



## Process for Parents Requesting Their Child to Play Outside Their Age Category

Soccer players typically play in age categories based on their birth year, but in some cases, parents may wish to request their child play outside their designated age category. This can be due to various reasons such as the child's skill level, physical maturity, or personal development needs. The process for making this request involves multiple steps and is designed to ensure fairness, player safety, and a positive playing experience for all involved.

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### 1. Understand the Guidelines

- **BC Soccer Rules and Regulations:**
  - <https://www.bcsoccer.net/media/2b0juta3/2024-rules-and-regulations-in-effect-august-1st-2024.pdf>
- **BC Soccer Playing Up and Down Policy:**
  - <https://www.bcsoccer.net/media/kcndmyb4/playingupanddownpolicy.pdf>

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### 2. Consult with the Club/Team Coach

- **Initial Discussion:** The first step should be discussing the request with the Division Director. This provides an opportunity to assess whether the player's skill level, maturity, and development needs are better suited for a higher or lower age group.
- **Feedback from Coach:** Coaches can offer valuable insights into the player's abilities, and they may either support the request or recommend alternative pathways, such as additional training or skill development within the current age group.

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### 3. Submit a Formal Request to the Club

- **Prepare a Written Request:** If the coach agrees that the player should be moved to a different age category, parents will need to submit a formal written request to the club's soccer administration. This request should include:
  - The child's name, date of birth, and current division or team.
  - The proposed age group the child wishes to play in and the reasons for the request (e.g., skill level, physical development).
  - A summary of any previous discussions with the coach or technical director.

- **Provide Supporting Documentation:** In some cases, the club may ask for additional documentation to support the request, such as a skills assessment, medical or physical assessments, or other relevant records.
  - **Submit to the Right Person:** Submit the request to the Registrar:  
ksysaregistrar@gmail.com
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#### 4. Club Review Process

- **Evaluation by Club Technical Staff:** The club will typically review the request in consultation with technical staff and other coaches. They will evaluate the player's abilities, physical development, and overall readiness for the requested age category.
  - **Consideration of Team Dynamics:** The club will also consider how moving the player could impact the dynamics of both the player's original team and the potential new team. In particular, they will assess whether the player would be a good fit in the higher or lower age group without disrupting team balance or player safety.
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#### 5. Approval from BC Soccer (if necessary)

- **Request for Permission:** In some cases, if the player is to be moved across age categories, the club may need to seek formal approval from BC Soccer or the relevant governing body (e.g., regional soccer association).
  - **Regional Approval:** Depending on the level of play (e.g., competitive, district, provincial), BC Soccer or the local regional governing body (KRSYA) may need to give final approval to the request.
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#### 6. Notification of Decision

- **Outcome Communication:** Once the review process is complete, the club will notify the parents and the player of the decision. This will include details on whether the request has been approved or denied, and if approved, the next steps to integrate the player into the new age group.
  - **Appeal Process (if applicable):** If the request is denied, parents may have the option to appeal the decision within the club or with BC Soccer, based on the club's policies.
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#### 7. Transition and Integration (if approved)

- **Player Assessment & Integration:** If the request is granted, the club will work with the player to ensure a smooth transition to the new team. This might involve:
    - A skills assessment to determine the player's readiness.
    - Possible additional coaching or training to prepare the player for their new age group.
    - Ongoing monitoring of the player's development and well-being.
  - **Communication with Coaches and Team:** The player and their family should be introduced to the new team and coaches, ensuring that everyone is aware of the transition.
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## 8. Review the Situation Regularly

- **Ongoing Monitoring:** After the player has been moved to the new age category, the club should continue to monitor the player's performance, development, and well-being. This ensures that the transition remains beneficial for the player's growth.
  - **Re-Evaluation:** Periodic check-ins with the coach and technical director will help determine if the new age group is still the best fit or if adjustments are needed.
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## Additional Considerations:

- **Player Safety and Well-being:** The safety of the player, especially in terms of physical maturity and potential injury risk, will always be a top priority in any decision made by the club.
  - **Fairness:** The process ensures fairness and consistency in the application of requests, ensuring that all players are given the opportunity to develop in a suitable environment while maintaining the integrity of team structures.
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By following this process, parents can ensure that their request for their child to play outside their age category is handled professionally, fairly, and with the best interests of the player in mind. It's important for parents to maintain open communication with the club throughout the process and ensure that they are fully informed of the decisions being made.