



Rationale: Fair Play Rule

Decision:

14U and 13U Substitution Rules: Players not starting in the 1st set must start in the 2nd set. If there is a 3rd set, the coach has the choice of starting any players.

Implementation of rule: Official or score keeper checks score sheet between sets to confirm players not starting in the 1st set are on the score sheet at the beginning of the 2nd set.

Background:

Upon the introduction of Tripleball, a mandatory substitution procedure of rotating into the game into position six (6) was instituted. The rule achieved its goal of equal playing time, however has other setbacks.

Membership Feedback:

- Some regulations for playing time is appropriate at the 14U and younger age categories.
- Mandating equal playing time limits the coaches' freedom to decide playing time based on work ethic and commitment to the team.
- Equal rotation into position 6 (in Triple Ball) did not allow players to experience an entire set and enjoy the flow of the game.

Rationale:

1. Provincial Games competitions that exist for the 15U and 16U age categories currently use the Fair Play rule.
2. Provincial Associations site significant positive feedback from athletes and parents using the Fair Play rule during the Provincial Games competitions.
3. DDC sited the importance of simplifying rules and keeping rules consistent across age groups when possible.
4. DDC sited the Fair Play rule strikes a balance between mandating playing time and providing the coach the freedom to choose players in the 1st and 3rd set.
5. Compulsory substitutions ensure that every athlete participates in every game. The DDC believes that it is critical that players be given the opportunity to play and develop early in their career, as any one of them, regardless of their ability, could be a future star. Additionally, virtually every study researching why kids leave sport identifies playing time as one of the top three reasons children quit playing.

Future Direction:

The DDC will re-evaluate this rule for the following season to determine if there is a need to establish a specific number of points athletes must play per set. For example, those athletes not starting in the 1st set must play 15 points before they can be subbed from the game.