

March 1, 2025

Tournament Rule on “Borrowing” Players

Background:

Only those teams that have requested the use of Guest Substitutes in advance of the game and have been approved by the Inter-zone Committee will be allowed to use Guest Players. This policy is to clarify rules regarding "borrowing" players if teams show up short a few players.

Present October 2024 Rules: Law 3. Paragraph 12.

During tournament play, no guest substitutes are allowed unless tournament rules so specify. All players must be registered on the team that is competing. The league may modify this rule for voluntary participation tournaments where interested players could be placed on other teams in situations where their regular team is not playing in the tournament. Coaches may be asked to provide their assigned rosters to the referee so that registered players can be confirmed prior to tournament games.

Rule for 2024-25 Tournament:

Borrowing of guest players will be allowed under the following policy:

- Guest Substitutes (“Borrowed” Players) may be drawn from players registered in a younger age group from teams within the same zone.
- Borrowing of guest players will only be allowed in the case of a team having insufficient number of players to mount a side. Sufficient number of players is defined as the lessor of the number of players on the team roster or a maximum of twice the minimum number of players required for play in the particular age group. For example, with the minimum number of players in 12U to 18U being five, sufficient number of players would be ten. If ten or more players on the roster are available to play then borrowed guest players are not allowed.
- A team may NOT borrow more guest players than the other team has for total number of players available for play. For example: if Team A has 5 players and Team B has 10 players, Team A would be allowed to borrow 5 guest players to bring their total to that of the other team, a total of 10 players.
- A coach must request borrowing to the tournament organizer prior to the game and if authorized, the ref and other coach have to be informed.
- Once authorization is given it cannot be later rescinded but its use will be monitored. All player equal play rules will apply.
- If no authorization is given and a team plays with “borrowed” players, then the team shorthanded will default and the coach will be subject to further discipline.