule book. Rules; 3.2.8, 3.3 and Effects 3.2.8

Brooke Wilkins
Technical Project Coordinator
Softball Australia

Leigh Evans
Umpire in Chief – Technical
Softball Australia

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