



EUPA Youth Aged Player Policy

The following has been 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 be involved in programs that are developmentally appropriate. For junior-aged players, this is the junior division.

As a result, under-aged players are not automatically eligible to compete in any EUPA division above the prescribed age. While we recognize that this policy will not impact the vast majority of under-aged athletes, we also recognize that there are some exceptional situations where it may be in the best interest of the athlete to move up early and compete in a senior division. In such cases, an exception process has been developed that involves consulting with the player, the player's parents, and Juniors committee so that the advantages and disadvantages are discussed and an informed decision can be made.

Guiding principles for the policy

- (a) The best interests of the athlete should be the primary concern;
- (b) The integrity of the program for which the player is applying should be maintained;
- (c) Not all athletes are ready to move up, but some are;
- (d) An informed decision should be made when players apply to move up early. The player, the player's parents, and the juniors committee are all aware of issues and responsibilities.

Exception process

For under-aged players seeking to play in the adult division, the exception process is listed below. Under-aged players are defined as any player who is younger than the listed minimum

age for the EUPA program (typically 18 years of age or younger) at the start date of the program.

Step 1. The player will contact the EUPA Juniors Program at juniors@eupa.ca regarding his/her interest in competing in a senior division. Include a parent or guardian e-mail address.

Step 2. The EUPA Juniors Program Chair will distribute the EUPA document “Factors to consider for a youth athlete playing in an adult division” to the:

- A) Athlete
- B) Athlete’s parent(s) or guardian

Each of the questions in the document should be answered in detail by the Athlete and the Athlete’s coach or reference. The completed documents will be signed by the Athlete’s parent(s) or guardian and forwarded to EUPA Juniors Program at juniors@eupa.ca

Step 3. Representative(s) from EUPA Juniors committee will review the documents. The representative(s) may have additional questions, points for clarification or points for consideration. Representatives from the EUPA Juniors committee will pass along the vetted application with a recommendation to the EUPA Board of Directors for final approval.

Step 4. Athlete and parent(s) or guardian signs a release.

EUPA - Factors to consider for a youth athlete playing in a senior division

The following has been adapted from the Ultimate Canada Factors to Consider for a Junior Athlete Playing in an Adult Division (2017), for the purposes of the Edmonton Ultimate Players Association (EUPA).

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parents, the player’s coach or reference, and juniors committee so that the advantages and disadvantages are discussed and an informed decision can be made.

As part of this consultation process, EUPA requires that the following document that outlines important considerations in making an informed decision is reviewed and the questions answered in detail.

Considerations

Competitive Options

- What are the available options? Is there a local junior league/program available for the athlete to play on? If there is only one option available, then the “comparison” sections can be skipped.

Comparison: Skill Development Opportunity

- Will the athlete have the opportunity to grow as a player and have an impact on the game? Will the athlete have an opportunity to try new things and make mistakes?
- What are the differences in leadership opportunities that the athlete will have? Has the athlete had the opportunity to be a leader in past programs?
- What are the differences in coaching support in each program (if applicable)?

Comparison: Other Factors

- Social considerations. What are the different social considerations for playing in a senior division? Will the athlete have peers in the program?
- Will the program have to adjust its events to include the under-aged-eligible athlete?

Considerations: Athlete Readiness

- Is the athlete ready to compete in a senior division? Has the athlete competed in a competitive senior event before?
- Is the athlete socially and emotionally ready to interact with and compete with those in a senior division?
- Considerations: Additional comments
- Please include any additional information for comments for consideration.