

- (1) If a team has at least five, but no more than eight players available for a regular season game, they may pick up substitute players prior to the start of the game in order to field 9 players. This policy is intended to allow a team to field the required 7 starters and allow for some player rest during the game.
- (2) If prior to the start of the game, a team has nine players available for a regular season game (including any substitute players added as per Rule 1), the team may add a tenth player, provided that this player has not played in any scheduled game during any prior TUFF season.
- (3) Teams using substitute player(s) shall designate which players from their own roster are being substituted. For each player being substituted, they may select a substitute player who was initially drafted in a later round than their own player. The substitute player must be on the roster of another TUFF team.
 - (a) Prior to the first Regular Season game, the Competition Committee (or a sub-committee selected for pre-draft player ratings) must designate a hypothetical draft round for all players who were drafted as a Quarterback. This hypothetical draft round shall be the actual draft round in which they were assigned and selected, or the draft round in which the Committee expects they would be selected for a non-QB position, whichever is earlier.
 - (b) If a player drafted as a Quarterback plays as a sub player for a team, unless they are playing as described in Rule 6, their hypothetical draft round must be lower than the player for whom they are substituting. However, any substitution for these players must be based on the actual draft round in which they were assigned and selected.
- (4) If a player from a team's regular roster arrives after a game has started, the player must be given time to warm up. Once the player is ready to play, the team must remove a substitute player if necessary to continue complying with Rules 1-3. Teams using substitute players for non-QB positions must not have more than nine players at any point during a game (or ten players, if one of the substitute players is eligible for use as per Rule 2).
- (5) If at any point during a game, a team no longer has seven players who are safely able to play in a snap, the team may add more sub players during the game, up to the roster size limit in rules 1 and 2. These additional sub players should comply with Rule 3, but both teams may mutually agree to waive Rule 3 in order to continue playing a fair game. Teams may elect to play with fewer than seven players on the field, but they should not be forced to do so due to injuries, exhaustion or other unforeseen circumstances.
- (6) Regardless of rules 1-5, any player who has not been designated by the Competition Committee as a *Veteran Quarterback* may play as a substitute Quarterback for any team, in any game, including in TUFF Playoffs. This substitute Quarterback is not permitted to play on the defensive team, or in any kickoff or declared punting plays.

- (a) The Competition Committee must designate *Veteran Quarterbacks* and provide a list of these designated players to all teams prior to the first game of the TUFF regular season. This list must consist of all players who have won at least eight games playing as a Quarterback, including one game in the TUFF playoffs. (Games played in the 2019 season are not counted towards this minimum.)
- (b) The Committee may designate additional players as *Veteran Quarterbacks* prior to or during the season, with the new designation taking effect after the Captains Committee has been notified of the change. Any player may be designated as such to fulfil the intent of this policy (for example, a player who has experience as a Quarterback in another NGFFL league or any other football league).
- (c) For clarity, players designated as *Veteran Quarterbacks* are allowed to play as a Quarterback if they are a regular sub player for another team, as per rules 1 and 2.
- (7) A Quarterback substitute as described in Rule 6 is not an eligible receiver unless they receive the snap, or are the intended recipient of the snap. Any pass caught by that Quarterback while ineligible shall be treated as an incomplete pass.
- (8) No player substitutions are permitted in TUFF Playoff games, except for Quarterback substitutions as described in Rule 6.

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Summary of changes between 2023 and 2024:

- The policy now explicitly uses draft rounds as the definition for who is an eligible substitute player (except for players drafted as QBs, who may have a non-QB draft round designated for their sub eligibility)
- Rules for mid-game player pickups are formalized
- Teams will not be required to designate a backup QB. Teams with 9 or more of their own players cannot use a QB sub unless that player is a relatively new QB. Teams will be allowed to use a QB sub at any time, including playoffs, even if their main QB is playing in a different position.