

## 15-01 Official Ruling Pitching Substitutions

June 10, 2015

**In a pure nine-man batting order**, the pitcher has left the game and the substitute must assume the pitcher position on defense or one of the other players in the nine-man order must assume the pitcher's position and the substitute would take vacated defensive position of the player who assumes the pitching position. Therefore, the pitcher cannot return to the mound by rule.

**In the Continuous Batting Order and the Continuous Batting Order Reverting to a Nine Man Batting Order**, the pitcher can be listed anywhere in the batting order including positions 10-12. Therefore, I have ruled substitutions on offense by eligible substitutes would allow the player to reenter on offense a second time and regular baseball substitutions on offense would apply in all situations. However, since the pitcher began the game in a continuous batting order, a substitute runner would be an offensive substitution only and he would not have been considered to have left the game on defense. After a second offensive substitution for a pitcher in the continuous batting order formats, the pitcher would not be allowed to return to the batting lineup but would be able to continue to pitch on defense.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wes Skelton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

*Wes Skelton*, Commissioner