**Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association**

**Playing Up and Down Policy**

**Policy Statement**

The Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association (NLSA) wants to ensure that environment is created that allows individual players to be placed in an environment that is best suited to them and their development. The NLSA strives to allow players to play in the most suitable age group for their individual development (technical, tactical, social, emotional, psychological) and promote a positive soccer experience.

**Purpose**

To ensure NLSA and NLSA members have effective processes in place to allow for appropriate playing up and/or down to promote appropriate player development.

**Standards**

The NLSA rules and regulations governing the registration of players includes the following:

* Players may not register in an age group that is lower than the age attained by January 1st of the season ending.
* Players are not restricted to registering in an age group higher than the age attained by January 1st of the season ending.
* Players can play down an age group under the following circumstance:

o A player that is physically or cognitively challenged/disabled and unable to positively participate at their designated chronological age group.

o A player that does not have a playing environment available in their designated chronological age group.

o A player whose current stage of player development is deemed below their designated chronological age group.

* Players can play up an age group under the following circumstances:

o A player does not have a playing environment available to them at their designated chronological age group.

o The players current stage of development is deemed above their designated chronological age group.

Entire teams are not permitted to play in any program/division/league that is an age category higher or lower than the age category determined by the birthdate of the team’s players.

The designated club technical director/lead must have on file a completed NLSA Soccer Playing Up and Down Form.

Where a player plays down, that player cannot participate in any Provincial Cup competition outside of their chronological age group. Players playing down, if called back into their chronological age group, can only be called into (guest players) divisions below the designated first tier. Exemptions may be granted if the club only has one team in the player’s chronological age group.

The NLSA can request that a player play up in their NLSA member environment based on their current stage of development in NLSA programming.

**Definitions**

* Chronological age group: a set period that groups played together based on their birth year and/or birth month.
* Stage of player development: the level of a player’s ability, including technical, tactical, physical, and social/emotional attributes to play the game.
* Playing down: whereby a player is deemed suitable to play in a chronological age group below their own designated chronological age group.
* Playing up: whereby a player is deemed suitable to play in a chronological age group above their own designated chronological age group.

Disability – according to the traditional, bio-medical approach, disability is viewed as a medical or health problem that prevents or reduces a person’s ability to participate fully in society. In contrast, the social approach views disability as a natural part of society, where attitudes, stigma, and prejudices present barriers to people with disabilities, and prevent or hinder their participation in mainstream society. (Reference – Canada Employment Social Development/Programs - Disability Guide)

**Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association**

**Playing Up and Down Form**

**Player Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Date of Birth: |  |
| Gender: |  |
| Club Name: |  |
| Team Name: |  |
| Contact Information |  |

**Club Technical Director/Lead Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Position: |  |
| Club Name: |  |
| Contact Information: |  |

**Rationale to Play Up/Down**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Request to play Up or Down: |  |
| Applicable Criteria: |  |
| Action Plan to have Player Reinstated into Chronological Age Group: |  |
| Comments: |  |
| Medical Information (if applicable): |  |

Please send the completed form via email to the NLSA Technical Department.

Contact Email: adam.mooi@nlsa.ca