



Playing Up or Down Policy 081120

Playing Up:

Peninsula Soccer Association (PSA) does not encourage players to play above their age appropriate level (i.e. in a division of older players). However PSA recognizes that in exceptional circumstances this may be warranted.

The following situations may be considered for "playing up":

- 1. Application and Acceptance based upon merit.**

This is intended for those players with truly exceptional technical abilities and physical prowess for whom playing up is deemed suitable for their continued soccer development.

- 2. Club request to facilitate effective formation of teams.**

PSA strives to accommodate all players wishing to play soccer. If the numbers of players within a particular division are insufficient to form a viable team, it may be necessary to ask some players to play up one level to make up the numbers. These situations are treated independently from players applying to play up based upon merit (1).

Other exceptional circumstances may be considered, but are not encouraged. In the event that a player wishes to play in a division above their age appropriate level, the player must apply to PSA to do so, using the form available on the club website. In order for the application to be successful, the BOD (or delegated representative) must approve the application. Applications must be received by Feb 28th of the current year to be considered for the upcoming season.

Procedure for Applying to Play Up:

1. The player applying to play up must be registered with the club and have paid the registration fees for the season for which the application is being made.
2. An application form, available on the club website, must be filled out. This form must be signed by the player and parent(s)/legal guardian(s). This application must be received by the club before the **Feb. 28th deadline**.
3. The Technical Director will review and evaluate all applications prior to Player Assessments. For U11-U18 age levels, on the recommendation of the Technical Director, permission may be given to attend assessment one age level up. For U10 and under age levels, on the recommendation of the Technical Director, the player may play up one age level. Otherwise, the request is denied.
4. For player placement on U12-U18 teams, final placement will be determined using normal placement procedures (see Team Selection and Placement for Tiered Age Groups). Permission to play up one level is not official until approved by the BOD.



Notes

- A parent should not approach a member of the PSA Executive, technical director, age group coordinator, coaches or managers to seek approval nor should any age group coordinator, coach or manager actively seek to recruit players from another level.
- Parents are however, encouraged to seek the opinion of the player's previous coach(es) regarding the player's ability to play at a higher level prior to making the application. Parents are also encouraged to seek advice from the club as required.
- Approval to play up at one level above the age appropriate level (age+1 team) is for one season only.
- Permission to play up one year does not imply permission for any subsequent year(s).
- Player(s) must register in their age appropriate division for the following season and apply to play-up if so desired.

Playing Down

The association is bound by BCSA guidelines regarding the ability of clubs to allow players to play down an age group. Applications to do so are approved by BCSA on a case-by-case basis. Usually these exceptions allow for children with physical or mental challenges that would inhibit their ability to play with children their own age. The club must have an application directed to the executive before the start of the playing season in order to address the individual's concerns. The application will then have to be confirmed by LISA and the BCSA.