

JUNIOR MATCH TIME POLICY

Our Commitment

We support maximum game time and enjoyment of all fee paying players so that they receive “value for money” from their season at the club.

Guideline rationale

Players and parents can become disgruntled with the club when they are substituted and replaced with a player who has already participated fully in another game in the same weekend. Dissatisfaction can lead to families leaving the club, or the sport of hockey. The guidelines below are a guide for coaches to provide fair enjoyment for all players, without interfering with the coach’s autonomy to substitute fatigued or injured players.

This guideline may be relaxed if necessary for finals or extraordinary games at the coach’s discretion. Coaches should keep in mind that player satisfaction creates positive morale and return players for next season.

What we ask you to do

Coaches

- Retain no more than fourteen (14) players for any one game, including any players from another division team - this guideline may be relaxed if necessary for finals and other extraordinary games.
- Your team registered members are to have game time priority.
- Other division player(s) who have another team to play in are to be substituted sparingly* so that the team registered players are allocated maximum playing time.
*This does not apply to team registered players only to substitute players.
For example:
 - if a player only has one game, maximise match time – 60 minutes is reasonable;
 - if a player has a second match to play, maximum match time may be only 30 minutes.
 - substitute players are not to start the match ahead of team players, except in exceptional circumstances eg. players running late.
- Players invited to be bench reserves for development purposes are to be clearly informed and the player (and in the case of juniors, a parent) are to confirm they comprehend they will be on the bench. Bench reserves may or may not take the field at the coach’s discretion.
- If a player selection issue is interfering with team registered players receiving fair time, discuss alternative selections with your relevant Coordinator.

Players

- Be aware that if you are asked to ‘bench’ for a match other than your own team, depending on the number of players, you may or may not get on the field, or may only get on the field for a short amount of time at the coach’s discretion.
- Use any ‘benching’ opportunities as an opportunity to be involved in your club and to learn, even if you only get a short amount of field time.

Parents

- Be aware that if your child is asked to ‘bench’ for a match other than their own team, depending on the number of players, they may or may not get on the field, or may only get on the field for a short amount of time at the coach’s discretion.
- Encourage your child to use any ‘benching’ opportunities as an opportunity to be involved in their club and to learn, even if they only get a short amount of field time.