



## **Hooksett Soccer Club – Travel Policies**

### **Player Placement & Roster Policies**

#### **1. Dual Roster Policy**

##### **Purpose:**

To maintain competitive integrity, support player development, and manage team dynamics, Hooksett Soccer Club permits a limited number of dual-rostered players under specific conditions.

##### **Policy Statement:**

Dual rostering allows a player to be listed on two separate Hooksett Soccer Club travel team rosters during a single season, subject to the following conditions:

##### **1.1 Eligibility:**

- Dual rostering is reserved for players identified by the club's technical staff as advanced, developmentally ready, and able to contribute meaningfully to both teams.
- Players may only be dual-rostered on teams in different competitive divisions (e.g., Division I and Division II) or different age brackets.
- Players may only be dual-rostered in the “play-up” direction (older age group), unless an exception is granted by the Vice President of Travel.

##### **1.2 Limitations:**

- A maximum of **two (2) dual-rostered players** is allowed per travel team roster.
- Dual-rostered players must meet all eligibility requirements for league and tournament play.

##### **1.3 Priority of Commitment:**

- The player's primary team is the one aligned with their age group or as designated by the VP of Travel.

- Primary team practices, games, and events take precedence over secondary team obligations.

#### **1.4 Approval Process:**

- Any duals rosters over two (2) must submit a Dual Roster Request to the VP of Travel, including player name, proposed primary and secondary teams, and rationale.
  - Written approval must be obtained from:
    - The VP of Travel or their designee
    - Both team coaches
    - The player's parent or guardian
  - Approval is granted on a season-by-season basis and may be revoked at the discretion of the club.
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### **Player Placement & First Right of Refusal Policy**

#### **Purpose:**

To ensure a fair and transparent process for assigning players when multiple teams exist within the same age group at Hooksett Soccer Club.

#### **Policy Statement:**

Hooksett Soccer Club prioritizes player development and team balance in all placement decisions. In age groups with multiple teams, the following guidelines will be used to determine player assignments:

#### **2.1 Evaluation & Placement Process:**

- All players will be evaluated during club-sponsored tryouts by neutral evaluators and/or the VP of Travel.
- Placement is based on skill, game understanding, attitude, positional needs, and team fit.
- Teams within the same age group will be designated by tier (e.g., U12 Blue [A], U12 White [B]) for placement purposes.

#### **2.2 First Right of Refusal:**

- The coach of the higher-tier (A-level) team shall have the first right of refusal on any player who is evaluated as eligible to compete at that level.
- If the A team coach declines to roster the player, the B team coach may then offer a roster spot.

### **2.3 Decision Oversight:**

- All final roster decisions must be reviewed and approved by the VP of Travel to ensure consistency and fairness.
- The VP of Travel reserves the right to reassign players if doing so better serves the club's development goals or team needs.

### **2.4 Conflict Resolution:**

- In the event of disagreement between coaches or questions about player placement, the VP of Travel will serve as the final decision-maker.
- Disputes must be submitted in writing to the VP of Travel within 48 hours of initial roster notification.

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## **Post-Tryout Player Additions Across Age Groups**

### **Purpose:**

To support the long-term development of players while maintaining fairness and consistency in roster decisions, this policy governs the process of adding players after tryouts to travel teams, particularly when the player is from a different age group and may benefit from playing with their age-appropriate peers.

### **Policy Statement:**

Hooksett Soccer Club recognizes that player recruitment and movement may occur outside of formal tryouts. However, placement must align with the club's core values: player development, competitive integrity, and team cohesion. The following process will be followed when a coach seeks to add a player from another age group after tryouts.

### **1. Age Group Placement Preference**

- Players are expected to be placed on teams within their birth year age group, unless there is a clear developmental or competitive benefit to playing in a different age group.

- The home age group coach (i.e., coach of the team aligned with the player's birth year) has first right of evaluation and refusal.
  - If both coaches (home age group and recruiting coach) agree the player would develop best outside their birth year, placement must be approved by the Vice President of Travel.
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## 2. Post-Tryout Roster Additions

- Any player added to a roster after tryouts must go through the following steps:
    1. **Player Evaluation:** The player must be evaluated by the VP of Travel or designated technical staff.
    2. **Written Justification:** The recruiting coach must submit a request to the VP of Travel outlining:
      - The reason for late addition
      - The developmental benefit to the player
      - The impact on both teams (recruiting and home age group)
    3. **Consultation:** The home age group coach must be consulted and provide feedback on the proposed move.
    4. **Final Approval:** The VP of Travel will make the final decision on placement.
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## 3. Timing and Fairness

- Players should not be added to a roster after tryouts unless:
    - There is an open roster spot
    - The addition will not displace a previously rostered player
    - The addition aligns with club-wide roster size policies
  - All additions must occur prior to league roster deadlines and comply with league rules.
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## 4. Club Development Priority

- While coach recruitment is valuable, final placement must always align with the club's player development philosophy.
  - Any exceptions must be approved by the VP of Travel and documented for transparency.
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## **Age Group Combination & Grandfathered Player Policy**

### **Purpose:**

To ensure fair, developmentally appropriate, and consistent placement of players, Hooksett Soccer Club (HSC) has established the following policy regarding combining age groups and the grandfathering of players who have previously played up.

### **1. General Age Group Guidelines**

- HSC adheres to the U.S. Soccer birth-year registration mandate.
- Players are typically placed in teams aligned with their birth year (e.g., U10, U11, etc.).
- Any request to "play up" (i.e., in an older age group) must prioritize player safety, developmental appropriateness, and team needs.

### **2. Age Group Combinations**

Combining age groups may be permitted under the following circumstances:

#### **A. Low Registration Numbers**

- If there are insufficient players to form a team in a specific age group, HSC may combine adjacent age groups (e.g., U10 with U11) to ensure players can participate.

#### **B. Developmental Alignment**

- Coaches and the VP of Travel or designee may recommend combining age groups if the skill and physical development of players in both age groups are comparable.

#### **C. League or Tournament Constraints**

- Some leagues or tournaments may require combined age brackets. HSC will align teams accordingly to ensure continued participation.

### **3. Grandfathered Players**

Players who have previously and consistently played in an older age group may be *grandfathered* under the following conditions:

#### **A. Eligibility Criteria**

- The player must have played at least one full season in the older age group with HSC.
- The player must be in good standing with the club in terms of behavior, attendance, and commitment.
- There must be no safety or developmental concerns raised by the coach or the VP of Travel or designee.

#### **B. Approval Process**

- Grandfathered status must be reviewed annually.
- Final approval is made by the VP of Travel or designee and the HSC Board or designated Age Group Coordinator.
- Parents must submit a written request each year for the player to remain in the older age group.

#### **4. Additional Considerations**

- No player will be forced to play up without parental consent.
- HSC prioritizes the long-term development of players over short-term team needs.
- Combined age teams will strive to balance competitive play with individual growth and inclusion.

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### **Coach Recruitment Ethics Policy**

#### **Section: Player Placement & Recruitment Ethics**

To preserve fairness in team formation and uphold the integrity of Hooksett Soccer Club's mission, all coaches must adhere to the following recruitment guidelines:

#### **Prohibited Conduct**

Coaches may not interfere with the formal recruitment or offer process. This includes:

- Encouraging or instructing a player or parent to decline an offer from another HSC coach in hopes of joining your own team.

- Making misleading or negative statements about another coach or team to influence a family's decision.
- Attempting to bypass the standard team placement process for personal or competitive advantage.

### **Consequences**

Violations of this policy are considered a serious breach of conduct. If substantiated:

- **First offense** will result in an automatic season-long coaching ban (Fall and/or Spring).
- **Subsequent offenses** may result in permanent dismissal from the club.

All coaches must acknowledge this policy and agree to comply as a condition of their coaching role at Hooksett Soccer Club.

### **Appeals Process**

Any coach subject to disciplinary action under this policy may submit a written appeal within 7 days of the decision. Appeals will be reviewed by the Vice President of Travel, unless:

- The VP of Travel is the coach in question, or
  - There is a conflict of interest, in which case the appeal will be heard by the President or the Vice President of Recreation Soccer, as appropriate. The decision on appeal will be final.
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### **Policy Review and Updates**

These policies are subject to annual review by the Board of Directors and may be updated at any time to reflect the evolving needs and values of Hooksett Soccer Club.

**Effective Date:** 5/21/2025