



Nominated Concussion Substitute (18th Player) – Pilot

JUNE 2021

IF IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT

Application

For the avoidance of doubt, a team will be permitted to name no 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.

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 vest that must be worn at all times whilst they are the Concussion substitute.

If utilised, this substitute, will be considered a FREE interchange. A FREE Interchange whether the 18th Player goes straight onto the field, or if the 18th Player goes onto the bench, and then another player (i.e. #15) replaces the suspected concussed player.

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.

TRAINERS

Trainers will undertake their assessment (HIA) of any concussed players and under the NSWRL protocols, if a player is to be removed after the appropriate assessments the following will occur:

- The Trainer will inform the interchange recording official of the change.
- The concussed player will be removed from the bench area and cannot return to the field of play. Once removed, the concussed player cannot return.

There is **NO** 15-minute HIA assessment protocol. The assessment must take place immediately and decision made by trainer without delay.



INTERCHANGE OFFICIALS AND RECORDING OF SUBSTITUTION

- The interchange official will record the activation of the concussion substitute on the match team sheet and the interchange record.
- The interchange official will record the name of the player being substituted on the match team sheet and 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 substitution 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.

CONCUSSION SUBSTITUTE (18TH PLAYER)

- The concussion substitute may remove the vest worn in accordance with these rules for the purpose of clearly identifying that player as the concussion substitute;
- That player, originally named in the team as the concussion substitute, may then take their place on the players bench as one of the four interchange players (in substitute for the player removed from or not permitted to return to play in the match);
- Only the first suspected concussed player, can be a FREE interchange, when the 18th Player is utilised. Any following concussive injuries (when trainer suspects a player has obtained a concussion and removes player from play) are to be counted/recorded as interchanges.
- Removal of concussed player due to foul play:
If a player is fouled by an opponent who is in consequence dismissed from the field (whether temporarily {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.