

		Under Age Player (for teams playing in U11 – U18 divisions)
Status: Active Policy Jan 2008		Revised: February 2010

Background:

The issue of “playing up” has been a topic of conversation and considerable discussion within the Club for many years. Our previous policies stated that in order for a player to “play up” at the **competitive** levels, they had to be evaluated as being in the top players in ability for the team they were selected. Over the last few years this policy has been loosely followed, understanding that rare circumstances may exist which require there to be some discretion to be taken by the Club in respect of the application of this policy. In creating the original policy we tried to strike a balance between the extremes (no playing up versus a completely open system). Although a policy of not allowing any players to “play-up” is easy to manage, we feel the majority of coaches; parents and players would prefer a system that allows players to “play-up” under specific conditions. In this regard, the February 2010 amendments are deemed to minor in nature and the principles behind the policy approved in January 2008 remain intact. Such principles include that it is the Club’s belief that players should play within their respective age groups and any decision on playing up will be focused on the player(s).

While the same principles remain as described above, decisions in respect to process involving under age players playing in U6-U10 divisions are set out in the Club’s U6-U10 policy.

In order for this policy to be successful it must be based on a clearly defined set of criteria that can be understood and communicated to all parents, players and coaches.

Policy:

- ❑ The Port Moody Soccer Club policy is that players will play within their respective age group in order to create equal opportunity for all members. **This does not preclude exceptions being granted to fill out a team roster or place players who may not otherwise have an opportunity to play, or due to competitive reasons where the Club Executive has approved the move of a team to a higher division.**
- ❑ Periodically, a player may be identified as being significantly ahead of their peers from a skill development and maturity perspective and would benefit from advanced opportunities available only in an older age group. There may be other circumstances that warrant consideration for playing at an older age group, but these are expected to be rare.
- ❑ The issue of “playing up” will be focussed on the benefits to the player (not the team). In determining what is best for the player, the “Under Age” Player Committee will make the final determination to allow an **“exception”**.
- ❑ For U11 thru U18 age players, unless an **exception** is being requested, all players are required to try-out and play “in-age” for each age group division. **The Club will generally only grant exceptions for teams playing at the highest level offered.** The highest level offered at U11 and U12 is Select; U13 is Gold; U14 thru U18 is Select (or Gold if Select is not offered).
- ❑ A Port Moody Soccer Club coach who is approached by an “Under Age” player or their parent/guardian to try out for their team must advise the player and their parent/guardian of our process, and refer them to “Under Age Player U11- U18” policy found on our website, or have a copy of the policy available at tryouts.

Process:

1. A **Committee** charged with making recommendations on exceptions will be formed by March 15th of each season to review these requests. The Committee will consist of three members and will include the Vice President, Director or delegate from both the Boy’s and Girl’s Divisions, and the High Performance Director or delegate.
2. Any players seeking an **exception** must be identified at the start of the tryout and the independent assessors assigned to the tryout must be informed so that they are able to adequately assess the player’s skill level. Such players are encouraged to communicate their intention by pre-registering for tryouts so tryout assessors are aware.
3. All requests to select an under age player **exception** must be made via email or letter by the Coach, and sent to the attention of the respective Vice President (Boys / Girls) within one week of the conclusion of the tryout. This request should include information on the skill and maturity of the player, confirmation that both the Coach and the Club’s independent assessors agree that the player should be considered for an **exception**, confirmation that the Player’s parent or guardian is aware of the request and any other factors that should be considered.
4. The player must have played for one full year at the highest level offered within our Club or an equivalent program (as determined by the Committee); and / or the player must have been training for one session with the Port Moody High Performance Program or an equivalent program (as determined by the Committee).
5. “Under Age” exceptions must be evaluated and ranked in the Top 4 players on the team for U13 thru U18 and in the Top 3 players for U11 and U12.

		Under Age Player (for teams playing in U11 – U18 divisions)
Status: Active Policy Jan 2008		Revised: February 2010

6. Notwithstanding points 4 and 5 above, there may be other considerations for the Committee to consider in the review of the playing up request. Such additional considerations may include social and physical maturity, player history and other intangible factors. The Club expects the criteria in Points 4 and 5 to carry more weighting in the assessment and approval of Under Age Player requests. Approvals of Underage Player requests where the criteria set out in Point 5 are not met are expected to be rare.
7. **Approval of an “Under Age” exception will be made within one week of receiving the request. The coach and Parent will be advised of all decisions in writing. All “exceptions” are valid for only one season.**
8. If approval is granted, the Coaches(s) at the player’s proper age group will be notified by the appropriate Vice President.

Exceptions – an exception to playing “in-age” may be offered to a player who has demonstrated the highest level of soccer skill and maturity and approved by the “Under Age” Committee.

Committee – group made up of the appropriate Vice President, Director or delegate from both the Boy’s and Girl’s Divisions, and High Performance Director or delegate.