



RSA Elite Soccer Club playing up policy and procedure for the Elite programs.

The RSA Elite Soccer Club believes that 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.

Stage 1 Try Out:

- The athlete and parent/guardian must initiate the consideration for Playing-Up at the try outs by making it know you are requesting to try out an age group up. The Director of the Coaching will evaluate the ability of the player at tryouts. Information and input from the former and current coaches may be used to make this determination. Players will be notified after the try-outs if they have the ability to play at the next age bracket. If the request is denied the process ends here.
- The coaches will observe the player at the try-outs to determine if he/she is among the prospective starters for the next age level team and one of the strongest players of the age appropriate team. If the athlete is not evaluated as a prospective starter on the next age level team and one of the strongest players of the age appropriate team, then the process ends here. If the athlete is evaluated as a prospective starter on the next age level team and one of the strongest players of the age appropriate team. Players already approved from prior seasonal year see grandfathering provision.
- With US Soccer players can be play passed between age brackets. This is called **(Dual Roistering)** the underage player will be invited, as required, to play at their age appropriate level at certain tournaments or league games when it does not affect their regular scheduled games.
- If it is determined that an underage player was approved to play at the next age level, but was ultimately not permitted due to: **(the prospective starters for the next age level team) but can compete at the next level**, then the Club will look at the possibility of 'dual registration.' Dual registration allows the player to be registered to 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.)
- RSA Elite 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 underage 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 or even down when team continuity becomes threatened. The Club will always attempt to field a team at each age group and keep as many kids playing as 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 try outs, 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 DOC. The following year, all players will be required to try out for their appropriate age group and/or request to try out for the next level age group, following the policy outlined above.
6. Players already approved the prior seasonal year to play up an age level will be grandfathered in for the following seasonal year and therefore, not subject to the Playing-Up approval process. Please note, that the DOC 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.



PLAYING UP CONSENT FORM

The RSA ELITE SOCCER ASSOCIATION, require permission from a parent/guardian for any soccer player to “play up” in an older age group as governed by birth year January to January.

This request must also be approved by the RSA Elite Director of Coaching OR Youth Director of Coaching for ANY player requesting to “play-up” more than one year.

I, as parent/guardian, am aware that my younger player will be playing against older, usually more physically developed players whose soccer skills may be more advanced and whose play may be more physical.

As parent/guardian, I give MY PERMISSION for my child,

_____, (_____) to play-up ____ year(s) above his/her Name Age

PSPL stated age group. In granting my permission, I fully understand that my child could be injured. The injury could include, but not limited to; cuts, scrapes, sprains, damage to ligaments, broken bones, concussions, or possibly even death.

Before giving your child permission to play up, please consider your child’s maturity, size, coordination, muscular development, attitude, and social development in comparison to the team members of the older team.

Signature Date Print Name _____ Parent/Guardian

Approved:

Signature Date Print Name _____ Registrar

Signature Date Print Name RSA Elite Director of Coaching

Signature Date Print Name