

## Play Up Policy Update With Grade Eligible

Voted as Policy by Board of Directors - March 2008

### **PLAYER PLACEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OBJECTIVE**

To annually establish increasingly competitive teams at each age level by place each player in an appropriate developmental and competitive environment consistent with the CDYSL requirements.

Note: CDYSL leagues are structured based on age divisions and secondarily on skill levels within each age division. CDYSL has set August 1st as the cutoff date for determining age group eligibility: - Age divisions shall comprise players who are, prior to the first day of August of the current season, Under 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, etc."

### **GENERAL POLICY**

Based on years of experience, the SWYSC strongly believes that, for the vast majority of players, the most appropriate developmental and competitive environment is placement on an on-age team, with teammates of comparable athletic abilities, technical and tactical skills, commitment levels to practicing and playing, and emotional and social maturity. Therefore, it is the general policy of the SWYSC to place all players on on-age teams; if there are enough players in an age division to form two or more on-age teams, players shall be grouped into teams based on skill levels and athletic ability. (The limited circumstances in which deviations from this General Policy may be appropriate are discussed below.)

Because player capabilities can dramatically change from year to year, all player placement evaluations, including play-up decisions, are made on an annual basis.

### **PLAYER REQUESTS TO PLAY-UP - POLICY**

The SWYSC believes that an on-age team provides the most appropriate development environment for the vast majority of players. However, the SWYSC recognizes that in some circumstances, as defined below, it may be appropriate for a player to be placed on a team in an older age division. The SWYSC also recognizes that players interested in being placed on a team in an older age division should have the opportunity to be evaluated in accordance with the SWYSC's - play-up" criteria.

### **EXCEPTIONAL PLAYER PLAY-UP CRITERIA**

Any player/parent who believes that being placed on an on-age team would not provide an appropriate developmental and competitive environment may request that the player be evaluated during tryouts for placement on an older age division team as an exceptional player.

The decision on a player's exceptional player request to play-up will be based solely on the technical ability, tactical acumen, talents and athleticism (size, speed, agility, strength, etc.) of player relative to the top 1/3 of the - A" team pool of players for the older age division a player must be evaluated as being clearly in the top 1/3 of the - A" team pool of players for the older age division. In addition, the player/parents must have a level of commitment to practice and playing that is consistent with the older age division team.

- The SWYSC believes that a player must be an exceptional player within the older age division, not merely - make the team" or be better than most players on the on-age team. The default is to place players on-age.
- Factors that do not directly affect the appropriateness of soccer development shall not be considered in evaluating a player request to play-up. Such factors include but are not limited to siblings on the older age division team, friends on the older age division team, car pools or desire to play for a particular coach.
- No player shall be placed on a team in an older age division as an exceptional player for the primary purpose of strengthening that team.

- No player will be placed on a - B" team in an older age division older as an exceptional player based on a player request to play-up. The number of players allowed to play-up on any particular team as exceptional players will be limited.
- All players joining a SWYSC team after tryouts have been completed shall be placed in the appropriate on-age division.

### **GRADE-ELIGIBLE PLAY-UP CRITERIA**

If, at the tryouts, there are fewer than three grade-eligible players in an age division, the player(s)/parents may request that the player(s) be evaluated for placement on an older age division team. If, at tryouts, there are three or more grade-eligible players, they shall only be evaluated for placement on an on-age team.

### **PLAYER REQUESTS TO PLAY-UP ? PROCEDURES**

Parents/guardians must submit a written request (email, mail or delivery) to the Director of Classic Soccer using a form provided by the SWYSC no later than 2 weeks prior to the first scheduled try out.

- Parents/guardians shall be notified by email that their request has been received at least 1 week prior to the player evaluation /tryout date. The Director of Classic Soccer shall forward the Request to play-up to the Player Selection Committee for player evaluation.
- No player requesting to be evaluated for playing up will be evaluated without the timely submission of the appropriate request.
- Players must attend both the on-age player evaluation tryout and the older age division player evaluation tryout. Failure to attend both player evaluation tryouts shall result in denial of the request to play-up.
- The Player Selection Committee may consult with previous Coaches, Age Group Trainers, Team Selection Coordinators and others as deemed appropriate before rendering a decision.
- Following player evaluation/tryouts, the Player Selection Committee shall submit their decision regarding the Request to play-up to the Director of Classic Soccer.
- The Director of Classic Soccer shall inform the players/parents/guardians of the decision rendered by the Player Selection Committee with respect to their Request to play-up.
- All player placement decisions are final. There is no appeal process.
- All tryout notes, comparative results and evaluations used in rendering a decision on a Request to play-up are strictly confidential and will not be released by the Player Selection Committee. Team coaches may use a player's tryout evaluation information to discuss a player's strengths and weaknesses with that player and/or their parent/guardian.

### **SWYSC REQUESTS TO PLAY-UP ? POLICY**

The SWYSC believes that an on-age team provides the most appropriate development environment for the vast majority of players. However, the SWYSC believes that in two circumstances it may be appropriate for the SWYSC to ask a player and his or her parents if they are interested in having the player placed on a team in an older age division:

- If a member of the Coaching Staff identifies an exceptional player that would be in the top 1/3rd of the older age group team and is not being challenged appropriately on-age. As a result of registration numbers, additional players are needed to field a team in an older age division provided the following conditions are met: placing players from the on-age division to the older age division is the only feasible way to field a team in the older age division, placing players from the on-age division to the older age division does not leave any players without a team in the on-age division, AND the developmental and competitive environments would be appropriate for all players in both age divisions.
- No player/parent will be forced by the SWYSC to play on a team in an older age division.
- No player/parent shall be adversely affected for deciding not to play on a team in an older age division.
- A player/parent decision not to play on a team in an older age division shall be strictly confidential and shall not be disclosed by any SWYSC official or coach.

## **SWYSC REQUESTS TO PLAY-UP ? PROCEDURE**

SWYSC Requests to play-up shall be submitted to the Director of Classic Soccer. The Director of Classic Soccer shall forward the Request to play-up to the Player Selection Committee for player evaluation. The Player Selection Committee may consult with Coaches, Age Group Trainers, Team Selection Coordinators and others as deemed appropriate before rendering a decision.

- Following player evaluation, the Player Selection Committee shall submit their decision regarding the Request to play-up to the Director of Classic Soccer.
- If the Player Selection Committee denies the SWYSC Request to play-up, the Director of Classic Soccer will notify both affected coaches and the player/parent involved.
- If the Payer Selection Committee approves the SWYSC Request to play-up, the Director of Classic Soccer contact both affected coaches.
- If the affected coaches agree that it would be appropriate to allow the player in question to play-up, the Director of Classic Soccer will ask player/parents if they are interested in playing on a team in an older age division.
- The player/parent decision will be final.

## **RETURNING TO ON-AGE ? POLICY**

No player shall be unnecessarily forced to stay on an older age division team if placement on that team is not providing an appropriate developmental and competitive environment. If requested by a player/parents, or initiated by the SWYSC and agreed to by the player/parents, the SWYSC shall make every effort consistent with CDYSL rules and team roster sizes to move a player from a team in an older age division to a team in an on-age team. However, normal team dynamic issues may not be sufficient reasons.

## **RETURNING TO ON-AGE ? PROCEDURES**

If a player/parents believe that being on a team in an older age division is not providing an appropriate developmental and competitive environment because the player does not have the appropriate skill level or athletic ability (including size) for the older age division team, the parents shall contact the coach who in turn will contact the Director of Classic Soccer.

- The Director of Classic Soccer shall contact the parents of the player and discuss the situation.  
If it is determined that it is in the best interest of the player to be moved back to on-age the Director of Classic Soccer shall make every effort consistent with CDYSL rules and team roster sizes to move the player from the team in an older age division to an on-age team.
- If a coach believes that being on a team in an older age division is not providing a player an appropriate developmental and competitive environment because the player does not have the appropriate skill level or athletic ability (including size) for the older age division team, the coach shall contact the Director of Classic Soccer.
- The Director of Classic Soccer shall contact the parents of the player and arrange a meeting to discuss the situation. The meeting participants should include the Director of Classic Soccer, Chairman of the Player Selection Committee, both of the potentially affected coaches and the parents. Participation by the player is at the option of the parents.
- If the player/parents agree a move would be appropriate, the Director of Classic Soccer shall make every effort consistent with CDYSL rules and team roster sizes to move the player from the team in an older age division to a team in an on-age team.
- A player is considered ? grade-eligible? for an older age division if the player was born on or after August 1st but is in the same school grade as players born prior to August 1st of the same year.
- The evaluation criteria for a grade-eligible player to be placed on an older age division team is that the player has sufficient athletic ability and soccer skills to be considered a starter for any of the older age division teams. (For example, a grade-eligible player may be placed on either the ? A? or ? B? team of the older age division if the player would be considered a starter on the ? B? team.)
- All player/parent requests to ? play-up? must be made at or before tryouts to ensure appropriate evaluations are completed before initial team selections decisions.

- All players joining a SWYSC team after tryouts have been completed shall be placed in the appropriate on-age division regardless of grade-eligible status.