



U.S. Soccer's Birth Year and Small-Sided Games Initiatives

U.S. Soccer www.ussoccer.com

U.S. Youth Soccer www.usyouthsoccer.org



Birth Year Registration Initiative



U.S. Soccer is changing from a “school year” based player aging (July 1 to June 30) to a “calendar year” based aging system (January 1 to December 31) beginning next year.

The new age matrix looks like this:

| SEASON | 2018-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| BIRTH YEAR | | | | | | | | | |
| 2020 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2019 | | | | | | | | | U6 |
| 2018 | | | | | | | | U6 | U7 |
| 2017 | | | | | | | U6 | U7 | U8 |
| 2016 | | | | | | U6 | U7 | U8 | U9 |
| 2015 | | | | | U6 | U7 | U8 | U9 | U10 |
| 2014 | | | | U6 | U7 | U8 | U9 | U10 | U11 |
| 2013 | | | U6 | U7 | U8 | U9 | U10 | U11 | U12 |
| 2012 | | U6 | U7 | U8 | U9 | U10 | U11 | U12 | U13 |
| 2011 | U6 | U7 | U8 | U9 | U10 | U11 | U12 | U13 | U14 |
| 2010 | U7 | U8 | U9 | U10 | U11 | U12 | U13 | U14 | U15 |
| 2009 | U8 | U9 | U10 | U11 | U12 | U13 | U14 | U15 | U16 |
| 2008 | U9 | U10 | U11 | U12 | U13 | U14 | U15 | U16 | U17 |
| 2007 | U10 | U11 | U12 | U13 | U14 | U15 | U16 | U17 | U18 |
| 2006 | U11 | U12 | U13 | U14 | U15 | U16 | U17 | U18 | U19 |
| 2005 | U12 | U13 | U14 | U15 | U16 | U17 | U18 | U19 | |
| 2004 | U13 | U14 | U15 | U16 | U17 | U18 | U19 | | |
| 2003 | U14 | U15 | U16 | U17 | U18 | U19 | | | |
| 2002 | U15 | U16 | U17 | U18 | U19 | | | | |
| 2001 | U16 | U17 | U18 | U19 | | | | | |
| 2000 | U17 | U18 | U19 | | | | | | |
| 1999 | U18 | U19 | | | | | | | |
| 1998 | U19 | | | | | | | | |

BIRTH YEAR CHART



Birth Year Registration Initiative



This is the 2016-17 season age matrix:

| Birth Year | 2016-17 Season |
|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | U6 |
| 2010 | U7 |
| 2009 | U8 |
| 2008 | U9 |
| 2007 | U10 |
| 2006 | U11 |
| 2005 | U12 |
| 2004 | U13 |
| 2003 | U14 |
| 2002 | U15 |
| 2001 | U16 |
| 2000 | U17 |
| 1999 | U18 |
| 1998 | U19 |



Birth Year Registration Initiative



Core Objectives per US Soccer:

Aligns us with national and international team formation standards.

Simplifies determining a player's age group.

Eliminates “relative age effect” which is a selection bias towards picking players born earlier in the year because they are more physically mature (a player born January 1 is 364 days older than someone born December 31 of the same year).



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Expected Problems Caused by Change to Birth Year Registration

Teams composed of players from two or more calendar years could be broken up.

Coaches may have a difficult decision on which age group to apply for.

Players/parents will have to make a decision to “play up” if they are in a different birth year than the core of their team.



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“Playing Up”

Parents have the ability to request their child “play up” one year to stay with older teammates.

But, PYSL has determined for all member clubs (including Roseville) that competitive “A” teams can take no more than 4 players who are playing up, and each player must be starter-caliber. Competitive “B” teams must be age pure. There are a couple of planned exceptions that have not been worked out yet.

Players cannot “play down.”



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Example #1 – Recreational Roster with Potential Problems

U9 Roseville Cyclones (recreational)

3 players born in 2005

6 players born in 2006

3 players born in 2007

Next year, the 3 born in 2005 must move up to U11. The team's core (the 6 born in 2006) will move up to U10 and will stay together. The 3 born in 2007 have the option to play up in U10, or stay in U9 another year on a new team.



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Example #2 – Competitive Roster with Potential Problems:

U11 Roseville Rockets

10 players born in 2004

5 players born in 2005

Next year, the 10 players born in 2004 would go to U13 tryouts. The remaining 5 players born in 2005 have the remain in U12 for another season (with a new team), or to “play up” and go to U12 tryouts. However, under the current landscape, only 4 of those players can move up, and they must be starter-caliber.

continued...



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Example #2 – Competitive Roster with Potential Problems:

Continued...

Next year, U9-11 tryouts are January 29-31 and U12-14 tryouts are February 19-21. If a U11 player tries out for U12 and is not picked, they will have missed the U11 tryouts and will not be eligible for the comp program.

Note, if one of these U11 players goes to U11 tryouts and accepts an offer, they are ineligible to attend U12 tryouts.

The same problem exists for next year's U14/15 players as well.



Small-Sided Games Initiative



Core Objectives

Fewer players on the field means more touches on the ball and greater involvement in game for each player.

As players become more involved, skill and confidence improve.

As confidence improves, players make faster and better decisions.

Less emphasis on positions; all players attack and defend.

| Birth Year | Age Group | # of Players | Max. Roster Size | Game Length | Max. Field Size | Goal Size | Ball Size |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| Born in 2011 | U6 | 4v4 | 8 | 4 x 8 min | 30 x 20 y | 4 x 6 | 3 |
| Born in 2010 | U7 | 4v4 | 8 | 4 x 8 min | 30 x 20 y | 4 x 6 | 3 |
| Born in 2009 | U8 | 4v4 | 8 | 3 x 15 min | 30 x 20 y | 4 x 6 | 3 |
| Born in 2008 | U9 | 7v7 | 14 | 2 x 25 min | 47 x 30 y | 6.5 x 18.5 | 4 |
| Born in 2007 | U10 | 7v7 | 14 | 2 x 25 min | 47 x 30 y | 6.5 x 18.5 | 4 |
| Born in 2006 | U11 | 9v9 | 18 | 2 x 30 min | 75 x 47 y | 6.5 x 18.5 | 4 |
| Born in 2005 | U12 | 9v9 | 18 | 2 x 30 min | 75 x 47 y | 6.5 x 18.5 | 4 |
| Born in 2004 | U13 | 11v11 | 18 | 2 x 35 min | 112 x 75 y | 8 x 24 | 5 |
| Born in 2003 | U14 | 11v11 | 18 | 2 x 40 min | TBA | 8 x 24 | 5 |
| Born in 2002 | U15 | 11v11 | 18 | 2 x 40 min | TBA | 8 x 24 | 5 |
| Born in 2001 | U16 | 11v11 | 18 | 2 x 40 min | TBA | 8 x 24 | 5 |
| Born in 2000 | U17 | 11v11 | 18 | 2 x 45 min | TBA | 8 x 24 | 5 |
| Born in 1999 | U18 | 11v11 | 18 | 2 x 45 min | TBA | 8 x 24 | 5 |
| Born in 1998 | U19 | 11v11 | 18 | 2 x 45 min | TBA | 8 x 24 | 5 |

This chart is subject to change. Printed 12/04/15