



Mother Lode Rugby Club Policy: High School Division Placement

Purpose

This policy is designed to align with Rugby NorCal regulations and ensure players are placed in the appropriate division to promote safety, development, and compliance.

Policy Overview

All players in the Mother Lode Rugby Club are expected to play within their designated age grade as defined by Rugby NorCal. This approach ensures **optimum player development** while adhering to age and eligibility requirements.

1. Division Definitions

- **Varsity (High School Club and Single School):** Players must be enrolled in and attending high school or an equivalent non-post-secondary educational program. Players are eligible for Varsity if they are within four years of their first enrollment in ninth grade.
- **Junior Varsity (JV):** Players must be enrolled in and attending high school or an equivalent non-post-secondary educational program and be in their *Freshman or Sophomore year*.

2. Playing Outside Designated Age Grade

In *exceptional circumstances*, a player may be considered to "play up" to Varsity from JV. This is subject to:

- **Evaluation by Coaches:** The player must demonstrate the skills, physical ability, and maturity required to safely and effectively compete at the Varsity level. Coaches at both age levels must agree.
 - **Parental/Guardian Agreement:** Parents or guardians must consent to the player moving up.
 - **Player Agreement:** The player must be comfortable and willing to move up.
3. Once the above criteria are met, the case will be reviewed by both **Club President** and the **VP of High School** for final approval or denial.
4. **Final Decision and Documentation**

The decision to allow a player to play up is made on a **case-by-case basis** and must be documented by the club leadership to ensure transparency and compliance with Rugby NorCal guidelines.

Enforcement and Compliance

This policy is aligned with Rugby NorCal's **Division Group Definitions, Age, Gender, and Eligibility Requirements** and will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance.

For further questions or clarification, please contact Mother Lode VP High School - Andy Peat (andyp@motherlode.org).