



BIRTH YEAR REGISTRATION



SEASON	2016-17	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

US Youth Soccer statement on U.S. Soccer’s birth-year registration mandate

FRISCO, TEXAS (Jan. 26, 2016) – As previously announced in August 2015, US Youth Soccer, along with other youth soccer sanctioning bodies, will be implementing the U.S. Soccer Federation’s birth-year registration mandates on Aug. 1, 2016.

This means that beginning Aug. 1, 2016 all regional and national US Youth Soccer competitions, including all levels of the [US Youth Soccer National Championship Series](#), [US Youth Soccer National League](#), [US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program](#), [US Youth Soccer Regional Leagues](#) and [US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup](#), will be based on age group cut-offs of January 1 for each age group. Due to additional interpretative changes by U.S. Soccer since this announcement in how competition age groups are labeled, US Youth Soccer and other sanctioning bodies are now clarifying the age group structures for the 2016-2017 season.

- Beginning Aug. 1, 2017, all youth soccer sanctioning organizations will form competitions based on birth-year age groups.
- Beginning Aug. 1, 2016, US Youth Soccer will be using the following birth-year “labels” for competition, based upon the season in which competition ends. For example:
 - Players born from August 1, 1997 – December 31, 1998 will be labeled as Under-19/20s.
 - Players born from January 1, 1999 – December 31, 1999 will be labeled as Under-18s.
 - Players born from January 1, 2000 – December 31, 2000 will be labeled as Under-17s.
 - Players born from January 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001 will be labeled as Under-16s.
 - Players born from January 1, 2002 – December 31, 2002 will be labeled as Under-15s.
 - Players born from January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003 will be labeled as Under-14s.
 - Players born from January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004 will be labeled as Under-13s.
 - With the exception of the US Youth Soccer Under-19/20s, the age group “label” will be determined by subtracting the year in which the players participating in the competition were born from the year in which competition ends.

Birth Year Registration Frequently Asked Questions ~ Answered by US Soccer

Why is birth year registration going into effect for all levels of play and all age groups? Having players train and play according to their age and developmental stage supports the objectives of the small sided standards by focusing on the physiological and developmental needs of the player. This change is meant to better safeguard the development of youth players at all ages and levels.

Why can't there be different standards for recreational and competitive teams? There is no universal definition of what separates recreational from competitive soccer. In addition to supporting the overall objectives of player development, U.S. Soccer believes that having separate registration systems based on undefined levels of play would create unnecessary confusion, and this would not provide a consistent approach across the soccer landscape. Players should also be provided the opportunity to develop to best of their abilities regardless of the level of play they are participating in.

Is my son or daughter still going to be able to play with his or her friends and classmates? The answer to this depends on a variety of factors, and one major consideration is how your club is making teams. Playing on a team with all of your friends isn't always a reality in the current environment. This is similar to not having all of your friends in the same class or classes at school. Another factor is that the age cutoff used for school registration varies across the country. This means that there are already a variety of unique player age and grade combinations. Participation in scholastic sports can also impact the composition of some teams, so clubs should plan accordingly for players leaving club soccer for school sports. The placement of individual players on specific teams will remain a function of the local club and league to help find the players the best possible environment for their development.

Don't you realize that you're breaking up my existing team? U.S. Soccer recognizes that making these changes can impact existing teams in the short-term. However, players joining and leaving teams is something that already happens regularly throughout country. There are a variety of factors that require teams to evolve and adapt including players maturity rates, moving away, focusing on new interests or their soccer abilities differentiating from their peers. Again, both small sided standards and birth year registration support the development of the individual player as a priority over a team success.

How can teams continue to be registered together? Players still have the ability to "play up" with older teammates. In addition to being on a team with their peers, "playing up" can also allow players to compete in a more challenging environment, which can aid in their future development.

Will a player miss any time playing soccer due to the change to birth year registration? No. Players will have the ability to play with their birth year team, or "play up" with teams in older birth years.

What is "playing up" and are players able to "play down"? Players have the ability to "play up" with teammates at older age groups, based on birth year. Players are not permitted to "play down" with teammates at younger age groups, based on birth year.

What is "relative age effect"? Relative age effect (RAE) refers to the selection bias towards players born earlier in the calendar year. Registering players according to birth year will help everyone understand and better identify the potential for bias. Birth year registration is not intended or expected to eliminate relative age effect.

How does this change fix "relative age effect"? The player development initiatives do not claim to fix this issue. However, having players grouped by birth year does make it easier to understand for parents and coaches.

How do I determine the birth year used for a competition? Birth year registration should be based on the year in which the season ends. For example, if a season begins in the fall of 2017 and ends in the summer of 2018 (ex: 2017-18 season), the players would be registered based on their age in the year 2018. Competitions that take place in a single year (ex: fall of 2018 only) should use that year to determine birth year. To simplify determining the age group, just subtract the birth year from the year the season ends.