

## **AGE GROUP CHANGE FAQ's FROM QUESTIONNAIRE**

### **Q: Why August 1 and not September 1 to align with Georgia schools?**

**A:** This is a nationwide change, not just Georgia. After receiving significant feedback and information from Department of Education school year cut-off lists, it was determined that the Aug. 1 cut-off best reduces misalignment between age and school year. The Aug. 1 cut-off reduces not only the trapped player effect, but it also reduces the number of "force-ups," a term referring to players in a younger soccer age group but older school year who must play up an age group to be with their school-year friends.

### **Q: Will players with a Fall birthday (8/1 or later) have the option to try out for an older age group team, or will they have to stay in their own age group for another year?**

**A:** In the academy age groups, players will try out for their proper age group under the new guidelines. Coaches may identify some players as advanced within their group who would benefit from playing up an age group. These athletes will be the 1% of cases.

The U13-U14 age groups will require some more individual nuance and conversations with the respective coaches to determine where it is best for players to try out

For high school age groups (U15+), players can decide which age group to try out for.

### **Q: If a player's birthday is July 31 or earlier, but is a grade behind, how do you determine eligibility? By school year or by birth date?**

**A:** A player's age group is determined by their birth date. While players can play up in an older age group, they are not allowed to play down in a younger age group.

### **Q: What options will true U14 players, that play up on U15 teams in the fall, have for playing in the spring season, if they want to play?**

**A:** If there is room on a U14 team, there may be an option to practice and play with them in the spring season. There would be an additional fee charged for this.

### **Q: Since U14 and U15 tryouts are different weeks, will the younger 2012 players be told which tryout to attend or will they be required to attend both weeks of tryouts?**

**A:** Having a conversation with your player's current coach should help guide you with this decision. They can share what they feel the best developmentally appropriate age group moving forward would be.