

2026-2027

AGE GROUP FORMATION CHANGES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS





US YOUTH SOCCER, US CLUB SOCCER, AND THE AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION (AYSO) COLLECTIVELY ANNOUNCED A MAJOR UPDATE TO AGE GROUP FORMATION THAT WILL TAKE EFFECT BEGINNING WITH THE 2026-27 SEASONAL YEAR.

THIS CHANGE MOVES AWAY FROM THE CURRENT CALENDAR-YEAR (JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31) MODEL AND RETURNS TO A SEASONAL-YEAR (AUGUST 1-JULY 31) SCHOOL-GRADE MODEL FOR AGE GROUPING.





IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN US YOUTH SOCCER, US CLUB SOCCER, AND AYSO COMPETITIONS (INCLUDING TOURNAMENTS) CHARLOTTESVILLE ALLIANCE MUST BE COMPLIANT WITH THIS CHANGE.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT TRANSITIONS LIKE THIS CAN BRING QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS, AND WE WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT OUR STAFF IS ALREADY WORKING THROUGH THE DETAILS TO DEVELOP THE BEST PROCESSES TO SUPPORT PLAYERS, FAMILIES, AND THE COMMUNITY.





WHAT IS CHANGING?

AS OF THE 2026-2027 SEASON, AGE GROUPS WILL BE DEFINED BY A SEASONAL-YEAR MODEL THAT STARTS ON AUGUST 1 AND ENDS ON JULY 31 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

OUR AGE GROUPS ARE CURRENTLY DEFINED BY THE CALENDAR-YEAR MODEL THAT STARTS ON JANUARY 1 AND ENDS ON DECEMBER 31 OF THE SAME YEAR. THIS WAS MANDATED BY US SOCCER IN 2017 TO ALIGN WITH FIFA INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.





WHO IS MAKING THE CHANGE? AND WHY?

THIS CHANGE WILL BE ENACTED BY US YOUTH SOCCER, US CLUB SOCCER, AND AYSO FOLLOWING AN EXTENSIVE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION WITH LEADERS NATIONWIDE.

THE COLLECTIVE DECISION WAS MADE BASED ON ADDITIONAL CRITICAL FEEDBACK, DATA, AND EXPERT INPUT TO BETTER ALIGN PLAYERS WITH THEIR SCHOOL-GRADE PEERS.

OUR ORGANIZATION TAKES THIS CHANGE SERIOUSLY AND FEELS THAT THIS AGE GROUP PLAYER FORMATION WILL BE THE MOST INCLUSIVE AND HELP INCREASE OVERALL PARTICIPATION.





WHO WILL BE AFFECTED?

ALL OF OUR CURRENT COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS
WILL BE AFFECTED.

AS THIS IS A SYSTEMATIC CHANGE, SOME PLAYERS MAY
EXPERIENCE A SHIFT INTO A DIFFERENT "AGE GROUP" AND
TEAM FORMATION MAY LOOK DIFFERENT FOR
THE 2026-27 YEAR.

**WE ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY TO ENSURE A SMOOTH
TRANSITION FOR THE 2026-27 YEAR, AND WILL MAINTAIN
AND TAKE ALL PLAYER AND TEAM DEVELOPMENT
NEEDS INTO CONSIDERATION.**





WHAT COMPETITIONS DOES THIS APPLY TO?

THE CHANGE WILL APPLY TO ALL USYS-SANCTIONED LEAGUE AND CUP COMPETITIONS (NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, STATE AND PRESIDENTS CUP, NATIONAL LEAGUE, ETC.) AND US CLUB-SANCTIONED LEAGUES AND COMPETITIONS (ECNL, ECNL-RL, NPL, ADSL, ETC.)

THESE ARE ALL VARIOUS NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND LOCAL COMPETITIONS THAT OUR ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATES.





HOW ARE WE PREPARING?

OUR CLUB LEADERSHIP AND COACHING STAFF ARE CURRENTLY:

- (1) REVIEWING ALL CURRENT ROSTERS AND BIRTHDAYS TO PROJECT HOW THE SHIFT MAY AFFECT PLAYERS AND TEAMS AT EACH LEVEL,**
- (2) DESIGNING A PROCESS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL-YEAR GROUP TRAININGS, TRYOUTS, AND EVALUATIONS FOR THE 2026-27 SEASON, AND**
- (3) COMMUNICATING CLEARLY AND EARLY SO ALL PLAYERS, FAMILIES, AND THE COMMUNITY KNOW THE TIMELINE AND RATIONALE.**





WHAT'S NEXT?

WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY MONITORING UPDATES FROM US YOUTH SOCCER, US CLUB SOCCER, AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS, TO ENSURE WE REMAIN COMPLIANT WITH NEW RULES AND PROVIDE THE BEST EXPERIENCE FOR OUR MEMBERS.

WE WILL SHARE MORE INFORMATION, TIMELINES, AND NEXT STEPS AS SOON AS THEY ARE FINALIZED. IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE KNOW THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING EVERY PLAYER CONTINUE TO GROW, DEVELOP, AND THRIVE WITHIN CHARLOTTESVILLE ALLIANCE SC.





NEW AGE GROUP CHART

	2025-26 SEASON	2026-27 SEASON
<u>U-6</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020	Born between Aug 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021
<u>U-7</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2019 - Dec 31, 2019	Born between Aug 1, 2019 - July 31, 2020
<u>U-8</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2018 - Dec 31, 2018	Born between Aug 1, 2018 - July 31, 2019
<u>U-9</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2017 - Dec 31, 2017	Born between Aug 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018
<u>U-10</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2016 - Dec 31, 2016	Born between Aug 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017
<u>U-11</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2015 - Dec 31, 2015	Born between Aug 1, 2015 - July 31, 2016
<u>U-12</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2014 - Dec 31, 2014	Born between Aug 1, 2014 - July 31, 2015
<u>U-13</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2013 - Dec 31, 2013	Born between Aug 1, 2013 - July 31, 2014
<u>U-14</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2012 - Dec 31, 2012	Born between Aug 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013
<u>U-15</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2011 - Dec 31, 2011	Born between Aug 1, 2011 - July 31, 2012
<u>U-16</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2010 - Dec 31, 2010	Born between Aug 1, 2010 - July 31, 2011
<u>U-17</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2009 - Dec 31, 2009	Born between Aug 1, 2009 - July 31, 2010
<u>U-18</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2008 - Dec 31, 2008	Born between Aug 1, 2008 - July 31, 2009
<u>U-19</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2007 - Dec 31, 2007	Born between Aug 1, 2007 - July 31, 2008
<u>U-20</u>	Born between Jan 1, 2006 - Dec 31, 2006	Born between Aug 1, 2006 - July 31, 2007

