



Union FC Indy Age Group Change—Town Hall

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Starting with the 2026-27 season, US Youth Soccer and Indiana Soccer are shifting to a school year (Aug 1–July 31) age group structure. Initiated by major organizations like US Youth Soccer and US Club Soccer, this change aims to align team formation with academic grade levels, reducing "trapped player" issues and increasing participation, especially through the middle and high school age groups.

As a member of US Youth Soccer and Indiana Soccer, Union FC Indy will be adopting this change at tryouts in June of 2026.

The new age group cohorts are as follows:

AGE GROUP FORMATION MATRIX								
Age Group Formation	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034
2020 (Aug) – 2021 (July)	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2019 (Aug) – 2020 (July)	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2018 (Aug) – 2019 (July)	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2017 (Aug) – 2018 (July)	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2016 (Aug) – 2017 (July)	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2015 (Aug) – 2016 (July)	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2014 (Aug) – 2015 (July)	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2013 (Aug) – 2014 (July)	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2012 (Aug) – 2013 (July)	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2011 (Aug) – 2012 (July)	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2010 (Aug) – 2011 (July)	U16	U17	U18	U19				
2009 (Aug) – 2010 (July)	U17	U18	U19					
2008 (Aug) – 2009 (July)	U18	U19						
2007 (Aug) – 2008 (July)	U19							

The age group change will see every single roster within the club change. Rosters from previous years will not impact roster creation in 2026-27.

Exceptions:

There are two exceptions to be considered--

1. Advanced School Placement

Players who are officially enrolled in a school grade above their designated age group due to early school enrollment or grade acceleration may be permitted to play with their school-year cohort through approval of both the Union FC Indy DOC and the player's parents/guardians.

2. Impact Player Development Policy

The club recognizes that, in rare cases, a player's developmental age may exceed their chronological age. These players demonstrate significantly advanced technical ability, tactical understanding, physical maturity, and overall game impact compared to peers in their age group.

In these exceptional cases, a player may be invited by the DOC, in consultation with the age group coaches, to train with an older age group for a trial period, up to several weeks.

Following this evaluation period, a player may be deemed an "impact player" if they demonstrate the ability to perform within the top 20% of players on the older team. Impact player programming typically involves training and matches with an older team, while often, still participating in some training sessions and/or games with the player's own age group. The exact balance will be determined based on what the club deems to be the most beneficial for the individual player's development.

It is important to note that this policy is an **exception**, not the rule. It is up to the staff, and the staff only, to identify players who possess the technical ability, soccer intelligence, as well as the physical and emotional maturity required to succeed at an older age level.

The sole consideration in implementing this policy for any player is what best supports the individual player's development. Decisions will not be influenced by team needs, competitive outcomes, prestige, or external pressure from parents or families.

Impact players' development pathways are evaluated annually. Approval in one season does not guarantee placement in an older age group in future seasons, and prior team affiliation will not factor into future decisions.