

Dear Avon Recreational Soccer Families,

After extensive feedback from clubs, coaches, parents, and players across the country, US Youth Soccer (USYS), US Club Soccer, American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), and MLS NEXT (Academy Division) have announced a return from the calendar birth year system (January 1 – December 31) to a seasonal/school-year age grouping system (August 1 – July 31).

This change is designed to better align teams with school grade levels, allowing more players to compete alongside their classmates and reducing the challenges faced by “trapped players” — those whose birthdays previously separated them from their grade-level peers during key transition years such as 8th grade or senior year of high school.

The Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA) and Avon Soccer Club must comply with this change.

When Does This Take Effect?

Beginning with the **Fall 2026 recreational season**, the new August 1 – July 31 age cutoff will apply to all of our teams.

What This Means for Your Player:

- Please refer to the chart below to determine where your player will be grouped beginning with the Fall 2026 recreational season
- Many teams will now span at least two calendar birth years (for example, a u12 team will include players born August 1, 2014-July 31, 2016)

Birth Dates and Season Matrix - Recreational Program

| Birth Year | 2026-27 Season | 2027-28 Season | 2028-29 Season | 2029-30 Season | 2030-31 Season | 2031-32 Season | 2032-33 Season | 2033-34 Season | 2034-35 Season |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 8/1/35 - 7/31/37 | | | | | | | | Heroes | U6 |
| 8/1/33 - 7/31/35 | | | | | | | Heroes | U6 | U8 |
| 8/1/31 - 7/31/33 | | | | | | Heroes | U6 | U8 | U10 |
| 8/1/29 - 7/31/31 | | | | | Heroes | U6 | U8 | U10 | U12 |
| 8/1/27 - 7/31/29 | | | | Heroes | U6 | U8 | U10 | U12 | U14 |
| 8/1/25 - 7/31/27 | | | Heroes | U6 | U8 | U10 | U12 | U14 | |
| 8/1/23 - 7/31/25 | | Heroes | U6 | U8 | U10 | U12 | U14 | | |
| 8/1/21 - 7/31/23 | Heroes | U6 | U8 | U10 | U12 | U14 | | | |
| 8/1/20 - 7/31/21 | U6 | U8 | U10 | U12 | U14 | | | | |
| 8/1/18 - 7/31/20 | U8 | U10 | U12 | U14 | | | | | |
| 8/1/16 - 7/31/18 | U10 | U12 | U14 | | | | | | |
| 8/1/14 - 7/31/16 | U12 | U14 | | | | | | | |
| 8/1/12 - 7/31/14 | U14 | | | | | | | | |

CJSA announcement: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vHZMJP2eDmGh5DLUe9EKK_PYX-gSW9qw/view

We understand that changes like this can raise questions. Our goal is to ensure a smooth transition while continuing to prioritize player development, team continuity, and a positive experience for all athletes.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Recreational Program Administrator at avonsoccerrec@gmail.com.