

The Squamish Youth Soccer Association believes that most players will develop better at their own age level than at an age level above. However, the Club recognizes that some team formations require players to play up an age level and that a few very talented players that are physically and psychologically should be considered to play up in the next age level. Further details of the SYSA Playing Up Policy are provide below the BC Soccer Playing Up Policy.

BC Soccer Playing Up Policy & Regulation

BC Soccer supports and is aligned with Canada Soccer's principles of Long Term Player Development (LTPD). This policy has been developed to address individual players.

INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS PLAYING UP

- **Technical Ability**

A player must demonstrate a high degree of individual skill, which must be transferable to competitive match situations. In addition, a player's individual skill must meet or exceed the technical abilities of other participating players within the older age category the player wishes to participate in.

- **Physical Ability**

A player must meet or exceed other players within their age category in physical strength, technical skill and speed, and have the ability to blend in with players of the intended age group.

- **Mental Ability**

A player must meet or exceed other players within their age category in game awareness and general knowledge of the game. To include the mental strength that will be necessary when dealing with older and physically superior opponents.

- **Social Ability**

A player must be able to interact with players within the older age category on and off the field (games, dressing room, training and social gatherings)

In addition to the above policy from BC Soccer regarding playing up, SYSA players must be approved by SYSA Technical Staff and the SYSA board to "play up". The main reasons, but not limited to why a player would be considered and allowed to play up are as follows:

1. If a player's playing skill is above his/her age level and the Technical staff feel that the player would benefit from playing up a year and this decision does not impact a "correct age" player. To be considered the player must consistently demonstrate all aspects of the game (physical, mental and technical) at a **minimum** level of the top 1/3rd of the core/starting players in the age group (house league) or team (prospect, development or select) that they are applying to.

2. If an age group is short of players and the age group below has too many players, the decision may be made to move players "up" to fill out the team (prospect, development or select).

3. If an age group has a large difference in skill level, younger players may be asked to play up an age group to create teams (prospect, development or select) that are more balanced in skill level.

4. If a player is in a school grade level above their age group and wants to play with their school friends. This will only be considered if this does not impact a "correct age" player to play at their correct level and if the players' age group team still has enough players to form their own age group team.

"Playing up" status is assessed from season to season. Player numbers in age groups, a player's development or LTPD considerations may mean that SYSA will ask a player to go back to their age group in a following season.

Please note that when filing a "playing up" application, the player will be assessed compared to other strong players in their age group. If there are other players in the age group who are at an equal or higher level, these players may also be considered for playing up, even if they did not file an application.

The technical staff can recommend a player to play up in an age group without an application being filed, if that would benefit the players development.

If you feel that any of the reasons above apply to your son or daughter, please contact technicaldirectorsysa@gmail.com