



Plum Area Youth Soccer

## 2026/2027 Age Grouping Changes – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### **When do the age group changes take effect?**

Beginning with the 2026/2027 seasonal year (Fall 2026 season), US Youth Soccer (USYS) and PA West will determine age groups using an **August 1 – July 31 birthdate range**.

### **How do I determine my child's age group under the new age groupings?**

Parents and guardians may determine their player's age group by referencing the following age-group Matrix. Players must be registered in the age group that corresponds to their birthdate under the August 1 – July 31 framework.

Age Group Matrix – Appendix A

Age Division	Birthdate
U15	8/1/2011 - 7/31/2012
U14	8/1/2012 - 7/31/2013
U13	8/1/2013 - 7/31/2014
U12	8/1/2014 - 7/31/2015
U11	8/1/2015 - 7/31/2016
U10	8/1/2016 - 7/31/2017
U9	8/1/2017 - 7/31/2018

**NOTE:** An exception to the age group policy will be made for players born in August who are placed in a younger age group despite already being in an older school grade. This exception is intended to avoid unnecessary disruption for players who are already well established within an older cohort.

### **Will Plum Area Youth Soccer be aligned with other local soccer organizations?**

USYS strongly recommends alignment with this standard to promote consistency across programs. While many organizations will follow this structure, individual clubs retain the authority to establish their own age group policies. For example, a club may permit players to participate in an older age group. In no event, however, are players permitted to play in a younger age group.



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### **Can a player request permission to play in an older age group?**

If a player requests to play-up, they must **submit the [Play Up Request Form](#) at the time of registration.**

Approval to play up will be granted only in the rare circumstances when the player is determined to be one of the top three players in the older age group. Please see the Plum Area Youth Soccer Single Age Group Policy for additional information.

### **Will players be granted exceptions to remain on their existing teams?**

Although there is no formal exception for remaining with an existing team, players whose teams are moving to the U13 age group may request to try out with their current team, even if they would otherwise be placed in the U12 age group. Because U13 and older teams require more field players and draw from a smaller player pool due to middle and high school commitments, players may be offered a spot on a U13+ team if their tryout performance supports placement at that older level.

### **Who can I reach out to with further inquiries pertaining to the age group change?**

Please feel free to reach out to [agegroup@plumsoccer.org](mailto:agegroup@plumsoccer.org) with any other inquiries that may not be covered in the FAQs.