

Webster Soccer Association

Playing Up Policy - Exceptional Player Rule

- Playing up is the exception rather than the rule in youth soccer. It is reserved for exceptional players who possess the skill, soccer knowledge and physical and emotional development of an older player.
- When it is appropriate for soccer development, the opportunity for the exceptional player to play with older players shall be considered. For the purposes of this policy, the exceptional player shall be defined as being a player who ranks in the top one third of the older age group's Green Team (based primarily upon tryout performance and prior coaching evaluations) for which he/she desires to play.
- Requests to "Play Up" must be made in writing to the Club President and Executive Director at least 14 days prior to the first tryout date. The Club President and/or Executive Director will review the request with the appropriate Director of Coaching and Coaching Staff.
- Players may only 'play up' one age bracket.
- If permission is granted to tryout at an older age group, the player MUST commence their tryout with the age appropriate group. Then, with the permission of the Director of Coaching, the player may move to the older age group for evaluation purposes. (Based upon an evaluation with the age appropriate group, the Director of Coaching may deny the player a tryout with the older team).
- Honesty, integrity and the welfare of all WSA youth soccer players shall be the overriding factor in this and all requests presented to the Board.
- A player should not be pushed to play up by parents/coaches in an attempt to accelerate their ascension to the top of the soccer pyramid.
- For development to occur, players and teams must be exposed to levels of competition commensurate with their skills and must be challenged constantly in training and games in order to aspire to higher levels of play and thus maintain their interest and passion for the game.
- The final decision as to whether a player is permitted to 'play up' lies with the WSA board of directors after consultation with the Director of Coaching, previous coaches, tryout coordinators and others as deemed appropriate. All tryout results, coach's evaluations and other factors in rendering a decision remain confidential and are not distributed by the Board.
- Approval must be requested and granted annually for any player seeking to play up.
- Approvals/denials associated with requests to play up will not be motivated by any action to intentionally strengthen/weaken a particular team.
- Playing up under the appropriate circumstances should not preclude a player from playing in his or her own age group when it is evaluated to be in the best interest of the player's development.
- Playing up will only be considered for Green teams, except when the Club is seeking to complete a Gold, White or Black roster (see exception below).
- As a result of registration/tryout numbers, the Club may seek volunteers to play up in order to complete a team roster. This is only used on rare occasions in order to field a team.
- The number of players approved to play up on any particular team may be limited by the WSA Board of Directors.
- Secondary roster positions on an older team may be considered in lieu of playing up (for those who are eligible under RDYSL "Call Up" rules).
- All decisions are final. There is no process to appeal a decision to deny permission to play up.
- The Director of Coaching or team coach will communicate all decisions made by the Board with respect to playing up.
- The above guidelines serve to give general direction to the Board and do not necessarily cover all unique situations presented for consideration.