

## Lakefront Soccer Club

### Playing Up Policy - Exceptional Player Rule

- Playing up is the exception rather than the rule in youth soccer. It is reserved for exceptional players who possess the skill, soccer knowledge, physical and emotional development of an older player.
- When it is appropriate for soccer development, the opportunity for the exceptional player to play with older players shall be considered. The Director of Competitive Soccer and/or Executive Director will review the request with the appropriate Coaching Staff members and then discuss the decision with the parents before rendering a decision.
- If permission is granted to tryout at an older age group, the player MUST commence their tryout with the age appropriate group. Then, with the permission of the Director of Competitive Soccer, the player may move to the older age group for evaluation purposes. (Based upon an evaluation with the age appropriate group, the Director of Competitive Soccer may deny the player a tryout with the older team).
- Honesty, integrity and the welfare of all Lakefront Soccer Club youth soccer players shall be the overriding factor in this and all requests presented to the Board.
- A player should not be pushed to play up by parents/coaches in an attempt to accelerate their ascension to the top of the soccer pyramid.
- For development to occur, players and teams must be exposed to levels of competition commensurate with their skills and must be challenged constantly in training and games in order to aspire to higher levels of play and thus maintain their interest and passion for the game.
- The final decision as to whether a player is permitted to 'play up' lies with the Lakefront Board of Directors after consultation with the Director of Competitive Soccer, Executive Director, previous coaches, tryout coordinators and others as deemed appropriate. All tryout results, coach's evaluations and other factors in rendering a decision remain confidential and are not distributed by the Board.
- 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.
- The number of players approved to play up on any particular team may be limited by the Lakefront Soccer Club Board of Directors.
- All decisions are final. There is no process to appeal a decision to deny permission to play up.

- The Director of Competitive Soccer or team coach will communicate all decisions made by the Board with respect to playing up.
- The above guidelines serve to give general direction to the Board and do not necessarily cover all unique situations presented for consideration.