

## **Question: England Netball Rules Query: Substitutions**

### **Rules Advisory Panel response June 2010**

#### **Rules Query from England:**

During a 30 second injury stoppage a centre is the injured player and she leaves the court. An on court player replaces her as centre to enable play to continue, thus leaving a position vacant. If the centre that went off was ready to return after a goal, does she have to take the centre position or does she go to the position that was left vacant by the player that moved to centre? The rules clearly state what to do in the case of a suspension Rules 20.2.3 and 20.2.4 but are not as clear in Rule 7.1 Injury or Illness.

#### **ANSWER**

Refer to Rules 7.1 (iv), 7.1 (v), Rule 7.1 (viii)

##### **Rule 7.1 (iv)**

‘...The injured or ill player may be substituted or the position may be left vacant (refer Rule 7.1 (viii)).

##### **Rule 7.1 (v)**

During a stoppage for injury or illness both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes if desired. However, in this case the injured or ill player for whom play was stopped must be involved in that team’s substitutions and/or team changes (refer Rule 6.1.1).

##### **Rule 7.1 (viii)**

After a stoppage for injury or illness, when no substitution is made for a player unable to resume play, the injured or ill player or a substitute may not enter the game while play is in progress but, after notifying the Umpire, may take the Court:-

- (a) immediately after a goal has been scored. In this case the player or the substitute must play in the position left vacant;
- (b) at a stoppage for injury or illness (refer Rules 7.1 and 7.2);
- (c) immediately following an interval

In the situation described a position was left vacant and the injured centre was ready to take the court again after a goal was scored. **The centre must play in the position left vacant 7.1 (viii) (a)**

Note: After an interval or stoppage for injury or illness the original centre may be used as a substitute (refer Rule 6).

#### **Additional comments**

1. The team may choose to play with the centre position vacant (refer Rule 7.1 (iv) until immediately after a goal is scored. If it is their centre pass, the centre who was injured or a substitute **must** fill the vacant centre position (refer Rule 7.1 (viii)).

2. This interpretation is applicable for the first stoppage for injury or illness and subsequent stoppages for injury or illness (the length of the injury stoppage is not relevant).

**Cheryl Danson, Chairman Rules Advisory Panel**