

Players with Special Needs

In order for a "special needs player" to participate outside of his/her normal age grouping the following requirements must be met prior to any participation.

A. No player shall be allowed to "play down" (play below the player's age group) except as outlined below.

1. Participation in a designated TOPSoccer Program, Challenge Program or other programs of this nature
2. Players with Downs Syndrome must submit a letter from a Doctor for Negative x-ray for Atlanto-Axial with first time registration. If a player is under the age of 13, they must have a second x-ray when they reach the age of 13.

B. Players qualified under the ADA and meet all the requirements for consideration and possible accommodations under the ADA may be permitted to play down from their normal age group provided that all of the following conditions are met.

1. For participation ONLY in an intra-club (within the same club) program approval can be granted by the Affiliate's board of directors. Requests must be submitted to the Affiliate's board of directors in writing by the legal parent or guardian of the player.

- a. No permission shall be granted for "playing down" more than one (1) age grouping.
- b. Affiliate granting permission will receive permission of all parents of players that the special needs child will play against.

2. Participation in any inter-club (between more than one club) program shall require all of the following stipulations to be met:

- a. No permission shall be granted for "playing down" more than one (1) age grouping.
- b. The registering affiliate must present to the inter-club entity (league or tournament) documentation regarding the player's disability. This shall include, but not be limited to:

1. A valid medical reason signed by a board certified physician.
 2. Written permission as granted by the registering affiliate's BOD
 3. Written permission from the agent of record of all teams that the player will play against, indicating that all the parents have been notified and have granted permission.
- c. The inter-club entity shall review the documentation and, should the entity grant permission, shall forward all the documentation to the FYSA office for final review.

- d. The FYSA Registration Committee will review all the submitted documentation and issue a final decision if the player has met all of the requirements of the ADA and falls under its guidelines. If the Registration Committee approves the application, the FYSA registrar shall designate a special team code to indicate that the player is "playing down."
- e. Permission must be received for each event, permission from one entity does not flow over to another entity. Players allowed to play down in league play may be denied the ability to play down by tournaments or other entities.