



CLYFL Playing Up in Age/Grade Policy

The CLYFL Board seeks to encourage player development by remaining flexible in allowing players to play up in the next age/grade group. Supporting players who display advanced leadership, skills, and play strength is vital to maintaining continuity and improving the quality of teams and the league overall.

Each season, there may be instances where a younger player can move up to the next age/grade group. Coach and player interactions may reinforce this desire. Given the opportunity for advanced competition in the next age/grade group, as well as the potential for leadership in the player's peer age group (i.e., team leader, captain, role model), requests for playing up will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Playing up in age/grade groups will always be an exception.

Factors considered for playing up requests:

1. Demonstrates physical and cognitive development and an understanding of the game that would benefit from playing up.
2. Demonstrates the technical ability to execute fundamentals and skills at a faster speed of play.

Factors **not sufficient** for a playing up request:

1. Carpooling
2. Friendships with older players
3. Coach preference
4. Playing up in other sports
5. Sibling(s) playing up (past and/or present)
6. Parent/guardians' league sponsorship

The CLYFL Board, at its sole discretion, and with parent or guardian approval, may consider moving a player to an older age/grade group. If approved, the permission will only apply to **one playing season** of Tackle Football or Ultimate Flag Football. A new request must be submitted for subsequent seasons.



Procedures for Submitting a Play Up Request:

1. All play-up requests **must** have the player's most recent CLYFL football coach sponsor the application (via the league website) to the CLYFL Board. The parent or guardian must include the coach's name, contact information, the player's birth date, and the specific developmental reasons for the request.
2. All play-up requests must be submitted **no later than the day before the final board meeting (held on the third Thursday of each month) prior to the season's registration closing**. Requests received after this deadline will not be considered.
3. Upon request of the Board, the parent/guardian and coach must appear at a regularly scheduled Board meeting to discuss the application. Once teams are formed, no age/grade group movement will be permitted.
4. If agreement among all parties (parent/guardian, coach, and Board) cannot be reached, the request will be automatically denied. Even if parent/coach parties agree, the Board must still approve the movement.
5. The Board will approve a request to play up only if it is in the best interest of the player's development.

Approval Process:

- Once the player is placed on a team in an older age/grade group, the parent or guardian must sign and return the play-up permission letter sent by the CLYFL Board.
- The Board will notify the parent/guardian of its decision after the Board meets.

Note: All policies and procedures are subject to change to maintain CLYFL compliance with Loudoun Youth Football Association (LYFA) rules and regulations.