



Kitsap Alliance FC

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Play-Up Policy – Effective 01/25/2022

A. Purpose

Kitsap Alliance FC (KAFC) believes that most players will develop better at their natural age group than at an age level above. However, the club recognizes that, although rare, some talented players may exist that are physically, technically, and psychologically ready to be considered for the next age level within the club's competitive team structure. In such cases, a player may be better suited to train or compete with an older age group. Opportunities to participate with older age groups may include attending additional training sessions, participating as a guest player in games, or being officially rostered on an older age group.

Because sending a player to train or play with a team in an older age group may impact the players of the natural age group in ways that are not beneficial to the team or club; in addition, it may impact the soccer experiences for the players naturally assigned to the receiving age group, opportunities for the player to train or compete in an older age group may be limited or restricted by the club.

B. Policy Statement

The following policy and procedures shall be adhered to when considering the request for a player to play-up in training and competition from their natural age group.

C. Implementing Procedures

1. Training Environment Play-up Opportunities.
 - a) From time-to-time players who are participating in their natural age group are identified as moderately exceeding their natural aged peers. These players may benefit from additional training opportunities that will not only enhance their natural age group results, but will also foster further growth of the player.

- b) The request for permission to train with an older age group must be made to the player's natural age coach and the Director of Coaching, via email by the player's parents, not the manager.
- c) The request for permission may be made at any time during the current season.
- d) A player considered for play-up training opportunities, must not miss training sessions for their assigned team because of play-up training opportunities.
- e) If by participating in play-up training opportunities, the player becomes over-trained, impacting their performance in competition, the offer for play-up may be revoked.
- f) A player participating in play-up training opportunities, must be able to function completely within the play-up team's performance standards, ensuring that the receiving team does not need to slow down their training regimen to accommodate the play-up participant.
- g) Ongoing evaluation of the players ability to participate in play-up training opportunities will be continuous. If the natural age coach, receiving coach, and/or Director of Coaching identify trends detrimental to the training environment for the player, natural aged teammates, or receiving teammates, the invitation for play-up will be reevaluated and potentially revoked.

2. Team Placement.

- a) KAFC believes in fielding the most competitive teams possible at each age group. To take a good player away from his/her own age group generally weakens his/her team without substantially improving the older age group.
- b) The request for permission to play for an older age group must be made to the natural age coach and the Director of Coaching, via email by the player's parents, not the manager.
- c) Requests for permission must be made prior to the annual tryout process.
- d) A player trying out for an older team must participate in tryouts at age, and at the requested play-up age group. Players that do not tryout at their natural age will not be considered for play-up.

- e) A player considered for play-up must be evaluated through the tryout process to be:
 - i. One of the top 3 players at their natural age group, not only technically, but physically and physiologically; and
 - ii. If placed on the receiving older age group, would be within the top third of the team.
- f) If a play-up player would displace a promising at-age player, the consideration would not be granted.
- g) If placing a player on an older team significantly weakens the at-age group, the consideration would not be granted.
- h) Any decision to grant a play-up is a one year at a time allowance. Each year the club will evaluate the progress of the player to ensure that the play-up opportunity is in the best interest of the player, team, and club.
- i) If a player is not selected to be rostered as a play-up starting with the tryout process, it may benefit the player to be recommended to participate in additional training opportunities with an older age group per section 2 of this policy.

3. Exclusions.

- a) From time to time a particular at age group does not have enough players to field a team. In these cases, the at age players may be formed into a blended team to ensure that the maximum number of players can continue participation in training and game play. When these situations occur the Director of Coaching, Technical Director and involved coaches will evaluate the best course of action to ensure that successful teams are fielded.