



Red River Soccer Club information regarding players “Playing Up”

Red River Soccer Club (RRSC) places players in age groups by birth date in the Premier and Competitive programs. The cut-off for each age group is July 31st. RRSC has agreed to allow **PREMIER and COMPETITIVE players** to "play up" in an older age group when it is beneficial to the player's soccer development. This is in accordance with recommendations of USSF. Players must try out, and be selected through the normal tryout/evaluation process unless a family is notified by the Director of Coaching. Players must also be aware that there is no guarantee that an open spot will remain with the age appropriate team, should the player fail to be selected for the older team. It is required that a player try out for his/her age appropriate team, even if he/she is considering playing up.

In most cases, it is in the player's best interest to play on an age appropriate team. Exceptions to this are when an age appropriate team is unable to provide the player with a sufficient environment in which to develop (i.e. the player is significantly ahead of his/her peers). Ultimately, the Director of Coaching, Coaching Staff/Evaluators, and the family members will make this judgment. All parties should carefully consider (1) the player's soccer development (technically and tactically), (2) personal development (psychologically) and (3) the likelihood for success.

In circumstances where more than one team exists in the age appropriate age group, the player should only consider "playing up" when he/she is ahead of the highest level players in his/her age group.

RRSC is dedicated to providing a training environment that is appropriate for each player. A decision to play up is one that should be made only after careful consideration by the Director of Coaching and Coaching Staff/Evaluators. The Director of Coaching will make the final recommendation to the parents on who should be playing up, taking into consideration the long term development of the player, over parent's wishes, team wishes, and any other factors. The player's technical, tactical, physical, and psychological ability and maturity are all factors that need to be considered. This cannot be a decision made without considering social ramifications in addition to soccer ramifications. While it can certainly be beneficial to the exceptional player, in most cases, ***playing within one's age group will be the appropriate choice***. This is a decision that should be reconsidered annually.