

Bonneville Youth Soccer League

Play-up Policy

- I. *Philosophy:* Bonneville Youth Soccer League (BYSL) believes that players develop best at their age-appropriate level. Though uncommon, some talented players are developmentally, physically, and psychologically ready for play at an older age level (a "play-up").
- II. *Play-up requests:*
 - A. Play-up requests must be submitted by a parent/guardian of the relevant player to the BYSL Director of Coaching (DOC) in writing, including by email (doc@byslsoccer.org) or print, and:
 1. acknowledge that the parents/guardians and the player have read this policy,
 2. identify the older age-group where the player desires to play, and
 3. state why the player should be considered for playing up.
 - B. Successful play-up requests to top-tier teams will highlight the development of elite players who may insufficiently develop at their regular age group. Information such as carpooling, friends, or coach preference will largely only be relevant where blended-age club-level teams are formed.
 - C. Play-up requests must be submitted every seasonal year regardless of past evaluations.
- III. *Play-up request evaluation:*
 - A. *Evaluator:* Play-up evaluations will be conducted by the DOC. If a conflict of interest may exist, the BYSL Executive Director will designate a replacement.
 - B. *Evaluation:* Player evaluation preferably occurs during normal tryouts and is supplemented by game observations during the prior season(s). If this cannot happen, the DOC is responsible for ensuring a meaningful setting is provided for player evaluation. Evaluation will be based on the player's developmental, physical, and psychological readiness to play at the older age level, including the player's safety in competing with and against older players, and may also require IYSA approval. The DOC will report the evaluation process and results to parents/guardians, relevant coaches, and the BYSL board. The BYSL Secretary will keep all relevant records.
 - C. *U12 and younger age groups:* Evaluation by the DOC must determine that the player is one of the strongest in their natural age group and that playing in the older age group best supports the development of the player. Only one year play-up requests will be considered.
 - D. *U13 and older age groups based on a unified player pool:* Evaluation by the DOC must normally determine that the player would be one of the strongest in the older age group (e.g., would likely be considered to be in the top half of the top-tier team) and that playing in the older age group best supports the development of the player. Only one year play-up requests will be considered for birth year U13 and U14 players. Two year play-up requests can be made by U15 players, and must be approved by the DOC and subsequently approved by the IYSA DOC or IYSA Technical Director (per current IYSA policy).
 - E. *U13 and older players in a non-unified player pool (currently 2004 and older):* One year play-up requests may be approved at the discretion of the DOC with or without player evaluation. Two-year play-up requests must be approved by the DOC and subsequently approved by the IYSA DOC or IYSA Technical Director (per current IYSA policy).
- IV. *Additional considerations:*
 - A. BYSL may choose to form blended teams from adjacent age groups in order to accommodate team formation (e.g., when there are insufficient players in an age group to form another team at that age or to improve the experience for club level teams). Such situations will not be considered play-ups.
 - B. The BYSL Board may choose to "grandfather" players who have played-up prior to the current revision of this Policy, enabling those players to continue to play with those same teams without subsequent consideration each year.