



SYC REC Soccer "Play Up" Policy and Process

Purpose

To provide REC Soccer athletes an opportunity to request to be evaluated for "Play Up" consideration. "Play Up" is defined as 1-year above the player's current birth year. For those age groups that are banded (i.e. U16B, U19B, U16G, U19G), special considerations may be applied.

Background

With U.S. Youth Soccer's Age Group Mandate established back in 2016, the SYC REC Soccer Program was required to comply with a new regulation that established how youth clubs would determine the age group in which players would be allowed to play.

Since the early 1990s, age groups were determined by either the 1 August cutoff or the grade in which a player is currently enrolled. This loosely matched the school year with our cutoff for player placement in the age groups (i.e. U9, U10, U13, etc.).

The US Youth Soccer now mandates that youth clubs align age groups with the calendar year (Jan-Dec), which means that your player's placement in an age group will be determined by their birth year, although the VYSA age chart figures the school year into the playing seasons, with the age group play being from Fall through Spring seasons.

We understand this may have caused some confusion and disruption in the team placement of our athletes. But one thing remains certain, we have tremendous talent within our REC Soccer program, and we want to ensure we continue to provide the greatest opportunities to all our players. In doing so, we are allowing those players who feel they have the capability to play at a higher level the opportunity to request "Play Up" opportunity.

Request Process

1. "Play Up" requests will be submitted electronically via the online ["Play Up Request Form"](#).
2. Play Up" is requested during the registration for the current the season of play.

Evaluation Process

REC Soccer staff (League Director, Coaches, etc.) will provide input during the evaluation process.

Returning to Birth Year Age Group

At any time, an approved play up player playing in a higher age group, may return to his/her birth year age group, provided space is available. If space is not available, the player may finish the current season in the higher age group and return to the birth year age group the following season; or, may drop, but no refund will be provided.