

# Age Group Formation (2026-27 Season)

## Coventry Soccer Overview:

**US Youth Soccer, AYSO, and US Club Soccer** have collectively decided to move to an age group player formation cycle that runs from **August 1 to July 31**, beginning in the **2026/27 season/registration year**.

We know many parents have heard of the above changes; we are hoping to alleviate concerns over these upcoming changes by providing you with as much information as possible. Here is what you need to know:



**This is a national, unified change - not a local club decision.**

US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer, and AYSO are all moving together, which means:

- Consistency across leagues and competitions
- No patchwork rules
- Long-term stability for families

### The change starts Fall 2026

- 2026–27 season is the first year this will be implemented
- Transition happens during 2026 tryouts (tryouts held in the Spring 2026)
- Not mid-season, not retroactive

### This reduces awkward age-group jumps.

- Aligns soccer age groups with the school year
- Players are more likely to play with:
  - Their classmates
  - Their friends
  - Their long-term teammates
- Fewer kids being:
  - “Forced up”
  - “Held back”
  - Split from peers due to a January birthday

### Most players will NOT feel a big change

- Many players will stay with the same core group
- Teams won't suddenly be reshuffled en masse
- Clubs will manage the transition thoughtfully

### BOTTOM LINE FOR COVENTRY

Instead of age groups being based on the calendar year (Jan–Dec) and designated by a year (ex. 2015's), they'll be based on the school year (Aug–July) & designated by an age group (ex. 12U).

All current 11v11 teams and players will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In some instances, teams or players may remain with their current team, even if age group designations indicate a change.

