



## East Coast Cavaliers Playing Up Policy

“Playing up” is where a player takes part in activities with a higher age group, e.g. an U16 player training with the U18 team.

East Coast Cavaliers Basketball Club focuses on participation but will support high performance where possible and will make opportunities for some stronger players for additional training and games at a higher level than their team typically plays at.

This policy seeks to enable that but balance it by ensuring fairness for all members in their access to training, club resources and court-time.

This policy operates within the context of league rules and regulations where a player may not play up to an age more than 2 years above their actual age, and a juvenile player aged less than 16 years cannot take part in senior / U20 games.

### Games

If there is a full team of 10 or more from the squad then no players will play up.

If there are less than 10 players available for a game then at the coach’s discretion he/she may ask younger players to play up to make up a match squad of 10.

In this instance actual squad members will get preference for court time. So for example if there are 8 regular players and 2 playing up in a squad of 10, the 2 younger players would generally be expected to get the least court time.

Some limited exceptions will be allowed where exceptionally strong younger players are needed to fill positions for important games, e.g. if the usual point-guards are unavailable. For clarity this does not mean that the younger player will get additional court time at the expense of regular squad members, **regardless of the impact on competitive strength.**

### Training

If there is capacity in the squad and training facility for more players then exceptionally strong younger players can be invited to attend training.

The training will focus on development of regular squad members. Those playing up will not be the primary focus but will get the benefits of additional court time, participation with older players and observation.

## Exceptions

In the event that a team is regularly/permanently under-strength (less than 10 for most training sessions and games) these rules can be put aside with the agreement of the club coach co-ordinator.

In some instances a younger player can become in effect a full member of the older age team. The coach must ensure clarity on this, the player(s) in question must be explicitly nominated for this purpose. Additional younger players brought in to “play up” for specific activities will remain subject to the rules in this policy.