

U.S. SOCCER PLAYER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

BIRTH YEAR MATRIX



The following chart outlines the U.S. Soccer birth years by season that take effect as a mandate in August of 2017.

- The Development Academy will keep its current age groups for 2016-17 to provide clubs with a transition period and adopt this chart for the 2017-18 season
- To determine the age group, the year the season ends should be used for determining the birth year
- The format 'U followed by age' really means that age and younger, U-8 should be read as 8 and younger
- Since not all members will adopt the initiatives in 2016, this matrix begins with the 2017-18 season when the mandate goes into effect (August 2017)

Season	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Birth Year								
2020								
2019								U-6
2018							U-6	U-7
2017						U-6	U-7	U-8
2016					U-6	U-7	U-8	U-9
2015				U-6	U-7	U-8	U-9	U-10
2014			U-6	U-7	U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11
2013		U-6	U-7	U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12
2012	U-6	U-7	U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13
2011	U-7	U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13	U-14
2010	U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13	U-14	U-15
2009	U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13	U-14	U-15	U-16
2008	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13	U-14	U-15	U-16	U-17
2007	U-11	U-12	U-13	U-14	U-15	U-16	U-17	U-18
2006	U-12	U-13	U-14	U-15	U-16	U-17	U-18	U-19
2005	U-13	U-14	U-15	U-16	U-17	U-18	U-19	
2004	U-14	U-15	U-16	U-17	U-18	U-19		
2003	U-15	U-16	U-17	U-18	U-19			
2002	U-16	U-17	U-18	U-19				
2001	U-17	U-18	U-19					
2000	U-18	U-19						
1999	U-19							
1998								

U.S. SOCCER DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY BIRTH YEAR MATRIX



The chart below outlines the birth years and age groups for the U.S. Soccer Development Academy: 2015-16 (current), 2016-17 (no changes), and 2017-18 (adopt mandate).

DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY AGE GROUPS			
Age Groups	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 & Beyond
U-20	1995	1996	1998
U-19	1996	1997	1999
U-18	1997	1998	2000
U-17	1998	1999	2001
U-16	1999	2000	2002
U-15	2000	2001	2003
U-14	2001	2002	2004
U-13	2002	2003	2005
U-12	2003	2004	2006

3 Age Groups	5 Age Groups	*6 Age Groups
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**The age groups in the Development Academy for the 2017-18 season will be finalized following a review and feedback from U.S. Soccer Technical Staff, Academy Club Leaders, and Academy Directors.*

U.S. SOCCER DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY SUMMARY



- All leagues and competitions may not be aligned with the birth year “best practice” in the 2016-17 season.
- The U.S. Soccer Development Academy will adopt this mandate in the fall of 2017. This ensures the 1998 age group is not “aged out” of the Academy a year early.
- The one-year runway is designed to provide Development Academy clubs time to align their rosters with the birth year mandate in the 2017-18 season. During the 2016-17 season, clubs may register Developmental Players in the Academy that are age-eligible, even if that player plays for a different age group (year older) in other non-DA competition within your club.
- The age groups in the Development Academy for the 2017-18 season will be finalized following a review with U.S. Soccer Technical Staff and Academy Club Leaders. The U-14 and U-15 age groups are being considered as combined or single age groups in the Academy in 2017-18 and beyond.

Links for reference:

- [Player Development Initiatives](#)
- [FAQ PDI & Birth Year Matrix](#)
- [U-12 & U-13 Announcement](#)

If you have questions regarding the new birth year matrix for your Academy, please contact your Technical Advisor. If you have additional questions about the Player Development Initiatives and birth year in general for your non-Academy teams, please contact your local league or state association as this may vary across the country in the 2016-17 season.