



## Edmonton Ultimate Players Association

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# Edmonton Ultimate Players Association (EUPA)

## Youth Aged Player Policy

Adapted from the Ultimate Canada Junior Aged Player Policy (2017) for the purposes of the Edmonton Ultimate Players Association (EUPA).

In order to support the principles of Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD), Ultimate Canada believes that athletes should participate in programs that are developmentally appropriate. For junior-aged players, this typically means participation in junior divisions.

As a result, under-aged players are not automatically eligible to compete in any EUPA division above the prescribed minimum age. While we recognize that this policy will not impact the vast majority of under-aged athletes, we also acknowledge that there may be exceptional situations where it may be in the athlete's best interest to move up early and compete in an adult division.

In such cases, an exception process has been developed that involves consultation with the player, the player's parents or guardians, and the EUPA Juniors Committee. This ensures that the advantages and disadvantages are discussed and that an informed decision can be made.

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## Guiding Principles

The following principles guide this policy:

- a) The **best interests of the athlete** should be the primary consideration.
  - b) The **integrity of the program** for which the player is applying should be maintained.
  - c) Not all athletes are ready to move up early, but **some may be prepared** for the challenge.
  - d) When players apply to move up early, **an informed decision** should be made with input from the player, the player's parents/guardians, and the Juniors Committee so that all parties understand the expectations and responsibilities.
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# Exception Process

For under-aged players seeking to participate in an adult division, the following exception process applies. An **under-aged player** is defined as any player who is younger than the listed minimum age for the EUPA program (typically 18 years of age) at the start date of the program.

## Step 1

The player (or their parent/guardian) must complete the designated [Google Form](#) expressing interest in participating in an adult division.

## Step 2

The **Program Coordinator**, along with the **Youth Committee Chair and Committee members**, will review the submitted information. A recommendation from a coach is strongly encouraged to support the application.

## Step 3

After reviewing the submission, the **Program Coordinator and/or Youth Committee Chair** may contact the applicant for additional questions, clarification, or further discussion.

## Step 4

Once all necessary information has been reviewed, the **Program Coordinator and/or Youth Committee Chair** will respond to the guardian of the under-aged athlete with a decision within **2–3 business days**.

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# Factors to Consider for Youth Athletes Playing in an Adult Division

The following factors may be considered when evaluating a request.

## Competitive Options

- What competitive options are available to the athlete?
- Is there a **local junior league or program** available for the athlete to participate in?

## Skill Development Opportunities

- Will the athlete have opportunities to **develop their skills and meaningfully contribute to the game**?
- Will the athlete have opportunities to **try new things and learn from mistakes**?
- What **leadership opportunities** exist in each program?
- Has the athlete previously had opportunities to **take on leadership roles** in youth programs?
- What are the differences in **coaching support** between the programs (if applicable)?

### **Other Considerations**

- **Social considerations:** What are the social dynamics of playing in an adult division? Will the athlete have peers within the program?

### **Athlete Readiness**

- Is the athlete **physically and competitively ready** to participate in an adult division?
- Has the athlete previously competed in a **competitive senior event**?
- Is the athlete **socially and emotionally prepared** to interact and compete with adult players?