



## WSA Guidelines for 2026–2027 Team Tryouts Implementation of New U.S. Soccer Age Group Mandate

Starting with the 2026–2027 season, [U.S. Soccer Federation](https://www.usoccer.com) is transitioning to a school-year based age matrix (**August 1 – July 31**). This replaces the previous calendar-year system (January – December) and is intended to better support social development, player experience, and long-term retention in youth soccer.

### **WSA Travel Tryouts for 2026–2027 Season:**

- U8-U13 on Wed, 4/29 (skills) and Fri, 5/01 (games)
- U14/15 is Wed 5/06 (skills) and Fri 5/08 (games)
- Tryout Schedule is on [www.westportsoccer.org](http://www.westportsoccer.org) > Programs > Travel U9-U15 tab

### **Registration and Evaluation:**

- Players must register under the new age group matrix (see table, bottom of the page).
- Players will be evaluated based on date of birth (e.g., 8/1/14 to 7/31/15 grouped together)
- WSA will not accept requests to try out in an older age group (*but note highlighted text below*).
- Intention is to ensure a fair and consistent evaluation process for all players.

### **Final Evaluation and Team Placement:**

- Coaching Directors retain final authority on all player evaluations and roster decisions
- **Coaching Directors may place players in an older age group based on ability, development and/or team needs.**
- Players starting high school in Fall 2027 stay in U14/15 for 2026–2027.

As we move through the first year of this national transition, we ask for your patience and trust. WSA will approach this change thoughtfully and **remain flexible** where appropriate while keeping the best interests of the players and the integrity of the evaluation process in mind.

### **2026–2027 Age Group Birth Ranges**

- U8:** Aug 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019
- U9:** Aug 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018
- U10:** Aug 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017
- U11:** Aug 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016
- U12:** Aug 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015
- U13:** Aug 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014
- U14:** Aug 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013
- U15:** Aug 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012

### **Questions should be sent to WSA Coaching Directors:**

- Girls U9-U13 – Jake Zuniga, [jzuniga720@yahoo.com](mailto:jzuniga720@yahoo.com)
- Boys U9-U13 – Allan Zuniga, [azngsoccer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:azngsoccer@sbcglobal.net)
- Girls U14/15 – Barry Beattie, [barryblfc@hotmail.com](mailto:barryblfc@hotmail.com)
- Boys U14/15 – Billy Babayo, [Babayobilly@gmail.com](mailto:Babayobilly@gmail.com)