



Citadel Futbol Club

Playing Up an Age Level

Approval Policy

Age Appropriate Policy:

The Citadel Futbol Club believes that most players will develop better at their age appropriate level than at an age level above. However, the club recognizes that, although rare, highly talented players may exist and we want to provide an opportunity to consider them for the next age level within the club's player organization.

Phase 1: Parent Letter

Important Note: The athlete and parent must initiate the consideration for playing up status following the timeline outlined below. Requests must be received by the club Director of Coaching no later May 15th prior to June Try Outs.

1. Athlete and Parent must complete the **"Playing Up an Age Level Application"** form found on the club website. The form must be complete with all required information;
2. Included with the **"Playing Up an Age Level Application"** form, the parent and athlete should include a letter stating the reasons why the player should be considered for playing up status. The letter must be received with the **"Playing Up an Age Level Application"** form no later than May 15th prior to June club try outs. The Director of Coaching or his/her designee will make the decision if the player is allowed to tryout at the next age group. Information included in the request and input from former and current coaches will be used to make this determination. Players will be notified one (1) week prior to try outs.

If the request is denied the process ends here.

If the request is approved the process continues to the Team Tryout Phase.

Phase 2: Team Try-outs

The DOC and the age appropriate coaches will evaluate the athlete. The athlete must tryout with both the trying-up age level team and the age appropriate team.

The coaches will:

1. Watch the athlete at the tryouts to determine if he/she is among the top 25% of the players when ranked against the members of the trying-up age level team and the top 10% of the age appropriate team.
2. Furthermore, when appropriate, the athlete can be observed at school games as part of the evaluation process. This is at the discretion of the evaluating club coaches and is only done in the interest of better determining an athlete's ability.

If the athlete is **not** evaluated as one of top 25% of the athletes on the trying up age level team and top 10% of the age appropriate team, then the process ends here.

If the athlete **is** evaluated as among the top 25% of the players on the trying up age level team and top 10% of the age appropriate team, then the process moves on to the Team Impact Phase.

Phase 3: Team Impact

If the athlete has gotten this far, they have been approved by the DOC and the age appropriate coaches to meeting the expectations required to play on the next age level team. However, the following considerations must still be met for the athlete to be invited to play on the next age level team:

1. If an under age athlete will displace a promising age appropriate athlete, the athlete will not be approved to play on the age level above team, even where the under aged athlete is a more skilled soccer player. An age appropriate athlete that shows promise as a developing soccer player cannot be displaced by the under age athlete. In this case, the under age player will be invited, and required, to play at their age appropriate level.
2. If an under age athlete will not displace a promising age appropriate athlete, the athlete is approved to play on the age level above team.
3. A maximum of two under age players will be permitted on a team unless there are no teams in the lower age group.

Club's Discretion

The Citadel Futbol Club reserves the right to move athletes when it will be in the best interest of developing 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 an Age Level** 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 or players 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 an age level above team when it is deemed he/she has clearly demonstrated exceptional play on an age level above team the previous season.

3. A player or players may be asked to play up when team continuity, established over several seasons, becomes threatened should players be required to play on age appropriate, or next age level teams.
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 club Director of Coaching. The following year, all players will be required to try out for their appropriate age group and/or request to try out for the above age group, following the policy outlined above.

All club initiated play ups will be valid for that year only and only with the written approval of the club Director of Coaching.

Closing Comments

The process of evaluating athletes and building teams is not an exact science. The process exists as a means to increase consistency and the sincere desire to develop athletes to play soccer in the Citadel Futbol Club.