



Affiliate Player Process

Purpose:

This policy outlines the guidelines for the use of affiliate players—players who are registered with one team but may temporarily play with another team within the same club or league—to support player development and team sustainability while maintaining fairness and safety.

1. Definition of an Affiliate Player

An affiliate player is a registered player assigned to a primary team who may be temporarily permitted to participate in games or training sessions with another team, typically due to:

- Roster shortages
- Development opportunities
- Scheduling conflicts

2. Eligibility

- Players must be officially registered with the club or affiliated program.
- Only players in good standing (no disciplinary actions or injuries preventing play) may be used as affiliates.
- Age and division restrictions must be followed per governing body

3. Permitted Movement

- Affiliate movement is typically allowed within age categories or *upward* in age or competitive level (e.g., U12 player may play with U13, not vice versa).
- Affiliate movement should follow this list:
 - Stay within the program and age category (E.g. U12 Dev from U12 Dev)
 - Expand out one age category within the program (E.g. U12 Dev from U11 Dev)
 - Expand out programs within the same age category (E.g. U12 Dev from U12 Rec)
 - Expand out programs out one age category (E.g. U12 Dev from U11 Rec)
- Movement across teams must not weaken the affiliate's primary team during a scheduled match.
- Players may only play in a limited number of games per season as affiliates
 - no more than 20% of the season which is 4 weeks (E.g. 8 practices/internal games/1 tournament)
 - If the intent is to play the athlete more than 20%, players should be assessed at the beginning of the season, and they should be placed on an appropriate team for the duration of the season.

4. Approval Process

- Coach of the receiving team must make a formal request to the other coach through email, including the appropriate director for approval and transparency.
- Parents/guardians must consent to affiliate participation.
- All approved movements must be recorded and tracked by KSYSA.
- Affiliate Players do not need to pay additional registration fees unless they are attending a tournament and may be asked to pay their portion of the tournament fee.

5. Game Day Protocol

- Affiliate players must be clearly marked on the official game roster.
- Jerseys should be coordinated by Team Managers to avoid confusion with regular team members.
- Coaches must ensure affiliate players receive playing time appropriate to their development and not at the expense of regular team members unless roster numbers require it.

6. Development Focus

- Affiliate player opportunities should support the player's development and confidence, not just fill a roster spot.
- While on the team the affiliate player will have the same expectations as the development players and should expect similar playing time
 - Equal playing time in U10 and U12
 - Fair playing time (at least 30%) in U13+
- Coaches are encouraged to communicate with each other to assess the suitability and goals of the affiliate opportunity.

7. Disciplinary Actions

Failure to follow this policy may result in:

- Loss of affiliate privileges by the coach
- Forfeiture of matches
- Disciplinary review of the coach by the board

7. Process Review

- The development committee will review the list of affiliate players usage as required to ensure that the process is adequate. If needed, they will provide recommendations to the board to change the process.