

### **UNDERSTANDING 3-1-4-b**

3-1-4b can be complicated. However, it will be much easier to understand if the following basic concepts are remembered:

Coaches will now have three options at game time: No DH, the Federation DH, or the new option. The use of options two or three must be declared at the start of the game or the umpires will assume that no DH is being used.

P/DH stands for position player/DH, not necessarily pitcher/DH

- 1) If a team chooses to use the P/DH, it must be noted on the lineup card prior to the start of the game.
- 2) The starting P/DH and any substitutes for the P/DH are locked into the same place in the lineup.
- 3) The DH is terminated if there is a pinch-hitter or pinch runner for the P/DH.
- 4) The DH is terminated if a substitute or former substitute for a defensive player subsequently participates in an offensive role. (Same as the current DH rule.)
- 5) The starting P/DH has re-entry rights.

Knowing the above should give coaches, players and umpires a basic understanding of 3-1-4-b. In reality, it is expected that in the overwhelming majority of the time, this rule will simply be used as intended, to allow a starting pitcher to be replaced as pitcher and continue as the DH.