



Jackson Futbol Club

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RE: Changes in Youth Soccer for 2016

TO: Jackson Futbol Club Members

FROM: Jackson Futbol Club Board of Directors

DATE: May 18th, 2016

SUBJECT: Big Changes in Youth Soccer for 2016

Many of you may or may not have seen the announcements released by both US Soccer and US Youth Soccer concerning mandates changing soccer age groups from school year birth dates to calendar year birth dates. The US Soccer Board of Directors passed this initiative. US Soccer is the governing body for the sport of youth and adult soccer in the United States. The mandates apply to all national youth soccer organizations, which are members of US Soccer, to include US Youth Soccer and US Club Soccer.

Jackson Futbol Club is a member of the Mississippi Soccer Association, which is part of US Soccer and the US Youth Soccer National association. The US Youth Soccer board voted to implement the calendar year registration effective with the 2016-2017 seasonal year beginning in August. All clubs and leagues in our area as well as across the country are required to make the change.

This is not a decision in which we have control, it was decided by US Soccer and it is the rule for ALL youth soccer organizations across the United States. Beginning with the Fall 2016 soccer season, JFC will require all participants to register by the player's birth year. Players will be grouped according to birth year in all ages rather than by the system used for years, which was basically a school year calendar. So when registration opens on June 1 for the fall season, you will see the age groups labeled by birth year and designations such as Under 4, Under 5, Under 6, Under 7, etc. This means players will be truly under 4 (3 year olds) playing U4 soccer, will be truly under 5 (4 year olds) playing U5 soccer, and truly under 10 (8 and 9 year olds) playing U10 soccer. Currently U4 soccer is 3 and 4 year olds rather than being a truly UNDER 4 age group, U5 is 4 and 5 year olds rather than being a truly UNDER 5 age group, U6 is 5 and 6 year olds rather than being a truly UNDER 6 age group. Now players playing in each age group will be all born in the same birth year and will be truly Under 4, Under 5, Under 6, Under 7, Under 8, Under 9 when the season begins.

Please understand that implementing change is a process, and we know it can be scary and a bit out of the comfort zone for some players. Depending on when a player's birth date is, they may still be able to play with some school age friends, provided they were born in the same birth year. However, this is an opportunity to make some new lifelong friends as well. If a player would like to play "up" a year, they can do so, but MUST realize when you do this, there are some cases where you will be playing with and against players 18 months older than your child. Players have never been able to play "down" a year, and this will not change next year either. Players must play with their birth year, or if they elect to play with an older birth year, they may do so in recreational soccer. JFC is committed to making this transition as comfortable as possible for all involved.

We will still take player team mate requests in the birth years of 2009-2013. However, we cannot honor teammate requests for the birth years of 2008 and above due to draft rules set in place by our state and national associations.

Also on the agenda this next year as a result of US Soccer Changes is changes to playing formats for some age groups.

Beginning Aug. 1, 2016, US Youth Soccer will be using the following birth-year “labels” for competition, based upon the season in which competition ends. For example:

- Players born from January 1, 2002 – December 31, 2002 will be labeled as 15’s and Under (U15)
- Players born from January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003 will be labeled as 14’s and Under (U14).
- Players born from January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004 will be labeled as 13’s and Under (U13) and will play 11 v 11
- Players born from January 1, 2005-December 31, 2005 will be labeled as 12’s and Under (U12) and will play 9v9. **This is a change since previously this age played 8v8.**
- Players born from January 1, 2006-December 31, 2006 will be labeled as 11’s and Under (U11) and will play 9v9. **This is a change since previously this age played 8v8.**
- Players born from January 1, 2007-December 31, 2007 will be labeled as 10’s and under (U10) and will play 7v7 with a keeper. **This is a change since previously this age played 6v6 with a keeper.**
- Players born from January 1, 2008-December 31, 2008 will be labeled as 9’s and under (U9) and will play 7v7. **This is a change since previously this age played 6v6 with a keeper.**
 - **NOTE:** the U10 and U9 age groups will still be a combined age group as it is across the country for recreational soccer. Teams are comprised of half U9 and half U10 players and teams are formed by draft where all coaches meet and choose their players. This is because beginning at the U10 age group, teams are able to compete on a district and state level at championship tournaments.
- Players born from January 1, 2009-December 31, 2009 will be labeled as 8’s and under (U8) and will play 4v4 with no keeper.
- Players born from January 1, 2010-December 31, 2010 will be labeled as 7’s and under (U7) and will play 4v4 with no keeper.
- Players born from January 1, 2011-December 31, 2011 will be labeled as 6’s and under (U6) and will play 4v4 with no keeper. **This is a change since previously this age played 3v3.**
- Players born from January 1, 2012-December 31, 2012 will be labeled as 5’s and under (U5) and will play 3v3 with no keeper.
- Players born from January 1, 2013-December 31, 2013 will be labeled as 4’s and under (U4) and will play 3v3 with no keeper.

Please understand that throughout the summer JFC will be working hard to make the transition for everyone as smooth as possible so when the fall season arrives everything will run just as smoothly as always.

If you have any questions concerning the process after registration opens on June 1, please contact:

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