

2026 LIMITED PLAYER INTERCHANGE

U13s to U17s



RLB will conduct the Limited Player Interchange in the current season. This will be conducted in **Division 1 grades only**.

Division 1 U13 – U15 - A maximum of 19 players are to be included on the official match card (six interchange players). A maximum of ten (10) interchanges only may be made by each team during a match.

Division 1 U16 – U17 - A maximum of 17 players are to be included on the official match card (four interchange players). A maximum of eight (8) interchanges only may be made by each team during a match.

Division 2 and below (U13-U17s) - A maximum of 19 players are to be included on the official match card. Unlimited interchanges for each team during a match.

Procedures

- Each team will be responsible to appoint an appropriate person to act as an Interchange Official for the opposing team for each match.
- The RLB office have Interchange Official bibs that can be provided to clubs which will be a different colour to the normal Duty Official bibs.
- This Interchange Official will record the approved interchanges made by the opposition team.
- It is the **Host Club's** responsibility to ensure that a set of Interchange Cards (numbered accordingly) is allocated to each team on game day. (to be supplied to clubs by RLB).
- These cards will be numbered accordingly to reflect the participant grade (1-8 for Division 1).
- A Player Interchange Sheet will be duly filled out during the match and bench player numbers recorded at the completion of the 1st Half. (Refer attached - Player Interchange Summary Sheet). ***RLB may utilise the MySideline Manager interchange feature during the 2025 season, to record interchanges throughout fixtures.***
- At the completion of the match, the duly completed Player Interchange Sheets must be signed by the Team Coaches and stored by the host club unless requested by RLB office.
- The Interchange Official will remain near the Team Dugout **for the entire match** to ensure clear communication with the Team Coach for interchange purposes.

Rules

- The interchange player is not to enter the field of play until such time as the player he is replacing has left the field of play and the Interchange Official has accepted the interchange card.
- All interchange players must enter the field of play from an 'on side' position. If touch judges are appointed to control any match, normal rules will apply, and players must report to the touch judge before entering the field.
- If the referee requests a player to leave the field due to bleeding and a replacement is made this **will** constitute an interchange. However, if the player retires to the sideline and has the blood removed and then re-enters play then no interchange is deemed to have occurred.
- If a player's jersey is damaged or blood stained and requires a replacement jersey, the coach must notify the interchange official of the jersey change and the new number of the replacement jersey.
- When a team has used all their allotted replacements, the Interchange Official shall inform the coach that there are to be no further replacements to be made for the remainder of the match.

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- In the case of any 'Extra Time' (**finals**) matches being played, any unused interchanges remaining from the total maximum number allowed will be cancelled at the conclusion of the normal time period of play. For the 'Extra Time' period, each team will be allowed a maximum of two (2) interchanges, with these two numbered cards to be returned to each team by the Interchange Official.

"Free" Interchanges

- If a player is to be replaced due to an injury incurred as a result of 'Foul Play' **and** the referee deems the foul play as serious enough to warrant a free interchange, the referee will point to the player involved (i.e. the injured player) and then signal to the interchange official and the replacement will not be counted as an interchange.

The referee's signal for this replacement will be arms crossed in front of chest with hands on shoulders. The Interchange Official is to acknowledge the referee so that he/she knows that they have seen the signal.

- There will be NO signal if a player is sent off (Permanent or Temporary) following a tackle/incident - a free change will automatically follow all send offs (Permanent or Temporary) (providing of course that the interchanged player was injured as a result of the incident).
- **There are no HIA in community rugby league, therefore this does not constitute a free interchange.**

The interchange official will be required to record FREE interchanges on the Player Interchange Sheet.

Penalties for Breach of the Interchange Rules

- 1st breach by a team
 - loss of premiership points for that match
- 2nd breach by a team (in a different match to the first breach)
 - loss of premiership points for that match; and
 - loss of an additional 2 premiership points; and
 - \$500 fine
- Subsequent offences
 - loss of all premiership points for the season (includes future matches where the team will not be able to accumulate premiership points, although the opposition may); and
 - \$500 fine for each offence (multiple fines may apply in each match if more than the maximum number of interchanges take place); and
 - withdrawal of coach accreditation for the remainder of the season.

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| PLAYER INTERCHANGE SUMMARY | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|--|----------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|--|
| Interchange Official: | | | | | | | Date: | | |
| Game: | | | | | Vs | | | | |
| Venue: | | | | | Grade: | | | | |
| HOME TEAM | | | | | VISITING TEAM | | | | |
| Starting Interchange Bench | | | | | | | | | |
| No. | No. | No. | No. | | No. | No. | No. | No. | |
| | Time | No. ON | No. OFF | | | Time | No. ON | No. OFF | |
| 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | 3 | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | 4 | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | 5 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | 10 | | | | |
| Half Time Interchange Bench | | | | | | | | | |
| No. | No. | No. | No. | | No. | No. | No. | No. | |