

# Parent FAQ

## Age Group Formation (2026-27 Season)

### Youth Soccer Age Group Changes (Effective Fall 2026)

#### What is changing?

Beginning with the 2026–27 season, youth soccer age groups will shift to an August 1 – July 31 formation cycle instead of the current January 1 – December 31 cycle.

This change was made collectively by US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer, and AYSO to create one unified national structure.

#### Is anything changing for the 2025–26 season?

No. There are no changes for the 2025–26 season. Age groups remain January 1 – December 31. Tryouts, teams, rosters, and competitions stay the same.

#### When does the new age group cycle begin?

Fall 2026 tryouts. 2026–27 season and beyond. The transition will happen between seasons, not mid-year.

#### Why is this change happening?

The August–July age group cycle is designed to:

- Align youth soccer with the school calendar
- Align with other youth sports that group by graduation year
- Reduce “forced-up” or “trapped” players
- Keep classmates and teammates together longer
- Simplify communication for clubs, leagues, and families
- Create national consistency across programs and competitions

#### How will this affect my child?

For many players:

- They will remain with the same teammates
- They will be grouped more closely with school classmates
- The overall impact will be minimal

Each club will manage team formation carefully to support player development and competitive balance.

#### What competitions does this apply to?

The new age group cycle applies across programs under:

- US Youth Soccer
- US Club Soccer
- AYSO

Including major competitions such as:

- National Championship Series
- Presidents Cup
- National League

#### How do I know my child's new age group?

U.S. Soccer provides an Age Group Calculator to help families determine a player's age group based on date of birth.

👉 The calculator is a guide only.

Final placement should always be confirmed with your club or league.

