

COUNTING OF PLAYERS

1 The captain or acting captain of a team may at any time during a match request that the field umpire count the number of players of the opposing team who are on the playing surface.

2 Where such a request is made the field umpire shall stop play and signal time-on at the first available opportunity and call into line, within the centre square, the players of both teams who are at the time on the playing surface and count the number of players.

3 Where the team has more than the permitted number of players on the playing field the following shall apply:

(a) field umpire shall instruct both goal umpires to record the scores of both teams at the time of the player count.

(b) a field umpire shall award a free kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing team which shall be taken at the centre circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team;

(c) a fifty metre penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the free kick was awarded; and

(d) upon completing the count the field umpire(s) should ensure that each team has the permitted number of players on the field prior to recommencing the match

(e) the field umpire as soon as practical after the match, report to The League that a request has been made to count the number of players in a team and the number of players actually counted.

(f) The League shall determine whether the offending team shall lose all points which it had scored in the match up to the time of the count, and if so determined The League shall have power to vary the scores of the match and/or provide such other penalty as deemed appropriate by The League.

4 Where a count reveals that the opposing team has the permitted number of players on the playing field, the following shall apply:

(a) a field umpire shall award a free kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing team which shall be taken at the centre circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team;

(b) a fifty metre penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the free kick was awarded; and

(c) if a field umpire is of the opinion that the request was made primarily to delay play or such request did not have sufficient merit, the field umpire shall report the captain or acting captain who requested the count for time wasting as a Category "A" offence.