

NORTH PLATTE UNITED SOCCER CLUB
TOURNAMENT PLAY UP RISK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

The North Platte United Soccer Club encourages all players to challenge themselves in practice and on the field in order to improve their individual soccer skills, which in turn will help them contribute in a positive manner to their respective team. As part of this effort, a player may desire to “play up” on a team with older players or have the opportunity to play in a tournament against teams that field older players. Playing up is a recognized and acceptable practice by the national and state soccer organizations. However, when a player elects to compete against older players, it is important for the player, and the player’s parent(s) or guardian(s), to be knowledgeable of, and recognize that there are some increased risks.

Several new US Youth Soccer requirements, recommendations, and guidelines have been recently issued that are based, in part, on the increased identification of potential health risks in youth sports due to younger players playing against older players. The club has to follow new requirements where mandated and to incorporate and adjust club policies and guidelines based on the recommendations and guidelines of the national and state governing bodies over the sport.

In the effort to increase awareness of this issue, as of May 9, 2017, the required use of this form was accepted and adopted by the North Platte United Soccer Club that a club player and their parent(s) and / or guardian(s) to carefully consider the potential increased risk to a player’s health and playing time by playing on an older calendar year age group team or participating in a practice or tournament game setting against a team with older players. The North Platte United Soccer Club is in the process of updating the Club Constitution and Bylaws to limit players with calendar year age birthdates of 2008 or older to only being able to “play up” one year on a club team with the exception of tournaments where playing up **two years older or more** would be allowed with parent or guardian approval. If a player wants to play on a club team that is **two years older or more** than their calendar year age in a tournament setting, it is now required by the North Platte United Soccer Club that player’s parent(s) and / or guardian(s) clearly identify to the North Platte United Soccer Club whether or not they accept these risk factors.

To identify the player and their parent(s) or guardian’s position on this issue, the “Tournament Play Up Risk Acknowledgement Form” must be:

1. Completed and filled out in full by the parent(s) and / or guardian(s) for the listed player that identifies whether they are acceptable with having their player play up on a North Platte United club team that is **two years older or more** than the birth year of the player or to have their player practice or play in a tournament setting that fields teams with players that have calendar year birthdates **two years older or more**.
2. Signed and dated by the player’s parent or legal guardian.
3. The original of the “Tournament Year Play Up Risk Acknowledgment Form” shall be hand delivered to the Club’s Secretary or Coaching Director a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the player participating in the first listed tournament on the form.

4. No player desiring to play up on a club team two years older or more in a tournament setting shall be allowed to participate in club team game or tournament settings without this form properly signed and on file in the club's records.

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PLAYER'S NAME (type or print): _____

PLAYER'S DATE OF BIRTH (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

I, _____ (player's parent), in consideration for my child's voluntary participation in organized soccer, do hereby willfully acknowledge that my signature below attests to my understanding and agreement that my child's practicing or playing up on a team with an older calendar age group **OR** against a team with older calendar year age group players as defined by US Youth Soccer could:

- Pose an increased risk of injury to the player's due to practicing or playing with, and against, older players who may be bigger, faster, stronger, and more skilled, specifically, an increased risk of head injury, concussion, fractures, sprains, neck and spinal injuries and strains, and ligament and tendon injuries and
- Result in potentially less playing time in game settings compared to older players on the team who may be bigger, faster, stronger, and more skilled.

Soccer is a physical, contact, sport that involves the risk of injury. I assume all risks and hazards associated with my child's participation in the sport and due to playing on or against a team in either practice or a game setting that fields players who are older than my child's birth year age group. My child is in proper physical condition to participate in soccer practices and games against players who are at an older age group level and has no illness, disease or existing injury or physical defect that would be aggravated by my child's participation. I will promptly inform my child's coach if this status changes. I further acknowledge that this risk may involve loss or damage to me or my property, including the risk of death, or other unforeseen consequences, including those which may be due to the unavailability of immediate emergency medical care. I have a current medical consent form on file with the team coach. I will ensure my child wears shin guards, properly-fitted and appropriate shoes, and other protective equipment (e.g., mouth-pieces), as required by recognized soccer rules, to all practice or game events.

I HAVE DISCUSSED THESE RISKS WITH MY CHILD AND HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THESE RISKS WITH PHYSICIANS, COACHES AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS OF MY CHOOSING. I UNDERSTAND IT IS IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS THESE RISKS WITH MY CHILD.

The club does not have personal injury insurance that covers my participation. Therefore, I should have a current, active, personal injury insurance policy in force, which covers my participation. Under any condition, I am responsible for any and all medical expenses arising from my participation, both in

practices and games and while travelling to and from these events. I have the right and responsibility to inspect the equipment and facilities prior to events and, if I believe that anything may be unsafe, I will advise the coach or referee of the game of the condition and may refuse to participate. Participation assumes consent.

I authorize that an unaltered signed copy of this form will be generated and maintained in the North Platte United Club's records to document that I have been informed of the potential increased risk to health and playing time by choosing to practice and / or play on or against a team that is in an older age group than my child's birth year age group.

I hereby release, waive liability, discharge, hold harmless, indemnify, and covenant not to sue, Nebraska State Soccer, the North Platte United Soccer club, and their associated directors, administrators, officers, managers, employees, coaches, trainers, volunteers, sponsors and advertisers, and other agents, estates or executors, from any and all liability incurred in the conduct of, and my child's participation in, their soccer programs. This includes owners, lessors, and lessees of premises, municipalities, government agencies, successors, heirs, and assigns.

I have completely read this document and fully understand its contents. I acknowledge that I have given up substantial rights, on my and my child's behalf, by accepting the terms and conditions contained within this document and that I do so voluntarily. My signature attests to this on behalf of myself, my child, and my executors, personal representatives, administrators, heirs, next-of-kin, successors, and assigns.

North Platte United Club Team that the Player Will Be Playing Up On:

Name of Tournament(s) the Player Desires to Be Playing Up **Two Years Older or More**:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Parent or Guardian Name (PRINT)

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date Signed