

**POLICY NUMBER:** 9408 Playing Up an Age Bracket

**ISSUED:** 4/26/94 **REVISED:** 6/8/98

**PURPOSE:**

Although it is recognized that the Board recommends that all players should compete at their age bracket, it also realizes that under unusual circumstances it may be necessary to allow players to play up an age bracket. Every attempt must be made to keep all players competing at their appropriate age bracket.

**BACKGROUND:**

1. Parents requesting their children to play up an age bracket must complete and submit the "Playing Up Request Form."
2. The Board will consider requests on a case by case basis and make a decision by majority vote.
3. Coaches must not conduct any preliminary discussions regarding playing up with a player or parent. If it is discovered that this has occurred the Board may look upon this as recruiting within our organization and relieve that coach of his/her coaching duties.
4. A player cannot move up more than one age bracket.
5. Intramural players should refer to Intramural policy #9413

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Board may allow playing up for the following reasons:

1. to fill a vacancy on a roster. (First, every effort must be made to find a player(s) of the same age bracket before requesting younger players to play up.)
2. grandfather clause: any child already established with a team prior to the enforcement of this guideline may be permitted to remain on that team. Example: FIFA age ruling.
3. double age-bracketed teams: an entire group of players may be moved up an age bracket when necessary to combine with a group of players from an older bracket in order to field a single team. (This does not "grandfather" players for subsequent seasons.)
4. in extraordinary cases of hardship, the board shall determine player placement, as required.
5. if a player tries out for and is chosen pursuant to Policy 9414 on a team that is within one (1) calendar year of the players birth
6. based on the number of children registered within the age bracket