



Iowa Soccer League: Divisional Placement

The overarching goal of the Iowa Soccer League is to create an environment that is player development centered. With that, the league strives to ensure that all teams are placed into divisions that meet their developmental needs. There are two factors that drive the divisional placement process: 1. Birth Year and 2. Skill Level.

1. **Birth Year Registration:** As a starting point, and to ensure that we are appropriately coding/placing teams into the correct division, teams will register based on their League One birth year classification. The league structure organizes teams by birth year as this helps to serve the development for the majority of our teams. However, for player development purposes, there are situations when teams require additional support (i.e., playing-up) to facilitate their development.
2. **Skill Level:** The following guidelines will be used to assist with divisional placement.
 - **11U:** Teams will play in their respective birth year divisions.
 - **12U:** Teams will play in their respective birth year divisions.
 - **13U:** As a general rule, teams will play in their respective birth year. In the absence of State-wide ranking (i.e., State Cup placement), the league director, in collaboration with the PDA Panel, will review any requests to play games against older teams outside their respective birth year. The coach/technical director of the team in question will have an opportunity to present their case to the PDAP panel, but will not be involved in the final decision-making process. The league director, with input from the PDAP panel, will make the final decision to ensure teams are placed in the right environment to facilitate player development.
 - **14U-19U:** As a starting point, teams will register for their respective birth year using their League One birth year classification. The league director will propose a divisional placement draft based on birth year and ability. If a team is ranked as one of the top teams (i.e., #1 or #2 ranking at State Cup) in their birth year, they can request, for player development purposes, an opportunity to play 1-3 games in the age group directly above. The final decisions will be made by the league director in collaboration with feedback from the PDA panel.