



## Player Fluidity Between Programs

Players who have indicated interest in playing at the AAA/AA level will be allowed to trial with the AAA/AA group for a two-week period. During this trial players and parents will be provided with the recommendation of where the most suitable and appropriate level is for their child. This will be determined by a variety of factors including individual development plan, most appropriate environment for where the child is currently at (this includes technically, mentally, physically, and socially), and roster size. Some players may be registered at A/AA but train and play with the AA/AAA squad to allow for movement between the two groups as the league policy does not allow players signed at AA/AAA to move downwards based on their individual needs after the initial league roster has been submitted. Again, players in this situation will be communicated with appropriately.

We're dedicated as a club to improving the fluidity and flexibility between programs so players that are assigned to A/AA who individually show that there is a benefit to being included in the AA/AAA environment based on an individual schedule will be provided with so. There will be opportunity for players that are A/AA to train and play at AA/AAA when appropriate. This will be communicated with those players through the coaches and staff of the club.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the purpose of having players registered at a lower level and being fluid between groups?**

Halifax City Soccer Club recognizes that player development is a non-linear experience. There are many players who need a fluid and flexible environment between different levels of competition to aid in their individual experience and development as soccer players and children participating in sport. Allowing players to move between different levels when appropriate allows them to have a more deliberate experience based on their individual needs and increases the amount of time/minutes that all players between both programs receive in a game environment.

We also recognize that there is a variety of different levels and motivations for players playing at the A/B level which is why simply removing players from the AA level who could benefit from participation in those environments is also not appropriate, however we do need to still manage the size of the squads to ensure a positive experience for all.

### **My child has been communicated to that they will be registered at the A level but train and play at AA as well what can I expect?**

Your child will receive an individual schedule for training that will include contacts with both the A/AA and AA/AAA programs based on where they fall within the scope of the player pool as well as consideration around what is best for them as an individual in managing the numbers between the groups. An example would be player X trains twice a week, one time with the A/AA program, one time with the AA/AAA program, and then the option of attending the second AA/AAA session that week.

### **What will this look like for participation in games?**

The games will again be included within your child individual schedule. There will be some flexibility since we know players will sometimes be missing through injury, vacation, or sickness. For example, if there are four AA games in May and 4 A games in May, your child may play three games with the AA team and one game with the A team. Depending on numbers there may be weeks where your child is



asked to play in both the AA and a program getting more opportunity and minutes than if they were just registered for one group.

**My child team has a player pool of 24 players including the players that are playing between AA and A. Does this mean there will be 24 players at every game? Will this impact the playing time of all players in the group because they'll be getting less due to the numbers?**

Through the individual scheduling and planning for the matches the players that are participating with both programs will be rotated in the matchday squads. We will not dress more than 18 to 20 players for a match to ensure that all players participating in that match receive adequate game time. Players who are part of the group that is fluid between both programs are encouraged to attend matches if they are available and not named in the matchday squad to still be a part of the group when available.

**My child has return to Halifax City after taking the Winter/Summer off. What can we expect?**

If your child has not participated in the previous season, then they will be allowed to register at their desired level. They will then go through the player trial process to identify the most appropriate level for them to participate in within the club. Players that are returning will not displace any players who are currently registered and recommended to continue at the AA/AAA level based on the previous season. Please see the scenarios below for further clarification if your child falls into one of these categories. players who return after taking more than one full year away from the club will be treated as transfer players and the information for those situations are outlined in the next FAQ.

**Example 1: Player A is a recreational level player returning to club participation** - player A will start with HCSC's recreational program.

**Example 2: Player B is a returning player who was previously given a recommendation at the AA level but has not participated in the previous season** - Player B will be allowed to go through the player trial process with the desired level and then be given a new recommendation based on what is most appropriate for their individual development in consideration with program numbers and number of players already committed and registered to the AA program

**Example 3: Player C is a returning player who would benefit from both the AA and A programs moving from another club to HCSC** - Player C will train with both the AA and A program and the club will communicate and provide a schedule based on their individual needs and what is best appropriate for their development. Player C will begin playing matches with the A program unless there is space in the AA program without displacing any of HCSC's current AA players.

**Example 4: Player D is a returning player who the AA environment is most appropriate for, and they would not be displacing any players currently registered at AA with the club** - Player D will be initially registered at the A level and train and play at the AA level with the potential to play additional A games to get more minutes in a match environment. If the club feels there is little benefit for this player to play in the A program, this will be communicated to the player, and they will be registered at the AA level prior to the registration deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Example 5: Player E is a returning player who the AA environment is most appropriate for however the club has already committed to a full match squad roster at AA** - This is highly unlikely at our club as all our U13+ programs have players part of a player pool that is registered at a and trains or plays up at the AA/AAA level. If this unlikely scenario were to occur Player E would begin in the A program and train with the AA program until deemed appropriate by the club to move them permanently to the AA program without displacing a player who has been registered at AA.



### **My child has joined Halifax City moving from another club (Transfer Players). What can we expect?**

Halifax city soccer club is committed to not displacing any players from their appropriate environment within the club due to incoming players from outside the organization. We are very consistent with this process and your child may end up starting with the A/AA program or as part of the fluid group between both A/AA and AA/AAA. We will then through the trial process find the most appropriate spot for those players to start that does not displace any of the current players in any program. They will then have the ability to move between groups just as any other player within the club would be able to, based on their individual needs.

**Example 1: Player A is a recreational level player moving from another club to HCSC** - player X will start with HCSC's recreational program.

**Example 2: Player B is a player who would benefit from both the AA and A programs moving from another club to HCSC** - Player B will train with both the AA and A program and the club will communicate and provide a schedule based on their individual needs and what is best appropriate for their development. Player B will begin playing matches with the A program unless there is space in the AA program without displacing any of HCSC's current AA players.

**Example 3: Player C is a player who the AA environment is most appropriate for, and they would not be displacing any players currently registered at AA with the club** - Player C will be initially registered at the A level and train and play at the AA level with the potential to play additional A games to get more minutes in a match environment. If the club feels there is little benefit for this player to play in the A program, this will be communicated to the player, and they will be registered at the AA level prior to the registration deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Example 4: Player D is a player who the AA environment is most appropriate for however the club has already committed to a full match squad roster at AA** - This is highly unlikely at our club as all of our U13+ programs have players part of a player pool that is registered at a and trains or plays up at the AA/AAA level. If this unlikely scenario were to occur Player D would begin in the A program and train with the AA program until deemed appropriate by the club to move them permanently to the AA program without displacing a player who has been registered at AA.

### **For simplicity, the priority chain is as followed:**

1. Players who are registered and recommended for AA/AAA from the previous season
2. Returning Halifax City players where the AA/AAA environment is most appropriate without displacing any players from priority chain above.
3. Transfer players where the environment is most appropriate without displacing any players from the priority chain points 1 and 2.

### **My child nor I have received further communication about what their individual program will look like. When will we receive it?**

We have many players through many different age groups going through this process, please bear with us as we look to get those schedules sorted in a timely manner. All players should have and understanding of where they fall within the player pool and an individual schedule moving forward for those who require it by the end of the first month of programming.





**My child and I are confused and have further questions after receiving our individual Communication and schedule or about the process. Who should I contact?**

Please send an email to myself and/or Andrew MacRae at the following contacts below with any questions or concerns, or to set up a time to discuss.

[Kieran.collins@halifaxcitysc.ca](mailto:Kieran.collins@halifaxcitysc.ca)

[Andrew.MacRae@halifaxcitysc.ca](mailto:Andrew.MacRae@halifaxcitysc.ca)