

# Age Director Policy

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## Function

Age directors are responsible for determining the number of teams in an age group, recommended team placement within the BAYS division system, and choosing the coach and the players for each team. An age director operates in a given age BAYS group for a given sex, for example, BAYS G12.

Age directors make final team and player placement decisions based on personal observation of players at practices and games, coach evaluations, and feedback from professionally run tryouts.

To ensure maximum objectivity, each Age Director is assigned responsibility for a grade and gender in which they do not have a child playing.

The Board endeavors to avoid assigning Age Directors to any age group and gender which may, given the WSC's use of 2-year age groups, *combine with* the age group and gender of a child of that Age Director. When the limitations of the volunteer Age Director pool make such avoidance impossible, Age Directors recuse themselves from any decisions involving their own children.

## Team Construction

For 11 v 11 teams, roster sizes must comply with the rules concerning MTOC eligible teams, which limits the roster size to 18 players. (MTOC eligible teams are determined annually by the MYSA Competition Committee, but usually includes U12, U13 (playing U14 division 2), U14, U16, U18, and U19 Division 1 and 2 teams in the spring, and excludes U11.) Roster sizes must also comply with BAYS rules, which limit non-MTOC eligible teams to 22 players.

The WSC believes in the developmental benefit of grouping players with others of similar playing ability. As such we expect in normal circumstances that teams within an age group will be ranked rather than balanced once they enter BAYS. If an age group has 4-5 teams then an Age Director may, in extenuating circumstances, consider balancing the two lowest ranked teams in the age group in consultation with the Director of Coaching.

## **Other Items:**

The Club combines U13 and U14 players into one group, as does BAYS. U14 Age Directors make every effort to have reasonable representation from both 7th and 8th grades. The Age Directors have discretion in this decision based on the particulars of the grade demographics and skill levels.

Teams at a given age level are not to play up an age level.

Age directors are strongly encouraged to meet with all coaches in the age group at the end of a season to discuss appropriate placement.

Players are placed on teams primarily based on skill level. However commitment and attitude are also significant factors. Ability, commitment and attitude form the overall player package that is then evaluated for placement on an appropriate team.

Every effort will be made to accommodate late registrations for children moving to Weston after the close of registration.

**Player Movement:** The Club is committed to a fair and transparent player evaluation policy that enables us to place every player on the team that best matches his or her ability each and every season. Player movement between teams is to be expected as children develop at very different rates and relative ability, interest and commitment can change quickly among young players.

Players that are designated to move up, but prefer not to, can stay with their existing team, except when not moving would create a significantly improper matching of skill level with players on the existing team.

When player(s) are moved down, it is strongly recommended that the Age Director communicate with the parents of the player(s) moving down prior to the public release of the information. The reasons for the move should be explained to the parents directly, honestly and tactfully. Also, recommendations should be given, if appropriate, on what the child should work on to improve his or her level of play.

Late registration should not be a factor when placing the player on an appropriate team.

Players at a given age level are not to play up an age level.

## **Inability to Accommodate All Registered Players**

The WSC will do its best to place all registered players on teams each season but may have to create waiting lists based on number of registrants in a particular age group.

In the event that a waiting list is necessary players will be accommodated for team placement in order of registration.

### **Coach Selection**

Players are placed based on ability and never on the quality or availability of their parents as coaches. Coach selection occurs after players have been assigned to teams.