DCYSA Player Placement and Team Formation Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a fair, consistent, and transparent process for player placement and team formation each season. This policy is to ensure compliance with DCYSA and North Carolina Youth Soccer Association (NCYSA) rules while promoting player development, safety, competitive balance, and the overall best interests of the league and its participants.

Team Formation

1. All registered players are to be assigned to the appropriate age division based on the current seasonal age requirements established by DCYSA and NCYSA.
2. Whenever registration numbers permit, DCYSA will prioritize the formation of gender-specific teams within each age division.
3. Following the close of registration, the DCYSA Community Liaison will review player registration numbers and determine whether gender-specific teams can be formed within each age division.
4. To support league scheduling and competition, a minimum of four teams must exist within an age division and gender grouping. If fewer than four teams can be formed, those teams may be combined with the corresponding age division to create coed teams.
5. DCYSA's primary objective is to place every player within their appropriate age division and, whenever possible, on a gender-specific team.

Player Movement Between Age Divisions

Movement of players outside their designated age division should occur only when necessary and when such movement is determined to be in the best interest of the player and the league. The DCYSA Community Liaison shall have the authority to recommend player movement when warranted.

Any concerns or complaints regarding player placement may be submitted to the DCYSA Board or the DCYSA Discipline and Appeals Committee for review.

When players are moved to an older age division, the following guidelines shall apply:

1. Priority shall be given to the oldest eligible players within the younger age division. Players and families may decline the opportunity to move without penalty.

2. Player movement may occur when the older age division does not have sufficient players to safely or effectively field a team or maintain an appropriate number of substitutes.
3. Player movement may occur when the younger age division has more registered players than can be accommodated and an additional team cannot be formed due to insufficient player numbers.
4. The number of players moved shall be limited to the minimum necessary to balance rosters and support league operations.

Coach Availability Exception

In situations where an older age division is unable to field a team due to the lack of a qualified volunteer coach, the DCYSA Board may approve an exception allowing a parent or guardian from a younger age division to coach the older team.

Under this exception:

1. The coach's child may be rostered on the older age division team.
2. The player must demonstrate the skill, maturity, and ability necessary to participate safely and effectively in the older age division.
3. The player shall not be placed in a situation that jeopardizes their safety or places them or other participants at an unreasonable competitive disadvantage.
4. Any exception granted under this provision must be approved by the DCYSA Board and documented in the official meeting minutes.

Board Authority

The DCYSA Board is responsible for ensuring consistent application of this policy throughout each season.

If it is determined that teams have been formed in violation of this policy, the Board may take corrective action, including but not limited to:

1. Reviewing roster assignments.
2. Reassigning individual players.
3. Rebalancing team rosters.
4. Disbanding improperly formed teams.

5. Reforming teams in accordance with this policy.

Decisions made by the DCYSA Board regarding team formation, player placement, and corrective actions shall be final.

Guiding Principle

DCYSA is committed to providing every player with the opportunity to participate in the appropriate age division while maintaining player safety, competitive balance, fairness, and a positive recreational soccer experience.

Every reasonable effort shall be made to place players on gender-specific teams within their appropriate age division whenever registration numbers make this possible. By adhering to this principle, DCYSA seeks to serve the best interests of its players, coaches, and families while preserving the integrity of its recreational soccer program.

Team Draft Procedures

DCYSA's responsibility is to ensure that teams are formed in accordance with this Player Placement and Team Formation Policy. Once teams have been properly formed, DCYSA does not regulate or oversee any draft process used by individual communities or Booster Clubs.

DCYSA has no position for or against player drafts. Due to the volunteer-based structure of the organization, DCYSA cannot monitor, administer, or enforce community-specific draft procedures and will not become involved in disputes related to those procedures.

DCYSA encourages communities and Booster Clubs that choose to conduct drafts to establish their own policies promoting fairness and transparency. Provided with this policy and all applicable DCYSA and NCYSA rules have been followed, communities and Booster Clubs may utilize a draft process, or no draft process, at their discretion. Any matters relating to a community draft shall remain the responsibility of that community or Booster Club.