



SSA Playing Up Policy

Southern Soccer Academy offers age appropriate programs for players of all ages to provide the opportunity to play soccer in a fun, purposeful and challenging environment in which players can develop. Although it is recommended that players remain in their own age group, SSA understands that there are special circumstances in which playing up may be required based on player development needs. Therefore, SSA allows players to play up one seasonal year (based on age as of August 1st).

Here are the guidelines that should be used when determining whether it is in the best interests of the player to play in an older age group:

- 1) Player should be dominant in his/her own age group
- 2) Player should be athletically and physically mature enough for the higher age. Some players' technical and tactical ability help them dominate their own age group, but they might not be physically able to cope with the stronger, faster, older players
- 3) Player should be mentally mature and able to relate to the older teammates
- 4) Player should be a regular starter in the older team. If the player is going to be just a role player or a bench warmer, there is no point in playing up and risk destroying confidence
- 5) The player should be the one who wants to play up, not just the parents