



Age and Tier Call Up Guidelines

Guidelines

The FC Northwest guidelines are based on the Club's Developmental Philosophy and Pathway. Our guidelines reflect a development approach, as well as one which ensures club culture. The first criteria for using call ups is when a team roster is short of players for a game or tournament when a positional requirement is needed, specifically a goal keeper. Calling up players for the purposes of "filling positional deficiencies" other than for goal keeper is thus not acceptable, unless approved by the Technical Director. Consideration for all other positions must be made within the context of providing playing opportunities for all players on the current roster. A Development or Premier Coach must look to her/his abilities to train players to play multiple positions. The player who is called up should not be allowed to play before an active player on the team roster. Only exception to this would be for the position of goal keeper. It is imperative that as a Club, we ensure that every player understands that they first have to show, with consistent performance, that she/he warrants the opportunity to either be an age or tier call up . This means that play ups for the objective of rewards/incentive for further development are earned. Coaches should not use call ups for inappropriate reason such as:

- Focus on winning over development
- Avoiding the depletion of the younger age team/pool
- Using call ups as a "reward" or as a tool to please parents.
- Using call ups as a punishment or motivational tool for players on the current roster to "perform better".
- Using a player for "physicality reasons" and their technical development suffers, which is the opposite of what the development philosophy of a call up opportunity should be.

In summary, a coach's primary responsibility is to develop players, not win games at the expense of development.

Process

1. The coach of the team that needs play ups must contact the Technical Director.
2. The coach or team manager should never be contacted a player directly.
3. The coach of the team being asked to provide a player should recommend a player who deserves a call up based on the Four Corners of Development Criteria. (Reference Age Advancement Policy)
4. The coach of the player that is being requested from can decide not to allow a call up opportunity if it conflicts with a game. A player should be excused from a practice conflict.
5. Coaches shall not solicit nor recruit by special invitation any underage players for age category advancement. Nor will deny underage players who are deemed a viable prospect for age category advancement the right to assess in a higher age category. Any Attempt to circumvent this process by a coach or staff will not be tolerated and may be subject to discipline procedures.
6. Questions, concerns, and/or issues should be raised to the technical director.