



Playing Up/Age Appropriate Policy:

Fleetwood Youth Soccer Club believes that most players will develop better at their age appropriate level than at an age level above. However, the club recognizes that, although rare, some talented players may exist that are physically and psychologically ready to be considered for the next age level within the club's competitive team structure.

The athlete and parent/guardian must initiate the consideration for playing up status. **A request to play up must be made at the time of registration when completing the online registration form.** The player must attend evaluations with both the next age level team and the age appropriate team if they wished to be considered for the age appropriate team.

Step 1: Team Evaluation

The evaluation committee will evaluate the player. The player must attend evaluations with both the next age level team and the age appropriate team if they wish to be considered for the age appropriate team.

The committee will observe the player at the evaluation to determine if he/she is among the prospective players for the next age level team and one of the strongest players of the age appropriate team. Input from former and current coaches may be used to help make this determination.

If the athlete **is not** evaluated as a prospective player on the next age level team and one of the strongest players of the age appropriate team, then the player will not be considered to play up.

If the athlete is evaluated as a prospective player on the next age level team and one of the strongest players of the age appropriate team, then the process moves on to the next step

Step 2: Team Impact

If the player has gotten this far, then he/she has met the expectations required to play on the next age level team. However, the following considerations must still be met for the player to be considered to be able to play-up:

1. If an underage player will displace an age appropriate player, the player will not be approved to play on the next age level team, even if the under aged player is a more skilled soccer player. An age appropriate player cannot be displaced by the underage player. In this case, the underage player will be invited, and required, to play at their age appropriate level.

2. If by playing up in the next age level the player leaves the age appropriate team without sufficient numbers to field a viable team, the underage player will be invited, and required, to play at their age appropriate level.

(If it is determined that an underage player was approved to play at the next age level, but was ultimately not permitted under either part 1 or 2 of the Team Impact criterion, then the Club will look at the possibility of the underage player playing as a secondary on the older team. Playing as a secondary allows the player to be play on both teams. It further requires the player to play and practice with the age appropriate team first, but will permit them to play and practice with the next age level team as scheduling permits.)

Club's Discretion

Fleetwood Youth Soccer Club reserves the right to move players when it will be in the best interest of developing the player and to maintain a team at a particular age group. This discretion is **NOT** bound by any of the guidelines in the **Playing Up** consideration process. The Club reserves the right to build teams based on, but not limited to, the following considerations:

1. There are some situations where the club will ask a player to play up if it makes the overall numbers for the teams more favorable.
2. An under age player may be asked to play on the next age level team when it is deemed he/she has clearly demonstrated exceptional play on the age appropriate team the previous season.
3. A player may be asked to play up an age or down to their age appropriate level when team continuity becomes threatened. **The Club will always attempt to field a team at each age group and keep every child playing if possible.**
4. In the event there is not a team in a particular age group and a team is formed combining two age groups, the younger players will not be considered "playing up" for that year.
5. If, after evaluations, a team is still not full, the team's coaches may consider younger players for their team **ONLY** if the age appropriate team is full. These players can only be considered with the approval of the Board. The following year, all players will be required to attend evaluations for their age appropriate group and to attend evaluations for the next level age group if interested, following the policy outlined above.
6. **Players already approved the prior seasonal year to play up an age level must attend evaluations according to the process above. They will also be subject to Step 2 Team Impact. Please note, that the Board may at their discretion invalidate a players grandfathered status if it is determined that the player would benefit more by playing at the age appropriate level.**