



AC MARIN

NORTH BAY PREMIER SOCCER

Play-Up/Guest Play Policy

AC Marin recognizes the need for flexibility to be able to provide the best player development environment while competing at high levels. We are a Division I soccer club that seeks to promote the appropriate development of our players and to improve the level of our teams.

This policy is a statement that is intended to clarify AC Marin's practices regarding players joining teams consisting of players in older age groups as defined by our National Soccer Organization to promote understanding with our players, parents and our soccer community.

AC Marin's decisions regarding play-ups will be guided by two key principals:

- Appropriate Developmental opportunity for the individual player
- Successful team formation, team development and competitive performance

AC Marin may move players down to their age-pure teams when it is in the best interest of the player. This offers players additional opportunities to learn and develop with their designate soccer age group. This should be viewed as an opportunity for the player to demonstrate their new skills and abilities within their age group. As a result, these opportunities will further player development.

These "play-up" opportunities can occur in several forms:

- **Practicing Up:** A player may be permitted the opportunity to attend additional practice sessions with a team of an older age group. They are not permitted to miss their primary team's practice in lue of the play-up opportunity.
- **Guest Playing Up:** A player may be asked to guest play for an older age group team for games or for tournaments to fill roster gaps or provide opportunity for further development.
- **Rostering Up:** A player may be rostered officially on a team of an older age group, but they will be available to serve thier age group for important events and for player development purposes.

Additional team fees may apply based on the opportunity and will be communicated by the Play-Up Committee

Evaluation Criteria - Exceptionally Skilled Player

Player must demonstrate to the coaches their ability to play at a high level within an older age group.

They must show exceptional qualities, exceeding or performing on par with the first 10 players of that age group's roster.

1. **Technical Ability** – A player must demonstrate a high degree of individual skill which translates to competitive game situations. In addition, a player's individual skill must meet or exceed the technical abilities of other players within the age group that the player wishes to "play-up" with.

2. **Physical Ability** – A player must exceed other players within their age group in physical strength, physical fitness, and speed. They must have ability to mix well with players of the older age group.

3. **Cognitive and Psychological Ability** – A player must surpass players within their age group in game awareness and general knowledge of the game, including the mental strength that will be necessary when dealing with older and physically superior opponents.

4. **Social and Emotional Ability** – A player must be able to interact with players within the older age group on and off the field (training, games, and social gatherings). Also, a player must possess an emotional maturity similar to those of the players in the older age group.

5. **Player Commitment, Dedication, and Effort** – An opportunity to “play-up” can be presented in the form of training sessions and/or games that are in addition to the player’s regularly scheduled training sessions and games. Therefore, a player must have a high level of commitment to the sport of soccer. In addition, the player needs to demonstrate high attendance, positive attitude, and a continued strong work ethic during all of their training sessions and playing opportunities to both qualify for and to continue “playing up.”

Evaluation and Determination Process

The request to “play-up” is only initiated from the coaches involved and/or the Director of Coaching.

Our coaches must not recruit players from within the Club. All decisions must be made in the best interest of the player.

When a player is identified for possible inclusion on an older team an evaluation will be conducted by the **AC Marin Play-Up Committee** which consists of the Director Of Coaches, Technical Director and Executive Director. *Team coaches may provide their evaluations but the final decision will be from the AC Marin Play-Up committee.*

Requests will be: reviewed, evaluated, and approved individually (case-by case) by the AC Marin Play-Up committee.

- In the case of team formation purposes, filling roster gaps, upon an evaluation and determination by the Play-Up Committee, the player will be allowed to be rostered on the age up team with the condition that the player serves on their own age as well.
 - The play-up must possess a high skill level in their own age group to be able to maintain their play-up status.
 - This will require that team fees be paid for both teams in which they are rostered.
- Play-Up status is a privilege that can be revoked at any time based on poor performance, lack of commitment, poor attitude or behavior and player development purposes.

The decision will be communicated by the Play-Up Committee.

The decision will not be subject to appeal and the basis for the decision will not be disclosed.

AC Marin will use the annual evaluation process by the Play-Up Committee to periodically re-evaluate what is in the best interest of the player.

Guest Player Policy

To borrow a player from another team within the club all requests need to be submitted by the requesting coach to the Executive Director before discussion between coaches commences.

Steps to request an internal guest player:

1. Discuss with club Executive Director explaining your reasoning on the need for a guest player.
2. Talk with coach to discuss a player that may help with your team needs (position or specific qualities).
3. Speak with player's family.

All cost for the event must be split equally between the event roster. **Guest player must pay the same amount as the regular team players.**

The decision will be made by the coach based on:

- Player development proposes
- Player availability
- Team formation
- Parent agreement

Outside Club Guest Play:

AC Marin philosophy is to develop our AC Marin players. Occasionally situations arise in which guest players, outside of the club, will be requested to play with our teams.

We will discuss with the age group director and executive director the need for the guest player. AC Marin teams, or AC players are not authorized to play with other clubs without authorization from Director of Coaches.

AC Marin will not support players who guest play outside of the club except if the event supports the club development philosophy.

Communication of this request must be made to the Executive Director and Technical Director and must be via email.

If any coach or parent uses a guest player without going through the proper procedures disciplinary action may include fines and suspensions.