

## Description: The A/B Batting Lineup

The MSBL allows a batting order which is commonly known as an A/B lineup. It is authorized in MSBL National Rule 3g. Basically it allows a team to bat more than 9 players in a lineup but some players will bat only every-other time. It is described in more detail below.

The A/B Lineup may be used to offer all players a chance to bat, rather than have some out of the lineup, but still keep continuity for the regular hitters . Essentially those in the normal 9-person lineup would not have to wait for 16 players between at-bats. And those designated A/B would still have a chance to hit, only half as often.

MSBL National Rule 3g (January 1, 2013) describes the A/B lineup in some detail:

*A team MAY declare at the time that lineups are exchanged prior to the start of play that any batting order position (i.e. 9, 10, 11, etc.) can be occupied by two (2) players in each such batting position. That is, 9A/9B, 10, 11A/11B, 12, etc. The first time that position 9 gets an at bat, 9A would hit and the next time this slot hits, 9B would be up. Then 9A hits the third time this spot in the order comes up, and so on, alternating between these two players throughout the game. Once a team declares the use of this A/B system, it must continue using it for the remainder of the game. Hitters in the A/B position may be pinch hit for, just as any other player.*

---

### Other details

The team proposing an A/B lineup does NOT need to ask permission, but must notify the umpire and opponent at the beginning of a game, when lineups cards are exchanged. Once an A/B lineup is started, it must be used throughout the game.

Typically batters designated A/B are in the end of a lineup, for example numbers 10, 11 and 12, but this is not required. Nor do the A/B batters need to be consecutive. For example, a 15-player lineup could be batters 1, 2A/2B, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8A/8B, 9, 10A/10B, 11A/11B.

Also, A/B lineups are only allowed if there are 10 or more batters in the lineup, the standard 9-player lineup plus one additional batter. It would not make sense to reduce a lineup below 9 players, for example, ending with only 7 spots in the lineup with 3 A/B spots.

MSBL National Rule 3f states : “Added players to the bottom of the lineup may be added as individual hitters or as A/B.”