



# HYS – Team and Player Placement Policy

## Purpose

This policy outlines the objectives of Holden Youth Soccer (HYS) and defines the process and criteria used to determine team and player placement, including considerations for having a player "move up" into a higher age group.

## Organization Objectives

- Place each player on a team best suited for their individual technical, tactical, physical, emotional, and social development.
- For in-town leagues (Futures and Champions League) field teams that are as balanced as possible.
- For travel leagues (U10 and above) field the most competitive teams possible and place them in appropriate divisions within the age group, striving for a distinct division 1, 2, and 3 placements where possible.
- Assign coaches which foster the culture and mission of HYS and create an environment where our players can learn, grow, and have fun.

## 1. Team Placement Process

The HYS Board of Directors (BOD) has final authority over all team placement recommendations, our travel league makes the final determination.

For travel teams, HYS teams play in the Central Mass Youth Soccer League (CMYSL). This is a more competitive soccer environment where teams are placed in divisions (1, 2, or 3) based on skill and play against like-skilled surrounding town teams. Our league asks that we try, where possible, to submit teams with a 20% (D1), 50% D2, and 30% D3 ratio.

We often need to submit our teams to the league long before our player registration has closed, as a result HYS often does not have a clear picture of what players will be on what team at the time we place teams in our league.

Consideration will be given to the following information, as available, during our team placement process:

- HYS team results for prior season(s).
- Typical number of registered players for prior seasons.
- Initial registration numbers for the current season.
- Roster size needs (min and max).
- Coaching skillset and resources.
- Fall or Spring – MTOC eligibility for some Division 1 and 2 teams.

The team placement process begins with a recommendation by the Age Group Director/Coordinator(s)



(AGD/AGC) which is followed by a discussion with a sub-committee consisting of the President, Vice President, Director of Coaching, and Age Group Coordinators (AGC) to make a final decision.

Where available the sub-committee may ask for input from the planned coaches of that age group if known. CMYSL has final authority over team placements and often make changes based on the broader league needs after we have made our recommendations.

## 2. Player Placement Process

The HYS Board of Directors (BOD) has final authority over all player placements.

### In-Town Champions & Futures League

The goal of our in-town leagues is to field teams that are as balanced as possible. The AGD's for each league will try to give as much time for new registrations to be processed before finalizing teams and rosters. Once registration has closed the AGD's will determine the ideal number of teams based on roster sizes and coach availability.

Consideration will be given to the following information, as available, during our in-town player placement process:

- If Co-Ed, a balance of genders.
- Player's evaluations, if available.
- Kick-off jamboree, if available.

The AGD's will build rosters based on the available information but do reserve the right to make player team adjustments up to week three if a team does not look balanced.

### Travel Leagues

For travel leagues (U10 and above) our goal is to field the most competitive teams possible and place them in appropriate divisions within the age group, striving for distinct division 1, 2, and 3 placements where possible. By the time registration has closed the number of teams and division placements will have already been determined based on CMYSL schedule requirements.

Consideration will be given to the following information, as available, during our player placement process:

- HYS's coach player evaluation results.
- HYS's player assessment results.
- Prior season division results if the player played.
- Current recommended team division placement.
- Player attendance.
- Individual player evaluation, if requested by the BOD.
- Player physical attributes (size, age, relative to peers) and emotional intelligence.
- Other sources requested or initiated by the BOD.
- In-town vs waiver registration.



Please note that no broad considerations for car-pooling, club soccer commitments, friend dynamics, or player/parent preferences are made at this stage.

The player placement process follows a three-step process to ensure the right amount rigor, impartiality and consideration is given to every player and their ideal team placement.

1. The AGD's or AGC's, based on the team placement and above considerations, develops an initial draft set of team rosters for each travel team and submits this to the Player Placement Sub-Committee.
2. The Sub-Committee which consists of the AGD, the President, the Vice President, the Director of Coaching and Age Group Coordinators, meet, review, and discuss the recommended placements, the above considerations, and rationale. Adjustments are made as deemed appropriate.
3. The AGD and members of the sub-committee may also meet with the recommended team coaches to review the finalized rosters and make any final adjustments based on the broader consensus.

Once teams are finalized, the rosters are submitted to CMYSL for review and approval, after which no changes can be made. Players cannot be dual-rostered in the same age-group.

If there is a request to make mid-season changes, league rules will apply, if allowed the player placement committee will consider the move using the same criteria in which the original placement was made. Approval must be provided by the committee before any roster changes are made.

Players who reside in the town of Holden will always be placed (no specific team or division) prior to the selection of players who have gone through the waiver process from another town starting in Fall 2025.

### 3. Coach Selection

The HYS Board of Directors (BOD) has final authority over all coach assignments.

Once player rosters are drafted, coach assignments can be finalized. Coach selection will first come from the volunteers available from the players on the team and in cases where no volunteers are available, we may pull from other teams or volunteers. If the volunteer is also a parent, consideration will be given to that player's placement if it falls outside of their ideal.

Consideration will be given to the following information, as available, during our coach selection process:

- Availability.
- Coach licenses/certification.
- Experience within HYS.
- Commitment and attendance.
- Cultural add & demeanor.
- Children playing in current season.
- Adherence to state guidance and laws.
- In-town resident status.



## 4. Player Move-Up

A player is "playing or moving up" when they are participating on a team in an age group above the one in which they would naturally be placed on according to league rules. This also includes girls playing on a boys' team in their correct age group for non-coed leagues.

Play up requests may be initiated by AGD/AGC's or by a player's parents/legal guardian and presented to the BOD in written form. All play up decisions are made by the BOD following the criteria outlined in this policy.

### Move Up Criteria

Consideration will be given to the following information, as available, during our player move-up process:

- The default position of HYS is that all players will play in their naturally assigned age group which supports the organizations objectives defined above.
- The decision for a player to move-up must be agreed upon by the players parent/legal guardian and the HYS BOD.
- A player may be asked to move-up, or a requested granted, in situations where there are not enough players (or coaches) at the older age group to field a complete and competitive roster. Considerations will be given to dual rostering, if desired and feasible.
- A move-up request may be granted if, in the opinion of the BOD, there is no placement within in the natural age-group appropriate for those players continuing development.
- A move-up request may be granted if, in the opinion of the BOD, having a player stay in their natural age-group would be disruptive to the competitive balance of the age-group.
- A move up request may be granted if, in the opinion of the BOD, the players evaluation criteria indicates that the player has the skill (technical and tactical), physical attributes, and emotional intelligence to constructively contribute to the team in the older age-group. Age/Date of birth and grade will also be considered.

Even in situations where many of the move-up criteria are met, move-ups may not be granted if it would negatively affect a player or team at the move up age.

In some cases, move-down requests may be submitted, whilst this will be considered for younger age groups or recreational programs it will not be considered for travel teams.

### Move-Up Process

The player move-up process follows a three-step process to ensure the right amount rigor, impartiality and consideration is given to every player and their team placement.

The procedure for a request is as follows:

1. A written/e-mail request from the parents/legal guardian listed on the registration form through the



AGD to the Player Placement Sub-Committee.

2. The request must include players name, age, birth date, grade in school and past playing experience including number of seasons played.
3. The specific reasons as to the request. Please do not include other information that is hearsay or letter of recommendation from other coaches, parents, former board members, etc. This is a request between the parents and HYS.
4. Once a decision has been made the parent/legal guardian will be informed.