



Harbor Premier – Play-Up Policy

At Harbor Premier, our goal is to place every player in the environment where they will learn, grow, and enjoy the game the most. Most players remain in their **natural age group**, but occasionally a player may be considered to “play up” with an older age group if it truly benefits their development.

Below is our parent-friendly outline of how the club approaches play-up decisions.

Why Playing Up Is Rare

We want every player to be:

- challenged,
- confident,
- safe, and
- developing properly for their long-term future.

Playing up is only approved when it supports these goals.

What the Club Looks For

To be considered for an older age group, a player must consistently show:

1. Strong Soccer Ability

They are one of the top performers in their current age group.

2. Game Understanding

They can handle the tactical expectations of the older age group.

3. Physical Readiness

They can safely compete with older, bigger, faster players.

4. Emotional Maturity

They can handle pressure, coaching, feedback, and competitive environments.

5. Commitment & Attitude

They show excellent effort, attendance, behavior, and sportsmanship.

What Will Not Be Approved

Play-up requests will not be approved for reasons such as:

- Playing with friends
- Convenience or scheduling
- Parent preference
- Carpooling

Our decisions always prioritize the *player's long-term development*.

How the Process Works

Step 1 – Parent communicate with Age Group Director & DOC

Parents must notify the Age Group Director and the DOC of any desire for their child to play up **before tryouts begin**. This ensures we can schedule proper evaluations and support an informed decision.

Step 2 – Club Evaluation

The DOC and Age Group Director will assess:

- Training sessions
- Game play
- Physical readiness
- Emotional maturity
- Or we will make sure two directors assess your child at tryouts

Step 3 – Final Decision

The Director team will make the final decision.

We may approve:

- Full-time play-up
- Training-up with potential guest playing opportunities
- Training-up only
- Not yet ready, with feedback on next steps

Step 4 – Seasonal Review

Play-up placements are *not permanent*.

We re-evaluate:

- Summer
- Fall
- Winter/Spring

If the player's needs change, they may need to return to their natural age group.

Important Note About Playing Time

Even when a player is approved to play up:

- **Playing time is never guaranteed**, especially in competitive events such as State Cup.
- Playing up means higher competition and more earned minutes—not equal minutes.

Our Promise

We will always act in the best interest of the child's development—physically, emotionally, and competitively—while maintaining fairness and integrity within all Harbor Premier age groups.

The Director team

keving@harborsoccerclub.com - Junior Academy Director U7 & U8

danh@harborsoccerclub.com - Learn-to-play phase Director U8 - U11 RCL

ozerk@harborsoccerclub.com - Learn-to-compete phase Director - U12-U14 RCL & Interim U15

adoc@harborsoccerclub.com - Compete Phase Girls U16-U19 Interim

doc@harborsoccerclub.com - Compete Phase Boys U16-U19 Interim

jordanh@harborsoccerclub.com - Goalkeeper Director

brianh@harborsoccerclub.com - Spring Development Program Director