



Colorado Rush Families:

We wanted to take a moment to personally reach out regarding an upcoming change from US Youth Soccer that will impact age groups beginning with the 2026–2027 season. We understand that changes like this can bring questions, concerns, and even some anxiety—especially when it affects team placement, friendships, and long-term development. Please know that our priority is, and always will be, what is best for your child both on and off the field.

What is changing?

As many of you know, U.S. Soccer and major youth soccer organizations are shifting the age-group cutoff back to a seasonal (school-year) model rather than the calendar year (birth-year) model starting with the 2026–27 soccer year (Aug. 1, 2026–Jul. 31, 2027). Colorado Rush will transition to the new age-group classification model beginning with the 2026–27 soccer season, in alignment with U.S. Soccer and the leagues that Colorado Rush competes in. Please note, this transition will not impact rosters during the Spring 2026 season. It will take effect in the Fall 2026.

Why is this change happening?

The intent behind this shift is to:

- Better align teams with school grades and support long-term player development
- Help players stay with friends and classmates
- Improve overall player experience and long-term enjoyment of the game
- Eliminate the “trapped” player between eighth and ninth grade

What does this mean for players and families?

- Some players may move into a different age group than they are currently in. However, players will not be forced into changing age groups.
- Teams will be adjusted thoughtfully and with player development in mind.
- We will communicate clearly and well in advance as registration and team formation approach.
- Some players may remain in an age group for an additional year as a result of the transition. This is expected and is designed to support development, confidence, and readiness.
- Requests for players to “play up” will continue to be evaluated on an individual basis by Colorado Rush coaching staff and leadership.

We recognize that every player’s situation is unique. Please know that we are already discussing how to manage this transition carefully, fairly, and with compassion. Our staff will be available to answer questions and help guide families through the process. There is nothing you need to do right now. As we get closer to the 2026–2027 season, we will provide:

- Clear age-group charts
- Registration guidance

Thank you for your continued trust and support of our club. We are grateful to be part of your child’s soccer journey and remain committed to creating a positive, supportive environment for every player. If you have immediate questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Colorado Rush Soccer Club