

REBOOT (Batting Out of Turn)

**Mark Pankin
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Notes provide additional information and were reminders during the presentation. They are not supposed to be anything close to a complete text of the presentation or thorough discussion of the subject.

Use Acrobat Reader's ability to enlarge what appears on the screen if you have trouble reading a graph or table.

Why is it confusing?



- BOOT Rule is not very complicated, but it has a couple of wrinkles
- Has been misunderstood or misapplied by
 - Players
 - Managers
 - Umpires
 - A league president!
- Occurs infrequently, fewer than one a year since 1950 (last one was in 2018)

Some causes

- Lineup card given to home plate ump is not the same as what is posted in the dugout
- Lineup on scoreboard is not right
- Players are used to batting in a certain order, but it is changed
- Confusion after double switch
- Faux double switch

Faux double switch has happened when there was a pinch hitter (for the pitcher) who reached base and was run for. The pinch runner stays in the game and goes to the field. If he bats in the spot of the replaced fielder rather than the one where he pinch ran, it is a BOOT.

HP ump will assume that players coming into the game bat in the same spot as the positions of the ones they replaced or moved to the position unless the manager goes out and tells the ump what the new batting order is. Players coming into the game may not realize there was a double switch and will come up out of order unless the manager or the coach tells them not to.

Current Rule (6.07)

- Adopted in 1957
- Covers all possibilities with many examples
- Prior versions poorly worded and not complete
- Before game each team gives its lineup to the home plate ump and a copy to the other team
- Will use the term “proper” batter (as in rule) for the one who should be hitting

Improper batter (1)

- Umpire and official scorer will NOT point it out
- Team can replace with proper batter before plate appearance is finished
 - No penalty
 - Proper batter inherits the count on the improper batter
- What can happen if improper batter completes his plate appearance?

Official scorer does not get a copy of the lineup given to the umpire and other team, so may not know if an improper batter comes up.

Improper batter (2)

- Basic rule:
- If BOOT is called, play is nullified, proper batter is out, next in lineup after proper one bats
- If BOOT play is accepted, lineup position resets and proper next batter is the one who follows the improper one in the lineup

Improper batter (3)

- It is up to team in field to appeal the BOOT
- If appeal is made and BOOT is enforced:
 - PROPER batter is called out (scored C unassisted)
 - Any runners return to bases before the play
 - Advancement (SB, WP, PB) before play stands
 - One common mistake: improper batter is called out
- Team will usually appeal when batter reaches base or scores a runner
- That may not be the best thing to do

Will see some examples of when it would be better to let the improper batter reach base.

Improper batter (4)

- Team may accept the play
 - usually when improper batter makes an out
 - may be times when should accept batter reaching
- If play is accepted, proper next batter is the one who follows the improper one in the lineup
- Possible confusion: who should bat next
- Some batter(s) may be skipped
- A batter might come up soon for a second time in an inning

Strange things can happen due to lineup position being reset. One or more batters may come up more often than normal and others may miss a turn at the plate.

It is possible that batter due up is on base. In such a case, his turn at bat is skipped and the next player in the order bats. (Don't know if this has ever happened or how it was dealt with, such as a courtesy runner.)

Contrived example of how a player could get two hits in an inning due to a BOOT. Assume the pitcher is not batting ninth (DH or sometimes in NL game) and manager interchanges the "normal" #2 and #9 hitters. Lead off batter hits a homer and normal #2 batting #9 in the lineup comes up and makes an out. Team in field does not appeal and team batting realizes what has happened. So #1 hitter is now the proper batter and comes up and gets a hit.

Strange things can happen

- Some players may have too few or too many plate appearances
 - Batter may be skipped
 - Batter may hit twice in an inning
- Two HRs by same hitter with only one batter in between is possible (contrived example)
 - #2 and #8 in official lineup switch (has happened!)
 - Leadoff hitter homers, #8 hitter makes an out next
 - #3 hitter comes up and gets on, BOOT is enforced
 - #9 hitter called out, #1 hitter comes up and homers

When not to appeal

- Better to let improper batter get on with two outs if no runs and improper batter coming up
- 5/9/2018, Mets at Reds
 - Lineup card in dugout not same as official one
 - #1 is out, #3 comes up next and makes an out
 - #2 (A. Cabrera) hits next and doubles
 - Reds protest the #4 (J. Bruce) is correct batter, and he is called out to end inning wiping out the 2B
 - Bruce comes up next, no risk to letting him hit if he gets on since #3 is proper batter
 - If Bruce makes an out, #3 (Flores) may BOOT again

One effect of what happened, #1 Nimmo has 5 PA, #2 Cabrera has 3, and #3 Flores has 4 (illustrates strange effect)

When not to appeal

- It may be better to let improper batter get on
- Most likely with two outs
- Example in game with pitcher batting 9th
 - 2 outs in second inning with nobody on
 - #7 comes up in #6 spot and reaches base
 - If #6 hitter comes up next, he is BOOT since #8 is now proper hitter, so no risk letting #6 hit
 - If #6 gets on, appeal so #8 is out, pitcher starts 3rd
 - If #6 makes out ending inning, most likely #8 comes up to start third, but is BOOT since #7 is proper

If #6 gets on and no appeal (since other runner did not score), #7 is proper hitter, but is on base. So #8 becomes proper hitter, and he likely would come up. So need to appeal.

BOOT is an important strategic advantage for the other team. Can “keep” in its pocket for use later in the game if it looks like it will be repeated as Weaver did in game to be shown later.

Pinch hit for “wrong” man

- Giants at Cubs, 9/16/1949
- Due to a “faux double switch” Cubs P Rush was #8, 2B Verban #9 in the bottom of the 10th (since Verban PR in 9th, stayed in game)
- 1st and 3rd, 2 outs, game tied. Rush is due up but Verban bats and walks. Giants do not object
- Mickey Owen pinch hits, NOT for #9 (thought to be Rush) but for #1, 3B Bob Ramazzotti
- Owen singles to win game, avoiding the “fun” if the game had continued

If Owen had made an out, when Ramazzotti took the field, the umpire would have told him that he was no longer in the game (and Owen was the current 3B). Cubs manager Frisch likely would have not been pleased, to say the least.

If game situation had been that Owen’s play would not end the inning, then Ramazzotti would come up to bat, but the home plate umpire would point out that Owen had hit for him and the #2 batter was up.

These assume the HP ump knew what was going on, which he should since he is supposed to mark his lineup card with the changes.

Earl Weaver **BOOTS SEA (1)**

- 5/28/69: Orioles at Pilots, McNally in, Palmer out
- Joe Schultz gives wrong lineup card to ump

Dugout		Given to HP ump	
Harper	2B	Harper	2B
Simpson	CF	Hegan	RF
Comer	RF	Davis	LF
Davis	LF	Mincher	1B
Gil	3B	Comer	CF
Hegan	1B	Gil	3B
McNertney	C	McNertney	C
Oyler	SS	Oyler	SS
Marshall	P	Marshall	P

- Simpson comes out to CF in top of 1st
- Unannounced sub, goes in #4 spot in order

Earl Weaver told Schultz 45 minutes before the game about the pitching change, from a RHP to a LHP.

In TSN article, Weaver said he was afraid someone in the press box would notice and call Schultz or that Schultz would realize the mistake and go to the correct order.

Since Mincher is the only player replaced, Simpson goes into the #4 spot.

Earl Weaver BOOTs SEA (2)

Lineups now are

Dugout		Official	
Harper	2B	Harper	2B
Simpson	CF	Hegan	1B
Comer	RF	Davis	LF
Davis	LF	Simpson	CF
Gil	3B	Comer	RF
Hegan	1B	Gil	3B
McNertney	C	McNertney	C
Oyler	SS	Oyler	SS
Marshall	P	Marshall	P

Orioles score 1 in top of first

Bottom of first:

- Simpson walks, steals second
- Weaver does not protest
- A bit of a gamble since Comer is the proper batter
- Comer fans, Davis grounds out

Weaver must feel like a kid in a candy shop, but he can only have one piece. He wants it to be a really good one. The risk is that the shop closes up early (SEA discovers the problem) before he can get it. Nullifying the walk and having Hegan called out and then having Davis come up is not tasty enough for Earl.

Earl Weaver BOOTs SEA (3)

Lineups now are

Dugout		Official	
Harper	2B	Harper	2B
Simpson	CF	Hegan	1B
Comer	RF	Davis	LF
Davis	LF	Simpson	CF
Gil	3B	Comer	RF
Hegan	1B	Gil	3B
McNertney	C	McNertney	C
Oyler	SS	Oyler	SS
Marshall	P	Marshall	P

Orioles score 3 in top of second

Bottom of second:

- Gil, Hegan out
- McNertney singles
- No protest
- Gamble loses as Oyler, proper batter, homers to make score 4-2
- Marshall walks and is picked off 1st

A possible reason not to protest is that Davis would be called out and Simpson would lead off the third, which puts higher up hitters up rather than going through the bottom of the order. Oyler is a very weak hitter, only 1 HR in 1968, career of .175/.28/.251 and never had a SLG above 0.300 in 6 year career.

Earl Weaver **BOOTs SEA (4)**

Lineups now are

Dugout		Official	
Harper	2B	Harper	2B
Simpson	CF	Hegan	1B
Comer	RF	Davis	LF
Davis	LF	Simpson	CF
Gil	3B	Comer	RF
Hegan	1B	Gil	3B
McNertney	C	McNertney	C
Oyler	SS	Oyler	SS
Marshall	P	Marshall	P

Orioles score 1 in the third

Bottom of third:

Harper walks and steals 2nd

Next three make outs

Orioles score in 4 in fourth to go ahead 9-2

Talbot in to pitch

Similar to what happened in the first.

Earl Weaver BOOTs SEA (5)

■ Lineups now are

Dugout		Official	
Harper	2B	Harper	2B
Simpson	CF	Hegan	1B
Comer	RF	Davis	LF
Davis	LF	Simpson	CF
Gil	3B	Comer	RF
Hegan	1B	Gil	3B
McNertney	C	McNertney	C
Oyler	SS	Oyler	SS
Talbot	P	Talbot	P

■ Bottom of fourth:

- Gil, Hegan out
- McNertney singles
- Weaver does not protest

■ Oyler pops out

■ Orioles do not score in top of fifth

With a 9-2 lead, Earl likely is not worried about Oyler hitting another homer.

Earl Weaver BOOTs SEA (6)

Lineups now are

Dugout		Official	
Harper	2B	Harper	2B
Simpson	CF	Hegan	1B
Comer	RF	Davis	LF
Davis	LF	Simpson	CF
Gil	3B	Comer	RF
Hegan	1B	Gil	3B
McNertney	C	McNertney	C
Oyler	SS	Oyler	SS
Talbot	P	Talbot	P

Bottom of fifth:

- Rollins PH for Talbot singles
- Harper singles, Rollins to 2nd
- Simpson fans
- Comer flies out
- Davis doubles in 2
- Weaver objects
- Simpson called out; should be Gil
- No runs score

Simpson out twice in three batters due to incorrect ruling.

Pilots hit in official order for the rest of the game, which is won by Baltimore, 9-5

Perhaps Weaver “gambled” since he had the lead, comfortable after the top of the 4th

Had chances to enforce BOOT in 1st, 2nd, and 4th, but decided to wait until he could take runs off the board.

Intentional BOOT

- Browns at Tigers, 9/23/45
- Hot day
- Browns are leading 5-0 after 8
- Browns P Nels Potter has a two-hitter going
- Potter is due to lead off the top of the ninth
- Luke Sewell tells him not to bat to get more rest
- Don Gutteridge bats and makes an out, so no protest
- Potter retires side in order in bottom of ninth

Possible strategy: intentionally bypass a weak hitter such as the pitcher in the #9 spot. If #1 hitter gets on, a) small chance BOOT won't be recognized, b) if BOOT is called, not much is lost since #9 was quite likely to make an out, and now #1 hits again.

If #1 makes an out, defensive team has a touch decision. Call BOOT and have #1 hit again or let #2 hitter come up, so further down lineup and closer to letting the likely best hitters come up a batter sooner.

AL teams might want to do this in interleague games to keep pitchers from getting hurt batting. NL teams with relievers who almost never bat (e.g. Nats' Roenis Elias); If pitcher came in as part of (faux) double switch, other team might not notice the BOOT if pitcher does not come up.

What were umps thinking?

- Dodgers at Cubs, 9/24/64
- Ernie Banks at 1B batting #5 on official card
- John Boccabella starts at first in his place, an unannounced sub, takes over #5 spot
- Bats in #5 spot, grounds out in 2nd, 4th
- Santo (#4), Boccabella (#5) triple in 6th
- Alston says BOOT, umps agree, call Banks out!!!
- Boccabella has RBI single in 8th, no protest
- Cubs score two in ninth to win 4-3

Rookie ump John Kibler was behind the plate in an NL game for only the second time. Alston and Durocher decide to test umpire, but have a player ask crew chief Frank Secory (at 2B) if a BOOT could be called, and was told yes!

Bob Kennedy, the Cubs acting coach was not aware of the unannounced substitution rule and only found out about it an inning later from a member of the front office staff. It was too late to protest then. It would have been upheld, but was not necessary.

Ernie Banks is charged with making an out in a game he never appeared in!

Alston admitted that he was afraid the Cubs would protest and possibly cost his team a win. Maybe because both teams were not in the race, #7 and #8, ahead of only the two expansion teams, he thought they could have some

fun.

Team calls BOOT on itself

- Reds at Cardinals, 8/21/53
- Ray Jablonski (#4) is due up to start 2nd
- Steve Bilko (#5) hits instead, grounds out
- Cards manager Stanky points out BOOT to HP ump Bill Stewart
- Jablonski, the proper batter, is called out
- Bilko bats again and homers!
- Should not have been allowed since only the other team can protest the BOOT

This was before the 1957 rules update and clarifications, but I think the understanding was that the other team had to protest. This case illustrates why since Cards gained advantage by having #5 hitter bat again rather than the #6 hitter who would have been the proper batter. Did not find anything about this in TSN other than saying what happened in brief game summary.

Cards won game 4-0 behind a Harvey Haddix four-hitter.

As best I can tell, Reds did not protest. It would have been interesting to see if it would have been upheld.

Similar to Dallas Green, Dusty Baker homer one

presented last year.

Web sites, e-mail

<https://www.retrosheet.org/outturn.htm>

has list of BOOTs, some are amazing

www.pankin.com/baseball.htm

E-mail: `sabr --ATsign-- pankin.com`

Plan to post slides, notes on my web site
and on Retrosheet.org Research page

My baseball page focuses on the mathematical Markov model and its applications, the most “famous” of which is optimizing the batting order.

Replace `--ATsign--` with @