



Lethbridge Soccer Association LFC Program 'Playing Up' Policy



In Partnership with Vancouver Whitecaps Football Club

Lethbridge Soccer Association - Playing-Up Policy

Introduction:

The Lethbridge Soccer Association (LSA) and Lethbridge Football Club (LFC) is committed to fostering the growth and development of youth soccer players while providing a safe and enjoyable environment for all participants. The "Playing-Up Policy" is established to address cases where players may exhibit exceptional skills and maturity, allowing them to compete in higher age groups. This policy aims to strike a balance between individual player development and maintaining the integrity of age-appropriate competition.

Eligibility and Factors for Consideration:

- a. Age Group Difference: Players seeking to play up must be at least one year younger than the age group they intend to join.
- b. Skill Assessment: The decision to allow a player to play up will be based on a comprehensive assessment of the player's technical skills, tactical understanding, physical attributes, and emotional maturity.

Criteria for Playing Up:

- a. Skill Level: Players must display a skill level significantly above their current age group's standards to contribute positively to the desired age group.
- b. Emotional and Social Maturity: Players should demonstrate emotional resilience, strong communication skills, and the ability to integrate well with older teammates.
- c. Physical Readiness: Players must exhibit physical attributes appropriate for competing safely and effectively in the desired age group.
- d. Parent/Guardian Consent: Consent from the player's parent or guardian is required for consideration to play up.

Evaluation Process:

- a. LFC Staff Assessment: The Technical Director, LFC Director or LFC Developmental Lead Coaches will conduct a thorough evaluation, considering the factors outlined in the policy.
- b. LFC Coaches Recommendation: The players current LFC coach can request the LFC Staff to carry out an assessment on the player to see whether they fit the assessment guidelines.

Decision-Making Process:

- a. Collective Decision: The final decision to allow a player to play up will be made by the Technical Director, the team coaches will be kept updated on the situation throughout.
- b. Player's Best Interests: The primary consideration will be the player's development and overall well-being.

Monitoring and Review:

- a. Regular Assessment: Players playing up will undergo periodic assessments to ensure that their development remains on track and that they are adapting well to the new environment.
- b. Seasonly Review: The player's situation will be reviewed annually to determine if playing up continues to be beneficial or requires adjustments.

Communication:

- a. Transparent Communication: All decisions regarding playing up requests will be communicated transparently to the player, parents/guardians, coaches, and relevant team members.
- b. Feedback Mechanism: Parents and coaches are encouraged to maintain open communication to discuss the player's progress and any concerns that may arise.

Exceptional Circumstances:

In rare cases where a player exhibits extraordinary skills and maturity beyond the stated criteria, exceptions to the policy may be considered.

Conclusion:

The Lethbridge Soccer Association's "Playing-Up Policy" seeks to provide opportunities for talented players to advance their skills and challenge themselves in higher age groups. Decisions will be made with careful consideration of the player's development, safety, and overall growth, while preserving the spirit of fair competition within youth soccer.