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Suburban Friendship League

Frequently Asked Questions – Rosters (July 19, 2008)

The following are a list of Frequently Asked Questions relating to the rosters. While we attempt to keep this information consistent with the rules, sometimes through unintentional oversight, some inconsistencies may occur. In these cases, the rules are used to resolve any inconsistencies. The questions in this document are broken down into the following topic areas:

- General roster questions
- Master Player Roster questions
- Team Roster questions
- Waiver questions
- Roster challenges
- Combining teams

Sections II. and III. of the rules provide additional information on roster issues. The rules can be found on the web site (www.sflsoccer.org) under SFL Documents.

GENERAL ROSTER QUESTIONS

Question: When is the last day that players may be added to a team without the SFL's approval?

Response: Players may be added to a team without the appropriate SFL Age Group Commissioner's permission until April 25 for the Spring season and September 25 for the Fall season. However, these additions may require the club to submit a revised Master Player Roster to the SFL. For example, the club may add Player A on April 25 to Team 1 without obtaining the SFL's permission. However, the club will need to ensure that (1) Team 1's Team Roster reflects the addition of Player A and (2) a new Master Player Roster containing the applicable information for Player A has been submitted to the SFL.

Question: My club provides the team uniforms to the coach who distributes the uniforms to the player on game day and then collects the uniforms back after the game. Is this still allowed?

1 **Response:** This is an acceptable practice when (1) the club provides the coach with a sufficient
2 number of uniforms so that each player assigned to the team will have a unique
3 number and (2) the coach ensures that the every player always receives the same
4 number as that shown on the Master Player Roster and Team Roster. For example, if
5 the Team Roster shows that Player A's uniform number is 15, then the coach must
6 ensure that Player A receives uniform number 15 at each game.
7

8 **Question:** Our club provides a player with a uniform and that player is expected to retain that
9 jersey number for a number of seasons. Accordingly, as teams are combined some
10 duplicate numbers are created. Can we simply add a piece of tape to the uniform
11 number to resolve the duplicate numbers?
12

13 **Response:** Each player is required to have a unique uniform number. Accordingly, when a club
14 realizes that a team will have 2 or more players with the same uniform number it
15 must take some action to resolve the problem such as issuing a new uniform to one
16 or more players. Simply adding a piece of tape to the uniform or using taped on
17 numbers is not acceptable unless this is being done to address duplicate numbers
18 when teams are combined (see discussion on combining teams for additional
19 information on this process).
20

21 **Question:** The SFL rules state that when a color conflict exists, the requirement for unique
22 uniform numbers is waived. How does this affect the requirement that each player
23 must have a unique uniform number?
24

25 **Response:** When a color conflict exists, the uniforms adopted to resolve the color conflict do
26 not have contain uniform numbers. However, each player should still have their
27 uniform which shows their assigned uniform number.

1 **MASTER PLAYER ROSTER QUESTIONS**

2
3 **Question:** When are Master Player Rosters required to be provided to the SFL?

4
5 **Response:** Master Player Rosters are required to be submitted at least 2 times each season –
6 March 15 (without uniform numbers) and April 15 for the Spring season and August
7 15 (without uniform numbers) and September 15 for the Fall season. In addition, if
8 players are added or dropped from teams after the April 15/September 15
9 submissions, then revised forms must be provided to the SFL by April 30 for the
10 Spring season and September 30 for the Fall season.

11
12 **Question:** Our club uses an on-line data base to register players and assign them to teams, but
13 our data base does not use age groups and team names in the same way that is
14 required on the Master Player Roster form. Is it OK for us to submit output from our
15 database in a different format than the SFL currently requires?

16
17 **Response:** The standard SFL information must be used. The SFL Master Player Roster Form is
18 designed to provide a uniform way for the SFL to receive player roster information,
19 and it has features that allow the SFL to easily identify discrepancies (e.g. players
20 who are too old for a particular age group). There are ways to convert data from
21 club data bases so that the data can be put in the Master Player Roster form in a
22 compatible format. If your club needs assistance in automating the conversion of
23 player roster data, the SFL U14 Boys Commissioner (Rick Reid
24 u14boys@sflsoccer.org) may be able to help.

25
26 **Question:** What happens if we register our teams by the required due date (e.g, March 1 or
27 August 1) but we miss the deadlines for submitting the Master Player Roster, (e.g.,
28 the roster is submitted on March 18 or August 18)? Specifically, will our teams be
29 scheduled and, if they are added back, will we have to pay a late fee for each team?

30
31 **Response:** When teams are dropped because of the Master Player Roster issues, clubs may
32 request the SFL to schedule these teams by providing the necessary Master Player
33 Roster information. However, these teams are considered as late team registrations
34 and subject to the late fees and other restrictions associated with late team
35 registrations. For example, the SFL may require that the club provide a Sunday time
36 slot to support the scheduling process or refuse to accept the team because the
37 request would be too difficult to implement.

1 **Question:** The initial Master Player Roster is required to be submitted on March 15 for the
2 Spring season and August 15 for the Fall season. On these dates it is impossible for
3 our club to provide reliable information on (1) the uniform numbers that will be
4 assigned to a given player and (2) ensure that the team assignments are correct.
5 What should we do?
6

7 **Response:** Uniform numbers are not required to be submitted on the Master Player Rosters
8 submitted on March 15 and August 15 since the primary purpose of these rosters is
9 to help the SFL to verify that the clubs have enough players to support the number of
10 teams that have been registered in each SFL age group and division. Regarding
11 player assignments, clubs may use “artificial” team assignments for the Master
12 Rosters provided on March 15 and August 15. For example, assume a club has 45
13 Under 14 Boys players and wants to register two (2) division 1 teams and one (1)
14 division 2 team. The club may list the players eligible for the division 2 team as
15 those assigned to the division 2 team and then split the remaining players between
16 the division 1 teams by simply listing the names in alphabetical or some other order.
17 It is recognized that these team assignments may not reflect the actual team
18 assignments, e.g., some of the players shown on the division 2 team in the example
19 above may be actually assigned to a division 1 team and players shown on one
20 division 1 team may be actually assigned to the other division 1 team.
21

22 **Question:** It is our understanding that the Master Player Roster submitted on March 15/August
23 15 may simply assign players using an artificial process that may not reflect the
24 actual team assignments. Is this correct and does the club have to provide a
25 “reconciliation listing” that shows how the players shown on the March 15/August
26 15 Master Player Rosters were ultimately distributed?
27

28 **Response:** Artificially assigning players to a team on the Master Player Rosters submitted on
29 March 15/August 15 is acceptable. The Master Player Rosters submitted on April
30 15/September 15 take care of showing how the players were actually distributed.
31 The club is not responsible for accounting for the changes between these two rosters.
32 For example, a club may show 150 players on its March 15 roster to support the
33 registration of 12 teams. However, the Master Player Roster submitted on April 15
34 may show 200 players for these same 12 teams with several of the players shown on
35 March 15 not included since they dropped out. Simply providing the Master Player
36 Roster on April 15 with the 200 players fulfills the club’s Master Player Roster
37 requirement. In other words, the club does not have to provide a separate listing
38 showing the changes between the March 15 and April 15 submissions.
39

1 **Question:** What happens if our club misses the March 15 or August 15 Master Player Roster
2 filing requirements?
3

4 **Response:** If a club does not provide the Master Player Roster by March 15 or August 15, then
5 the teams registered prior to that date will not be scheduled and will be considered
6 dropped for scheduling and registration fee purposes.
7

8 **Question:** What happens if the Master Player Roster submitted on March 15/August 15 only
9 contains the names associated with some of the teams that have been registered, e.g.,
10 the club registers 12 teams but only lists players for 10 of the teams, are all 12 teams
11 dropped?
12

13 **Response:** Assuming that the names on the Master Player Roster submitted on March
14 15/August 15 are adequate to support the 10 teams listed, then only 2 teams would
15 be dropped since these teams did not have an adequate number of players shown to
16 support the teams. In effect, a “partial” Master Player Roster is treated the same as a
17 Master Player Roster which contains all the registered players but whose
18 registrations do not support the number of teams registered (see example below).
19 The primary difference is that the 2 teams being dropped are clearly identified based
20 on the information contained on the Master Player Roster.
21

22 **Question:** By March 15 and August 15 our club, especially in the older age groups, may not
23 have a good handle on the actual number of players that will be registered. How
24 does this affect the names shown on the Master Player Roster?
25

26 **Response:** The SFL will review the names shown on the Master Player Roster to determine
27 whether the registered players will support the number of teams that have been
28 registered. If the number of players shown on the Master Player Roster is considered
29 by the SFL Administrator to be inadequate to support the number of registered
30 teams, then the SFL Administrator will work with the applicable SFL Age Group
31 Commissioners to determine the number of teams that can be supported, and the
32 remaining teams will be moved to the waiting list. For example, assume Club A
33 registers 3 Under 19 Boys teams and that the Master Player Roster shows that only
34 12 players have been registered with 4 players assigned to each of the 3 Under 19
35 Boys teams. The SFL will work with the club to (1) obtain reasonable assurance that
36 the club can still support 3 Under 19 Boys teams or (2) reduce the number of Under
37 19 Boys teams to an acceptable number that can be supported based on expected
38 registrations.
39

1 **Question:** The rules require that Master Player Rosters be submitted to the SFL whenever
2 players are added or deleted from a team. Can the club consolidate all these changes
3 or does it have to submit these changes on the day they are made?
4

5 **Response:** The SFL believes that most changes to the Master Player Roster should occur prior
6 to the initial submission on April 15 for the Spring season and September 15 for the
7 Fall season. However, it is recognized that some changes will be made after these
8 dates. The rules allow a 5-day grace period for these changes. For example, if
9 Player A is added to Team 1 on April 16, then the club has until April 21 to provide
10 a revised Master Player Roster than contains the applicable information for Player A.
11 On the other hand, if Player A is added on April 12, Player A's information should
12 be provided on the Master Player Roster submitted on April 15.
13

14 **Question:** What happens if the uniform number for a player is not known when the April
15 15/September 15 Master Player Roster is prepared?
16

17 **Response:** The uniform number should be left blank so it is easy to identify the uniform
18 numbers that need to be obtained and included on the April 30/September 30
19 submission. The Master Player Roster will show the number of players with missing
20 uniform numbers. However, should a question arise on a player where we did not
21 have the uniform number on the Master Player Roster, then a scheduling forfeit
22 would be assessed since the uniform numbers for the Master Player Roster should be
23 in total agreement with those shown on the Team Rosters. Missing uniform numbers
24 on the Master Player Roster indicate that they should also be missing on the
25 applicable Team Roster. Accordingly, before a coach uses a player with a missing
26 uniform number, the coach should make sure that the other coach approves of this
27 player. This is discussed in greater detail in the section that discusses Team Roster
28 FAQs.

1 **Team Roster Questions**

2
3 **Question:** When are coaches required to receive their team roster?

4
5 **Response:** The club is responsible for providing each coach with a team roster prior to their first
6 game. This roster must contain each player’s name, birth date, and uniform number
7 on a form approved for use by the SFL. Generally, the form that is used is the SFL’s
8 Team Roster form. However, some clubs are allowed to use substitute forms and the
9 rules list the clubs that have received this permission.

10
11 **Question:** When the Team Rosters were handed out, the uniform numbers were not known for
12 some of the players. We know that we are not allowed to write in the uniform
13 number that is now known. Are these players allowed to play?

14
15 **Response:** First, once the uniform number for a player is known, the coach should contact the
16 SFL Club Representative and obtain an updated Team Roster. However, it is
17 recognized that sometimes this may not be possible in time for the game which
18 means that the uniform number will still be blank on the Team Roster. As discussed
19 elsewhere, the opposing coach can waive the requirement for proper uniform
20 numbers. However, if the opposing coach does not waive this requirement then the
21 players with blank uniform numbers on the Team Roster may not play in the game.

22
23 **Question:** The SFL allows the omission of uniform numbers when substitute jerseys are
24 required to avoid color conflicts. Our team uses jerseys of a different color when
25 this situation arises that have uniform numbers on them, however, they do not have
26 the same uniform numbers as the primary uniform number shown on the Team
27 Roster. Is this a problem? If yes, what should we do?

28
29 **Response:** When the alternative uniform does not contain the same uniform number as the
30 Team Roster the best alternative is to turn the jersey “inside out” so that the number
31 is not shown or at least very clear.

32
33 **Question:** Are coaches required to exchange rosters even if the teams are from the same club?

34
35 **Response:** Yes. Coaches are required to provide a copy of their approved Team Roster
36 containing the signature of the SFL Club Representative, or Club Registrar, to the
37 opposing team before the start of every game even if those teams are from the same
38 club. If a team is unable to provide a copy of their approved roster the team is
39 assessed a forfeit. Therefore, it is a good idea to provide copies of the approved
40 roster to more than one individual on your team. The SFL should be notified in the
41 game report when a roster was requested and not provided.

1 **Question:** If the opposing coach does not have a roster can (1) we agree to play the game and
2 (2) the opposing team be assessed a forfeit later for not having the roster?
3

4 **Response:** Both coaches can agree to play a game even if one team does not have a Team
5 Roster. However, if a Team Roster is requested but not provided and both teams
6 agree to play, then neither team can request a forfeit because a roster was not
7 available. Furthermore, if a forfeit is accepted because of a roster problem, then the
8 teams should leave the field. In other words, the teams should not use the game as a
9 scrimmage.
10

11 **Question:** Sometimes the referees ask for a copy of the roster and sometimes they do not. Is
12 the referee allowed to ask for a copy of the roster and what governs when this
13 happens?
14

15 **Response:** Although the referee is allowed to ask for a copy of the Team Roster, the SFL has
16 left the decision of when a referee must be provided a copy of the Team Roster to the
17 referee and their club. If either team does not have a proper Team Roster available
18 when requested by the referee, then the referee may declare a forfeit with the team
19 not having a proper Team Roster being assessed the forfeit. If both teams do not
20 have proper Team Rosters, then both teams will be assessed a forfeit. Furthermore,
21 if a forfeit is awarded by the referee because of a roster problem, then the teams
22 should leave the field. In other words, the teams should not use the game as a
23 scrimmage.
24

25 **Question:** Sometimes one of my players may show up in a uniform from a prior season and the
26 number does not agree with the Team Roster. Can I simply replace the uniform
27 number on the Team Roster for this player?
28

29 **Response:** Changing the uniform number on the Team Roster is not allowed. However, the
30 opposing coach may waive the requirement for consistent uniform numbers. For
31 example, Player A on Team 1 shows up at the game with a uniform used in a prior
32 season and the uniform number is not the same as that shown on the Team Roster for
33 this player. The coach of Team 1 approaches the coach of Team 2 and notifies the
34 coach of this situation and requests the coach of Team 2 to allow Player A to play
35 using a uniform that does not comply with the SFL's rules. If the coach of Team 2
36 agrees to this request, then the coach of Team 2 may not request a forfeit because
37 Team 1 used a player whose uniform did not comply with the SFL's uniform number
38 requirements. On the other hand, if the coach of Team 2 does not grant the request,
39 then Player A may not participate in the game. Furthermore, both coaches are
40 required to report to the SFL anytime such a request was made and whether it was
41 granted.

1 **Question:** Does the SFL still get copies of the team rosters?
2

3 **Response:** No. Copies of the Team Rosters provided to the teams are no longer required to be
4 submitted to the SFL.
5

6 **Question:** Since the SFL no longer requires copies of the Team Roster, how will the SFL know
7 when a Team Roster presented to it for review is accurate?
8

9 **Response:** Whenever the SFL receives a Team Roster for review, it will compare the
10 information on that roster to the Master Player Roster received from the club. The
11 Master Player Roster is considered the official source of information of what should
12 be contained on the Team Roster. Accordingly, if the information contained on the
13 Team Roster agrees with the Master Player Roster, then the Team Roster is
14 considered valid.
15

16 **Question:** What happens when a Team Roster provided to the SFL for review contains
17 information that is inconsistent with Master Player roster?
18

19 **Response:** The Master Player Roster is considered the official source of information of the
20 players assigned to a team. Accordingly, if a Team Roster contains information that
21 is inconsistent with the Master Player Roster, then the Team Roster is considered
22 invalid. As discussed in the rules, an invalid Team Roster does not result in an
23 automatic forfeit.
24

25 **Question:** What happens when a player is added on the Friday night before the game?
26

27 **Response:** It is recognized that after the rosters have been given to a coach, that players may be
28 added to teams “at the last minute”. In these cases, the club must have a process that
29 ensures that a properly prepared roster is provided to the coach before that player is
30 allowed to play, i.e., the revised roster does not contain any handwritten information
31 containing the new player's information, (e.g., name, birth date, and uniform
32 number). If a club cannot provide a revised Team Roster to the coach that contains
33 the new player’s information prior to next game, then that player should not be
34 allowed to play in the game.
35

36 **Question:** The opposing team had a player on the field whose uniform number is not contained
37 on the team roster. What should be done when this condition arises?
38

39 **Response:** We assume that the opposing coach (1) did not provide an acceptable reason before
40 the game started concerning this issue (e.g., the player wore an old jersey as
41 discussed elsewhere) and (2) did not obtain your approval to use this player. Since
42 prior approval had not been obtained, a request should be made to the referee through
43 a team captain to perform a roster check using the procedures outlined in the rules at
44 half time. The referee should be provided the specific reason that a roster check is

1 being requested, i.e., a player's uniform number does not appear on the provided
2 roster. The game should then be completed. The SFL should also be notified (1) of
3 this condition and (2) the results of the roster check. A decision will then be made
4 by the SFL on whether to award a forfeit.
5

6 **Question:** The SFL sent out a red card notification stating that Player A from Team 1 wearing
7 uniform number 1 should not be playing in our game. In reviewing the players on
8 Team 1, a player with uniform number 1 was on the side lines. When I asked the
9 opposing coach about this I was told that another player had actually received the red
10 card and that the SFL notice was in error. What should I do?
11

12 **Response:** A player must wear the same uniform number though out the season. The red card
13 notification process provides an Email to the SFL Club Representatives of each team
14 and the two coaches. The coach of the affected team should have realized that the
15 incorrect name and number appeared on the red card notification and notified the
16 SFL of the error so that a corrected notice could be sent out. In this example, clearly
17 the SFL was not notified of the error or you did not receive the corrected notice
18 before the game. In this case, the game should be allowed to be played. The SFL
19 should be notified by Email of the potential problem in the game report. The SFL
20 will then make a determination on whether a violation has occurred and whether a
21 forfeit should be awarded.

1 **WAIVERS**

2
3 **Question:** Our team plays as an Under 14 Division 2 team. In reviewing the roster for our
4 opponent, it is clear that they have a player that does not meet the age requirement
5 for our division. Specifically, the player's birth date clearly shows that the player
6 should have been assigned to an Under 14 Division 1 team. Is this a roster violation?
7

8 **Response:** The SFL rules allow Under 12 and Under 14 Division 1 aged players to play on a
9 respective Division 2 team when (1) the club makes a formal request to the SFL and
10 (2) the request is approved by the appropriate SFL Age Group Commissioner. These
11 approvals are provided in writing (normally an Email) and the coach is expected to
12 provide this approval with the roster. If the SFL waiver is not provided, then this
13 information can be provided in the game report and the SFL will review whether a
14 waiver has been provided.
15

16 **Question:** When is the dead line for submitting waiver requests and what process is used for
17 obtaining the waiver?
18

19 **Response:** Waiver requests should be submitted to the appropriate SFL Age Group
20 Commissioner no later than March 31 for the Spring season and August 31 for the
21 Fall season. The request should provide the (1) specific reasons that the waiver is
22 being requested, (2) player's name and birth date, and (3) team information where
23 the player will be assigned if the waiver is granted (e.g., Team 1, Under 14 Boys),
24 and (4) any other information needed to support the waiver request.
25

26 **Question:** The SFL has granted Player A a waiver to play on a Division 2 team during the Fall
27 season. Does the SFL have to approve another waiver to play on a Division 2 team
28 in the Spring since the player is playing on the same team?
29

30 **Response:** Waivers are only granted based on specific requests and are only good for the season
31 in which they are granted. Accordingly, a request must be submitted each season for
32 a player regardless of reason for the initial approval.
33

34 **Question:** The SFL has granted Player A a medical waiver in the past. Does the SFL have to
35 approve a medical waiver for Player A each season since the medical conditions
36 have not changed?
37

38 **Response:** Waivers are only granted based on specific requests and are only good for the season
39 in which they are granted. Accordingly, a request must be submitted each season for
40 a player regardless of reason for the initial approval.
41

42 **Question:** During the roster exchange process, the opposing coach for Team 1 provided me a
43 copy of an Email saying that Player A was allowed to play on Team 1 even though
44 the player's birth date clearly does not meet the age requirements for this age group.

1 Specifically, the player's birth date shows that the player should be playing on an
2 Under 19 team rather than an Under 16 team. How can I validate that this approval
3 was actually provided by the SFL?
4

5 **Response:** The SFL does not normally allow player's to play down an age group (e.g., Under
6 16s playing as Under 14s, Under 14s playing as Under 12s, etc.) However, the rules
7 do allow for medical waivers. Emails documenting the approval of any waivers can
8 be validated by simply sending an Email to the SFL (sfl@sflsoccer.org) and
9 requesting confirmation.
10

11 **Question:** We have a player that has been playing on a given team for a long time. Last season
12 the SFL granted a waiver for this player to play on a division 2 team even though
13 based on the player's birth date they should have played on a division 1 team. This
14 season, the player is now required to play in a different age group. Will the SFL
15 grant a waiver for the player to continue playing on their long time team since the
16 player misses the age cutoff for the younger age group by only a few days?
17

18 **Response:** The SFL does not normally allow player's to play down an age group (e.g., Under
19 16s playing as Under 14s, Under 14s playing as Under 12s, etc.) Unless the player
20 has a medical condition that justifies the playing down an age group, the player
21 cannot continue to play on this team unless the team is moved up an age group. In
22 other words, the team must play in the age group applicable to the oldest player on
23 that team. The rules contain the requirements that must be met for medical waivers
24 and the SFL has granted very few medical waivers in the past.

1 **ROSTER CHALLENGES**

2
3 **Question:** What process is used during a roster challenge?

4
5 **Response:** The SFL must be notified any time that a roster challenge has occurred and the
6 results of that challenge. This includes the team making the challenge, game
7 number, game date, game field, and result of the challenge. Both coaches are
8 responsible for reporting this to the SFL.

9
10 Roster challenges will be conducted through the official present using the following
11 process.

- 12
- 13 • Each team shall provide a copy of the Team Roster provided by that team’s SFL
14 Club Representative to the official performing the roster check.
 - 15
16 • Each player being challenged will be require to state their uniform number,
17 name, and date of birth. They will also be required to sign their name on a blank
18 piece of paper if required by the official. If any of this information (1) is not
19 provided or (2) does not agree with the information on the Team Roster, then that
20 player is considered ineligible to play in that game.

21
22 **Question:** What happens if the uniform number being worn by a player or the player’s stated
23 birth date does not agree with that shown on the Team Roster presented to the
24 official?

25
26 **Response:** The player is considered ineligible for that game. However, the game should still be
27 played and the information provided to the SFL for review in the game report. The
28 SFL will then make a determination on whether a violation has occurred and whether
29 a forfeit should be awarded. If a coach is found guilty of using players not on the
30 Team Roster provided to the official, then (1) the SFL Club Representative will be
31 notified with a recommendation of censure and (2) the game will be forfeited by the
32 offending team if any portion of a game has been played.

33
34 **Question:** Several of my players do not speak English very well. Will my team be penalized if
35 the players do not understand the questions being asked by the referee?

36
37 **Response:** Coaches should ensure that their players understand the information that will be
38 requested by the official conducting the review. However, the coach may not tell a
39 player how to answer the questions, e.g., the coach may not tell the player the birth
40 date that should be provided. Any instructions provided by the coach to the team
41 concerning how the process works should be made in the presence of the official
42 conducting the review.

1 **Question:** Does the uniform number being worn by the player have to agree with that shown on
2 the roster presented to the official and other team?
3

4 **Response:** The uniform number on the Team Roster must agree with the number shown on the
5 player's uniform unless the opposing coach has agreed to waive the requirement for
6 consistent uniform numbers as discussed elsewhere in this document and the rules.
7

8 **Question:** Can a roster challenge occur after a game starts?
9

10 **Response:** The preferred time for a roster challenge is before the game is played. A roster
11 challenge may occur after the game has started or when the coach has some reason to
12 question a player on the field. However, this challenge should be made at half time
13 and must be made before the second half starts unless the player arrives after the
14 second half starts. Another example of a reason that may result in a roster challenge
15 being made after the game starts is that the a coach receives an Email stating that
16 John Smith from the opposing team received a red card and is not eligible to play in
17 the game. However, after the game has started, the coach or one of the players, hears
18 the other team refer to one of their players as "John". A review of that team's roster
19 discloses that only one player is named John and that is the same player that is
20 ineligible to play based on the red card notification.

1 **COMBINING TEAMS**

2
3 **Question:** Can a coach use players from another SFL team to make sure that they have enough
4 players for given game?

5
6 **Response:** Generally no. The SFL rules allow clubs to combine teams under specific
7 conditions. The rules discuss the process that must be followed and generally
8 contain a listing of the teams that have been allowed to combine teams.

9
10 **Question:** When does the SFL allow a club to combine teams?

11
12 **Response:** A club that has too many players for one team but not enough for two teams is
13 allowed to form two teams and mix players to ensure an adequate number are
14 available for a game when several conditions are met as outlined in the rules. These
15 conditions include (1) obtaining approval from the SFL prior to the start of the
16 season, (2) a limit on the number of players that can be used on the combined team,
17 and (3) special roster requirements. When the SFL allows teams to be combined, an
18 Email outlining the requirements is provided to the applicable coach and a copy of
19 this Email should be given to the opposing coach.

20
21 **Question:** A coach has been allowed to combine teams. However, the combined team now has
22 players with duplicate jersey numbers. Does this violate the requirement that each
23 player have a unique uniform number?

24
25 **Response:** As noted in the rules, it is the responsibility of the coach that is combining teams to
26 resolve the duplicate numbers. Specifically, the rules call for (1) the opposing coach
27 to be notified that duplicate uniform numbers are being created by the process used
28 to combine teams and (2) the coach to take the appropriate actions to resolve the
29 number conflict. Two examples provided in the rules include either (1) providing
30 the player being added from the other team with a uniform number that does not
31 conflict with the team numbers on the primary team, (2) affixing a piece of tape to
32 the player being added uniform so that the number is unique, or (3) take any other
33 action that is acceptable to both coaches. Regardless of the approach taken, the
34 coach combining teams should ensure that the opposing coach understands how the
35 issue of duplicate numbers is being addressed.