**SUBSTITUTIONS**

 -

**Substitution mistakes often are due to a simple lack of communication between the player and coach, or the coach and umpire, or all of the above. But when an unreported substitution (that’s someone who is in the game but never told the plate umpire they are playing) is brought to an umpire’s attention, what happens next varies depending on the softball rules code the game is being played under.**

**KINDER, GENTLER RULE**

In NFHS and USSSA, teams receive a warning for the first instance of an unreported substitution, regardless if she is on offense or defense. All play stands whether she is discovered on offense or defense in both of those rule codes.

A projected substitute is the act of entering a substitute without first removing a player from that position in the lineup. NFHS added that definition to its rulebook in 2016. For example, a coach tells the plate umpire that S1 will bat for B3 after B2 bats. S1 stays in the game and plays defense. Then the opposing coach tells the umpire that S1 never reported. Shame on the umpire for not telling the coach when S1 entered the game, but the bottom line is S1 is legally in the game for B3 because that info had been reported to the umpire.

**THAT’S A FACT**

All starters and substitutes are permitted to re-enter the game one time in NFHS, USA Softball and USSSA. In NCAA, only the starters can re-enter the game.

**BUT**

In USA Softball and NCAA, there is no warning for unreported substitutes. Once discovered, the substitute is now officially in the game, but she is subject to all penalties regarding unreported substitutes. If discovered while on offense, she is potentially out and while on defense, all play is potentially nullified depending on whether a pitch has been thrown or not.