

BATTING OUT OF ORDER

Batting out of order can be a mess, so when it happens (and it will), will you know how to clean it up? And if it can all be cleaned up within the timeframe the defense has to appeal for an out? Batting out of order is failing to bat in proper sequence as listed on the official lineup card. To get an out, batting out of order has to be appealed after the improper batter was at bat but before the next legal or illegal pitch has been thrown to the next batter.

SHUSH!

The umpire cannot alert a team to batting out of order. And the umpire must ignore a scorekeeper, public address announcer or fan who points out an infraction. Only a defensive team can appeal batting out of order after the completed at bat.

UMPIRING TIP

All runner advancement stands if batting out of order is discovered while the incorrect batter is at bat.

YEEER OUT!

After the improper batter has completed her turn at bat and before a pitch has been thrown to the next batter, the defensive team can appeal for an out. If it does, the batter who was supposed to bat is out, not the improper batter. The improper batter's time at bat is simply negated and she is returned to the bench. The batter who is in the lineup after the batter that was just called out bats next. That could be the same batter who was just up to bat. Runners must return to their locations at "time of pitch."

WHO BATS NEXT?

Once an improper batter's actions are legalized, the next batter shall be the person whose name follows the legalized improper batter. If several players bat out of order, and it is discovered when a legalized improper batter is on base while it is her turn to bat, she remains on base and is not out.

ONCE AN IMPROPER BATTER HAS COMPLETED HER TURN AT BAT AND THE NEXT PITCH (LEGAL OR ILLEGAL) IS DELIVERED, THE WINDOW TO APPEAL HAS CLOSED. NO ONE IS OUT. SHE IS NOW CONSIDERED THE PROPER BATTER. ONCE SHE BECOMES THE PROPER BATTER, HER ACTIONS BECOME LEGAL.