



PLAYER FILL-IN POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Purpose

Eltham Panthers Netball Club (EPNC) has created this Player Fill-In Policy and Procedure to provide information and a process to follow, when a team has found themselves short of players for competition.

Scope

This Policy and Procedure has been developed for Coaches and Team Managers of EPNC.

Fill-in Players

A Fill-in Player is a player that fills a position in another team in a one-off circumstance where the team may be short of players due to absence, illness or injury. The fill-in player must be registered with EPNC. If the Fill-in Player is not an existing registered member of EPNC, they must register for a 'one-game' registration, which they can do unlimited times throughout the season.

A fill-in player may be sourced from either:

- the same age group, but at least one section below (e.g. U13/2 can borrow from U13/3 or lower)
- one age group below (e.g. U13/4 can borrow from any U11 team)

The only exception is an U15 player can fill in for either U17 or an Open team.

All fill-in players must be listed on the score sheet, as well as the team/age group/section of which they are a regular player (e.g. borrowed from U11/2 Meteors).

Not all players are willing, or able to fill in for a higher-level team and there is no obligation to do so.

Regularity of Fill-in Players

A player can fill-in a position of another team up to five times in a Season. If a player fills-in more than five times to the same team in a Season, they will then be deemed a regular member of that team and cannot return to the Division they were originally allocated to.

Finals and Fill-in Players

To qualify a non-team player for finals games, a player must fill-in for a minimum of three games with at least one quarter of a game within the first half of the season. Each of the three games that the fill-in players play, must be a minimum of one quarter each time.

Further Guidelines and Failure to source Fill-in Players

A team is not permitted to take to the court unless they have a minimum of five players, four of whom must be regular players with the team.

If a team cannot source fill-in players and they need to forfeit the game, notification of intent to forfeit must be received by Manningham Netball Association, in writing by 5pm Friday afternoon to avoid a

penalty. Penalty for failing to provide the required notice of intention to forfeit incurs a \$50 fine on the first occasion and \$100 for subsequent occasions, issued to our Club.

Please notify the EPNC Committee via Club [email](#) with your notice of intention to forfeit, prior to 5pm Friday, so they can notify the Manningham Association and avoid a forfeit penalty.

Fill-in Procedure

Once a Coach or Team Manager (TM) is aware of a shortage of players for an upcoming game, the Coach or TM will contact the Team Coach/TM from the relevant Division below them, (see “Fill-in Players” above) using the Team Contact List (provided to Coaches and Team Managers at the start of each season). Coaches can identify the most suitable and available player to fill-in the vacancy for the team with the shortage.

Either Coach or TM can contact the player’s family to ask if they are willing to fill-in for the upcoming game. This is an opportunity for the player to play up in a stronger division, but there is no obligation to do so. If the identified player declines the request, another player may be identified.

Outline of Process

1. The Player notifies their Coach or TM of their absence with as much notice as possible.
2. Coach/TM contacts the Coach/TM of the team in the division directly below them to source a fill-in player (unless the absent player is an Open or U17, then the Fill-In Player can be also be sourced from U15)
3. If the player’s game time is the same as their own team’s game time, the Coach is required to authorise the player playing in another team as a fill-in.

If you have any further questions or concerns relating to fill-in players or the process in which EPNC follows, please contact the Club.