

Emerald Lakers Basketball Club

FILL-IN PLAYERS – CHEAT SHEET

For coaches, team managers and parents

Once the season gets going, the word “fill-in” comes up a lot. Here is what it means and how it works at Emerald Lakers – the short version, in plain English.

What is a fill-in?

A fill-in is a player from another Emerald Lakers team who steps in for one game to help a team that is short on players. Fill-ins are a friendly way to keep a team on the court when a few players are away – sick, on holiday, at a family event, or injured.

The three rules to remember

1. Same grade or lower, never higher.

A fill-in must come from a team at the same grade or a weaker grade, never from a stronger team or an older age group. This keeps the competition fair.

2. Twice per team, per season.

The same player can only fill in for the same team a maximum of two times across the whole season. After that, find a different fill-in.

3. Under 8s are a special case.

U8s can fill in for any Under 10 grade with no game limit. Plenty of court time for our youngest players.

For coaches and team managers

If you can see by Wednesday that you will be short, contact your age-group coordinator early. Early notice gives the best chance of finding a legitimate fill-in rather than risking a forfeit on game day.

Before the game, run through this:

- Pick fill-ins from a lower grade or younger age group – never higher.
- Track how many times each player has filled in for your team. Two is the maximum.
- Always let Wei or Lisa know when you are using a fill-in, before or immediately after the game.
- Never borrow a player from another club – that is an automatic forfeit.

For parents

If your child is asked to fill in for another team, it is a great chance for extra court time and to meet kids from other teams. Just check with the coach: is the team at the same grade or lower, and has your child already filled in for them twice this season?

If your child’s team is short, talk to the coach or team manager early in the week. They will arrange a legitimate fill-in where possible.

Common questions

Could a player get “stuck” in a higher team by filling in?

Under the KBI competition rules, a player who fills in for a higher grade three times moves into that grade permanently for the rest of the season. Emerald Lakers’ own rule keeps fill-ins to the same grade or lower, which avoids this situation entirely. If in doubt, check with the coach or coordinator before the game.

Can we bring in a friend from another club, just for one game?

No. Players can only play for the club they are registered with. Bringing in a friend from another club results in a forfeit, regardless of how good or willing the player is. A walkover is the better option.

What about a brand-new player who has not registered yet?

They can play their first game while their Registration Form is being lodged – but the form must reach the Junior Registrar by 9:00 am the Monday after that first game. There is no open-ended “unregistered fill-in” allowance.

Who do I contact?

Parents – your team coach or team manager first, then your age-group coordinator if it is a broader question. Coaches and team managers – contact your age-group coordinator directly.

Emerald Lakers age-group coordinators:

Boys – Wei: boyscoordinator@emerald Lakers.com.au

Girls – Lisa: girlscoordinator@emerald Lakers.com.au

Thank you for being part of the Emerald Lakers family. Fill-ins work best when we all pitch in – your flexibility helps keep every team on the court.