

SEASHORE  
SOCCER LEAGUE

# SEASONAL AGE GROUPS 2026-2027

**August 1<sup>st</sup> - July 31<sup>st</sup>**

# **WHAT IS CHANGING IN THE FALL OF 2026?**

**WE WILL USE A SEASONAL (SCHOOL-YEAR)  
AGE GROUP SYSTEM, TO ALIGN WITH USYS.**

**SSL WILL GROUP PLAYERS USING AN  
AUG 1ST - JULY 31ST CUTOFF DATE.**

## **THIS MEANS:**

**PLAYERS ARE PLACED ON TEAMS BASED ON  
THEIR **BIRTHDATE** WITHIN THAT  
SEASONAL YEAR.**

**MOST PLAYERS WILL NOW BE GROUPED MORE  
CLOSELY WITH THEIR K-12 SCHOOL CLASSMATES.**

# **WHY IS THIS CHANGE HAPPENING?**

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**FOR YEARS, SOCCER USED A JANUARY 1 BIRTH-YEAR SYSTEM.**

**MANY LEADERS FELT THAT THE SYSTEM DID NOT REFLECT HOW CHILDREN GROW SOCIALLY.**

**PLAYERS USUALLY IDENTIFY WITH THEIR CLASSMATES IN THEIR SCHOOL GRADE.**

**THIS NEW SYSTEM BETTER ALIGNS SOCCER WITH HOW CHILDREN EXPERIENCE SCHOOL AND FRIENDSHIPS.**

EST. 1977

# **WILL TEAMS CHANGE BECAUSE OF THIS?**

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**SOME TEAMS MAY SHIFT SLIGHTLY DUE TO  
THE AGE GROUP REALIGNMENT.  
HOWEVER; NOT ALL TEAMS WILL CHANGE  
MANY PLAYERS WILL REMAIN WITH  
FAMILIAR TEAMMATES  
SSL WILL FORM TEAMS BASED ON  
DEVELOPMENT, COMPETITIVENESS, AND  
ROSTER BALANCE.**

**WE DO NOT GUARANTEE A TEAM IN EVERY  
AGE GROUP EACH YEAR.**

# **HOW IS SSL PREPARING FOR THIS CHANGE?**

**OUR CLUB, TECHNICAL AND COACHING STAFF ARE REVIEWING ALL CURRENT ROSTERS AND BIRTHDATES TO PROJECT HOW THIS SHIFT WILL AFFECT OUR TEAMS.**

**WE ARE DESIGNING A PROCESS FOR THE NEW SEASONAL AGE GROUP TRYOUTS, AND ASSESSMENTS FOR THE 2026-27 SEASON.**

**TRYOUT POLICIES ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE  
CHANGE?**

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**PLEASE EMAIL US AT  
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OR  
DOR@SSL-NC.COM**

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