

Mandatory Play Requirements FAQ

In the Tournament Rules and Guidelines (Page T-18, Mandatory Play), the requirement for mandatory play is governed by the number of players at the start of the game.

Here are several questions that have arisen regarding the interpretation of this rule:

1. **At the start of the game**, a team has only 12 players available in uniform. Is this team required to have its players play 3 consecutive defensive outs and bat once?

A. No. The new rule requires teams of 12 or fewer players to have each play a minimum of 6 consecutive defensive outs and bat once.
2. How do you define **start of the game** for the purposes of the rule?

A. The start of the game is defined as the point at which the teams provide their lineups to the umpire. (Rule 4.01 [d]) If this is not done, then the start of the game, for the purposes of this rule, is when the defense takes the field and the umpires are in position.
3. A team **starts the game** with 12 players. A 13th player arrives after the game has started. Does this reduce the Mandatory Play requirement to 3 consecutive defensive outs and bat once?

A. No. The team did not have 13 or more players available at the **start of the game**.
4. A team **starts the game** with 13 players. During the game, a player is injured, leaves early, becomes ill, or is ejected before meeting mandatory play of 3 consecutive defensive outs and batting once. Is Mandatory Play increased to six consecutive defensive outs and bat once?

A. No. The team had 13 or more players available in uniform at the **start of the game**.