



RIVER CITY ATHLETICS

Title: Roster Creation & Play Up Policy	
Standard Operating Procedure / Club Policy	Date Distributed:
Initial Effective Date: 2025-2026 Season	Date Last Revised: 12/10/2025
Author: Wayne Harvey	
Presented To Board of Directors Date: 10/5/2025	Board Vote: Unanimous
Supersedes:	Dated:

SCOPE All River City Athletics Teams & Coaches

PURPOSE This policy outlines the guiding principles and procedures for roster creation within River City Athletics, ensuring a consistent and fair approach to team formation that supports athlete development, team balance, and club values.

POLICY This is to ensure River City Athletics creates rosters with players in the age group corresponding to their date of birth, with the rare exception of players who are granted a waiver from the Board of Directors to play on a team consisting of older players.

PROCEDURE –

1. Age Group Placement

All athletes will be rostered primarily in their appropriate age group based on the calendar year guidelines established by U.S. Soccer. This approach ensures age-appropriate development, competitive equity, and social cohesion among teammates.

2. Playing Up Policy

River City Athletics recognizes that, on occasion, it may be necessary or beneficial for a player to participate with an older age group. These exceptions will be considered *only under the following conditions*:

- There is a **specific developmental need** or **competitive justification**.
- A roster gap exists in the older age group (e.g., due to injuries, low registration numbers, or tournament requirements).
- The player has demonstrated consistent technical, tactical, physical, and emotional readiness.
- Approval is only granted by the Boys or Girls Directors following a discussion between the Director of Coaching and the coaches of the age groups involved. The one coaching the appropriate age group team, and the coach of the team proposed for player promotion.

3. Process for Playing Up

- Coaches must submit a recommendation to the Coaching Director.
- The Coaching Director will evaluate the player’s readiness and the team’s needs.

- Parents and players will be consulted before any decision is finalized.
- Final decisions rest with the RCA Board of Directors with advisements made by the Boys or Girls Director and are made with the best interests of the player and the teams involved.

4. Training Players

Players can be put on a roster without the expectation of participating in any league or tournament game, and only with the anticipation of taking part in team practices.

Roster Reviews and Adjustments

Rosters may be reviewed periodically throughout the season.

Adjustments will be made as needed to address team needs, player development opportunities, and scheduling logistics.

Temporary movement between teams (guest playing, dual rostering) may be allowed in line with league and tournament rules.

Commitment to Development

River City Athletics is committed to fostering an environment where players grow through age-appropriate competition and training. Exceptions to standard roster placement are designed to ****enhance player development**** while maintaining fairness and club integrity.

REFERENCES

ATTACHMENTS

NA

This document was approved by the committee(s) noted below on the date(s) as noted: