



# GCLA Play-Up Policy

## Overview

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to define the exceptions and procedures that would allow any GCLA player to be moved to a team that is different than what the player's age dictates (ex. Allowing a child who is age-eligible for U12 level to play on a U14 grade team [following USA Lacrosse age guidelines])

**GCLA Policy Statement:** It is the policy of Grand Cities Lacrosse that, subject to the exceptions listed below, players are not permitted to play on a team outside the child's age or grade level as defined by USA Lacrosse for a given season.

## Exception 1

**When the parent is asked by GCLA to coach a different team:** If so desired by the parent-coach, a player may move up one grade level if the parent who is also a GCLA coach is asked by GCLA to coach a team that is different than the one the parent-coach's child age dictates (ex. If the parent of a 10U player is asked to coach a 12U level team. In this circumstance the child is permitted to play on the 12U level team as an accommodation to the parent-coach.)

## Exception 2

**When a coach of the older team extends an invitation to play in a game:** A player is permitted to play in a game for a team above age level if invited to by the coach of the older team. The game must not interfere with the player's age-appropriate team's schedule. Typically, this is done when the older team is missing their regular players.

## Exception 3

**When approved by the GCLA Board:** The GCLA Board reserves the right to allow a player to move up an age level permanently if requested by the parent/guardian, is agreed to by the coaches of both the age-appropriate team, older team, and approved by a majority vote of the GCLA Board.



## Play-Up Request Procedure

**Player must be registered:** No requests will be considered until the player in question has registered, paid in full, and been assigned to an age appropriate team. Once that criterion has been met, the following procedure must be followed.

**Step 1: Request.** The person initiating to move (parent, coach or Board Member) the player needs to submit a formal request in writing to the GCLA Board. The written request must be attached to this form. Requests must include the rationale for why it is in the best interest of all parties to have the child play-up.

**Step 2: Parent Approval.** The child's parent must sign off on the request, understanding that if approved, they will be responsible for the additional registration fees.

**Step 3: Coach Approval.** The appropriate age level coach (boys/girls) along with the advanced level coach will review to decide if a move is warranted. Criteria used may be, but not restricted, to the following: skill, size, maturity, best interest of the player and the teams. **Both coaches** must agree to the player advancing a level for the process to proceed to the board.

**Step 4: GCLA Board Approval.** If the appropriate age-level coaches support the parent's request, they will present it to the GCLA Board for formal approval. A simple majority approves or denies the request.

**Fee Structure:** Players who are approved to permanently play at the next level will be required to pay the remaining balance between the fee at their level and the fee at the next level. Players who are asked to sub for 1-2 games at a higher level will not be required to pay the difference.



## Grand Cities Lacrosse Association Play-Up Request Form

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Rationale:

### Approvals

	Printed Name	Signature	Date
Parent or Guardian			
Age-Level Coach			
Advanced-Level Coach			
Board Representative			

### Board Decision

\_\_\_ Approved

\_\_\_ Denied

This decision is for the \_\_\_\_\_(year) season only and must be revisited each year a player is requesting to play at a level above that outlined by the USA Lacrosse Age Guidelines.

Approved April 17, 2024