



Policy & Procedure:
WDNA 54

Representative Player Return to Play

Issued
Updated

November 2016
January 2017

1. Policy Objectives

The objectives for this Policy are to ensure that we maintain a transparent process for player return to playing status after an injury or extended break.

2. Players Returning from Injury

- a. The WDNA is committed to the full rehabilitation of injured players prior to returning to training and competitive play
- b. Players returning from 1-4 weeks of injury time will return directly to the team they were selected in on the presentation of a medical certificate authorising return to training and play.
- c. Players returning from a two week period or more must participate in a full training session before rejoining a team.
- d. Players returning from 5 or more weeks of injury time will be assessed for fitness and readiness for return to competitive play in the team they were originally selected. The WDNA Representative Teams Sub-committee may at their discretion place the player in another team until the coach and WDNA Representative Teams Sub-committee are both satisfied that they can fully resume their place in that team.

3. Players Returning from Extended Absence

- a. WDNA recognises that certain personal and schooling activities may interrupt a player's ability to commit to every game during the season.
- b. Players returning from 1-4 weeks away will return directly to the team they were selected in.
- c. Players returning from a two week period or more may be required to participate in a full training session before re-joining a team.
- d. In the case of a player being absent for 5 or more weeks, the player will be assessed whether a place is available for them to return to the team. Often for extended periods, a team is required to elevate another player to replace the other. While it should be the objective to return the player to their original team, the WDNA Representative Teams Sub-committee will at their discretion, in consultation with the relevant coach(es), place the returning player in a team commensurate with their skill level and rules of the competition.

4. Responsibility matrix

Activity	Team Coach	WDNA Representative Teams Sub-committee	WDNA Representative Teams Chairperson*
Player movement during season	Influences	✓	Decides*
Player return from injury or absence during season	Influences	✓	Decides*

✓ = The person/group responsible for this task.

* = Where there is not unanimous agreement amongst parties, the Chairperson will make the final decision.

5. WDNA Representative Teams Sub-committee

- a. A WDNA Representative Teams Sub-committee will be responsible for executing and upholding this Policy.
- b. Formation of the WDNA Representative Teams Sub-committee will be undertaken at the start of each playing year.
- c. The WDNA Representative Teams Sub-committee will be made up of the following individuals:
 - i. WDNA Representative Teams Chairperson
 - ii. A Player Wellbeing Liaison
 - iii. WDNA Representative Teams Player & Coach Coordinator.