



# PLAYING UP POLICY

updated 3/17/2016

Playing up is the act of participating on a team above a given player's natural age group. Toms River FC does not allow playing up as a matter of practice, except in cases specifically called out in this policy.

**TRAVEL** players whose natural age group is lower than U15 can only play up with the approval of the Executive Board of TRFC. Players who are naturally U15 and above will have no restrictions on playing up.

- During club mandated tryouts prior to the start of each soccer year, a player must make their intent to play up known by registering for the tryout for the older age group. Tryouts are organized such that older age groups try out first. Any player attempting to play up who is not placed at the older age group will be immediately notified so they can attend the tryout for their natural age group. Players who are currently playing up **WILL NOT** retain that privilege year after year, and must try out for the right to play up as described here every year.
- During other times of the year, or for age groups that do not have mandated tryouts prior to the start of the soccer year, a player must make their request to play up by notifying the board in writing. The Director of Coaching will evaluate the player with the highest level team of the older age group, and make a recommendation to the Director of Travel. If both Directors feel the placement is fitting, the request to play up will be granted.

**RECREATIONAL** players will have an age appropriate team assignment except in cases otherwise covered by hardship exemptions listed below.

**CLINIC** players will have an age appropriate team assignment.

**HARDSHIP** – The Executive Board may also grant a Recreational or Travel player, who would otherwise not be permitted to, the right to play up. The board shall have the discretion to place younger players on older teams under circumstances of team hardship (where not allowing the player(s) to play up would directly cause a team to fold, and players to be turned away) or otherwise on a case by case basis.

**ANY** players that are placed by the Executive Board's approval in a different age group may be moved back to the correct age group at the discretion of the club.

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD** shall always be the final authority on, and for, the assignment, transfer, release and or the team placement of all players. As such the Executive Board shall arbitrate any and all such specific issues, and any and all other such related relevant issues, that may arise on a case by case basis. Decisions of the Executive Board shall be final.