



## Number of Players on Field

*Kids off the Sidelines*

### Overview:

The key intentions of this policy are:

- To maximise child involvement in games
- Prevent defaults
- Prevent the unfair advantage gained by teams through the use of superior player numbers

### Guideline:

Maximum player numbers are set in the Small Black Development Model laws for each grade, these should not be exceeded.

If a team will knowingly be short of players for a game, that team should **not** default.

When the difference in player numbers for a game, between the two teams, is one or more, and one of the teams does not have sufficient players to field a 'full' team as set out in the rules for that grade there is little point in a player standing on the sideline as a reserve when they could be playing:

- Players must be swapped between teams.
- The onus is on the coach with the greater player numbers to offer the loan of players.
- Once an offer of loan player/s has been made it must be accepted.
- In swapping players between teams, both coaches must consider the relative strengths of the two playing sides.
- Coaches are encouraged to ask children to only play one half of the game for the opposition team and make other players available for the other half.