

NYSA Statement on Team Formation Changes for 2026/2027

US Youth Soccer (USYS) has decided to shift from a strictly birth-year registration model to a season/registration-year model. Therefore, Northshore Youth Soccer Association is moving to a school-year registration system (August 1–July 31) for the 2026-2027 registration cycle. Our alignment with USYS ensures that our players can continue playing alongside their classmates and friends, while maintaining competitive integrity and consistency across all NYSA programs.

NYSA is committed to providing the best possible customer service to our coaches, parents, and players during this transition. The intent of this document is to outline how NYSA will administer registration and team formation processes.

NYSA recognizes any alteration in the registration cycle may cause confusion or frustration for our customers. To minimize the impact to our soccer families, NYSA will focus on the following goals during the transition period:

- Maintain our commitment to player development across all age groups and levels
- Recognize the unique needs of each level of play

NYSA Recreational Soccer U6–U12

- New players will be registered according to the season/registration-year Model school-year cycle (August 1–July 31).
- Returning players will have the option to:
 - Stay with their existing team, or
 - Move to a team that aligns with their school-grade classmates.
- NYSA will make every effort to keep viable teams together, understanding that team viability may vary by format (4v4, 7v7, 9v9).
- Teams may be reformed/balanced to facilitate player development

United Recreational U13-U19 (League Washington)

- New players joining United will be registered according to the season/registration-year model (August 1–July 31).
- NYSA recognizes that United teams are built around relationships among players, families, and coaches, and that many teams have been playing together for a long time. Therefore, returning United teams will be grandfathered to maintain these relationships whenever possible.
- Grandfathered teams may be required to play up based on age of players on the roster.
- Players whose teams are no longer viable (due to lack of returning players) will be placed according to the new school-year guidelines. NYSA will make every effort to keep groups of players together when possible.
- Current NYSA play-up policies will continue to apply for players wishing to play with a higher age or grade-level group.
- Players born from Aug-Dec who could not play with their classmates under previous team-formation guidelines, may now be eligible to play down to their grade-level. We will be sending further details about how to request this shift.

Northshore Select Club (NSC)

- NSC teams will reform based on the season/registration-year model (August 1–July 31).
- Existing teams will not be grandfathered into the new structure; all teams will adjust to align with the new cycle.
- Skill based play-up consideration: The player will rank in the top 10% of players attending day one for their birthdate age group based on stack rank for day 1 evaluation results with concurrence provided by the Director of Coaching.
 - Max 2 skill based play-up roster additions allowed per age group.
- Grade Level Based Playup: Play up to grade level” requests will be considered during the evaluation process. Proof of Grade Level will be required to attend tryouts if you don’t meet the age criteria in the new model.
- Note: Tryouts for U16 will have a modified process due to the timing of tryout dates. Information to be provided on NSC website.

Sound FC

- All Sound FC teams will reform based on the season/registration-year model (August 1–July 31).
- Players who wish to play up may do so by participating in tryouts consistent with current Sound FC policy.
- “Play up to grade level” requests will be considered (but not guaranteed) during the evaluation process.

NYSA's transition to a school-year registration cycle provides an exciting opportunity for NYSA and our member clubs. The change strengthens the connection between our players, their schools, and their community, while allowing NYSA to remain committed to player development at all levels of play.

Stay tuned for more communication from your club with additional details.

