

FAQ

CALENDAR YEAR AGE GROUPS

US Youth Soccer Director of Coaching Sam Snow answers some frequently asked questions regarding US Youth Soccer's implementation of calendar year age groups as opposed to school year age groups per the player development initiative from U.S. Soccer.



Why has the decision been made to switch from grouping teams by the school year to the calendar year?

To be in line with the other 208 countries that register youth players by their year of birth. The change will also make it easier for American club teams to play internationally.

How do I know in which age group a player will participate?

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What if a player wants to play with his or her school friends, but is in a different age group?

Depending on local rules for playing up age groups, a player will be able to play up with an older age group, which has been true for decades. As always, a player may not play down with a younger age group.

How will this change impact clubs?

Clubs will need to adjust the players on team rosters once the club makes the change. Most clubs will accomplish that task by simply adjusting the try-out age groups or how they distribute players to teams in the club.

How are age groups determined in other FIFA nations?

By the year in which a player is born; i.e., calendar year.

Which US Youth Soccer programs will be affected?

The Olympic Development Program will not change since it has grouped players by birth year since its inception in 1977. TOPSoccer will be unaffected since players are grouped by ability and less so by age. All other player programs will be directly affected by the change to calendar year player registration.

When will the change to calendar year age groups take effect?

US Youth Soccer programs will change to Calendar Year beginning with the 2016-2017 season. U.S. Soccer has mandated that all play move to the Calendar Year by August 2017.