

## PSC Move-up Policy

From time to time, parents ask PSC to permit their child to play with older players. The Board prefers and strongly encourages most players to participate within their own age bracket as this generally ensures the greatest player satisfaction. However, in the interest of overall player development, the Board grants move-up status on a case-by-case basis for players who seem to have adequate strength, skill, and maturity. The Board cautions those making move-up requests to keep in mind that exceptions to the structure of our soccer programs are denied if, during deliberation, the Board concludes the exception (move-up) causes significant harm to another player or the league.

The Board does not consider move-up requests within the recreation league before the close of the player draft and does not consider move-up requests within the advanced league before the close of the open tryout period.

The Board grants move-up requests for players whose actual age is within one year of the minimum age for the move-up bracket if all of the following additional requirements are satisfied:

- A Parent (legal guardian) makes the request for the player move-up.
- A Parent (legal guardian) releases in writing PSC, the Board, the coaches, officials, volunteers, and other players from all liability for any injury, which may result from the players participation at the move-up level.
- A knowledgeable PSC coach having a valid E level or higher coaching license and preferably (but not absolutely) a coach of a team in the move-up age bracket recommends to the Board that the player appears to have adequate strength, skill and maturity to play at the move-up level.
- The Board determines that the potential benefits for the player and parent (legal guardian) outweigh the reasonable foreseeable adverse situational results, if any.
- On a case basis, the Board may choose (but is not required) to allow other factors to outweigh strict adherence to a one calendar year limit for move-up.

The following are a few examples (i.e., not a complete list) of situations for which move-up requests are reasonably denied:

- The PSC coaching staff has determined the player does not possess the skill level or strength for play at the higher level. Recreation players participating for their first season with PSC are not eligible for move-up.
- There are no teams with open slots for the move-up. A move-up may not cause a recreation player who is age appropriate for the move-up and who registered by the registration deadline to lose his or her slot. A move-up may not cause an advanced player who is age appropriate for the move-up team and who qualifies by tryout to lose his or her slot.
- The move-up will result in a formed team in the age appropriate bracket falling below the minimum number of players for match participation.
- The player is age appropriate for a U-8 team or below and there is age appropriate team with an open player slot.

It is the sincere desire of the Board to balance in good faith parental preferences with the needs of PSC. In the absence of a "one size fits all" policy (i.e., disallowing all move-up requests) the Board will inevitably and from time to time make seemingly unfair decisions. To pursue fairness and because no two situations are ever exactly alike, the Board may consider any factor it deems appropriate, whether or not this policy states that factor. Also, the simple precedent that the Board granted a move-up for one player is not sufficient justification to ensure granting a move-up for another. Parents, who wish to do so, may appeal the decision of the Board in writing to the City of Portsmouth, Department of Leisure Services.