



Substitutions *fact sheet*

Tactical Substitutions

Rule 10: Stoppages

- 1 Both teams have the right to make substitutions and/or team changes:
 - a) During an interval.
 - b) When play is stopped for injury/illness of a player or blood.
- 2 Both teams may make tactical changes immediately after a goal has been scored following a request from an on-court player to hold time for this purpose, ensuring that:
 - a) The umpire is clear the request is for a tactical change and not for injury/illness of a player or blood.
 - b) Any on-court players leave the court or change playing positions without delay.
 - c) Any substitutes take up their position on court without delay.
 - d) All team officials including primary care persons remain at the team bench.
 - e) The umpire is able to restart play quickly so the momentum of the match is not affected.

- 3 If undue time is taken by either team to complete substitutions and/or team changes, the infringing team will be penalised for delaying play [Rule 19.1] and [Rule 19.2]. For a tactical change, this will be immediately following the whistle for the next centre pass.

- 4 The number of substitutions and/or team changes is unlimited during a match provided the players used are those named for the match. However, if the number of requests for tactical changes becomes frivolous the umpires may refuse the request and/or penalise the infringing team for delaying play [Rule 19.1] and [Rule 19.2].

19.1. *A player must not play unfairly even if player safety is not endangered. This includes any instance of delaying play, intentional infringing, repeated infringing, disputed ruling or intimidation.*

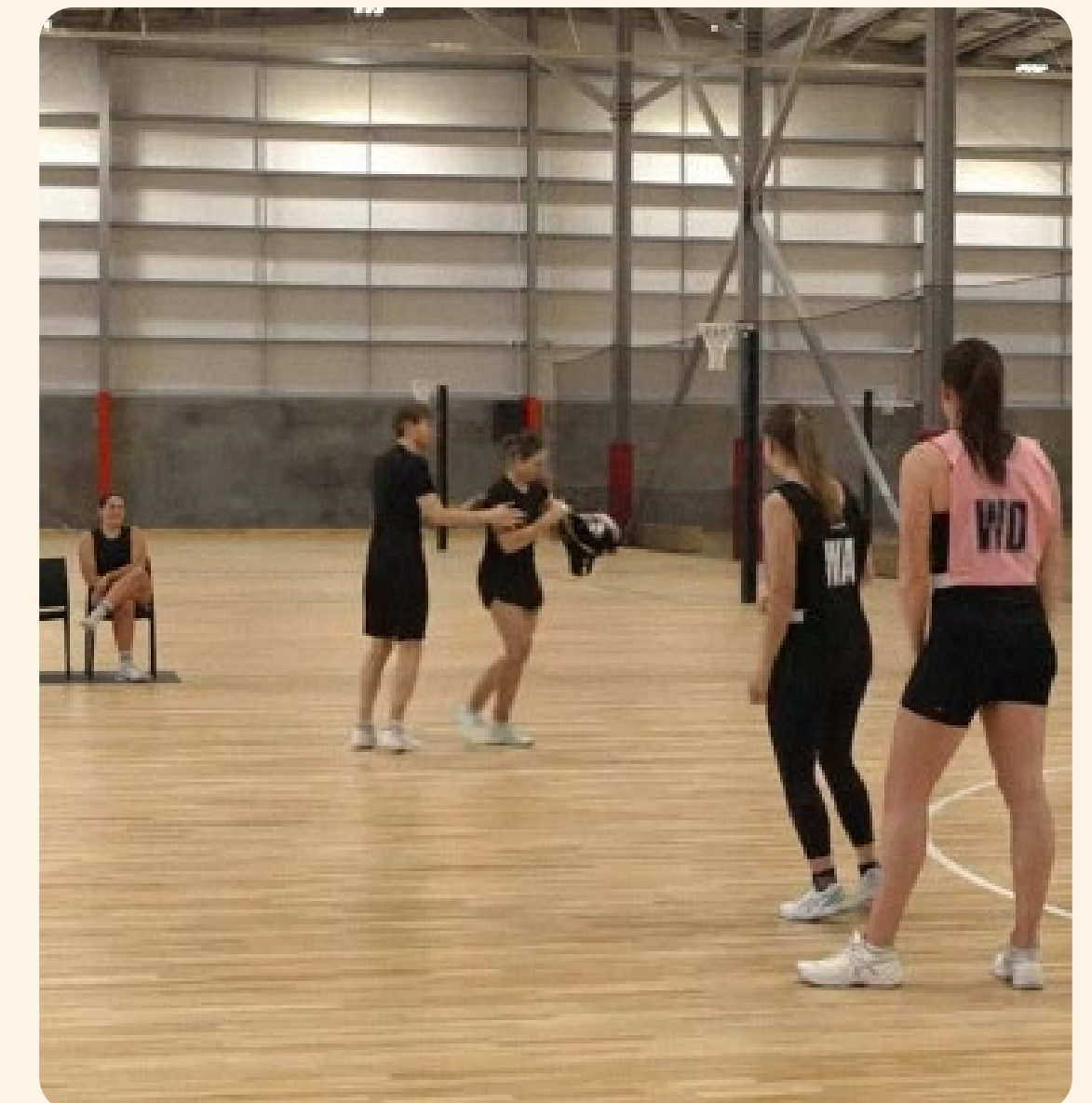
Action: Penalty pass which is advanced.
Terminology: Delaying Play

19.2. *Delaying play: A player or team must not intentionally waste time or delay play.*

Action: Penalty pass which is advanced.
Terminology: Delaying Play

Points to Consider

- Timekeeper must hold and restart time with umpire's whistle.
- Schedule of games throughout competition could be impacted due to time held during the game.
- Multiple changes can be made at tactical substitution stoppage.
- Both substitutions and on-court positional changes can be made during a stoppage for tactical substitution.
- Stoppage for injury / illness of a player or blood remains as per previous edition of rules.
- Definition of frivolous is not set out in Rules of Netball 2024.
- Substitution slips for substitutions should be promptly given to bench officials/scorer in order to record changes on scoresheet if positional tracking is required.
- If using Live Scoring through Netball Connect, positional changes can be made by Team Manager during play.
- Ensure umpires officiating at your competitions are aware of which Substitution rule is in place.



Rolling Substitutions

As per previous memo 12 January 2024, Netball Australia is able to recommend how the substitution rule will be implemented.

Recommendations

In regards to Rolling Substitutions, Netball Australia recommends the below points are adopted in your bylaws.

- The rolling substitution stands at the designated area.
- Before leaving the designated area, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the court.
- Only one (1) rolling substitute per team can be made at a time.
- Play is not to be held up for rolling substitutions. If play is delayed, the player will be penalised under Rule 19.2. Delaying play.

- Players must observe the offside rules as they enter or leave the court.
Sanction: Free pass where the infringement occurred (offside area) unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, or advantage is applied.
- Players must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.
Sanction: Free pass where the ball was when play was stopped (advantage may be applied).
- If a player leaves the court as a rolling substitution, and there is no player in the designated area, the replacement player is treated as a late player (as per Rule 3.8) and must wait until a break in play to enter the court.
3.8. Any late player may, after advising the umpire, take the court in the vacant position/s at the next break in play.
Action: Any late player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry and possession is awarded to the opposing team where the ball was when play stopped.
Terminology: Incorrect entry.

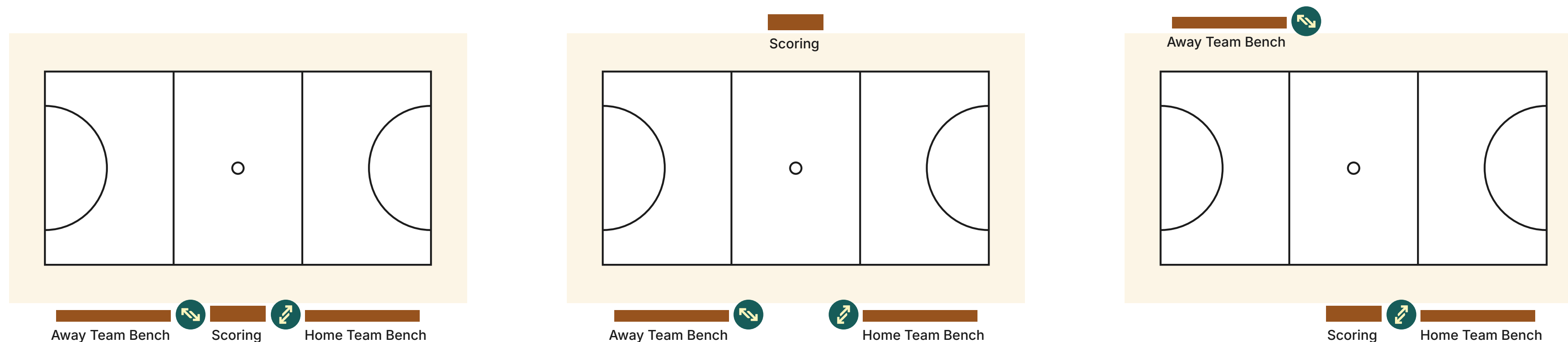
Points to Consider

- Designated substitution zone/s should be clearly marked on the court. This can be done by chalk markings, or cones or dots on the ground. The location of the substitution zone will vary by venue, as not all venues have dedicated score benches. A single substitution zone could be used if needed.
- Please apply common sense to location of substitution boxes and ensure safety for all participants with special consideration given to the movement of umpires.
- Teams should have two sets of bibs to facilitate rolling subs.
- Substitution slips for substitutions should be promptly given to bench officials/scorer in order to record changes on scoresheet if positional tracking is required.
- If using Live Scoring through Netball Connect, positional changes can be made by Team Manager during play.
- "Break in play" as described in Rule 3.8. and bylaw (g) above, as *after a goal is scored, during a stoppage or interval or when a sanction or action is awarded.*
- Substitutions must involve two players. A single player can not "roll on" or "roll off" the court.

A designated substitution area is required for both teams. Each venue and court may vary. A single substitution area would also be acceptable.

Examples of locations for substitution zones are indicated by this symbol  in the diagrams on right:

Further guidance is provided in the NA Designated Substitution Zones Fact Sheet



Position Tracking

At most competitive levels, tracking is used to manage rotations and ensure players meet specific game-time requirements.

Common methods for tracking include using Substitution/Position Tracking Forms (physical sheets) or digital tools (*Netball Connect*) that allow for real-time tracking of on-court, bench, injured, or disciplinary-related changes.

Tracking Forms (physical sheets)

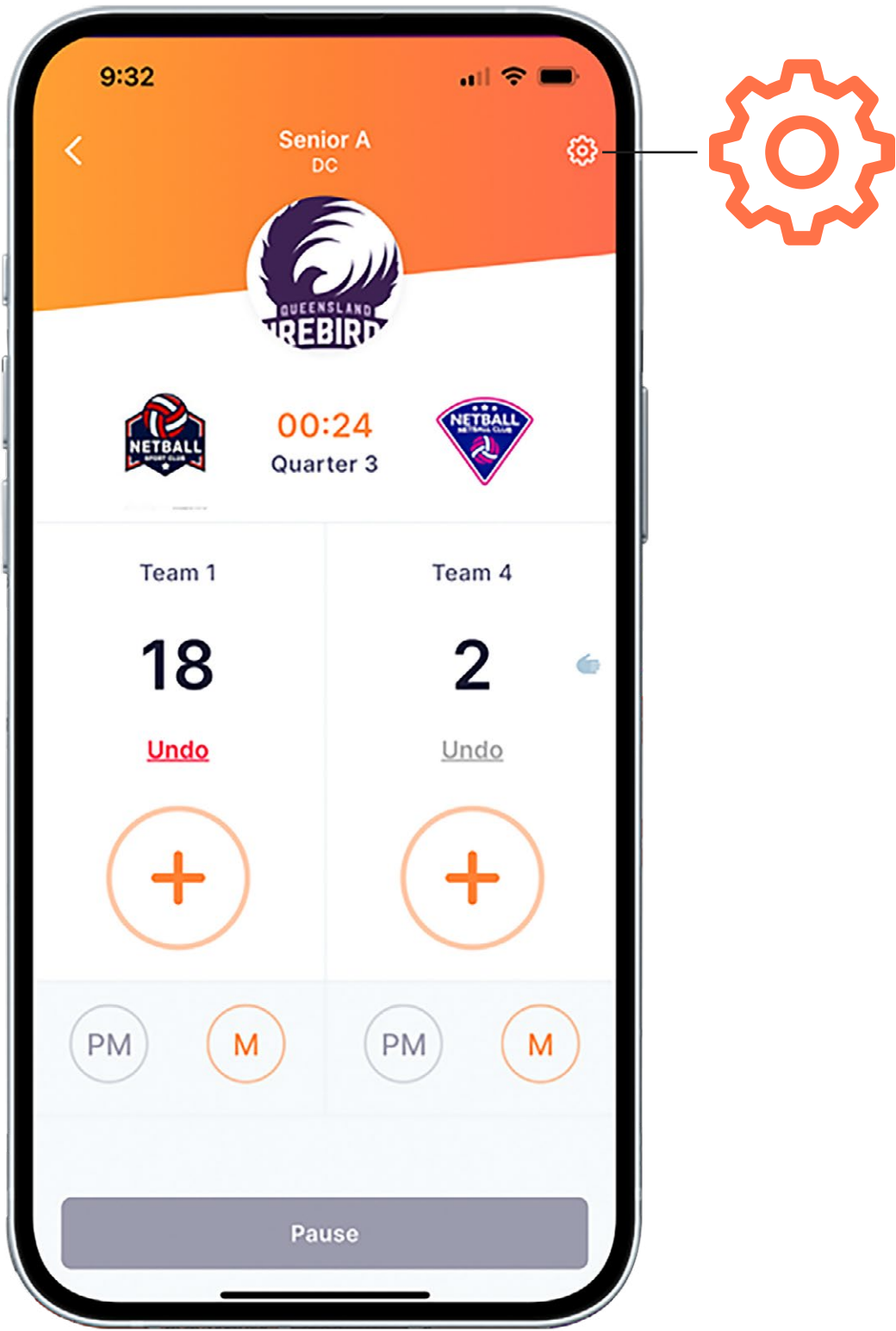
The Position Tracking Form, if required, will be submitted with other match day paperwork as required by the competition manager.

Example of Position Tracking Form:

		INSERT YOUR LEAGUE LOGO HERE		Position Tracking Form		
DETAILS: ROUND		1	DATE	6/4/26	GRADE	A Grade
CLUB		Geelong Cougars				
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	QUARTER 1	QUARTER 2	QUARTER 3	QUARTER 4	
Ally	O'Connor	C	C/-/WD	WD	WA	
Ashlee	Smith	X	X	X	X	
Brooke	Allen	GK/-	GK	C/-/WD	-/GK	
Charli	Nocol	-/GK	-/WD/-	GK	GK/-	
Charlotte	Morey	WA	WA	-/WA	C	
Daisy	O'Kane	X	GS	GS/-	GS	
Emma	Buwalda	GS	GA	GA/-/GS	X	
Indya	Ford	GD	GD	GD	GD	
Kiahna	Fallon	WD	WD/-/C	C	WD	
Zanna	Woods	GA	X	WA/-/GA	GA	

Netball Connect

Those using *Netball Connect* live scoring, with position tracking, can make these changes directly on the screen using the 'cog icon' in the top right-hand corner, selecting the position then the player that has rolled onto this position.



Summary of Substitution Options

Details	Tactical Subs	Rolling Subs
Time must be held	✓	✗
Game stops for substitutions	✓	✗
On court positional changes	✓	✗
Multiple substitutions	✓	✗
Designated substitution area	✗	✓
Multiple sets of bibs	✗	✓
Infringements that may occur	Delaying play (penalty pass + advanced)	Offside (free pass) Interference with umpire (free pass)

Education & Resources

Tactical Substitutions

-  [World Netball Video](#)
-  [PDF Info sheet](#)
-  [Rules of Netball](#)

Rolling Substitutions

-  [SSN Rolling Subs Video](#)

NOTE: that SSN competition allows for multiple rolling substitutions at a time

