



NOMINATED CONCUSSION SUBSTITUTE POLICY (18TH PLAYER)

“IF IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT”

STEP 1



A player has been involved in an incident causing a potential concussion.

STEP 2



Player is to be removed after the appropriate assessment - continue through the following steps.

STEP 3



Trainer to inform the Interchange Official of the 18th Player substitute/activation.

STEP 4



The player will be removed from the game and is **not permitted to return to the field of play**.

STEP 5



The concussion substitute is to remove their vest identifying them as the concussion substitute.

STEP 6



The player, originally named in the team as the concussion substitute, may either enter the field of play as a FREE interchange, or go to the bench and let another player enter the field as the FREE interchange. *Only the first suspected concussed player, invoking the use of the 18th Player can be recorded as a FREE interchange, all subsequent removal of players will be recorded as an interchange.

**The trainer is to then complete the steps on the appropriate Concussion and Return to Play Protocols/Checklist with the concussed player.*



Important Notes

- For the avoidance of doubt, a team will not be permitted to name more than one (1) concussion substitute in its team for a match.
- The player who is being nominated to sit on the bench as the Concussion Substitute (18th Player) MUST have played some time in the second half of the Reserve Grade or Under 19s match (as applicable) before they could be eligible to be nominated to be the 18th Player. (Not applicable in finals)
- Clubs must add the Concussion substitute players name to the team sheet before the commencement of the First-Grade game.
- The Concussion Substitute will be allowed to sit with the bench but must have an identifiable pink vest that must be worn at all times whilst they are the Concussion Substitute.
- For semi-finals series, the Concussion Substitute (18th Player) can be a fresh reserve if the reserve grade or Under 19s are not involved in a match on that day.
- The interchange official will record the activation of the concussion substitute on the interchange record. Team manager to record 18th Player activation on the team sheet.
- The interchange official will record the name of the player being substituted on the interchange record.
- The team sheet and interchange record will be sent to the CRRL at the conclusion of the match.
- The CRRL administrator responsible will record the concussion substitute and block the substituted player's profile, and it will only be released when the CRRL receives official notification of the successful completion of the Return to Play protocols and/or medical clearance.
- The 18th Player must be eligible under the Player Points Index System (PPIS) and any breach of that policy or team's quota will be adjudicated by the competitions appointed Administrator.

***Removal of player due to foul play:**

If a player is fouled by an opponent who is in consequence dismissed from the field (whether temporary {sin bin} or permanently {sent off}) or in the opinion of the referee the action was reckless or dangerous, the referee will signal with crossing their wrists, thereby allowing the fouled player, if they have to leave the field as a direct result of the reckless or dangerous action, to be interchanged. This interchange will not count as one of the Interchanges, provided that the interchange is made without delay.