

Allowing Position Players with LESS than 120 Plate Appearances to Start Postseason Games

Trying to keep **"Ringers"** out of the postseason is the logical basis behind requiring position players to have **120 or more plate appearances** in order to start a game. However, an argument can be made that many legitimate players get excluded from starting a game simply because of low plate appearances.

Rather than automatically exclude players based upon their plate appearances sabermetric stats such as **OPS (on-base plus slugging)** can be used to further evaluate them. OPS is calculated as the **sum of a player's on-base percentage and slugging average**. The ability of a player both to get on base and to hit for power, two very important offensive skills, are represented.

Category	Classification	OPS Range
A	Great	.9000 and Higher
B	Very Good	.8333 to .8999
C	Above Average	.7667 to .8333
D	Average	.7000 to .7666
E	Below Average	.6334 to .6999
F	Poor	.5667 to .6333
G	Atrocious	.5666 and Lower

Noted baseball statistician **Bill James** developed this **OPS scale** to create a subjective reference for OPS values. This scale can be used to determine final eligibility for any player to start by applying their regular season OPS.

Players with a Below Average, Poor or Atrocious OPS can now start. Limited to 10% of their plate appearances.

These players would now be **eligible** to start during the postseason:

- **Juan Perez** (defensive outfielder) for the San Francisco Giants (109 Plate Appearances) started 2 games including Game 7 of the 2014 World Series despite hitting a feeble .170 average during the regular season. **Eligible to start .494 OPS - 10 PA's.**
- **Xander Bogaerts** (rookie infielder) for the Boston Redsox (50 plate appearances) started all 6 games of the 2013 World Series for the Boston Redsox hitting only .250 average during the regular season. **Eligible to start .684 OPS – 5 PA's.**

The **"120 plate appearances or more"** rule effectively accounts for **"Ringers"**. Players such as these would still be **ineligible** to start:

- **Corey Saeger** (infielder) for the 2015 Los Angeles Dodgers (**113 plate appearances**), .337 average and .986 OPS.
- **Jake Smolinski** (outfielder) for the 2014 Texas Rangers (**92 plate appearances**), .333 average and .888 OPS.
- **Josmil Pinto** (catcher-DH) for the 2013 Minnesota Twins (**83 plate appearances**), .342 average and .963 OPS.