

Appendix 10.2 - SANFL Juniors Equalisation Policy

Equalisation before start of play

The Equalisation Rule of on field playing numbers, will be applied to all grade levels for all games, excluding Finals.

- The Team with the higher numbers will make the decision on how this rule is to be applied
- The enactment of this rule is to be within the spirit of the game.
- The introduction of the Equalisation Rule across all grades is motivated by the desire that participation is the key objective and a good game is played.
- The SANFL Juniors would like to see Clubs & particularly Coaches embrace this rule to ensure a good game of football, here are examples of how the rule may work, the rule allows for the club with the most players to decide how it is to be played.

Example 1

Team A 22 players & Team B 15 players

Start of match - 18 v 18

Example 2

Team A 19 players & Team B 16 players

Start of match - 17 v 17

- Example 2 if Club B refuses to accept the player Club A can play with 18 players, this is only available if Club A refuses player.
- For the Rule to work in the spirit of the game Clubs & Coaches must be prepared to encourage players to play a game.

Equalisation during play when injuries occur

The following playing number conditions only apply when players have match ending injuries. When a player leaves the field due to injury a determination is required as to whether the player will be able to be treated and return to the field or it is a match ending injury. If it is determined to be a match ending injury, under no circumstances is the player allowed to return to the field.

These conditions do not apply for the following:

- When players leave the field to be treated and expect to return to the field;
- When players leave the field to go to another venue to fill in for another team;
- Normal conditions apply when a player is sent from the field by an umpire for an indiscretion.

Example 1

Team A 22 players & Team B 18 players

Start of match - 18 v 18

Team B has 1 injury - 18 v 17

Team B has 2 injuries - 16 v 16

Team B has 3 injuries - 16 v 15

Team B has 4 injuries - 16 v 14

Team B has 5 injuries - end of match

Example 2

Team A 22 players & Team B 17 players

Start of match - 17 v 17

Team B has 1 injury - 17 v 16

Team B has 2 injuries - 16 v 15

Team B has 3 injuries - 16 v 14

Team B has 4 injuries - end of match

Example 3

Team A 22 players & Team B 16 players

Start of match - 16 v 16

Team B has 1 injury - 16 v 15

Team B has 2 injuries - 16 v 14

Team B has 3 injuries - end of match

Example 4

Team A 22 players & Team B 15 players

Start of match - 16 v 15

Team B has 1 injury - 16 v 14

Team B has 2 injuries - end of match

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Example 5

Team A 22 players & Team B 14 players

Start of match – 16 v 14

Team B has 1 injury – end of match

PROCEDURE

In the event of second (or more) match ending injury; the following process should be followed:

- The Team Manager of the team with injured players notifies the opposition team manager;
- The Team Manager of the team without injured players advises the Coach that players **must** be taken from the field as soon as possible. *Note – the players taken from the field become part of the interchange and can be interchanged back on to the field at any stage;*
- Before the next quarter break, the Team Manager of the team with injured players advises the Ground Marshall of the new on field playing numbers;
- At the next quarter break the Ground Marshall notifies the Umpire of the new on field playing numbers.

DISPUTES

In the event of a team not taking players from the field the following process should be followed:

- The Team Manager of the team with injured players notifies the Ground Marshall;
- The Ground Marshall notifies the Umpire as soon as practicable;
- The Umpire instructs the Coach to take players from the field.

PENALTIES

If the team without injured players fails to comply:

- The Umpire will report the breach and the Coach will face disciplinary action for breach of Code of Conduct;
- SANFL Juniors will carry out an investigation which could result in possible loss of premiership points.