

Important Registration Changes for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027.docx

4/16/26

New Younger Division

This Fall 2026/Spring 2027 Registration we will be starting a younger division 4U (DOBs from August 1, 2022 - July 31, 2023). Allowing players to start participating at a younger age in collaboration with the parent or guardian who will be participating with them.

It is a program to develop fundamental motor skills, hand-eye coordination and social interaction in a fun and safe AYSO environment. Children gradually discover the game for themselves while bonding with parent or guardian.

The Fall season will have no competition, just small activity grids and led by an instructor. About an hour session once weekly through the regular seven week season. There will be a Spring season included.

Major Change in Division Ages

AYSO National (which Gettysburg AYSO is under) has changed back to the Division Age Determination model that was used for years prior to 2016. The model is a school-year age with July 31 cutoff to determine player divisions, aligning with US Soccer and other major soccer organizations.

Under this model, a player's division is based on their age during the school year timeframe of August 1 through July 31. An Example: A player who is 5 years old on July 31, 2026, will play in the 6U Coed Division for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 seasons.

This age group cutoff aligns soccer age groups with school-year peers, helping more players participate and stay in the game with their classmates and friends.

To help determine the appropriate division for your child, please see the F26S27 Age and Grade document on our website under the Registration tab. Please note the typical grades and date of birth (DOB) for each division.

This model change will make our divisions 5 months older using July 31 cutoff instead of December 31 previous cutoff in Fall 2025/Spring 2026.

Existing Fall 2025/Spring 2026 players that have a DOB in the months August to December most likely will play an additional soccer year in their current division.

For one-year divisions 5U and 6U, it will occur this Fall 2026 season.

For two-year divisions 8U, 10U and 12U, it may occur either Fall 2026 season OR the next Fall 2027 season.

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As Gettysburg AYSO did prior to 2016, there is an EXCEPTION to this school-year age model. That exception is when a player's DOB aligns them to a division, but their Fall grade is typically in the next older division. Only in this case may a parent make a request for their child to play in the older division with their school grade classmates, even though they could be playing with players possibly over two years older.

To make this request, the parent needs do two things –

1. Notify us at the May Registration of their intent to request the older age division, OR when registering online, send us an email to GettysburgAYSO@yahoo.com making the request with parent's names, player's name, player's Fall 2026 grade and division requested.
2. Sign off on liability waiver to permit the younger player to participate in the older division which will make them younger than the normal age span in in that division.

PLEASE NOTE, we ONLY permit players to move up based on Fall grade.

We do **NOT** permit players to move down based on the Fall grade. Reason being, it raises the age of the younger division and puts all the other division players at risk.

Thanks

Eric Smith

Gettysburg AYSO Registrar