

Rationale: Fair Play Rule (Volleyball Canada, 2017)

Decision: 12U, 13U and 14U Substitution Rules: All players listed on the score sheet must start the first or second set. Substitutions are not permitted in the first or second set. In the case of injury, an Exceptional Substitution may be made. The injured/ill player may not return to the same set, but may return to play in subsequent sets. If there is a 3rd set, the coach has the choice of starting any player and there is no minimum number of points needed prior to substitutions being made.

Implementation of rule: Referee 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. Coaches that intentionally leave athletes off the score sheet, or misrepresent an athlete's playing status (injury, illness, etc) to avoid compliance with the Fair Play Rule, will be subject to sanctions.

Rationale:

1. Provincial Games competitions that exist for the 15U age categories currently use the Fair Play rule.
2. Provincial Associations cite significant positive feedback from athletes and parents using the Fair Play rule during the Provincial Games competitions.
3. DDC cited the importance of simplifying rules and keeping rules consistent across age groups when possible.
4. DDC cited 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.