



Florida Fire Juniors has established policies and procedures to assure the optimal development of each player in our program. We strive to provide the age-appropriate balance of technical, tactical and physical training for our players.

Age groupings are established by FYSA based on the age of the player as of August 1st. Playing up requires approval by the Director of Coaching and will only be considered if that player is capable physically and developmentally. Most players are best served by playing in their FYSA age group; however, Florida Fire Juniors has identified the following play-up guidelines which the Director of Coaching may consider: All play-up decisions are made by the DIRECTOR OF COACHING and appropriate staff ASST. DIRECTORS OF COACHING and are final.

- **School grade:** Players who graduate with an older age group will be given the opportunity to play on the older team (play grade appropriate) if they wish.
- **“Advanced” player”.** We have opportunities for the “advanced” player, who is so far advanced within their true age group team that for his/her development, he/she needs to play up an age group. In most cases players are still better served with strong training and playing at the top level at their own age. These players are very rare.
- **U-8 and younger player.** If a player demonstrates sufficient maturity and ability, he can play up to the U9/10 academy program. Players will stay in the academy until they graduate out as a true age group player (rising u11 player).
- **Late team formation / tryout.** In some cases, Florida Fire Juniors may need to merge age groups to form a team or may have a player that moves to the area after teams have been formed. All age-appropriate teams would have first choice of selecting this player; however, the player could play at the next age group if necessary to find a suitable team. Any player playing up in this condition, will tryout with their regular FYSA age group the following year. These decisions and instances will be determined by the DIRECTOR OF COACHING.

**PROCESS:** Graduating class players will be allowed to tryout for the older age group. Other players desiring to play-up must submit a request to play-up prior to tryouts. They will be evaluated at the 1<sup>st</sup> tryout in their true age group and evaluated. The DIRECTOR OF COACHING and appropriate ASST. DIRECTORS OF COACHING will then approve or deny the request. If approved, the player will be allowed to try-out for the older team at the 2<sup>nd</sup> tryout. If denied, they will only be considered for their true age group.

**LENGTH OF TIME.** Play-up permissions are for 1 year only and will be reviewed annually at the following year’s tryout process.

**PLAY-UP GUEST PLAYING:** The Director of Coaching oversees all guest playing opportunities. Under their direction, some players may have the opportunity to “guest” play for older teams. This is managed by the Director of Coaching and is another opportunity that gives players the chance to further their development. A determining factor for these opportunities is the player’s commitment, attitude and performance for their true age group team. The Director of Coaching through the respective age group coaches will recommend such situations. Requests cannot come from the parent and the team that the player may be guest playing for. Guest playing for an older team is a privilege and not a right!