



US SOCCER

AGE GROUP

CHANGE



Bulls FC | Pathway One (Vision 2038)

We are building a long-term player development system.

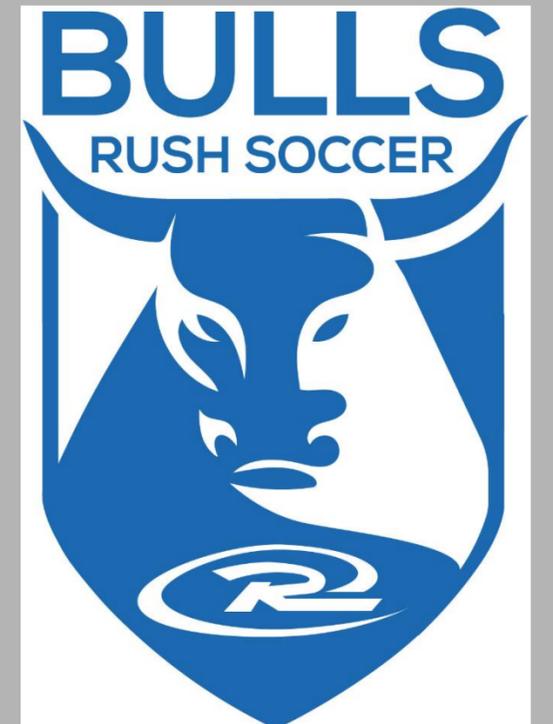
Foundation → Acceleration → Specialization → Elite Transition.

Winning never outweighs development.

Late developers are protected.

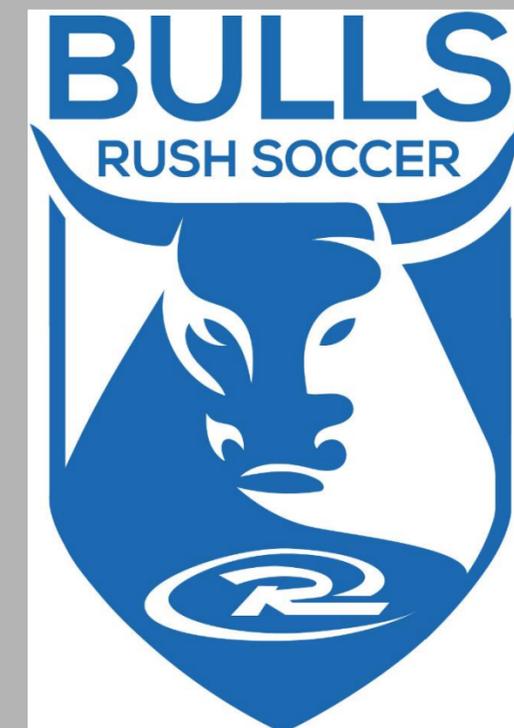
Advancement is earned.

Our goal: Develop complete players — technically, tactically, mentally, physically.



Why Stability Matters in Youth Soccer

- Frequent club changes disrupt development
- Systems produce long-term excellence
- Top academies prioritize continuity
- Bulls FC invests in structure, not shortcuts



What This Age Change Means For Your Player

- More appropriate physical groupings
- Better school alignment
- Clearer long-term pathway
- Improved roster stability
- Stronger competitive balance



LEAGUE PLANS

USYS



NATIONAL LEAGUE



STATE LEAGUES

US CLUB



ECNL



ECNL RL



PRE-ECNL



NPL

OTHER



MLS NEXT HOMEGROWN



MLS NEXT ACADEMY



GIRLS ACADEMY LEAGUE



GA ASPIRE



ELITE ACADEMY LEAGUE



NATIONAL ACADEMY LEAGUE



DPL



TIMELINE PRE 2017 TO PRESENT

All youth soccer leagues form teams based on August 1st - July 31st age groups.

-  US Youth Soccer
-  US Club
-  AYSO

PRE 2017

 US Soccer announces they are reverting back to August 1st - July 31st age groups.

MARCH 2025

AUGUST 2015

 US Soccer announces starting August 1st, 2017 all youth soccer leagues will form teams based on birth year.

2017-2026

All youth soccer leagues form teams based on birth year (January 1st - December 31st)

-  US Youth Soccer
-   US Club
-  AYSO
-  USSSA

2026 & BEYOND

Youth leagues are switching back to August 1st - July 31st age groups.

-  US Youth Soccer
-    US Club
-  AYSO
-  USSSA (TBD)
-  GA
-  MLS Next (TBD)

RESOURCES PARENTS & PLAYERS

AGE GROUP CHART



A grid chart showing age group transitions from 2007 to 2023 across months. The chart is titled "2026-2027 Age Group Reference Chart". The columns represent months from January to December, and the rows represent years from 2007 to 2023. Each cell contains a birthdate (mm/dd/yyyy) indicating the transition point for that year and month.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2007	20U	20U	20U	20U	20U	20U	20U	19U	19U	19U	19U	19U
2008	19U	19U	19U	19U	19U	19U	19U	18U	18U	18U	18U	18U
2009	18U	18U	18U	18U	18U	18U	18U	17U	17U	17U	17U	17U
2010	17U	17U	17U	17U	17U	17U	17U	16U	16U	16U	16U	16U
2011	16U	16U	16U	16U	16U	16U	16U	15U	15U	15U	15U	15U
2012	15U	15U	15U	15U	15U	15U	15U	14U	14U	14U	14U	14U
2013	14U	14U	14U	14U	14U	14U	14U	13U	13U	13U	13U	13U
2014	13U	13U	13U	13U	13U	13U	13U	12U	12U	12U	12U	12U
2015	12U	12U	12U	12U	12U	12U	12U	11U	11U	11U	11U	11U
2016	11U	11U	11U	11U	11U	11U	11U	10U	10U	10U	10U	10U
2017	10U	10U	10U	10U	10U	10U	10U	9U	9U	9U	9U	9U
2018	9U	9U	9U	9U	9U	9U	9U	8U	8U	8U	8U	8U
2019	8U	8U	8U	8U	8U	8U	8U	7U	7U	7U	7U	7U
2020	7U	7U	7U	7U	7U	7U	7U	6U	6U	6U	6U	6U
2021	6U	6U	6U	6U	6U	6U	6U	5U	5U	5U	5U	5U
2022	5U	5U	5U	5U	5U	5U	5U	4U	4U	4U	4U	4U
2023	4U	4U	4U	4U	4U	4U	4U	3U	3U	3U	3U	3U

Age group chart available for parents and players to view the age group changes in chart form. Players/Parents can use this to learn what their new age group will be moving forward. Age group chart can be found [HERE](#).

AGE GROUP CALCULATOR



A screenshot of a web-based calculator titled "2026-2027 AGE GROUP CALCULATOR". Below the title, it specifies "(For birthdates between Aug 1, 2007 - Jul 31, 2023)". There is a text input field labeled "Enter player's birthdate:" with a placeholder "mm/dd/yyyy" and a calendar icon. A blue "Calculate" button is positioned below the input field.

Tool available for parents and players to easily access their new age group. Plug in the birthdate and the calculator will tell them which age group they will fall into moving forward. Age group calculator can be found [HERE](#).

U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION DECISION ON PLAYER REGISTRATION



US Soccer has shifted roster formation guidelines to national and local leagues. More information can be found [HERE](#).



RUSH NATIONAL INFO

RUSH FEST



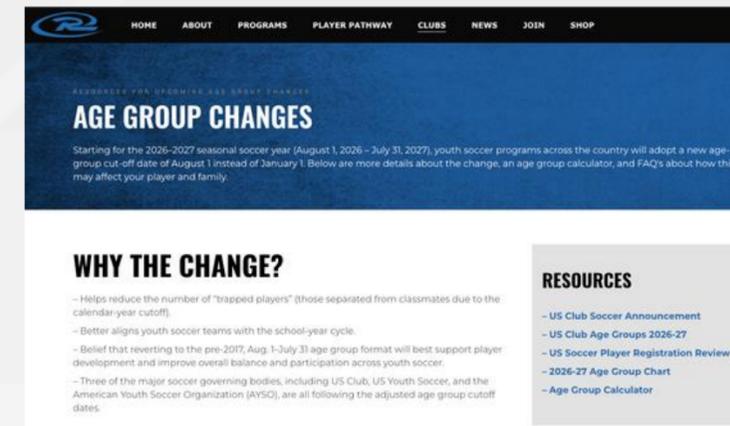
With the upcoming age group changes, Rush Fest will feature two distinct age categories in 2026. Players remaining in U12 will compete in 7v7 matches, while those advancing to U13 will participate in 11v11 games. More information on Rush Fest can be found [HERE](#).

RUSH SELECT



Rush Select has always been and will remain birth year-based, even with changes in age groups. This approach aligns with other regional and national select programs, as well as international age group standards. More information on the Rush Select program can be found [HERE](#).

RESOURCE WEBSITE



Rush National has created a webpage dedicated to addressing any inquiries related to the age group change. You can access the Rush National resource website [HERE](#).



Bulls Rush FC- Playing Up Policy 2026-2027

Our Philosophy

Playing up is a **strategic developmental decision**, not a reward.

We prioritize:

- Long-term growth
- Emotional and physical readiness
- Mastery before acceleration
- System over shortcuts

Aligned with **Pathway One (Vision 2038)**

When Is Playing Up Considered?

A player must:

- ✓ Be a consistent starter
- ✓ Be a clear impact player
- ✓ Demonstrate advanced technical & tactical ability
- ✓ Show emotional maturity & resilience
- ✓ Be capable of earning a role with older players

What Playing Up Is NOT Based On

- ✗ Parent request alone
- ✗ Physical size or early maturity
- ✗ Temporary strong performance
- ✗ Winning priorities
- ✗ Roster gaps

Evaluation Process

Written request- Upon Tryout Registration

Current coach evaluation

Older team coach input

Director of Coaching review

Coaching committee decision

Final decision rests with club leadership.

BULLS RUSH FC-----What We Look For in an Impact Player

Technical Quality

An impact player:

- ✓ Controls the ball under pressure
 - ✓ Wins 1v1 moments consistently
 - ✓ Executes clean, consistent first touch
 - ✓ Maintains high passing accuracy at speed
- They raise the technical standard of the team.

Tactical Intelligence

An impact player:

- ✓ Understands spacing and movement
 - ✓ Makes fast, correct decisions
 - ✓ Recognizes game patterns
 - ✓ Adjusts to different game situations
- They think the game faster than others.

Competitive Mentality

An impact player:

- ✓ Competes every training session
 - ✓ Responds positively to adversity
 - ✓ Maintains composure under pressure
 - ✓ Accepts coaching and applies feedback
- They elevate the group's mentality.

Physical Readiness (Age-Appropriate)

An impact player:

- ✓ Competes safely and confidently
 - ✓ Sustains performance for full matches
 - ✓ Recovers quickly between efforts
- Physical maturity alone does not qualify a player.

Leadership & Influence

An impact player:

- ✓ Communicates effectively
 - ✓ Leads through actions
 - ✓ Raises standards in training
 - ✓ Influences key moments in games
- Impact is measured by influence — not reputation.

Our Standard

To play up, a player must be capable of becoming an impact player at the older level — not just participating.

Under **Pathway One (Vision 2038)**, advancement is earned through sustained influence, not early promotion.

BULLS RUSH FC

Play-Up Policy – Parent Q&A

Why can't my child just "try" playing up for the season?

- Because development must be intentional.

Temporary promotion without sustained readiness can harm confidence, playing time, and long-term growth. Movement must be strategic — not experimental.

My child is one of the best players on the team. Isn't that enough?

- Being strong in your age group is the starting point — not the final qualification.

Players must be capable of becoming an **impact player at the older level**, not just competing.

What if my child is physically bigger or more mature?

- Early physical maturity does not predict long-term success.

We protect late developers and evaluate based on technical, tactical, and mental projection — not size.

Will staying in age group hurt college or exposure opportunities?

- No. College pathways are built through:
- Technical quality
- Tactical intelligence
- Game understanding
- Character and consistency
- Mastery within age group often produces stronger long-term outcomes.
-



- **BULLS RUSH FC**
- **Play-Up Policy – Parent Q&A**

Can a decision be reversed during the season?

- Yes. All placements are monitored. If development stalls or playing time becomes limited, adjustments may be made in the best interest of the player.

What is the most important factor in advancement?

- Sustained performance + emotional readiness + long-term projection.
- Not speed. Not status. Not pressure.

Our Commitment

- We are building complete players through structure, patience, and standards.
- As part of **Pathway One (Vision 2038)**, advancement decisions are made with the player's future — not just this season — in mind.





- **BULLS RUSH FC**
- **Playing Up: Common Myths vs. Reality**

- **MYTH #1:**

- “If my child plays up, they’ll develop faster.”

- **REALITY:**

- Development accelerates through **appropriate challenge**, not just older competition.
The right level — not the highest level — produces growth.

- **MYTH #2:**

- “Playing up means my child is elite.”

- **REALITY:**

- True elite development is measured by **long-term progression**, not early promotion.
Status does not equal projection.

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- **MYTH #3:**

- “If my child stays in their age group, they’ll fall behind.”

- **REALITY:**

- Mastery builds confidence, leadership, and consistency.
Rushing levels often creates technical gaps later.

BULLS RUSH FC

Playing Up: Common Myths vs. Reality

MYTH #4:

“Bigger and faster players should move up.”

REALITY:

Early physical maturity does not predict long-term success.

We evaluate technical quality, decision-making, and mental readiness.

MYTH #5:

“Playing up helps with college exposure.”

REALITY:

College pathways are built on:

Technical ability

Tactical intelligence

Game impact

Character

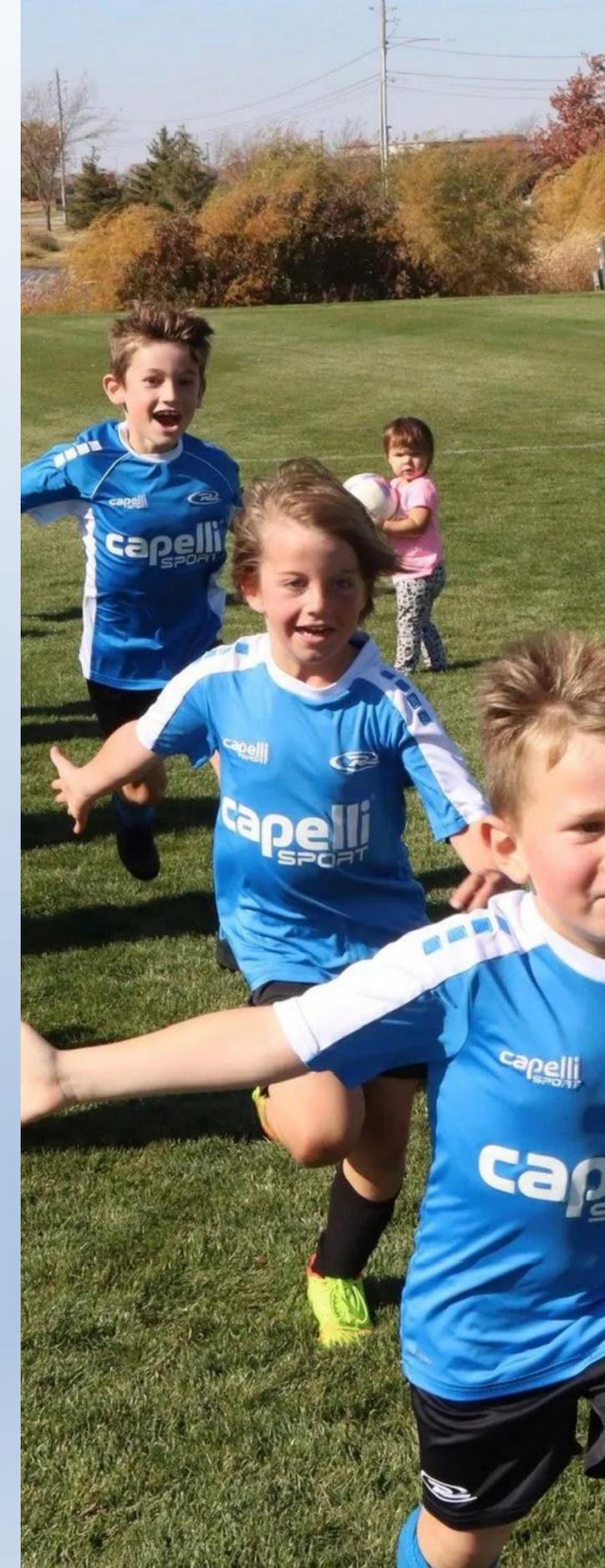
Dominating your age group often creates stronger recruiting outcomes.

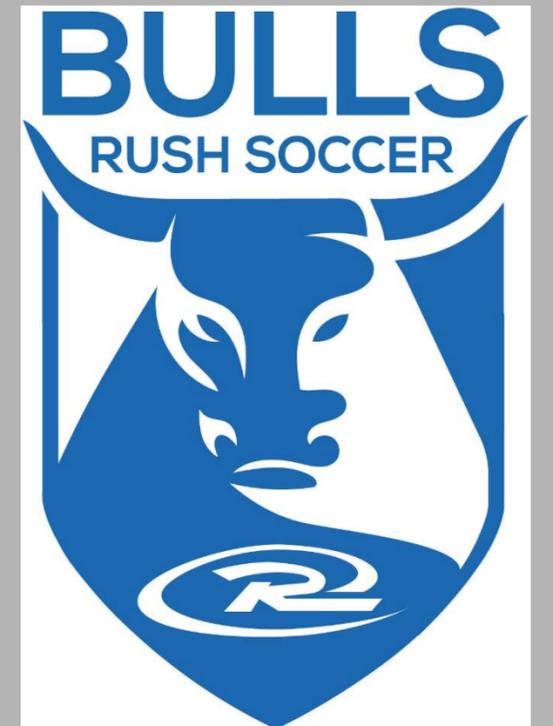
Our Standard

We do not accelerate players for optics.

We move players when it clearly benefits their long-term development.

As part of Pathway One (Vision 2038), we build complete players — not early labels.







BULLS RUSH FC

PLAYER FIRST MENTALITY: OUR MANIFESTO

www.ga-scbulls.com



THE CORE PHILOSOPHY: PLAYER FIRST

We prioritize the individual development of each player above team results. Our goal is to nurture potential, build character, and foster a lifelong love for the game. Being Player First means:

- We prioritize long-term development over short-term results
- We value who players become, not just how they perform
- Every decision is filtered through one guiding question: "What is best for the player's long-term development as both an athlete and a person?"



PLAYER FIRST PHILOSOPHY



This belief is not marketing or a slogan—it is:



A SYSTEM



A RESPONSIBILITY



A PROMISE

We believe rushing development, chasing trophies, or prioritizing optics ultimately hurts players. A Player First approach protects childhood, honors individual journeys, and prepares players for life beyond soccer.

www.ga-scbulls.com



A Player First Club Organization Looks Like:

◆ Development-Driven

- Age-appropriate training
- Clear long-term pathways (Vision 2038)
- Protection of late developers
- Smart, earned exposure to higher levels

◆ People-Centered Coaching

- Coaches are educators first
- Character, confidence, and resilience are taught intentionally
- Players are treated with respect, honesty, care

◆ Game-Intelligent Training

- Thinking players, not robots
- Emphasis on decision-making, creativity, and courage
- Comfort in possession and problem-solving under pressure

◆ Individualized Journeys

- No early labeling
- Playing time used as a development tool, not a reward
- Late bloomers protected; early bloomers challenged properly

◆ True Family Partnerships

- Parents are partners, not customers
- Transparent communication, honest evaluations
- Education around long-term development

MAINTAINING A PLAYER FIRST CULTURE



To maintain a Player First culture, Bulls Rush FC must be relentlessly consistent, especially when pressure rises.

◆ Align Actions With Beliefs

- Ensure roster decisions, playing time, league placement, and pathways match development goals
- Resist shortcut culture—even when it's tempting

◆ Invest in Coach Education

- Train coaches to teach the game the right way
- Hold coaches accountable to Player First behaviors
- Support coaches as leaders, educators, and mentors

◆ Protect the Long View

- Evaluate success year-over-year, not weekend-to-weekend
- Track growth, confidence, love of the game, and preparedness for higher levels

◆ Communicate the “Why”

- Continually educate families on development vs. results
- Set clear expectations and reinforce trust in the process

A Player First mindset survives only when it is modeled, measured, and defended daily.

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HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT APPROACH



TECHNICAL

Mastery of ball skills and control.



TACTICAL

Understanding game intelligence and decision-making.



PHYSICAL

Building athleticism, speed, and strength.



PSYCHOSOCIAL

Developing character, resilience, and teamwork.

BULLS RUSH FC IS BUILT ON THESE PRINCIPLES:

- ◆ Players come first—always
- ◆ Development is a journey, not a race
- ◆ We coach people, not just players
- ◆ We train the game the right way
- ◆ Long-term growth matters more than early results
- ◆ Families are partners, not customers
- ◆ Success is measured by growth, love of the game, and preparedness for life

Bulls Rush FC- Player First



www.ga-scbulls.com





WE BELIEVE:

- Systems beat shortcuts
- Culture beats talent alone
- Player-First always wins in the end

This is not just what Bulls Rush FC does.

This is who Bulls Rush FC is!