

Naples Youth Soccer Club has established policies and procedures to assure the optimal development of each player in our program. We strive to provide the age-appropriate balance of technical, tactical and physical training for our players.

Age groupings are established by FYSA based on the age of the player as of August 1st. Playing up requires approval by the Director of Coaching and will only be considered if that player is capable physically and developmentally. Most players are best served by playing in their FYSA age group; however, Naples Youth Soccer Club has identified the following play-up guidelines which the Director of Coaching may consider: All play-up decisions are made by the DOC and are final.

- **“Advanced” player.** We have opportunities for the “advanced” player, who is so far advanced within their true age group team that for his/her development, he/she needs to play up an age group. In most cases players are still better served with strong training and playing at the top level at their own age. These players are very rare.
- **U-8 and younger player (BOYS).** If a player demonstrates sufficient maturity and ability, he can play up to the U-9 competitive team as it is the youngest competitive team offering the advanced training. Any player playing up in this condition will tryout for the U-9 age group again the following year and would not be eligible to play up to U-10.
- **U-9 (GIRLS).** Due to numbers it is expected that the youngest competitive age group for Girls will be U-10. U-9 players will be allowed to play up to the U-10 competitive team as it is the youngest competitive team. Any player playing up in this condition will tryout for the U-10 age group again the following year and would not be eligible to play up to U-11.
- **“Grandfathered” players.** There are some current players that are grandfathered in from before the play-up policy. These players are encouraged, but not forced, to play their own age group.
- **Late team formation / tryout.** In some cases, Naples Youth Soccer Club may need to merge age groups to form a team or may have a player that moves to the area after teams have been formed. All age-appropriate teams would have first choice of selecting this player; however, the player could play at the next age group if necessary to find a suitable team. Any player playing up in this condition, will tryout with their regular FYSA age group the following year.
- **Graduating class:** consideration for playing up will be given for players who graduate with an older age group.

PROCESS: For a player to tryout for an older team, that player needs to write a detailed request for permission from the Director of Coaching. If permission is granted, the player first needs to still attend the try out for his/her own age group. The player will then be assessed by an independent evaluator as assigned by the Director of Coaching. The player will be informed after that evaluation if the player will try-out with the true age group team or the older team for the second tryout where they will be assessed by an independent evaluator.

PLAY-UP GUEST PLAYING: The Director of Coaching oversees all guest playing opportunities. Under their direction, some players may have the opportunity to “guest” play for older teams. This is managed by the Director of Coaching and is another opportunity that gives players the chance to further their development. A determining factor for these opportunities is the player’s commitment, attitude and performance for their true age group team. The Director of Coaching through the respective age group coaches will recommend such situations. Requests cannot come from the parent and the team that the player may be guest playing for. Guest playing for an older team is a privilege and not a right!