



BC SOCCER

GLOBAL GAME. UNIVERSAL PASSION.

PLAYING DOWN POLICY (Disabled or Physically Challenged)

The existing rules and regulations governing the registration of players provides for the following:

- Players may not register in an age group that is lower than the age attained by January 1st of the season ending
- Players shall not be restricted to registering in an age group higher than the age attained by January 1st of the season ending

The rules and regulations governing the registration of players does not provide for the registration of players who may be:

- Disabled
- Physically challenged due to an infirmity
- Team sports face difficulties in two areas:
 - The infirmity is sufficient that it could affect the teams from playing the game
 - The size of disabled or physically challenged player playing in a younger age group could create risk to the other players participating in the game

1) Policy

- a) Each case shall be dealt with on its own merits
- b) Players meeting the criteria shall be assessed by a person technically qualified to determine if the disability or the size of the disabled or challenged player
 - i) Creates a risk to the other players or themselves
 - ii) Is sufficient to prevent the game to be played under the basic laws of the game
- c) The request to play in a lower age group under this provision must be made annually.
- d) An independent assessment of the player's abilities shall be performed if during the season a situation develops that impacts the game as outlined in b) i) & ii)
- e) A district association shall make every attempt to place a player who meet the criteria and determined to be physically able to participate in the sport
- f) Access to the Association's Soccer Development Department staff shall be available to a member if a qualified individual is not registered with the district association
- g) Assessments may be made by individuals with experience in dealing with challenged players provided they hold a recognized coaching certificate
- h) A game may not be protested on the basis of age once approval has been granted unless the decision is suspended due to a re-evaluation

- i) The avenue of appeal shall be to the provincial association
- j) The district shall have the right to determine where the player may play if the size of the disabled or challenged player poses a risk to others, however, in no circumstances, shall the player be registered in age group greater than what is required in the rules

2) Criteria for Application & Consideration

- a) The Parent or Guardian of the player must make written application to the club and the district association
- b) Written evidence of the infirmity by a medical practitioner must be included with the written request

3) Procedure

- a) The club shall request the district association to arrange for an assessment by a technically qualified individual
- b) The District Association shall request the Association arrange for an assessment by a qualified individual if such a person is not available within the district
- c) The player shall first be assessed at a team practice followed by a more formal assessment under game conditions (preferably an exhibition game)
- d) The assessment and recommendation shall be made in writing and copied to the district if the evaluation is performed by or the Association
- e) The assessment shall be completed at the local level within thirty days of the district receiving a properly filed request
- f) A request for dispensation with supporting documentation shall be forwarded to the provincial association for approval