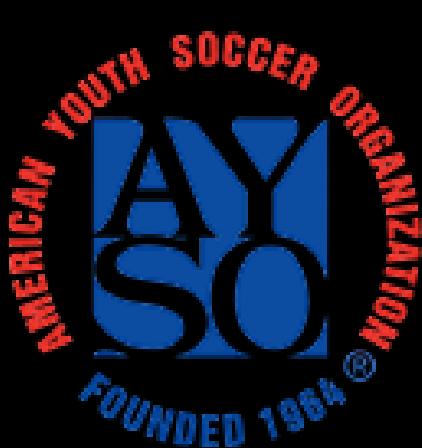




**US  
YOUTH  
SOCCER**



**AMERICAN  
YOUTH SOCCER  
ORGANIZATION**



# AGE CHANGE INFO

- Three leading member organizations
- Moving away from birth year
- New cycle will be from August 1<sup>st</sup> - July 31<sup>st</sup>
- Back to the old cycle

# WHY DID THEY CHANGE BEFORE?

- It was to align with international standards for Elite competition. For example, International youth teams.
- It changed in 2016 to 'Birth year'.
- U.S Soccer mandated the change.



# WHY THE CHANGE BACK?

- Growth of the game
- Grade/maturity difference
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams
- College showcases/Seniors
- Surveyed 15,000 people



**IF IT ISN'T  
BIRTH YEAR,  
THEN HOW  
WILL WE  
LABEL TEAMS?**



- U19 (11v11) - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2009
- U17 (11v11) - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2010
- U16 (11v11) - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2011
- U15 (11v11) - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2012
- U14 (11v11) - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2013
- U13 (11v11) - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2014
- U12 (9v9) - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2015
- U11 (9v9) - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2016
- U10 (7v7) - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2017
- U9 (7v7) - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2018
- U8 (4v4) - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2019

# WHY ARE WE HEARING GRADE YEAR?

- This was the original label - “Birth year to Grade year”
- ***It is NOT school grade***
- There is no perfect way of avoiding kids in different grades
- Choice. You cannot choose teams. A conversation with the DOC is advised for those wanting to play-up



# CAN MY CHILD PLAY- UP AN AGE?

- Every child is allowed to tryout up an age group. However, they must tryout within their own age group first.
- Harbor Premier will follow the clubs 'Play-Up Policy'.



# WHERE CAN I FIND THE NEW PLAY-UP POLICY?



## HARBOR SOCCER CLUB

PREMIER PROGRAM   REC PROGRAM   CAMPS/CLINICS   RESOURCES   EVENTS   TEAM CENTRAL

REFeree RESOURCES

FIELDS

- Gig Harbor High School/Pioneer Elementary
- Harbor Heights & Goodman Middle School
- Harbor Ridge Middle School
- Peninsula HS, Roy Anderson, & Upper Field
- Schnell Homestead Park

CONTACT INFO

SCHEDULES

GOVERNANCE

2023 Board Mtg Minutes

2024 Board Mtg Minutes

2025 Board Mtg Minutes

Board of Directors

NSC Bylaws (v.12/07/23)

PLAY-UP POLICY

HOME   PREMIER PROGRAM   REC PROGRAM   CAMPS/CLINICS

Follow the below link to see the clubs new play-up policy.

Last updated: December 15th 2025

[harbor\\_premier\\_play-up\\_policy-2.pdf](#)

# WHAT PARENTS NEED TO EMBRACE

## Change is Necessary for Growth

- As the competitive landscape evolves, so must Harbor.
- Updating age structures, training models, and development philosophies keeps players aligned with best practices.

## Standards, Competitiveness, Reputation

Harbor aims to:

- Raise expectations for players, coaches, and teams
- Provide higher-quality training environments
- Improve competitive performance across levels
- Strengthen the club's identity and regional reputation

## Opportunities Are Expanding

- More tournaments, higher-level leagues, expanded programming, and new partnerships all create a stronger future for all Harbor players.



# ASSESSING THE SOCCER LANDSCAPE

- RCL 2010 Founding
- Development Academy and ECNL
- Creating of new national leagues
- Alphabet soup



# NEXT STEPS

- Applications
- Feedback from you



GIRLS  
ACADEMY



# OUR VISION



- Provide quality programming
- Increase Quality of Coaching Staff through education & recruitment
- Improve standards (uniforms, expectations, IDP's)
- Add and improve programming to provide better recruitment opportunities
- Add programs to continue playing after Youth Soccer
- Find our own facility
- Be a leading club for our community
- Attract players to our community

