



Atlanta Fire United Soccer Association

Policy Number: S003 [5/19/21]

Policy Name: Playing Up

Recreational Soccer:

AFU players should play with their appropriate age group (based on birth year) and will not be allowed to play out of their age group except when evaluated and approved by the Club's Director of Recreational Soccer.

All play-ups must be approved in advance by the Club's Director of Recreational Soccer.

Academy & Select Soccer:

AFU players should play with their appropriate age group (based on birth year) and will not be allowed to play out of their age group except in the following scenarios:

1. Graduation Based

- a. When playing up would allow a player to play with his or her school year (graduating class).
 - i. These players have typically skipped a grade in the school system.

2. Performance Based

- a. When playing up provides the appropriate environment for a player's mental, physical, technical and tactical development.
 - i. These players are already playing on the top team within their appropriate age group
 - ii. These players are significantly above the level of any other player in their appropriate age group
 - iii. These players must be an impact/key player on the team they play up to
 1. Impact/Key Player – is a player whose ability significantly impacts the accomplishment of the team in games. Typically, this is a player who is amongst the best of players on the team, between 80th - 100th percentile on the team.

3. Need Based

- a. When there is not enough space in the player's appropriate age group and/or there is a shortage of players in an older age group.
 - i. These players are typically added late (i.e., at mid-season tryouts) but there are no available roster spots in their appropriate age group.
 - ii. These players are typically placed on second level teams (or lower) in the age group they are playing up to.
- b. When there is a need to fill a specific position in an older age group.

All play-ups must be approved in advance by the Club's Executive Director of Coaching.