



## MSYSA & US Soccer 2016 Youth Soccer Guidelines

Starting Fall 2016, Age Groups will be based on Calendar Birth Year

[MSYSA Statement Letter](#)

US Soccer 2016 Player Development Initiatives for Small Side Fields & Birth Year

[US Soccer Statement](#)

### MOVING FORWARD

For those looking to adopt the mandates in 2016-17, here is a list that shows the birth year for that season. Again, please note that when determining the age group for a season, the year the competition ends should be used.

Season	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Birth Year</b>									
2020									
2019									U6
2018								U6	U7
2017							U6	U7	U8
2016						U6	U7	U8	U9
2015					U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2014				U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2013			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2012		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2011	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2010	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2009	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2008	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2007	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2006	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2005	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2004	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2003	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2002	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19				
2001	U16	U17	U18	U19					
2000	U17	U18	U19						
1999	U18	U19							
1998	U19								

There is another very important component to understand about this chart. To avoid players aging out of an age group during a season, the new top age group for youth competitions is U19. This change aligns with the birth year standard and makes sure that players are not eliminated from participating during the second half of a season. In short, all the existing U18 leagues should become U19 in the 2016-17 season and this change should cascade down the age groups (Ex: U17 becomes U18, U16 becomes U17, etc.).



**NEXT STEPS**

If adopting in 2016-17, your next steps should be the following:

- Reference the chart above to determine age groups
- Based on your current highest age group of competition offered, you will need to add an additional age group above that to ensure that players of all ages have the ability to compete. This will ensure that players are playing under the correct age group (19 year olds not playing in U18 competitions) and that players will not miss a year of competition.
  - Ex: Current highest league is U18. Player born in December of 1999 will be 19 years of age during the 17/18 season and should register for U19
  - For those that currently have U19 competitions, that moves to U20, and the same applies for subsequent older ages

For those adopting in 2017-18, your next steps will be the same except they will take place a year later.

In addition to the video and FAQ, we have also created a chart that tracks the pathway of a player from the 2016-17 season to 2024-25. Since the Player Development Initiatives are rooted in individual player development, this chart may make it easier to see the pathway a player takes based on his or her birth year.

This chart is organized to demonstrate how players will progress when registering by birth year. It displays the exact same information as the “Birth Year and Season Matrix” found above. Again, please note that when determining the age group for a season, the year the competition ends should be used.

- Ex: 2017-18 = 2018 - U7 = 2011

Age Group	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2016-17	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
2017-18	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
2018-19	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
2019-20	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
2020-21	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
2021-22	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
2022-23	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
2023-24	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
2024-25	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006