Player Promotion- Policy

Effective Date: January 1, 2025

1- Purpose:

This policy ensures that players are promoted to higher age groups based on clear criteria, prioritizing player development and team structure stability. In addition, to ensure the safety and well-being of our athletes, and to make decisions that are in the best interest of the participant and our Club.
This policy ensures fair, consistent practices across all age groups while maintaining the club's commitment to player development and team integrity.

2- Policy Details:

Promotion or upgrade refers to the transition between divisions within the same age group or advancement to a higher age group.

Eligibility for Promotion:
Players may be promoted to a higher age group only if:
1. The player consistently demonstrates skills and performance above their current age group level.
2. Promotion is necessary for team formation due to player shortages.

Implementation:

1- Promotion request by head coach/ Responsible of plateau:
The coach may recommend a player to move up if they believe the player demonstrates the potential to succeed at a higher level.

Approval process:
A- Internal club discussion:
The coach should notify the technical director or technical director assistant to discuss the idea to ensure the alignment of club philosophy and the impact on the team and player.

B- Evaluation*: The club will evaluate the request by considering the following aspects:
- Technique: The player consistently showcases skills and performance that exceed the standards of their current age group.
- Physicality: The player is physically robust enough for the higher age group.
- Mental and emotional maturity, coachability, commitment and ability to handle greater game and practice requirements.

C - Decision: The club decision will be sent to the parents.

*The evaluation will be conducted in the presence of minimum of 3 persons: Technical director, technical director assistant and the head coach or the responsible of plateau.

•• All promotions must be approved by at least two evaluators.

Conversation with parents: Highlight potential benefits like increased challenges and growth opportunities.

- If one of the parents choose not to agree with the promotion, the club will keep the player with their current age group or allow them to play certain games with both teams, subject to mutual agreement.

2- Promotion request by Parents:

Parents should submit a formal request to the technical director at: Td@Westmountsoccer.org providing justification for the proposed promotion and outlining how it aligns with the policy's objectives.

Approval process:

A- Internal club discussion:
The club will contact the head coach for consultation.
B- Evaluation*: The club will evaluate the request by considering the following aspects:
- Technique: The player consistently showcases skills and performance that exceed the standards of their current age group.
- Physicality: The player is physically robust enough for the higher age group.
- Mental and emotional maturity, coachability, commitment and ability to handle greater game and practice requirements.

C- Decision: The club decision will be sent to the parents. If the parents wish to appeal the club decision. They can send an email to the technical director.

*The evaluation will be conducted in the presence of minimum of 3 persons: Technical director, technical director assistant and the head coach or the responsible of plateau.
• All promotions must be approved by at least two evaluators.

Restrictions:

• Promotions for any reason other than those outlined above are strictly prohibited.
• Playing with friends or other family members is not considered an adequate reason for moving a player to a different age group team
• This policy applies to all club teams starting January 1, 2025.

Exception:

- During the registration. If a player played already at a higher age group in the previous year (until the end of 2024) , he/she can continue with the same team for the following year unless the club sent him/her back to his original age group during the previous year. For these players, a new evaluation will be conducted in 2025 to determine whether they can continue with this age group or return to the original.

- Team Formation Necessity:

  To prevent the disbandment of a team, the club may need to add players from a lower age group. With parental approval, the club might permanently promote the required number of players to maintain the team.

- Any other valid reasons beyond those listed above may be reviewed by the Technical Director for a final decision. (Added 21st April 2026)
- For female players, movement requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with recommendations provided to parents based on the player's development and best interest. (Added 21st April 2026)

Older Players Compete in Lower Age Groups:

The request for older players to "play with a younger age group" should include a note from the family physician or other suitably qualified person indicating the rationale and advisability for making this decision and clarifying the reason.
However, the parents should be aware that playing at a lower age will be involved in practices only. This player can't play in a lower age group league.
The club has the right to reject this request.

Player to move from higher to lower division:
A player can be demoted to a lower division within the same age group for the following reasons:

- Limited availability: If a player frequently misses training or games due to other commitments, a lower division with less intensity may better suit their schedule.
- Injury recovery.
- Development needs: To rebuild confidence after struggling in a higher division.
- Club or Team Needs: Balancing rosters or addressing gaps in the lower division team.

- Violating the discipline policy.

The parents can appeal the decision by sending an email to the technical director.

3- **Dispute Resolution Clause:**

"If the club and parents cannot reach an agreement regarding the player's promotion, the player will remain in their current age group. If the parents choose to withdraw the player from the program as a result, no refunds will be issued."