



Dear Torpedoes Parents and Players:

This message is being sent to all of our over 500 Torpedoes Soccer Club players and families to notify you of some important changes mandated by the **United States Soccer Federation (USSF)**. The changes will affect the Torpedoes, every other soccer club, every soccer tournament, and every soccer league in the United States beginning August 1, 2016. While the USSF made these changes with the intent of improving the development of the players, the changes have been criticized by some because they will create an initial shakeup of established teams. Here is a link to the USSF's website which provides further information about the changes: <http://www.ussoccer.com/coaching-education/resources/2015-player-development-initiatives>.

Perhaps the biggest change will be that age eligibility for teams will switch from our current school-year model to a birth-year model. So, for example, for the 2016-17 season, U-10 players will have a birth date between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007. Below is a birth year chart for the next several years:

SEASON	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
BIRTH YEAR									
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								

We understand that this change will separate players on many teams that have been together for years. Some have suggested that we simply have teams play “up” at the older age. However, the Torpedoes, along with almost every other club in the country, have rejected this suggestion because it would unfairly force some players to compete against players as much as 18 months older. The change will apply to all Torpedoes teams and no exceptions will be made. If exceptions were made, it would have an obvious negative impact on other age groups. In addition, trainer/coaches will generally be assigned to remain with the younger players on their current teams as that tends to be the least disruptive to teams based on the current distributions. Finally, we are working with the league to ensure that there will be a U-15 division, so age-appropriate players not yet in high school will have a league to compete in by Fall 2016.

To ease the transition to birth year teams, Torpedoes coaches will invite age-appropriate players to train together a couple of times prior to the upcoming tryouts, which are expected to be in April/ May. We hope that your child will attend those training sessions to meet their future coach/trainer and their future teammates, as well as to see the familiar faces with whom they will continue to play.

Other changes mandated by the USSF pertain to the size of fields and number of players on the field for the younger teams. For example, U-7 and U-8 players will play 4 v. 4, U-9 and U-10 players will play 7 v. 7., U-11 and U-12 players will play 9 v. 9. The Northern Counties league will not implement these field/player number changes in the upcoming Fall 2016 season, but they will go into effect in the Fall 2017 season.

In sum, we understand that the USSF-mandated changes will not be easy for many of our members. But rest assured that the robust health of the Torpedoes Soccer Club will continue. We strongly believe that regardless of age group, parents and players alike will be impressed with the uniformly high level of training and coaching the Torpedoes offers and players will enjoy their new teams in the fall. In addition, with the newly-turfed/lighted Pulis field, our indoor facility, and The Cage, the Torpedoes has facilities second to none. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any Torpedoes Board member or come to a coaches meeting. We thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,



Torpedoes Soccer Club
Board of Trustees