

BATTING OUT OF ORDER

We have all at one time or another during a game come across a situation when a batter is batting out of order. Automatically, the opposing coach assumes the batter is out for batting out of order. More times than not, this is not the case. **It all depends on when it is discovered.** Timing is everything.

In this first example, the 7th spot in the line-up is suppose to lead off the inning, but the 8th batter in the line-up has mistakenly gone up to the plate. He now has a count of 2-1 when the offensive manager realizes the error. He calls time out and informs the umpire and the correct batter (the 7th hitter) now comes to the plate and finishes the at bat **with the existing count of 2-1.** There is no actual penalty enforced in this situation.

In the second example the same situation as above except the out of turn batter puts the ball into play and reaches on a single. The defensive coach realizes the mistake and points it out to the umpire **before the next pitch is thrown.** The umpire should declare an out for the scheduled 7th batter and the 8th batter in this case would bat again. The key to this situation is that it is pointed out by the defensive team **before the next pitch is thrown.**

If it is not pointed out before the next legal pitch, the runner on first base is safe and the batter following the 8th spot in the lineup would bat (which would be the 9th hitter). In this case, the actual 7th hitter in the lineup **would be skipped** and would not bat until the next time through the lineup.

Here are some other important factors to think about when this situation occurs. What if there are runners on base? If a runner advances or scores and the wrong batter is discovered **while he is still at bat those advances are not reversed.** If the situation is discovered after the wrong batter has completed his at bat and before the next legal pitch, the batter is out and **all runners that advanced or scored during the at bat** return to the base they occupied before the wrong batter came to the plate, even if the runner has already scored and is sitting in the dugout.