

WSC TRAVEL SOCCER GUIDELINES FOR PLAYING UP

Requirements

1. Player should be dominant in his/her own age group.
2. Player should be mentally mature and able to relate to the older teammates.
3. Player should be athletically and physically mature enough for the higher age.
4. Player should be a regular starter and impact player on older team. If the player is going to be a role player or spend a lot of time on the bench, there is no point in him/her playing up and risk destroying his/her confidence.
5. The player should be the one that wants to play up, not just the parents.
6. Player's parent(s)/legal guardians must all be in agreement to move the player up.

Procedure

The authorization must be submitted and approved before any child may participate in tryouts for the team/age group requested. This is the responsibility of the parent/guardians and/or coach. No player will be permitted to request movement mid-year (winter prior to spring season) unless it is of the same age group.

WSC Coaches committee will evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis and will render a decision based on the recommendations set forth in this policy. The coaches committee reserves the right to request a recommendation by the team trainer (if applicable) or independent evaluator. The committee also reserves the right to deny a request if it is in the best interests of the club to do so.

U-9 to U-10

Playing up is not recommended since the players are all in the early stages of skill acquisition and socialization. Even the ones that are physically dominating should stay with their own age group. It is too early to build them up as future stars as no one can actually predict future performance this far ahead. Let them benefit from having many chances to build their confidence.

U-11 to U-14

Playing up is only recommended when using the previously mentioned guidelines. Both an assessment of the player's skills and the player's maturity need to be taken into account. One has to be careful here, since most players have not reached puberty yet. The player playing up might struggle once his teammates reach puberty, and might have to go back to his/her own age group. For this reason, playing up would only be allowed in increments of one year, with a review at the end of the year.

U-15 and older

Playing up is recommended for players that meet the previously mentioned guidelines. Most players at this age play with older players on high school teams. Without a doubt regional, ODP and national caliber players should be playing up, otherwise they will not get challenged and in turn fail to progress.

The WSC coaches committee will make the final recommendation on who should be playing up, taking into consideration the long term development of the player, over parent's wishes, team coach wishes, and any other factors. The player's emotional, physical, athletic, and soccer maturity are all factors that need to be considered. This cannot be a decision made without considering social ramifications in addition to soccer ramifications.

AUTHORIZATION TO TRYOUT IN OLDER AGE GROUP

I represent that _____ meets the following WSC guidelines for playing up and recommend that the above child tryout in an older age group rather than their official age group.

1. Player is dominant in his/her own age group.
2. Player is mentally mature and able to relate to the older teammates.
3. Player is athletically and physically mature enough for the higher age.
4. Player would most likely be a regular starter and impact player on older team.
5. The player is the one that wants to play up, not just the parents.
6. Player's parent(s)/legal guardians must all be in agreement to move the player up (signed below).

Player's actual age group: _____ Player's recommended age group: _____

Coach for team seeking advancement: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Current Coach: _____ (if applicable).

Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Coaches Committee Decision

- Approved to participate in older team
- Denied

Coaches Committee Designee: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____