



3-1-2026

2026-2027 AGE GROUP CHANGE

Starting with the 2026–2027 season (beginning August 1, 2026) U.S. Soccer, US Youth Soccer, and US Club Soccer are shifting from calendar birth-year (Jan 1–Dec 31) to an **August 1–July 31 age group cycle**. The change is happening across the NJ & US Youth Soccer platform. This change aims to align soccer teams with school-year grades, reducing "trapped players"

We will communicate early and often using one source-of-truth landing page. We will evaluate fairly using criteria and multiple evaluators. We remain development-first: the structure changes, our standards do not.

Frequently Asked Question

Q: "Will my child lose their spot?"

A: We evaluate each player & place them where they can be challenged and grow.

Q: "Are you breaking up teams?"

A: We're aligning to the new structure while minimizing disruption. Our goal is a thoughtful plan that supports each player.

Q: "Another club said they can guarantee..."

A: We don't make promises without seeing the player in the right environment. Our commitment is a fair process and strong development.

What is changing per US Youth Soccer Mandate Changes?

This shift is designed to make youth soccer more socially and developmentally aligned with players' school years — which many families and clubs have been advocating for as per US Youth Soccer.

When does it start?

The change is expected to take effect for the Fall 2026 season.

Will my child stay with their current team?

Our goal is to minimize disruption while aligning teams to the new age groups. Some teams may stay together; others may shift.

How will the club form rosters?

We use consistent evaluation criteria and multiple evaluators to ensure fairness.

Can my child play up or down?

We consider requests case-by-case, prioritizing safety, development, and long-term player experience.

How do I ask a question?

Email scopyouthsoccer@gmail.com We will update this FAQ weekly during the transition.