



Valley Soccer Club

Travel Team Policy

Title :

Request for Travel Team Players to “Play Up”

Effective Date:

09May2013

Revised:

Third revision April 10, 2014

Scope:

This policy defines the procedures and guidelines recommended for determining the validity and approval of a request for a travel team player to play on a team that is above their age appropriate level based on birthdates.

Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the Travel Team Committee to follow these guidelines in this policy when making this determination and to approve or disapprove the request based on the criteria described herein.

Request for “Playing UP” Overview

It is the position of the Valley Soccer club that in order to provide an appropriate environment for the development of players that those players should be placed on “age appropriate” teams. The concept of players playing “up” or above their age group has been determined to be in neither the best interests of the players involved nor the teams nor the club as a whole. There will likely, though, from time to time be situations initiated by players, parents or coaches that believe that in a specific case the situation would be warranted. This policy describes the requirements and expectations for making a determination that such a move is warranted and provides for a final decision on such a request.



For the purposes of historical context all players prior to the promulgation of this procedure will be “grandfathered” onto their current team.

Procedures and Guidelines:

Requests

Requests may be initiated by submitting a request to the Travel Team Coordinator in writing. Requests may be initiated by the parents of a player wishing to ‘play up’, the players primary team coach(s), or in some cases the club through the Director of Coaching. Requests are submitted and approved annually and an approval is for the upcoming season only. The Travel Coordinator or Director of Coaching will consult with the coach of the players “age appropriate” team and with the coach of the team that the request was made for the player to go to after the written request has been submitted but no later than the end of tryouts. The Director of Coaching may contact the parents of the requesting player directly to discuss the request, options and implications. The following will be considered when reviewing the situation and will be used as the rationale for deciding if the player is approved to “play up”.

- Advanced Skill Level –It is agreed upon in the soccer community that advanced players must be stimulated and challenged more than the average player.
- Does the situation exist where the player would not be playing with teammates of their same grade school level unless they “Played Up”? For Example - If the player was born in year XX03 but is in the same school grade as players in year XX02, and the player has a track record of being more advanced emotionally and mentally. It is the feeling of the club that since such a player will be playing with these older players in school sports that it may be to everyone’s advantage that the child is allowed to play up if the child has exhibited appropriate soccer skills.
- Upon reaching the age of U-13 a player is free to “play up” one age group as this would be the norm for school related sports activities.

Hardship and ‘Special’ Situations

Under the following criteria requests to “play up” will be considered on a case by case basis . The request must still be submitted, in writing, to the travel coordinator and must be approved. The request in this case must include a written statement from the parent/coach explaining the exceptional situation and directly address the following criteria. The criteria are:

- Custody situations or similar hardships
- Need to be on the same team as a sibling already playing
- Demonstration of exceptional ability to the Director of Coaching
- True and repeated irreconcilable differences between a coach/parent/team and the player concerned.



Review Process

It is the club's opinion that the player's current coach and potential future coach should not be involved in the decision making process other than to comment on the player's skills and abilities. Both individuals have vested interests in the situation that may be contrary to what is in the best interest of the player, team and club. Travel committee members that are coaches of the players making the request must recuse themselves due to a conflict of interest from the approval and voting process.

- It is the responsibility of the Travel Coordinator and/or the Director of Coaching to solicit any opinions and information from the coaches involved
- Any coach who engages in "recruiting" or trying to coerce a player into moving onto their team will be suspended and face possible dismissal from the club

Travel Team Committee

The Travel Team Committee shall consist of:

1. Travel Team coordinator
2. Club president
3. Director of Coaching
4. Appointee (bi-annually in even years)
5. Appointee (bi-annually in even years)
6. Appointee (bi-annually in odd years)
7. Appointee (bi-annually in odd years)

For the purposes of a quorum the Travel Team Committee will consist of 7 members and 5 voting members are required for a quorum. The "Appointee" members of the Travel Team Committee shall be decided annually before the start of Travel Team Tryouts. Appointees will serve a 2 year term and will be replaced at the sole discretion of the Travel coordinator. The 2 years terms will be staggered, in even and odd years, as to allow 2 appointees with committee experience to remain on and 2 new members to join. The rotation is designed to provide both continuity and to allow for new ideas to be heard. In the event that coaches required to recuse themselves and other events cause a situation where less than a quorum of voting members will be available the Director of Coaching will serve as 2 votes.

Approval Process

Request for "Playing Up" should be submitted to the Travel Coordinator no later than the end of tryouts for the upcoming fall season for players to be rostered during the upcoming Fall Season. No mid season changes will be made and a request can be made only once per year for an individual player. Once a request is submitted the Travel Team Committee will review the request and make a determination. For a request to be approved a yes vote of 2/3rds (two thirds) of the committee members who vote will be required, where one of the approval votes must be the Travel Team Coordinator or the Director of



Coaching (for example with seven voting members it would require 5 votes, with six 4 votes and with five 3 votes and one of the votes must come from the travel coordinator or the Director of Coaching). In the event that the Travel Team Coordinator or Director of Coaching must recuse himself/herself the President shall serve in place and one of the yes votes must be either the Travel Team Coordinator or the Director of Coaching or the President depending on who is unable to cast a vote.

A vote can be taken via a meeting held specifically for this purpose or by other means of communication as long as all voting committee members provide a yeah or nay vote on the request. The vote shall be recorded and filed by the Travel Coordinator and the requestor will be informed of the decision. Decisions of the Travel Team Committee are final and shall not be appealed.

Exceptions

- If the club is unable to field and individual age division players who are to be placed on the higher age group team do not need to apply to play up. For Example – if there is no U12F team the remaining U-12 players may combine with the U13 team to form a single U-13 team or a U9 team forming requires U8 players to fill out a roster. This would not require permission or approval.
- A U-9 team has been comprised mostly of younger age level players and has therefore played together at the U-9 age division for 2 or more years. As this situation constitutes a player being part of what has been established as an ongoing team that has been playing together for more than one year consideration will be given to allowing a player to “play up” one age group if that player has demonstrated the requisite soccer skills. This decision would be made internally by the Travel Team Committee at the time that new teams are established and the “option’ would be presented to the parent of the player. The parent can then agree with the decision or decide to keep the player down until age appropriate.

Secondary Players

The request process does not apply to “secondary” players looking to play up one age group which is to be allowed without exception. Secondary players looking to play up more than one age group will be required, however, to follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

Valley Soccer Club reserves the right to alter this policy without notice upon Board approval of any changes.