



Santa Rosa United



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Policy: Playing Up

Requests by parents/guardians to have their son or daughter play up an age group must be submitted in writing (email is acceptable) prior to tryouts for the age group being requested. The request should contain all pertinent information (i.e. player's DOB, grade in school, ODP/National team experience). All requests will be reviewed by the Director of Coaching ("DOC") or designee for subsequent approval or denial. Players who request to play up must attend the age appropriate group tryouts sessions.

Guidelines: Playing Up

The Board of Directors and DOC's have developed the following set of guidelines for the review of requests to play up:

- Playing up is the exception rather than the rule in youth soccer.
- 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 in the top five of players in the older age group (based primarily upon tryout performance and prior coaching evaluations) for which he/she desires to play.
- The DOC or designee may consult with previous coaches, tryout coordinators and others as deemed appropriate before rendering a decision. All tryout results, coach's evaluations and other factors in rendering a decision remain confidential. The DOC and/or designee will communicate the decision directly to the parent and player.
- 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.
- 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.
- Guest Player on an older team may be considered in lieu of playing up.
- All decisions are final. There is no process to appeal a decision to deny permission to play up.
- The above guidelines serve to give general direction to the DOC or designee and do not necessarily cover all unique situations presented for consideration.

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