

2026 LIMITED PLAYER INTERCHANGE Senior Competitions



The RLB will conduct the Limited Player Interchange in the current season. This will be conducted in the following Open Men's Competitions:

- Open Men's Division 1
- Under 19 Division 1
- Community Under 21

A maximum of nineteen (19) players are to be included on the official match card, with six (6) interchange players.

Open Men's Division 1 Under 19 Division 1 Community Under 21	A maximum twelve (12) interchanges are permitted during the match
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Procedures

- Team Managers are responsible for interchanges for opposition team.
- If any team manager is unable to complete this task, it is the host club's responsibility to appoint interchange officials.
- The team manager will provide interchange cards for their team and exchange this with the opposition manager.
- The Team Manager will record the approved interchanges.
- These cards will be numbered accordingly to reflect the participant grade (1 to 12 for Senior Division 1).
- A Player Interchange Sheet will be duly filled out during the match and at the completion of the 1st Half and the commencement of the 2nd Half of play. (Refer attached - Player Interchange Summary Sheet). ***RLB may utilise the MySideline Manager interchange feature during the 2025 season to record interchanges throughout the fixtures.***
- At the completion of the match, the duly completed Player Interchange Sheets must be signed by the opposition team manager.
- The team managers will remain near the Team Dugout **for the entire match** to ensure clear communication with the Team Coach for interchange purposes.

Rules

- An interchange player cannot enter the field of play until he has reported to the appointed Interchange Official and handed the official the correct numbered interchange card.
- 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.

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- 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 of 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.
- 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).

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 two (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.

