

Playing Up Policy & Regulation

BC Soccer supports and is aligned with Canada Soccer's principles of Long Term Player Development (LTPD). This policy has been developed to address individual player and team playing up as it relates to age category circumstances.

INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS PLAYING UP

The selection of a player to play at a higher age category will *ONLY* be supported by BC Soccer if the player meets these guidelines:

- **Technical Ability**
A player must demonstrate a high degree of individual skill, which must be transferable to competitive match situations. In addition, a player's individual skill must meet or exceed the technical abilities of other participating players within the older age category the player wishes to participate in.
- **Physical Ability**
A player must meet or exceed other players within their age category in physical strength, technical skill and speed, and have the ability to blend in with players of the intended age group.
- **Mental Ability**
A player must meet or exceed other players within their age category in game awareness and general knowledge of the game. To include the mental strength that will be necessary when dealing with older and physically superior opponents.
- **Social Ability**
A player must be able to interact with players within the older age category on and off the field (games, dressing room, training and social gatherings).

Playing Time Policy for Individual Players Playing Up

It is required that teams implement an equal or minimum playing time policy for those participating under age players.

- Under 6 to Under12: equal playing time
- Under 13 to Under 18: minimum playing time of 50% (over duration of entire season not one match)

TEAMS PLAYING UP

For U6 – U12 age categories

A team is not permitted to play in any program/division/league that is an age category higher than the age category determined by the birthdate of the team's players, per BC Soccer's Rule 2 – Player Age Limits (For example: A team made up of U11 birth aged players is not permitted to play in a program/division/league with teams made up of U12 birth aged players).

For U13 – U18 age categories

BC Soccer does not endorse a team playing at an age category higher than the age category determined by the birthdate of the team's players.