

Spirit of Fair Play Policy

The 'Spirit of Fair Play Policy' is essentially designed to even up the number of players on the field so that if one team is struggling for numbers in a particular game (e.g. there are only 15 players available), then the opposition team can only field one additional player on the field, in this example 16 players (15 + 1). In previous years, a team could take the field with a full complement of 18 players against the team that only had 15 players.

Spirit of Fair Play Policy:

Where one team cannot list 18 players on the team sheet, a policy to equalise the numbers competing for each team is in place.

- Firstly, Clubs are encouraged to take advantage of the Special Permit system which allows teams with lesser numbers to borrow players from an opposition team who has greater numbers to allow both teams to take the field with an even number of players.
- If for any reason it is not possible to borrow players from another team, then the team with the greater numbers shall field no more than one (1) additional player on the field, to that of the team with the lesser numbers (e.g. if Team X only has 15 players, then Team Y is restricted to 16 players on the field.
- Where there is a reduction in players on the field, the bench can be extended to allow the maximum number players to compete in the game. For example, where 16 players are on the ground, the team with the greater number of players may have up to eight (8*) on the bench (allowing 24* players to be named on the team sheet).
**Only 22 players, including four (4) interchange players, are allowed to be named on the team sheet in Senior Men's, Reserves, Thirds & Under 18.5 Men's competitions.*
- Where a player is sent from the ground under the send-off rule, the opposition team is not required to reduce their numbers on the field to accommodate the reduction in player numbers.
- Where a player is sent from the ground under the send-off rule and that team falls below 12 players, Rule 6.1 of the EDFL by-laws shall apply.
- Where an injury has occurred that has reduced the number of players on the field, the opposition team with the greater numbers shall, upon polite request from the opposing Team Manager, reduce the number of players on the field by one.
- Where a player is injured and cannot return to the field and that team falls below 12 players, Rule 6.1 of the EDFL by-laws shall apply.
- Where a team has more players on the field than this policy allows, the team shall be considered to have too many players on the playing field. In such situations, the Board of Management will deal with this indiscretion as it sees fit.

This policy will be introduced for the 2022 season only and applies to all EDFL competitions where necessary.

EDFL By-Law 6.1:

An Affiliated Club not fielding at least the minimum number of players as specified by the League 20 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the match shall forfeit the match. If, during the course of a match a team is reduced to less than the number of players specified by the League the match shall be forfeited and the Team Sheets shall immediately be signed on the ground in the presence of the field umpire, endorsed by him and forwarded in the usual manner to the League. An Affiliated Club forfeiting the match shall pay all umpire fees in full.