

Catarauqui Clippers Soccer Club
Playing-Up Policy for Representative Competitive Teams

This Policy applies to players who desire to “play-up” on a regular basis with a team roster. It is different than the club’s “call-up” policy. Playing-up occurs when a player plays on a team, on a regular basis, in an age group older than the age group he or she would normally be in as determined by date of birth.

The Catarauqui Clippers Soccer Club, for the benefit of players, teams and the club strongly encourages players to play at the age level for which they qualify. The club also recognizes that in certain cases, due to the exceptional ability and skill level of a specific player, a “play-up” situation may be in the best interest of that player. As a general rule players in young age groups should never play up if at all possible. Only about 1 in 100 players has the physical, mental and emotional ability to excel at an age group older than their own. Many players are advanced technically, but other concerns outweigh any advantages that might be gained by playing-up.

Firstly the Catarauqui Clippers Soccer Club has a desire to and strives to have Multi-Jurisdictional League (MJL) representative competitive teams participate at every age level where player numbers and available coaches permit doing so. Also the club has the desire to have Regional League (ERSL) competitive teams at every appropriate age group where team competitiveness and coaching ability permit.

Policy:

Relative to Multi-Jurisdictional League (MJL) teams it is the policy of the CCSC that players, up to and including U13, tryout and participate at their own age level provided that an appropriate age group level team exists. If an appropriate age level team does not exist then a player may tryout, without any special approval by the club, for the next higher age level team. When required a player U-14 and above, wishing to tryout and play for a higher age level team, must apply to the club for approval.

Relative to regional teams there is no age limit but players are encouraged to tryout and participate at their own age level provided that an appropriate age group level team exists.

In the spirit of the game, players who are not selected for a MJL or Regional team at their own age level are allowed, without special application, to try out for a higher age level team provided that tryouts’ timing permit or the team has not been selected. In no way will a coach drop a selected player to allow room for other players.

Examples:

- a) A U13 age player desires to try out and play for a U14 MJL age team when a U-13 MJL age team exists. The club policy does not permit this.
- b) A U13 age player desires to try out and play for a U14 MJL age team when a U-13 MJL team does not exist. The club policy permits this and **no** application for club approval needed.
- c) A U13 age player desires to try out and play for a U14 Regional age team when a U13 MJL and a U13 Regional age team exists. The club policy **does** permit this though the player should be encouraged to tryout for the U13 Regional team.
- d) A U12 age player desires to try out and play for a U14 MJL age team when a U12 or U13 MJL age teams does not exist. The club policy permits this and **no** application for club approval is needed.
- e) A U12 age player desires to try out for and play for a U13 Regional age team when a U12 or U13 MJL age teams exist. The club policy permits this and **no** application for club approval is needed.
- f) A U14 age player desires to try out and play for a U15 MJL age team when a U14 MJL teams exists. The club policy permits this but application for club approval **is** needed.
- g) A U14 age player desires to try out and play for a U15 Regional age team when a U-14 Regional team exists. The club policy permits this though the player should be encouraged to tryout for the U14 Regional team.
- h) A U14 age player desires to try out for and play for a U16 MJL age team when a U14 and U15 MJL age team exist. The club policy does **not** permit this since playing up two age groups when a more appropriate age level exists.
- i) A U14 age player desires to try out and play for a U16 Regional age team when a U14 and U15 MJL age team exist but no U14 or U15 Regional team exist. The club policy permits this and **no** application for club approval is needed.

Other Factors to Consider

It is important that the approval to try out for playing up be granted for only exceptional players who stand a very good chance of making the higher age group team since there may be risks and consequences to failing to make the team.

1. Playing-up is an ongoing process with no assurance for renewal for following seasons. Therefore the player is required to repeat the try out process seasonally.

2. The Club may recruit players of lower age level when a team requires. Additional players to be viable and there are not enough players in the correct age group.
3. Coaches will not accept under age level players for tryouts unless that player has been approved to do so. Approved to try out players will be afforded the same opportunity as all other try out participants.
4. Players trying out for Regional teams, at their age level or higher, who subsequently fail to make the team are not in any way guaranteed positions on their age level Regional or MJL teams. If the latter teams have not been selected the player may try out for these teams. In no way will a coach drop a selected player to allow room for other players. However a coach may consider such a player if there are available slots on the team roster.
5. Players trying out for a higher age level MJL team, and subsequently fail to make the team are not in any way guaranteed positions on their age level MJL team. If the latter has not been selected the player may try out for this team. In no way will a coach drop a selected player to allow room for other players. However a coach may consider such a player if there are available slots on the team roster.

Application to Tryout for Playing-Up Purposes

A parent or guardian of the player must submit an application for playing-up in writing and be received prior to the start of Tryouts for the outdoor season. Applications are valid for one season only. Application to be addressed to the club c/o the Head Coach and must include:

- Player's name, date of birth
- Parent or Guardian's name, phone number and email (if available)
- Team last played for and coach's name, phone number and email (if available)
- Team / age group for consideration
- Reasons why you want your child to be considered for playing-up.
- Additional info that may be pertinent i.e. soccer school, documented ability, ect.

Reviewing Applications for Playing-Up

At a minimum the Club's Head Coach, Rep Convener and either President or Vice President will discuss the application. Others may be consulted including other coaches and club executives. They will consider:

- Player's current age and development potential.
- Appropriate age group team and potential playing-up team.
- Whether the player would be an elite / exceptional player on the old age team.

- Whether the player is capable of performing as an elite player against the level of competition at which the older team will be playing.
- Whether playing at his or her age group would hamper the player's development.
- Whether playing on the higher age team is in the overall best interest of the player, teams, and club.

The parent or guardian is to be informed of the player's options and the pros and cons of each option.

If the player is granted approval to try out for playing-up the player's name will be forwarded to the appropriate coach.

The decision of the review group is final.

Cataraqui Clippers Soccer Club
Club "Rule" Exception Policy

The Club recognizes that there may be exceptional circumstances in member's personal situations that may require special consideration. For these exceptional circumstances, (such as life issues, extreme hardship, disability, ect.), representation may be made to the Club, via Club executives – ideally President, Vice President, Head Coach or Convenors. The representation must be in writing and provide sufficient understanding of the exceptional circumstance and must outline the nature of consideration being requested. The appropriate Club executives would then review and reply.