



US SOCCER

AGE GROUP

CHANGE



RECAP: WHAT WE KNOW

USYS

 NATIONAL LEAGUE

 STATE LEAGUES

US CLUB

 ECNL

 ECNL RL

 NPL


 SCCL

OTHER

 MLS NEXT HOMEGROWN

 MLS NEXT ACADEMY

 GIRLS ACADEMY LEAGUE

 GA ASPIRE

 DPL

 NATIONAL ACADEMY LEAGUE

 ELITE ACADEMY LEAGUE




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
-  GA
-  MLS Next (Academy)

RESOURCES PARENTS & PLAYERS



AGE GROUP CHART

2026-2027 Age Group Reference Chart

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

2026-2027 AGE GROUP CALCULATOR

(For birthdates between Aug 1, 2007 - Jul 31, 2023)

Enter player's birthdate:

mm/dd/yyyy

Calculate

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



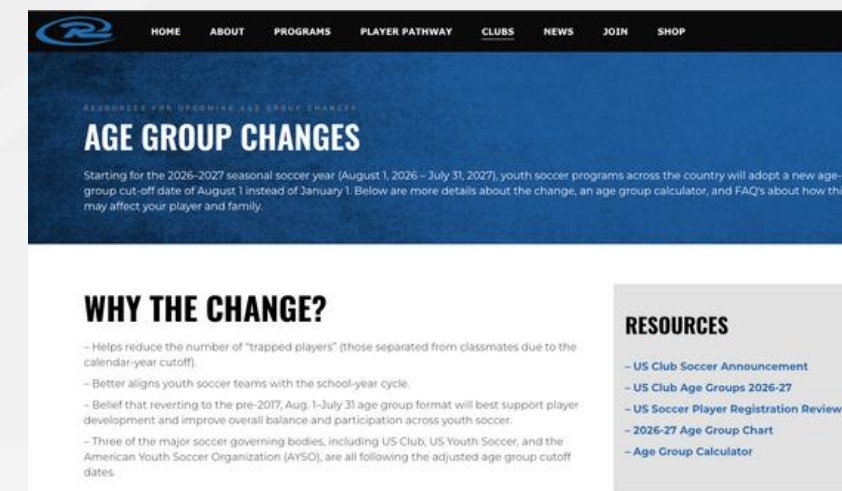
With the upcoming age group changes, Rush Fest will feature two distinct age categories in 2026. Players remaining in U12 will compete in 7v7 matches, while those advancing to U13 will participate in 11v11 games. More information on Rush Fest can be found [HERE](#).

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](#).



WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

LOCAL LEAGUE POLICIES



As of now, local league policies are still unsettled. Current indications are that each league will set its own approach, using guidance from groups like US Club, USYS, and AYSO. Expect updates as leagues finalize details and share timelines.

SENIOR PLAYERS?

U18 → U19

Play-up decisions will be guided by each governing body, league, and club. Final choices will follow their written policies, age and safety rules, and player development goals. We do expect there to be some concession for older High School Seniors.

SUMMER 2026 TOURNAMENTS



Summer tournaments following the tryout season may continue to utilize the birth year age group system. Currently, no decisions have been made regarding the participation of the new age group teams in competitions.



RUSH UNION TIMELINE

**December 2025
- May 2026**



Internal review of all existing team rosters, staff feedback on roster alignment and strategy

JANUARY 2026

DECEMBER 2025

Rush Union communicated what was known about the US Soccer age group change and intention to build a transition plan.

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

Parent and player feedback collected, age group meetings held and informational updates via all program Orientation meetings.

Townhall meeting conducted via Rush Union annual meeting. Age group Integration plan released. ID Clinics announced to allow players to experience new age group alignment.

APRIL 2026

MAY 2026 & BEYOND

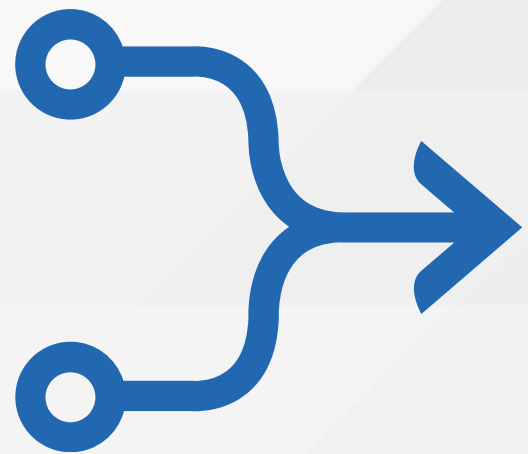
Competitive team tryouts conducted all registrations moved to New Age Group alignment.

Rush Union will continue to receive feedback to ensure players are placed in developmentally appropriate programs.

AGE GROUP INTEGRATION



ROSTER REVIEW PROCESS



Our staff and coaches are reviewing all roster to see where players are impacted so discussions can happen internally on where best to place players ahead of player placements/tryouts in May.

All rosters reviewed by staff and coaches looking for potential opportunities for the following:

- 1) Roster Continuity where developmentally appropriate
- 2) Roster opportunity for players currently on second teams to have a chance to move up in level
- 3) Ways to provide more club pass or playing opportunities

Tryouts virtually simulated to help coaching staff be aware of the following:

- 1) Opportunities to strengthen rosters from outside Rush Union
- 2) Potential roster gaps



AGE GROUP INTEGRATION



Information added to all Program Orientation Meetings to generate awareness of upcoming changes. Those Orientation Meetings included:

- 1) Recreational
- 2) Pre Academy
- 3) Academy
- 4) SCCL
- 5) NPL
- 6) DPL

TEAM/AGE GROUP MEETINGS

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		X				
	X					
			X			

We will conduct team or age group specific meetings as needed to address individual team concerns and answer questions.

Age groups specifically targeted to address individual concerns:

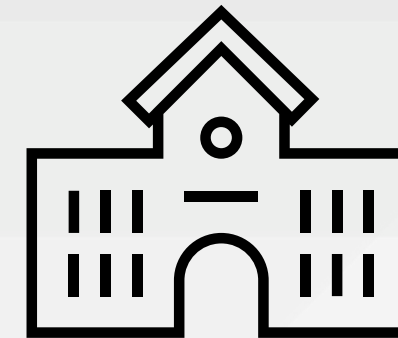
- 1) 2014 Age Group due to moving from 9v9 pool-based format into 11v11 team-based format.
- 2) 2011 & 2012 Age Groups due to players moving into High School

AGE GROUP INTEGRATION

Rush Union Annual Meeting will be used to inform membership again concerning the upcoming changes with a focus on the following:

- 1) Allow membership to have a voice in the process in the form of a follow up survey and provide ways for 1-1 discussions with staff and age group coaches.
- 2) Provide an overview of the Rush Union Integration Plan for the Age Group Change

TOWNHALL DISUCSSION



A townhall meeting will be set up to all for feedback and answer questions on the Rush Union implementation plan once the plan is finalized. This will likely happen in April.



AGE GROUP INTEGRATION

PLAN BY AGE RANGE



<p>U4-U12 Recreational, Pre-Academy, Academy Programs</p> <p>Currently players born 2015-2022</p>	<p>U13-U15 SCCL, NPL & DPL Programs</p> <p>Currently players born 2012-2014</p>	<p>U16-U19 SCCL, NPL & DPL Programs</p> <p>Currently players born 2008-2011</p>
<p>Overview: All players will move to the new age classifications.</p> <p>Requests to play up in age will be determined by the coaching staff. These players should be in the top 10% of players in the age group above to be considered.</p>	<p>Overview: Players will need to be evaluated on an individual basis and teams assessed for longevity.</p> <p>Player input should be considered.</p>	<p>Overview: Team continuity will be a big factor at this age group for teams that have had success.</p> <p>Player input will be critical in forming or reforming the appropriate teams in this age range.</p>
<p>Rationale: Our programs at these age groups do not have set teams and this will allow for most players to develop in the new appropriate groups</p>	<p>Rationale: This is where we expect the largest number of challenges with players who want to be considered to play up and weighing in long term development with short term team continuity needs.</p>	<p>Rationale: Many teams have been established for a long period of time, and roster continuity may provide a more developmentally appropriate environment.</p>



NEXT STEPS

PARENTS & PLAYERS



ID CLINICS

Hold program ID practice sessions that may include regular practice environments or deliberately scheduled ID Clinics.

Facilitate multiple staff members on sight during additional observational opportunities to allow for maximum player assessment.

TRYOUTS

Plan tryout times to allow for players to be easily moved around to groups.

Use scheduled ID Clinic findings to provide insight on player performance ahead of official tryouts.

Allow for multiple coaches to be present to assess players needs.

FALL 2026 - OPEN COMMUNICATION

Allow for parents to provide some input on their child's needs.

Allow for coaches to provide their professional assessment on players where they are currently and could be on their developmental journey.





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