

Playing UP Club Policy - U15's down.

Playing up' is where a player plays and/or trains with an older panel of players; e.g. an under-12 player plays with an under-14 team. It's common-place and necessary, but can cause resentment among players, parents and mentors if, for example, an under-12 player displaces a player who is 'on the age' on the under-14 team. This can demotivate weaker players to the point where they will eventually give up playing. Our policy on this issue should be clear, consistent and fair and should foster both weak and strong players.

1. The panel a player is part of is determined by his age on January 1st, not by the class he is in in school.
2. In team selection, preference should be given to players who are 'on the age' - i.e. those who will be 'over-age' next year. If substitutes are available, then players who are 'on the age' should play at least half the game (15 minutes in championship games). This is Club policy for games up to and including under-15 and a guideline for older age groups. Selectors may deviate from this policy if there is good reason not to select a player, other than the player's ability (e.g. indiscipline or poor attendance at training). In such cases, the player should be informed why he is not being selected.
3. The Club discourages 'playing up' but allows it where players are needed to make up a team. 'Playing up' should not deprive players who are 'on the age' of a game.
4. In selecting a player or players to 'play up', preference should be given to those players who are closest to the age.
5. When a player plays up, the coach of his own team should be informed by the coach of the team in which he is playing up.
6. If a player refuses to train or play with his own age-group, then he will be prohibited from playing up.
7. A player is not allowed to play three or more ages up (e.g. an under-11 playing on an under-14 team) if substitutes are available.
8. The Chairperson of the under-age Committee may sanction exceptions to this policy