

## PLAYING UP

NPSL generally believes that youth players will develop their technical skills better and enjoy the game of soccer more playing at their age-appropriate level. However, it is recognized that there may be exceptions to this general rule.

Accordingly, players may be allowed to play up under the following circumstances.

1. A written request to try up must be submitted to the Club President or Travel Coordinator prior to the player participating in tryouts.
2. The player must attend the tryouts for both their age-appropriate team(s) and the age they are trying up to.
3. An ad-hoc committee designated by the Board of Directors to evaluate the player will observe the tryouts. There shall be no set number of members of this committee; however, the committee shall NOT include either of the affected coaches, the parents of the player or the parents of any of the players on either team. This committee may include members not from the Board of NPSL. In designating the committee, the Board shall consider coaching experience and certifications and other knowledge of the game.
4. The committee will be required to submit a recommendation to the Board/Travel Coordinator as to the appropriate team on which the player should participate. The committee MAY consult with the affected coaches. The higher age group coach would be required to concur with a decision to play up.
5. The committee shall consider the following criteria:
  - a. The best interests of the individual player for soccer development,
  - b. The “exceptional player” standard. The exceptional player standard shall mean that it is the opinion of the committee that the player is either (i) without regard to age, one of the top five players at the higher age group trying out, or (ii) school grade appropriate (this usually means the player was born between August 1 and December 31 and is in the same school grade as the players generally trying out for the team AND is one of the top ten players trying out for the team. The purpose of this standard is to provide reasonable assurance that only players that are clearly ready, from a soccer skills and physical standpoint, to play at the higher age group are selected. This should be evidenced by the player clearly being able to start in the top eleven at their appropriate position.
6. Board shall make a timely decision based upon the recommendation of the committee. Decisions of the Board are FINAL.
7. The player shall be granted a position on the higher age group team for that season only.
8. The Board may also consider criteria such as the best interests of the Club, for example the ability to field teams at the various age levels and the ability to serve the most players. However, the primary consideration shall be the interests of each individual player.