



Bonnyville Soccer Association

Player Transition Guidelines

Bonnyville Soccer Association (BSA) believes players and teams develop better when players play in their proper age group. Historically, players that have moved up an age level have seen only marginal benefits to their development, but the club has seen detrimental effects overall due to fielding weaker teams. While playing up an age level may help in development in some players, BSA sees greater development by players practicing and playing more. The following strategies are encouraged club-wide as an alternative for moving players up:

- Maximize guest players rules, as coaches allow
 - Players are permitted to play as a guest player for up to two league games
 - Players are permitted to play an unlimited number of games as a guest player for sanctioned out-of-district tournaments
 - If the player's original team and affiliate team are entered in the same tournament, the player can not play for both. The coaches of both teams should discuss what is best for the player and the teams.
- Practice with a higher age group, as coaches allow
- Players aged 16 and up can be involved in adult programming
 - Players aged 16 and up are permitted to register and compete in both youth and senior provincials

BSA recognizes that move-ups will still be requested or required. The following guidelines will be followed:

Requests to move up an age level

- Players must register in their appropriate age group
- Players cannot transition to a lower age group. Exceptions may be made at the mini-level with approval from the BSA Executive.
- Requests are to be made in the provided comments section on the registration form. A detailed reason for the request must be given.
- Requests will **not** be considered if:
 - The team the player requests to transition from will not have sufficient registrations to continue if the player moves up

- The team the player requests to transition does not have sufficient room on the roster for the player to be given regular playing time.
- The player is requesting to move up two birth years or greater. Exceptions may be made at the mini-level.
- Transitions from within the mini program (U5-U11) will be at the discretion of the mini-director:
 - The technical team may run evaluations if deemed necessary by the min-director and technical director(s)
- Transitions involving youth teams (U13+):
 - Must meet all of the above criteria
 - The Technical Director(s) (or designate) will make a recommendation in writing to the BSA Executive for final approval.
 - The BSA Executive may request a technical assessment be performed.
 - Assessment of the players will be done by a committee of three. One of the three must be technical staff. The assessment will cover maturity, mental ability, physical ability, and skill comparison to other players on current team as well as proposed team.
- Requests made during the season must be made no later than 7 days prior to the district roster deadline

BSA needing to move players up an age level

- Often one or more players will need to move up an age group to make teams in both age groups viable. The following guidelines will be followed:
 - The Youth Director, with guidance from the technical team, will notify all the second-year players that move-ups are required.
 - All second-year players that are interested in moving up will notify the Youth Director
 - After consultation with the head coaches of the teams involved, the Technical Director(s) (or designate) will make a recommendation in writing to the BSA Executive for final approval.
 - The BSA Executive may request a technical assessment be performed.
 - Assessment of the players will be done by a committee of three. One of the three must be technical staff. The assessment will cover maturity, mental ability, physical ability, and skill comparison to other players on current team as well as proposed team. Move-ups necessary to keep teams viable during the season must be completed by the district roster deadline