



Saratoga-Wilton Soccer club  
PO Box 1292  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
[www.saratogawiltonsoccerclub.com](http://www.saratogawiltonsoccerclub.com)

*Building Character through Soccer Since 1983*

## **SWSC Play Up Policy With Grade Eligible**

***Voted as Policy by Board of Directors - March 2008 / reviewed and updated June 2016***

### **PLAYER PLACEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OBJECTIVE**

To annually establish increasingly competitive teams at each age level by placing each player in an appropriate developmental and competitive environment consistent with the CDYSL requirements.

*Note:* CDYSL leagues are structured based on age divisions and secondarily on skill levels within each age division. CDYSL has set December 31st as the cutoff date for determining age group eligibility.

### **GENERAL POLICY**

Based on years of experience, the SWSC strongly believes that, for the vast majority of players, the most appropriate developmental and competitive environment is placement on an on-age team, with teammates of comparable athletic abilities, technical and tactical skills, commitment levels to practicing and playing, and emotional and social maturity. Therefore, it is the general policy of the SWSC to place all players on on-age teams; if there are enough players in an age division to form two or more on-age teams, players shall be grouped into teams based on skill levels and athletic ability. (The limited circumstances in which deviations from this General Policy may be appropriate are discussed below.)

Because player capabilities can dramatically change from year to year, all player placement evaluations, including play-up decisions, are made on an annual basis.

### **PLAYER REQUESTS TO PLAY-UP - POLICY**

The SWSC believes that an on-age team provides the most appropriate development environment for the vast majority of players. However, the SWSC recognizes that in some circumstances, as defined below, it may be appropriate for a player to be placed on a team in an older age division. The SWSC also recognizes that players interested in being placed on a team in an older age division should have the opportunity to be evaluated in accordance with the

SWSC's "play-up" criteria.

### **EXCEPTIONAL PLAYER PLAY-UP CRITERIA**

Any player/parent who believes that being placed on an on-age team would not provide an appropriate developmental and competitive environment may request that the player be evaluated during tryouts for placement on an older age division team as an exceptional player. The decision on a player's exceptional player request to play-up will be based on the technical ability, tactical acumen, talents and athleticism (size, speed, agility, strength, etc.) of the player relative to the top 1/3 of the "A" team pool of players for the older age division a player must be evaluated as being clearly in the top 1/3 of the "A" team pool of players for the older age division. In addition, the player/parents must have a level of commitment to practice and playing that is consistent with the expectations of the team.

- The SWSC believes that a player must be an exceptional player within the older age division, not merely "make the team" or be better than most players on the on-age team. The default is to place players on-age.
- Factors that do not directly affect the appropriateness of soccer development shall not be considered in evaluating a player request to play-up. Such factors include but are not limited to siblings on the older age division team, friends on the older age division team, car pools or desire to play for a particular coach.
- No player shall be placed on a team in an older age division as an exceptional player for the primary purpose of strengthening that team.
- No player will be placed on a "B" team in an older age division older as an exceptional player based on a player request to play-up. The number of players allowed to play-up on any particular team as exceptional players will be limited.
- All players joining a SWSC team after tryouts have been completed shall be placed in the appropriate on-age division. If the coaching staff and the Director of Coaching deem it appropriate, the player may be invited to move up an age group based on the aforementioned criteria.

### **PLAYER SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The Player Selection Committee (PSC) is comprised of two experienced SWSC head coaches who have extensive knowledge of the player pool at SWSC. Both coaches have voting power within the PSC. Additionally, the Director of Coaching (DoC) is also a member of the PSC and the DoC also has voting power. The President of the Board will provide oversight to the PSC and help to mediate any disputes.

In the case that one of the members of the PSC is a direct relative of a player who may potentially play up, then that member will recuse himself/herself from the decision regarding the direct relative, and the President of the Board will step in.

## **PLAYER REQUESTS TO PLAY-UP PROCEDURES**

Parents/guardians must submit a request to the Director of Coaching via email prior to the follow-up tryouts at the older age group.

- Parents/guardians shall be notified by email that their request has been received prior to the date of the follow-up tryout for the older age group. The Director of Coaching shall forward the Request to play-up to the Player Selection Committee for player evaluation.
- No player requesting to be evaluated for playing up will be evaluated without the timely submission of the appropriate request.
- Players must attend both the on-age player evaluation tryout and the older age division player evaluation tryout. Failure to attend both player evaluation tryouts shall result in denial of the request to play-up, unless the player received previous approval from the Director of Coaching because of an extenuating circumstance.
- The Player Selection Committee may consult with previous Coaches, Age Group Trainers, Team Selection Coordinators and others as deemed appropriate before rendering a decision. Additionally, the Player Selection Committee may review video of the player when making the decision.
- The Director of Coaching shall inform the coaches of the decision rendered by the Player Selection Committee with respect to the player's Request to play-up.
- All player placement decisions are final. There is no appeal process.
- All tryout notes, video, comparative results and evaluations used in rendering a decision on a Request to play-up are strictly confidential and will not be released by the Player Selection Committee. Team coaches may use a player's tryout evaluation information to discuss a player's strengths and weaknesses with that player and/or their parent/guardian.

## **SWSC REQUESTS TO PLAY-UP POLICY**

The SWSC believes that an on-age team provides the most appropriate development environment for the vast majority of players. However, the SWSC believes that in two circumstances it may be appropriate for the SWSC to ask a player and his or her parents if they are interested in having the player placed on a team in an older age division:

- If a member of the Coaching Staff identifies an exceptional player that would be clearly in the top 1/3rd of the older age group team and is not being challenged appropriately on-

age.

- As a result of registration numbers, additional players are needed to field a team in an older age division provided the following conditions are met: placing players from the on-age division to the older age division is the only feasible way to field a team in the older age division, placing players from the on-age division to the older age division does not leave any players without a team in the on-age division, AND the developmental and competitive environments would be appropriate for all players in both age divisions.
- No player/parent will be forced by the SWSC to play on a team in an older age division.
- No player/parent shall be adversely affected for deciding not to play on a team in an older age division.
- A player/parent decision not to play on a team in an older age division shall be strictly confidential and shall not be disclosed by any SWSC official or coach.

### **SWSC REQUESTS TO PLAY-UP PROCEDURE SWSC**

Requests to play-up shall be submitted to the Director of Coaching. The Director of Coaching shall forward the Request to play-up to the Player Selection Committee for player evaluation. The Player Selection Committee may consult with Coaches, Age Group Trainers, Team Selection Coordinators and others as deemed appropriate before rendering a decision, as well as accessing all notes, evaluations and videos.

- Following player evaluation, the Player Selection Committee shall submit their decision regarding the Request to play-up to the Director of Coaching.
- If the Player Selection Committee denies the SWSC Request to play-up, the Director of Coaching will notify both affected coaches. The coaches will then notify the player/parent involved.
- If the Player Selection Committee approves the SWSC Request to play-up, the Director of Coaching will contact both affected coaches.
- If the affected coaches agree that it would be appropriate to allow the player in question to play-up, the Director of Coaching will ask player/parents if they are interested in playing on a team in an older age division.
- The player/parent decision will be final.

### **RETURNING TO ON-AGE POLICY**

No player shall be unnecessarily forced to stay on an older age division team if placement on that team is not providing an appropriate developmental and competitive environment. If requested by a player/parents, or initiated by the SWSC and agreed to by the player/parents, the SWSC shall make every effort consistent with CDYSL rules and team roster sizes to move a player from a

team in an older age division to a team in an on-age team. However, normal team dynamic issues may not be sufficient reasons.

## **RETURNING TO ON-AGE PROCEDURES**

If a player/parents believe that being on a team in an older age division is not providing an appropriate developmental and competitive environment because the player does not have the appropriate skill level or athletic ability (including size) for the older age division team, the parents shall contact the coach who in turn will contact the Director of Coaching.

- The Director of Coaching shall contact the parents of the player and discuss the situation. If it is determined that it is in the best interest of the player to be moved back to on-age the Director of Coaching shall make every effort consistent with CDYSL rules and team roster sizes to move the player from the team in an older age division to an on-age team.
- If a coach believes that being on a team in an older age division is not providing a player an appropriate developmental and competitive environment because the player does not have the appropriate skill level or athletic ability (including size) for the older age division team, the coach shall contact the Director of Coaching.
- The Director of Coaching shall contact the parents of the player and arrange a meeting to discuss the situation. The meeting participants should include the Director of Coaching, available members of the Player Selection Committee, both of the potentially affected coaches and the parents. Participation by the player is at the option of the parents.
- If the player/parents agree a move would be appropriate, the Director of Coaching shall make every effort consistent with CDYSL rules and team roster sizes to move the player from the team in an older age division to a team in an on-age team.
- All player/parent requests to “play-up” must be made before follow-up tryouts to ensure appropriate evaluations are completed before initial team selections decisions.
- All players joining a SWSC team after tryouts have been completed shall be placed in the appropriate on-age division. If the coaching staff and the Director of Coaching deem it appropriate, the player may be invited to move up an age group based on the aforementioned criteria.