

## **GSC Playing Up Policy:**

The Goshen Soccer Club (GSC) recognizes that youth player development is best achieved when players compete with their appropriate age in training and/or games. The majority of GSC players will play within their natural age group (age matrix/birthdate cutoffs provided by US Youth Soccer and adhered to by the Eastern New York State Soccer Association and Hudson Valley Youth Soccer League rules). However, we understand that in certain cases, providing opportunities for a player to play up for a season or full soccer year in an older age group may be appropriate for their development. In an effort to provide a means for players of advanced skill and knowledge of soccer to play at the appropriate level of the game, to challenge their physical and mental abilities in soccer and develop fully as a player, the GSC provides the opportunity for these players to “play-up” in the next age group. These opportunities are earned through a player’s commitment, dedication, effort, and a consistent demonstration of abilities that exceed those of players within their own age group.

Any decision regarding “playing up” will be made solely at the discretion of the Vice President of Travel and the coaches who evaluate the players during tryouts and throughout the season. The initial decision regarding a player’s ability to “play up” will be determined following tryouts and will be based on the player’s demonstrated performance throughout the previous season and their performance during tryouts. The developmental needs of players are continuous and require regular evaluations throughout the season. The club reserves the right to reverse any decision, at any time, if the coaching staff feels that this would benefit the developmental needs of the player.

A player must satisfy the following conditions to be considered for playing up:

1. The player must be performing in the top percent of their current team and will perform in the middle to top percent of the age group above.
2. A request must be submitted via email to the player’s current head coach and the Goshen Soccer Club ([goshensoccerny@gmail.com](mailto:goshensoccerny@gmail.com)) for a player to be considered for playing in an older age group. The request should be made in regard to player development. Please address the player’s technical, physical and psychological ability to be able to play at an older level.
3. The VP of Travel, current coaches and older age bracket coaches will review the request and determine if the player is eligible according to the player’s overall skills, physical ability, and the mental preparation to play at an older age group. The club will focus on what is in the player’s best interest as an athlete and a person in the player’s development, as well as the club.
4. If the VP of Travel and coaches involved feel a player qualifies to play at an older age group, they will invite the player to a training session with the older team to be further evaluated. After the evaluation, they will determine if the player is a good fit for the older team and will notify the parent/guardian accordingly.
5. We do not “cut” players from their age appropriate group to make room for a younger player to play up.

This policy is subject to change at the discretion of the GSC at any time.