



Northern Summit Volleyball Play Up Policy

Northern Summit Volleyball Club (NSVC) is committed to providing a positive, fair, and developmentally appropriate volleyball experience for all athletes. Athletes are expected to participate in their birth-year age category (VBC 16-month window) ensuring competitiveness provincially, and long-term athlete development. Playing-up (competing in an older age category) will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where it serves the **needs of the club or the viability of a team** — not based on individual skill or personal preference.

The decision for an athlete to play up will be guided by the following:

- Movement between age categories must address a legitimate club or team need, not an athlete's personal request.
- Playing up should strengthen the older team's structure, depth, or positional balance.

An athlete(s) may be considered for playing up only when one or more of the following needs exist:

Positional Need

- The move ensures adequate positional coverage for the team to function competitively.
- The older age division does not have enough registered athletes to field a viable team (as determined by the NSVC Executive or Coaching Committee).
- The younger age division maintains sufficient numbers to remain viable after the move.

Exceptional Circumstance (Club Discretion)

- A coach or selection committee may identify a unique circumstance where playing up supports the overall health and competitive balance of NSVC team programs.
- Such cases will be documented and approved by the NSVC Executive prior to confirmation.

Decision Process

- After the closing of tryout registration, NSVC will review registration numbers for each division to determine team viability.
- If a need for a play-up athlete(s) is identified, the NSVC Executive, in consultation with the coach's representative and/or Head Coaches, will determine:
 - Whether the need is justified,
 - Which athlete(s) are suitable for consideration, and
 - How the process will proceed.
- Identified athletes will be evaluated during tryouts and it will be determined if they are suitable for playing up.
- Final decisions will be made in the best interest of the club and communicated prior to team formation.



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If an athlete is approved to play up:

- They will be given the option as this is a choice, and athletes cannot be forced to play up.
- The decision applies to the current season only and does not guarantee approval in future seasons.
- The athlete must display the maturity, coachability, and team-first attitude necessary to succeed.
- The athlete's registration, fees, and expectations will align fully with the older team.

Final Authority

All decisions related to playing-up rest solely with the Northern Summit Volleyball Club Executive, made in consultation with the coaches representative and coaches committee, and based on what is best for the club, its teams, and all athletes collectively. This policy is designed to guide fairness, consistency, and assist with season planning by ensuring team formation decisions are made transparently and in the overall best interest of the club.

Last Updated and approved by NSVC board of Directors: November 2025