



# ONE TEAM LACROSSE

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## Firebirds Lacrosse Club Play Down/Up Policy

It is the high preference of the club that all athletes play in their birth date appropriate age division. The reasoning behind this preference is that with two-year increments between divisions safety is a top priority, this promotes team continuity and allows for team projections through high school. This policy addresses situations in which parents and athletes wish to participate in an age division outside of their birth date grouping.

**Playing Down** – Playing down is when parents or athletes wish to play in an age division younger than their birth date placement. The Youth Lacrosse League does not allow players to play down and if a club plays older athletes in a lower division the club is subject to forfeiture across all teams and league sanctions. Firebirds Lacrosse club does not allow players to play down in age division. In instances of a mental or physical disability a request will be made to the League for an exception to policy.

**Playing Up** – Playing up is when parents or athletes wish to play at an age group older than their birth date placement.

Requirements:

1. Club need for players to field a complete team at a higher division
2. At least one full season of Lacrosse with the Firebirds Organization (see details below). We do not accept play outside of the club as sufficient as our coaches have not been able to assess the lacrosse skillset and durability of the player.
  - a. Two Seasons for an 8U to play up 10U
  - b. Two Seasons for a 10U to play up 12U
  - c. Three Seasons for a 12U to play up 14U
3. Player and Parent must sign the play up agreement.
4. The players' departure from the age-appropriate team does not cause a hardship on the team. The team's ability to play supersedes an individual athlete or parents desire to play up.
5. The coaching staff and/or board feels it is safe for the player to play up.

If the player and parent meet the above criteria this will be submitted to the board for review.

If Approved: The player will be assigned to the desired division. The player may return to the age-appropriate team at any time in the season but will not be allowed to return to play up and no further approvals will be granted in future seasons to play up.

If Declined: The decision is final. The parents of the athlete will receive an email from the team on why their athlete does not fulfill the requirements to play up. The athlete will remain with their age-appropriate division.