

Play-Up Policy

Introduction:

Players are placed into divisions based upon the National AYSO guidelines. These guidelines can be found on www.soccer.org. An example Age Guide for 2008 – 2009 is shown below:

Division	Birthdates
U6	8-1-02 thru 1-31-03
U8	8-1-00 thru 7-31-02
U10	8-1-98 thru 7-31-00
U12	8-1-96 thru 7-31-98

Occasionally, a parent may request that a child play-up to the next higher level. In New Hartford, we generally follow the AYSO National Guidelines, but allow for two exceptions:

Exception 1: Grade Level

We may allow younger players to play up if it grade level appropriate. If the AYSO Guidelines place a player such that their actual grade level is above the Typical Grade Level, the parent may request the child play-up to the next division. This request must be made in writing either via email or regular mail.

Division	Typical Grade Level
U6	pre K & K
U8	1 & 2
U10	3 & 4
U12	5 & 6

Example: A child born 9-15-02 is in first grade. Per AYSO Guidelines, that child would be placed in U6 with pre-K and K players. The parents may request a play-up to U8 by email or regular mail.

The Registrar and Division Coordinators may play up a player without a parent's written request. This would likely occur during team formation, when the Registrar or DC is reviewing player information. However, the parent's permission will still be sought. A verbal agreement is sufficient.

Exception 2: Parent Coach

A child may be allowed to play up if a parent is willing to coach or assistant coach the team. The primary consideration will be the need for coaches. If coaches are needed at the given level, then the Board will also consider other factors. These include the parent's coaching credentials and the player's skill and maturity. Each exception will be considered case by case, and year by year. Playing up one year does not mean playing up every year!

Parents considering such an exception need to contact the NHAYSO Board **in writing** during open registration. After registration and teams are formed, it is much more difficult to accommodate such requests.

Example: A child's birthday is 10-3-00 and is in second grade. Per AYSO and their grade level, the player would be placed in U8. The parent may request the child play up to U10, provided the parent is the coach. The parent emails this request to the Board. The NHAYSO Board will review the parent's coaching credentials, current openings, and other factors before making a decision.

Please note the following:

- Play up is not automatic.
- NO exceptions will be made to play up beyond one year per the AYSO Guidelines.
- It is to everyone's benefit if requests are made at registration, and well before the start of a season. Once players are placed and teams are formed the chances of play up being allowed is greatly reduced.
- Players are not allowed to play up solely on the basis of skill.
- Players are not allowed to play up to get into U6 before the cutoff date.
- There is no 'Two Year Rule' in NHAYSO. A player will not be automatically played up just because they've already played two years in a given division.
- Players transferring to NHAYSO from other Regions or soccer programs are subject to the same rules as everyone else. Playing up in another Region does not automatically mean playing up in New Hartford will be allowed.
- The NHAYSO Board has the final say in all requests.
- Written requests should be via email to: NewHartfordAYSO@yahoo.com or to New Hartford AYSO, PO Box 424, New Hartford, NY 13413.