

Hi everyone,

It's that time of year again! I am asking for your vote in the upcoming DESL elections as I run to retain my position as Spares Convenor. As many of you know, handling spares requires a huge time commitment. Between managing the daily emails and being at the park almost every night, the role involves constantly watching games to evaluate players and adjust rankings when guys are overperforming or underperforming.

Last season, we saw a record 9 players who needed to be permanently replaced, and I managed to fill 7 of those spots. The remaining two were 5th-rounders we couldn't replace simply because potential candidates wouldn't commit to playing full-time. We also reranked 14 players (15 if you count that Bernie the Bomber had to be reranked twice) throughout the year to ensure teams weren't getting spares who played far above or below the level of the missing player. Much like the draft, this isn't an exact science. It takes a strong committee watching countless games to gather a large enough sample size to make the right calls.

I'm glad to see some fresh faces running in this year's election. Regardless of the results, the majority of the board will be non-captains. I strongly believe this reduces bias and helps the league's activities run much smoother. On a related note, I am personally opposed to two captains from the same team serving on the board together. There is simply too much potential for self-serving decisions and essentially giving one team two identical votes.

Finally, I want to wrap this up by thanking Ralph—and my shop vac—for saving at least 5 or 6 games this year when it looked like the city was going to shut us down for the night. They both helped demonstrate the dedication it takes to keep the lights on and the games going.

See you out there,
JR