

CONNYS Grade-based Player Segmentation Policy FAQ's

Is this effective for the spring 2017 season? Yes, it will be implemented effective immediately.

Do the rules change? As is the process each year, the CONNY Board will review the USL youth rules and make recommendations as to appropriate adaptations/alterations for CONNY play. The rules will still be consistent within divisions—Juniors (5th and 6th grade) and Seniors (7th and 8th grade). A K-4 subcommittee (open to all) will be formed to flush out the bantam and lightning rules now applicable to this group.

How does K – 4 change? K – 4 will continue to run the same way as in years past. There will be no age segmentation. Players will not move up or down in grade. You are free to operate your “in house” program as you see fit. K – 4 Travel will also remain the same but will have clear guidelines from the subcommittee recommendation next month. There is strong consensus for 7v7 or other small-sided play configuration.

If I am a 7th grade player that plays up this season, can I play again in 8th? Yes, a player can play twice in 8th grade if that player is moved up.

If I decide to “play down” because I am young for my grade and don't make an A team, can I move back up and play with my friends on the team I was on last year? The simple answer is no but it is incumbent upon each town to enforce grade declaration at the time of registration.

Can I play "up" into the grade above, if I declare this at registration? No, players are required to play in the grade/age bracket into which they fall. The only exceptions are young in-grade players in 5th through 8th grades (who would qualify for the grade below but choose to remain in-grade). In addition, some towns with exceptionally small 5th grade groups may allow old 4th graders to play "up" in order to fill out the team numbers. Towns can combine grades within divisions if small enrollment dictates.

Can I remain an age-based program? CONNY created a hybrid grade/age policy that works for both traditional grade- and age-based towns. One of the additional goals beyond fairness and safety was to make sure there was consistency in the naming of teams. This will be the standard name format: Town/Program, Gender, Grade, Team Identifier (either A, B, C or color – Blue, Red, Green). For example, Cheshire Girls 8A. Designated tiering will also become more transparent and granular to help match ups.

Do the CONNY Tournaments change because of this? There will be no changes to the Senior and Junior CONNY Tournaments due to the new player segmentation policy. However, if the K-4 subcommittee recommends 7v7 or other small-sided play for Lightning, then the tournament would follow that recommendation. One other change not related to player segmentation is that both Lightning boys and girls tournaments will follow a jamboree format for 2017.