

Policy Number: PFFC009

Policy Date: April 4, 2026

Revision: 1

Policy Name: Player Advancement (Playing Up) and SCCL Club Pass Compliance

1. Purpose and Developmental Principle The primary principle of Pike Fury FC is that players should compete within their appropriate birth-year age group to foster optimal technical, physical, and social development.

- **Exceptions:** Advancement to an older age group ("Playing Up") is an exception and is only considered under the specific, documented circumstances in this policy.
- **Club Authority:** Final authority on all roster placements—including, but not limited to, the approval, denial, or mid-season reversion of "Play-Up" status—rests solely with the Director of Coaching (DOC) and the Club Registrar.

2. Criteria for Playing Up

- **2.1 Graduation Based:** To align a player with their school grade level. Requires official educational documentation confirming grade acceleration.
- **2.2 Performance Based:** Requires the player to be an "impact player" on the top-level team of their birth-year. To be considered, the candidate must evaluate in the **top 25%** of the older team's roster during formal tryouts.
- **2.3 Needs Based:** Used to fill positional vacancies or ensure team viability in older brackets. These placements are typically made on second-level or "Premier" teams.

3. Annual Review and No Entitlement

- **Per-Season Basis:** Approval to play up is granted for **one (1) seasonal year only**.
- **No Grandfathering:** Prior participation in an older age group does not grant a player an automatic right to remain in that age group for subsequent seasons. All players must attend tryouts for their designated birth-year unless otherwise directed in writing by the DOC.

4. Mid-Season Reversion Pike Fury FC reserves the absolute right to re-assign a player to their designated birth-year age group at any point during the season if the DOC or coaching staff determines the "play-up" placement is no longer in the best interest of the player's development, safety, or team cohesion.

- **Contractual Impact:** Such a move is an internal technical decision; it does not constitute a breach of contract and is not grounds for a refund or credit under **Policy PFFC008**.

5. SCCL Roster Compliance and "Club Pass" Limitations Pike Fury FC adheres strictly to **Southeastern Clubs Champions League (SCCL)** and **US Club Soccer** competition rules. The Guardian acknowledges the following league-mandated constraints:

- **5.1 Prohibition on "Playing Down":** Pursuant to SCCL regulations, players are **strictly prohibited** from playing in a younger age group than their birth year, regardless of skill level or team need.
- **5.2 Tier Restrictions:** Players rostered on a **Champions League** (top-tier) team are generally **prohibited** from being "Club Passed" down to a **Premier** (lower-tier) team within the same age group to prevent "roster stacking."
- **5.3 Game-Day Roster Integrity:** A player may play a maximum of **two (2) games in one calendar day**. If a player is "Club Passed" to an older or higher-level team, they must be listed correctly on the official **SCCL Match Card**. Hand-written additions are generally not permitted and may result in a forfeit.
- **5.4 Red Card Carry-Over:** If a player receives a Red Card while playing as a "Club Pass" player, the suspension must be served with their **Primary (Birth-Year) Team**. The player is ineligible for all Club activities until the suspension is satisfied.

6. Reservation of Rights and Finality The Club reserves the right to deny any request for any reason, including team dynamics or roster size. The Club is not obligated to provide detailed technical justifications for roster decisions. **All placement decisions by the DOC and Board are final and non-appealable.**

7. Acknowledgement and Binding Agreement By completing the online registration for Pike Fury FC, the Parent/Legal Guardian ("Signing Guardian") acknowledges they have received, read, and fully understand the terms of this policy. The Signing Guardian explicitly agrees to the following:

- **Operational Reliance:** The Guardian understands that team formations—including, **but not limited to**, the decision to allow or revert a "play-up" status—are made based on the technical needs and long-term health of the Club.
- **Electronic Signature:** Pursuant to the **Georgia Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (O.C.G.A. § 10-12-1, et seq.)**, this digital submission serves as a binding legal signature.
- **Severability:** If any portion of this policy is held to be invalid by a court in the State of Georgia, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.
- **Venue and Jurisdiction:** Any disputes, appeals, or claims arising from roster placement or league eligibility shall be handled exclusively within the jurisdiction of **Pike County, Georgia**.