

Cochrane Minor Soccer (CMS) Association

Competitive Play-Up Policy

This policy is for the purposes of governing the process by which players are able to play-up to a team of an older age group or to a higher division team. It should be noted that, as CMS Competitive league teams play within the Calgary Minor Soccer Association (CMSA), they are bound by their rules.

A 'play-up', is a situation in which a Competitive league player;

- who has been evaluated within their own age/gender group, as having better than average soccer skills, and
- who evaluates at a qualifiable level for the next older age group, and
- has been given parental/guardian consent,

may be able to play-up to the next older age group or to a higher division team.

A request or need for a player to play-up to the next older age group or to a higher division team can result from;

- a team lacking a sufficient number of players as a result of injuries, illness, or unavoidable absences, or
- a player/parent/coach believes that a players' skill level is greater than those of players within the same age group, or
- a player evaluates at a skill level greater than those of players within the same age group.

Play-ups can be either for a few games (as per CMSA rules), or on a more full-time basis, as a member of the older team for the whole of the season. If play-ups are required on a regular basis due to situations where team attendance is not meeting the minimum team roster, the team (ie. coach) should contact the VP Competitive and/or President of CMS, to determine what options are available.

Generally, players will play in the age appropriate groups as set forth by CMSA. However there are situations in which CMS will entertain play-ups, as such the CMS rules regarding play-ups are outlined below;

- Play-up situations should be avoided wherever possible. Regular attendance, commitment and dedication are required by all players on Competitive teams as it is essential for team building.
- Play-ups should be used solely for the purposes of creating an appropriate number of players on a team when roster numbers are reduced due to illness, injury, or unavoidable absences.
- Play-ups will never be used for the purpose of stacking teams in an attempt to gain an advantage or to replace the playing time of currently registered players within a team's roster.
- Play-ups will not be considered at the expense of the lower age group or division, but should be in the best interest of the player and to a lesser degree, the team. The intent of play-ups is to provide for the best interest of the individual player and teams involved.
- Single or multiple game play-ups must follow CMSA rules (teams may only play-up players from a lower division of the same age group or from an equal or lower division of a lower age group up to a maximum of 6 play-ups per player) and require the permission of the playing-up player's coach. It is the responsibility of the coach for which the player is playing-up, to track the number of games a player has played-up for that team, and to ensure that it does not exceed the maximum number of play-ups allowed by a particular player.

- Players requesting permanent play-up to the next age group must have parental consent and a letter of request for consideration for play-up sent to the VP Competitive and/or President of CMS at the time of registration or prior to the start of any evaluation sessions.
- Players requesting consideration for play-up must attend the minimum number of evaluations for their appropriate age group and must place within the top 5 players of their age group in order to be considered for permanent play-up.
- A team requesting play-up player(s) must request the player(s) in order of their assessment during evaluations. Teams may be provided with a list of approved play-up players, based upon evaluation results, prior to the commencement of the season. The request for players not on the list must be made in writing to the VP Competitive and/or CMS President, with reasons being stated for the specific request. Player position may be taken into consideration.
- Players and officials (eg. coaches) that do not abide by this Play-Up policy are subject to not being registered to play for CMS within the specified season. Furthermore, failing to adhere to this policy, players and officials (eg. coaches) may be suspended from participation until such time as, in accordance with Cochrane Minor Soccer (CMS) Association's bylaws – Article IX: Disciplinary Committee; a disciplinary review can be completed.
- Fines, defaults and penalties that are a direct result of a disregard of any CMS, Calgary Minor Soccer Association (CMSA), or Alberta Soccer Association (ASA) policies, shall be the sole responsibility of the team.

All play-ups require the approval of the VP Competitive and President of CMS. The CMS Board of Directors reserves the right to review final placement within the program.

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