



SUBSTITUTION & ROTATION POLICY JUNIOR & YOUTH GRADES

Game time, subbing and position issues crop up every season across teams of all ages.

DUFC Code of Conduct states: Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, **ability**, cultural background or religion.

In line with Northern Regional Football, NZ Football & FIFA expectations, our policy for Junior & Youth players is:

SUBBING & GAME TIME

U9-U19 Grade League Matches

- Championship Minimum half a game each week
- Community 1 & 2 Equal playing time throughout the season
- Community 3 + Equal playing time each game

Allowances may be made for players standing down for injury or disciplinary reasons.

Teams are to use rolling subs as allowed by regulations so players are not on the side-line for long periods of time (ie. half a match)

Tournaments are a little different but the expectation is still that those in attendance will get roughly equal playing time.

It is not acceptable for players to get less game time based solely on ability or to be strategically used as a substitute just to give other players a short break. They are team members, not subs.

It is the responsibility of the coach, manager &/or designated subbing person to ensure this happens. All teams have range of abilities amongst their players and correct way to work with this is strategic placement on the field.

POSITIONING & ROTATION

U9-U12 Grades

- Players are expected to be rotated through all positions over the course of the season.
- Players should not be restricted to any single position, including Goal Keeping, particularly in U9 & U10 grades.
- Some players may have found their niche in goal or other positions but should still be offered the opportunity to play on the field in other positions.
- Modern goal keepers are expected to have an understanding of other positions and good foot skills, which is only achieved by game time in other positions.
- U9 & U10 grade teams are expected to only have a player in goal for half of a match, then swap them with another player

U13-U19 Grades

- Coaches may choose to carry on with position policy as outlined in the 9th-12th grades policy above
- Players in this age group have generally found their positions of strength & preference, but should not be forced to constantly play in a position they do not enjoy; if there is a position no particular player wants to be in, all team members will take equal turns playing this position
- Players in Premier, Div 1 or Div 2 teams who are accepted on the clearly stated condition they play in a specific position are expected to play in that position but we would encourage coaches to still offer experience in other positions if the player requests it.

Again, Tournaments are a bit different, but the expectation is still that these policies for each age group will be followed UNLESS players are clearly informed IN WRITING by the coach/manager at the time of trialling/selecting the tournament team that members will play in designated positions as the coach sees fit and these positions should be made clear as much as possible. Then players/parents can make informed choices about participating and there should be no problems at the tournament.

ie. if the plan is to have the same player in goal or as a back or forward for every or the majority of games, make that clear. Don't agree to rotate or give time in other positions if it's not going to happen. Don't rely on informal conversations or vague statements as misinterpretations do occur.

If players have concerns, address them with the team coach or manager in the first instance, then with the Club Manager if it cannot be resolved.

If you have questions about this policy or the ethos behind it, please contact the Club Manager.