



Idaho Falls FC Play-Up Policy

Players may “play up” (i.e., play for a team in an age group that is older than the player’s designated age group) only with the prior approval of the IFFC Technical Staff (Executive Director and/or Director of Coaching and their designees as appropriate).

Responsibilities of Players Desiring to Play Up

Each year, players desiring to “play up” shall submit a request to the Executive Director and/or the Director of Coaching prior to tryouts, even if the player “played up” in the previous year. Decisions will be made from year to year; no player will be automatically “grandfathered.”

Players desiring to “play up” are required to attend all tryouts for their actual age group and for the requested “play up” age group. Exceptions to this Play Up policy may be made for high school aged players who may be “grandfathered” if they previously played up with an older age group.

Playing Up Determinations

After consultation with the coach(es) from each age group involved, the Technical Staff will make determinations regarding all playing-up requests based upon all relevant factors.

Guidelines

In making decisions regarding each playing-up request, the Technical Staff will consider the following guidelines:

1. When it is appropriate for soccer and social development, the opportunity for the exceptional player to play with older players may be approved. Occasionally, a player may have such ability that the best thing for that player is to play in a higher age group. In those cases, permission may be granted if it is determined that allowing the player to “play up” is necessary and/or appropriate to (i) expose the player to levels of competition commensurate with their skills, and (ii) provide the player with a challenging environment necessary to inspire the player to higher levels of play and thus enhance their development and passion for the game.

2. If a player's correct age group is unable to provide player with the training, coaching and/or competition that he or she needs, strong consideration will be given to allowing the player to play at the next higher age group.
3. If a player successfully played up last year, consideration will be given to allowing the player to stay with that age group. In addition, the Technical Staff may from time to time deem it necessary or appropriate to place player(s) in a higher age group in the best interest of the Club (for example, if the ability to form a team depends on relocating some players from one age group to another or a player on a waiting list can fill a vacancy on a higher age group team.) Ordinarily, however, no player will be required by the Club to play at a higher age group. In such cases, the decision will be reviewed from year to year with no presumption that the player is "grandfathered."
4. A player should be considered in the top 25 percent of the "play up" age group players to be eligible to "play up".
5. All "play up" decisions will be made in the sole discretion of IFFC Technical Staff. The best interests of the player, club, and individual teams will be considered when evaluating "play up" requests.

Generally, IFFC players are expected to play at their birth age group. "Playing up" is discouraged, particularly with respect to players who have not yet begun high school. It is ordinarily in the best interests of the club and the player if players play at their proper age group.