



## **Arundel Soccer Association (ASA) Player Placement and Play-Up Policy**

(approved-August 2015)

Arundel Soccer Association (ASA) believes that players develop better at their age appropriate level than at an age level above as there are potential risks to a player's health, safety and emotional well-being when playing against older, more physically developed and skilled players. However, the club recognizes that there are some talented players that are physically and psychologically ready to be considered for the next age level within the club's competitive team structure.

ASA will consider a parent/coaches' request for a player to play-up on a case by case basis with the submission of a signed copy of the ASA Placement/Play-Up Waiver Form from the player's parent/guardian. All play-up requests will be submitted to the following for consideration by ASA:

1. For players within the Recreation/Development League, submit requests to [Rec@arundelsoccer.com](mailto:Rec@arundelsoccer.com). All requests will be evaluated by the ASA Vice President of Development, ASA Recreation/Development League Commissioner and/or ASA club appointed evaluator.
2. For players within the County League, submit requests to [ASACountyCoaching@arundelsoccer.com](mailto:ASACountyCoaching@arundelsoccer.com). All requests will be evaluated by the ASA Vice President of Development ASA County League Commissioner(s) and/or ASA club appointed evaluator.
3. For players on ASA Travel teams, each league has rules regarding play up. ASA relies on our trained and experienced Travel Coaches to make appropriate determinations regarding a player's physical and psychological readiness to play up. However, if more than 30% of a travel team's roster is playing-up, ASA may ask the Coach to provide the rationale and justification for rostering an excessive number of play-up players.

ASA reserves the right to move any ASA player when it will be in the best interest of developing the player and to maintain a team at a particular age group. The club reserves the right to build teams based on, but not limited to, the following considerations:

1. There are some situations where ASA will ask a player to play up if it makes the overall numbers for a team more favorable.

2. An underage player may be asked to play on the next age level team when it is deemed he/she has clearly demonstrated exceptional play on an age appropriate team the previous season.
3. In the event there is not a team in a particular age group and a team is formed combining two age groups, the younger players will not be considered “playing up” for that season/year.
4. If, after try outs, a team is still not full, the team’s coaches may consider younger players for their team ONLY if the age appropriate team is full. These players can only be considered with the approval of ASA. The following year, all players will be required to try out for their appropriate age group and/or request to play-up an age group, following the steps outlined above.
5. Consideration for age appropriate exception will be capped at one year above the player’s true age group for players U13 and under and three years for players U14 and above.
6. In general, girls will not be allowed to play on a boys’ team or vice versa at the County or Travel level, regardless of age group. However, exceptions can be made ONLY when the female player demonstrates exceptional ability above her group and this would be the best option for the players’ continued development. ASA will make the final decision on requests of this type.
7. Input from parents/guardians as to playing ability will be considered. However, ASA will make the final decision on all play-up requests.



## Arundel Soccer Association Placement/Play-Up Request and Waiver Form

Player's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Requested Age Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Player's Most Recent Team/Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the parent/guardian of the above minor child, hereby request my child to play soccer in an age group older than that recommended by Arundel Soccer Association and U.S. Youth Soccer. I am aware that my child will be playing against older, more physically developed players with potentially higher level skills, and therefore recognize the added risks to my child's health and safety, as well as my child's emotional wellbeing. In signing below, I accept these risks as my own and accept all and every liability and responsibility stemming from such risks as my own, and absolve Arundel Soccer Association from any responsibility for same. I also acknowledge that I am making this decision on my own initiative, and have not been requested to do so by any Arundel Soccer Association coach/trainer, member or parent.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date