

Q. What is a Tactical Substitution?

A. A tactical substitution is a stoppage during the game to allow for substitutions on and off the bench, as well as team changes (positional) of on court players. Both teams can make substitutions or team changes during this stoppage.

Q. What is a Rolling Substitution?

A. A rolling substitution is the substitution of an on-court player with an off-court player during the game. There is no stoppage, and the substitution must be immediate.

Q. When can a Tactical substitution take place?

A. Tactical subs must take place immediately after a goal is scored. An on-court player must request the substitution from the umpire. The umpire will hold time for the substitution to take place. This must be done quickly and without delay, so the umpire is able to restart play quickly and the momentum of the match is not affected. There is no set time allowed for a Tactical substitution.

Q. When can a Rolling substitution take place?

A. A Rolling sub can take place at any time. The umpire does not need to hold time and the game does not stop.

Q. Can a player be called for an infringement during a substitution?

A. A player cannot be called for offside during a stoppage for a Tactical sub. If players/team take undue to time restart play, the team could be penalised for Delaying Play.

A player rolling off or on the court during a Rolling sub, must observe the Offside rule. The Rolling sub must also not interfere with the movement of the umpires.

Q. Where is the action taken if an infringement occurs during a substitution?

A. The sanction for an Offside during a Rolling sub is a free pass where the Offside occurs, unless this places the non-offending team at a disadvantage, whereby advantage would be applied.

Interference with the umpire movement would result in a free pass to the non-infringing team where the ball was when the interference occurred, unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, when advantage would be applied.

At a stoppage for a Tactical substitution, if undue time is taken by either team to complete substitutions and/or team changes, the infringing team will be penalised for delaying play. The action applied is a penalty pass, that is advanced up to half a third (as per Rule 19), immediately following the whistle for the next centre pass.

Q. What if the Rolling substitute is the Centre player?

A. If the Centre player is involved in the Rolling substitution, the change must not affect the timing or delay play at a centre pass. It is not recommended that the Centre player is substituted via a Rolling sub immediately after a goal is scored.

Q. How many substitutions can be made during each substitution?

A. During a stoppage for Tactical substitutions, any number of substitutions can be made, including positional changes. Rolling subs is a single substitution at a time, with one player coming off the court, and one player entering the court at a time, per team. There should only ever be ONE person in the designated substitution area at a time.

Q. How many substitutions can be made during the game?

A. There is no limit to the number of substitutions that a team can make during a game regardless of which option is implemented. 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 10.4.). There is no equivalent for Rolling subs.

Q. What does frivolous mean?

A. There is no definition provided within the Rule Book.

Q. Where does the substitution take place?

A. Rolling Subs require a designated substitution area for the substitution to take place in. There are a number of ways this can be shown e.g. a line or box painted on the ground, a flat disc or cone, chalk markings etc. In some instances, a single substitution area could be used for both teams, but ideally, each team has their own designated substitution area. Players must roll on and off from their teams' designated substitution area.

Tactical subs do not require such an area.

Q. Can teams substitute from either team's designated substitution area?

A. Ideally, there is one designated substitution area per team. Players must substitute from their own bench-side designated substitution area, not from either area. The area for each team stays the same for the duration of the game.

Q. What happens if the Rolling sub is performed incorrectly?

A. The correct procedure for a Rolling sub is as follows:

- The rolling substitute stands in the designated area.
- Before leaving the designated area, the substitute tags hands with the player leaving the court. This must be inside the designated area.
- The substitute then enters the court, whilst observing the offside rule and does not interfere with the movement of the umpires.

If there is not a player in the designated area to perform the substitution, the replacement player is then treated as a late player and must wait until a break in play to enter the court, after advising the umpires. They can not “roll on” with out proper procedure taking place.

If a player enters the court without proper procedure, the player is removed from the court and treated as a late player, and must wait until a break in play to enter the court, after advising the umpires.

Q. How does this affect a Stoppage for injury/illness of a player or blood?

A. A stoppage for injury/illness of a player or blood remains relevant. Substitutions, including positional changes, may occur during these stoppages.

Q. What is the procedure for a positional change if the competition has implemented Rolling subs?

A. In a game with Rolling Subs, only substitutions can be made, not positional changes, so players must be substituted off and on the court to change positions, or positional changes can be made at a stoppage for injury/illness of a player or blood.

Q. How do scorers and bench officials keep track of changes/substitutions?

A. There are a number of resources available to track positional changes and time on court for scorers and bench officials. Team Managers will be responsible for providing substitution/positional changes to the bench to record on the official scoresheet. If using Live Scoring on Netball Connect, Team Managers can make positional changes in the app.

The amount of detail recorded for each competition will vary depending on by-laws and requirements e.g. Media reporting, finals qualification, player voting.

Q. Do teams need to have two sets of bibs?

A. Yes- for Rolling subs to be implemented effectively, the on-coming player should enter the designated substitution area with their position bib in place, so that the substitution can be immediate. Whilst there is an introductory period, common sense will need to be applied, and a quick bib swap could take place if need be.

Q. Can a competition run both Tactical and Rolling subs?

A. No – competitions must implement Tactical OR Rolling subs, it can not be both. The 2024 Rules of Netball must be in place across all competitions by September 2024. Affiliates must add a bylaw to competition rules if implementing Rolling Substitutions.

VIDEO: [Correct Rolling Substitution 1](#)

[Correct Rolling Substitution 2](#)

[Incorrect Rolling Substitution](#)