



## **CLAY COUNTY SOCCER CLUB PLAYING-UP POLICY AND PROCEDURE<sup>1</sup> FOR PREMIER LEAGUE TEAMS**

*The Clay County Soccer Club believes that players will develop better at their age appropriate level than at an age level above. However, the club recognizes that, although rare, some talented players may exist that are physically and psychologically ready to be considered for the next age level within the club's competitive team structure.*

### **Stage 1: Parent Letter, Playing-Up Application Form, Playing-Up Consent Form**

**The athlete and parent/guardian must initiate the consideration for Playing-Up status. The Director of the Premier League must receive new requests prior to tryouts.**

The player and parent/guardian must complete the ***Playing-Up Application Form*** and the ***Playing-Up Consent Form*** found on the club website (**See Forms tab**). The form must be complete with all required information.

Along with the ***Playing-Up Application Form*** and ***Playing-Up Consent Form***, the parent must include a letter stating the reasons why the player should be considered for Playing-Up status. The letter must be received with the two ***Playing-Up Forms*** prior to the tryout dates. The Director of the Premier League and the Director of Coaching (DOC) will make the decision if the player is allowed to try out at the next age group. Information included in the request and input from former and current coaches may be used to make this determination. Players will be notified prior to try-outs. If the request is denied the process ends here. If the request is approved the process continues to the Team Try-out Stage.

### **Stage 2: Team Try-outs**

The DOC and the age appropriate coaches will evaluate the player. The player must try out with both the next age level team and the age appropriate team.

The coaches will observe the player at the try-outs to determine if he/she is among the prospective starters for the next age level team and one of the strongest players of the age appropriate team. If the athlete is **not** evaluated as a prospective starter on the next age level team and one of the strongest players of the age appropriate team, then the process ends here. If the athlete **is** evaluated as a prospective starter on the next age level team and one of the strongest players of the age appropriate team, then the process moves on to the Team Impact Stage.

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<sup>1</sup> Players already approved from prior seasonal year see grandfathering provision underlined on next page.



## Stage 3: Team Impact

If the player has gotten this far, then he/she has been approved by the DOC and has met the expectations required to play on the next age level team. However, the following considerations must still be met for the player to be invited to play on the next age level team:

1. If an under age player will displace a promising age appropriate player, the player will not be approved to play on the next age level team, even if the under aged player is a more skilled soccer player. An age appropriate player that shows promise as a developing soccer player cannot be displaced by the under age player. In this case, the under age player will be invited, and required, to play at their age appropriate level.
2. If by Playing-Up in the next age level the player leaves the age appropriate team without sufficient numbers to field a viable team, the under age player will be invited, and required, to play at their age appropriate level.

***(If it is determined that an under age player was approved to play at the next age level, but was ultimately not permitted under either part 1 or 2 of the Team Impact criterion, then the Club will look at the possibility of 'dual registration.' Dual registration allows the player to be registered to both teams. It further requires the player to play and practice with the age appropriate team first, but will permit them to play and practice with the next age level team as scheduling permits.)***

## Clay County Soccer Club's Discretion

Clay County Soccer Club reserves the right to move players when it will be in the best interest of developing the player and to maintain a team at a particular age group. This discretion is NOT bound by any of the guidelines in the **Playing-Up** consideration process. The Club reserves the right to build teams based on, but not limited to, the following considerations:

1. There are some situations where the club will ask a player to play up if it makes the overall numbers for the teams more favorable.
2. An under age player may be asked to play on the next age level team when it is deemed he/she has clearly demonstrated exceptional play on the age appropriate team the previous season.
3. A player may be asked to play up **or even down** when team continuity becomes threatened. The Club will always attempt to field a team at each age group and keep as many kids playing as possible.
4. 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 year.
5. 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 the DOC. The following year, all players will be required to try out for their appropriate age group and/or request to try out for the next level age group, following the policy outlined above.
6. **Players already approved the prior seasonal year to play up an age level will be grandfathered in for the following seasonal year and therefore, not subject to the Playing-Up approval process. Please note, that the Director of the Premier League and DOC may at their discretion invalidate a players grandfathered status if it is determined that the player would benefit more by playing at the age appropriate level.**



## **PLAYING UP CONSENT FORM**

The FLORIDA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (FYSA), and/or the CLAY COUNTY SOCCER CLUB, INC. (CCSC), require permission from a parent/guardian for any soccer player to “play up” in an older age group as governed by birth year.

This request must also be approved by the CCSC’s Director of Coaching AND the FYSA’s Director of Coaching for ANY player requesting to “play-up” more than one year.

*I, as parent/guardian, am aware that my younger player will be playing against older, usually more physically developed players whose soccer skills may be more advanced and whose play may be more physical.*

*As parent/guardian, I give MY PERMISSION for my child,*

\_\_\_\_\_, ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) to play-up \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) above his/her  
Name                      Age

*FYSA stated age group. In granting my permission, **I fully understand** that my child could be injured. The injury could include, but not limited to; cuts, scrapes, sprains, damage to ligaments, broken bones, concussions, or possibly even death.*

**Before** giving your child permission to play up, please consider your child’s maturity, size, coordination, muscular development, attitude, and social development in comparison to the team members of the older team.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature                      Print Name                      Date

*Approved:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
CCSC Agent of Record                      Print Name                      Date

*As Required:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
CCSC Director of Coaching                      Print Name                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
FYSA Director of Coaching                      Print Name                      Date

# CLAY COUNTY SOCCER CLUB PLAYING-UP APPLICATION FORM



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Current CCSC team: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group/Team Request: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the Playing-up Policy and Procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

Reason for this request:

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