



Placer United Info Night

US Soccer Mandated Structure
Changes to Youth Soccer

Youth Soccer Governing Body Structure

- **The US Soccer Federation is the governing body for the sport of soccer in the United States.**
- **The new mandates apply to all national youth soccer organizations who are members of US Soccer, USYSA (aka CYSA), US Club Soccer and AYSO.**
- **Our league, Nor Cal Premier, National Premier League (aka NPL) and Nor Cal State Cup are all governed by US Club Soccer, who in turn is governed by US Soccer Federation.**

Youth Soccer Structure



What are the New Mandates?

- **CALENDAR YEAR BASED AGE GROUPS**
- **PLAYER FORMATS FOR YOUNGER AGE GROUPS**
- **FIELD SIZES FOR YOUNGER AGE GROUPS**

BIRTH-YEAR REGISTRATION

Birth-year registration calendars will now align with the start of the calendar year and run from January to December, rather than August to July as it had previously. Birth-year registration applies to all player age groups and not just players age 12 and younger.

The initiative will align registration with the international standard, as well as US Soccer Youth National team programming as well as programs such as ID2, PDP and ODP who are all already on a calendar year format.

2016/17 Age Groups

Age Group	Date of Birth
U8	Jan1, 2008-Dec 31, 2008
U9	Jan1, 2007-Dec 31, 2007
U10	Jan1, 2006-Dec 31, 2006
U11	Jan1, 2005-Dec 31, 2005
U12	Jan1, 2004-Dec 31, 2004
U13	Jan1, 2003-Dec 31, 2003
U14	Jan1, 2002-Dec 31, 2002
U15	Jan1, 2001-Dec 31, 2001
U16	Jan1, 2000-Dec 31, 2000
U17	Jan1, 1999-Dec 31, 1999
U18/19	Jan1, 1997-Dec 31, 1998

NEW PLAYER / TEAM FORMATS

The new player and team size standards are focused at players from the U-6 to U-12 age groups. This new environment will allow players a better opportunity to develop their on-the-ball skills as well as increase their soccer intelligence

The number of players on the pitch will increase in size from 4v4 to 7v7 to 9v9 as players move up in age, until they reach the U-13 age group and begin to play full 11v11 matches.

2016/17 Season Team Structures

Age Group	# Players Per Side	Current Length of Halves	2016/17 Length of Halves	Recommended # of Refs
U8	4v4	2x20	3x15	1
U9	7v7	2x25	2x25	1
U10	7v7	2x25	2x25	1
U11	9v9	2x30	2x30	1
U12	9v9	2x35	2x30	1
U13	11v11	2x35	2x35	3
U14	11v11	2x35	2x35	3
U15	11v11	2x40	2x40	3
U16	11v11	2x40	2x40	3
U17	11v11	2x45	2x45	3
U18/19	11v11	2x45	2x45	3

FIELD SIZE STANDARDS

Age Group	# Players Per Side	Current Length of Halves	Field Size	Ball Size
U8	4v4	2x20	Min 30x20 Max 40x30	3
U9	7v7	2x25	Min 50x30 Max 60x40	4
U10	7v7	2x25	Min 50x30 Max 60x40	4
U11	9v9	2x30	Min 70x40 Max 80x50	4
U12	9v9	2x35	Min 70x40 Max 80x50	4
U13	11v11	2x35	Min 100x55 Max 120x80	5
U14	11v11	2x35	Min 100x55 Max 120x80	5
U15	11v11	2x40	Min 100x55 Max 120x80	5
U16	11v11	2x40	Min 100x55 Max 120x80	5
U17	11v11	2x45	Min 100x55 Max 120x80	5
U18/19	11v11	2x45	Min 100x55 Max 120x80	5

The core objectives behind the small sided standards are as follows:

- Fewer players on the field means more touches on the ball and increased touches translates to more individual skill.
- Players who are more skilled may become more confident and comfortable when in possession of the ball.
- The ratio of players to field size is designed to assist players with making the right kind of decisions and improving awareness.
- This approach builds on itself as players get older and start playing with more players on bigger fields.
- And as players get older, the building block approach also allows them to better integrate into a team model where they develop partnerships with the other players that make up the team.

Overall, the standards provide for an age-appropriate environment for players to achieve the objectives listed above

What to expect for the 2016 season

Tryouts

- **U8-U11 – January 29-Feb 6 -2016**
 - **These tryouts will be for players with birthdates in 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005**
- **U12-U13 – February 19-27 - 2016**
 - **These tryouts will be for players with birthdates in 2004 and 2003**
- **U14 Tryouts are not yet set as some of the 2002 age group will be still playing.**

How will teams be formed?

Teams will be formed in conformance with the new US Soccer Federation mandates and in the same manner we have always conducted tryouts.

Can my child play up an age group?

Placer United has always had a policy that players must tryout in their own age group. If the coach and/or Director believe it is in the best interest of the players development to have them play up, that is what will be offered to the player. However, players will not be allowed to play up unless it is a benefit to the player's development and they will have a meaningful impact on the older team.

Message from Placer United

Placer United parents and players please remember that all U.S youth soccer players, teams, clubs, leagues and associations are going through this big change together.

We at Placer United realize it maybe a stressful experience for all involved and we recommend the following so as to make this transition period as smooth as possible.

- **Be Educated** - *Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the World - Nelson Mandela.*
- **Be Supportive** - *The pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty - Winston Churchill.*
- **Be Patient** - *This is uncharted territory for a lot of people, so naturally there will be some bumps along the way. **Please be patient and ready to deal with them** – Placer United Soccer Club.*

With 33 + years of experience in youth soccer Placer United will continue to strive to provide the best soccer experience possible to all members of our program.

Final Word from U.S Soccer

The overall success of these new initiatives will be limited without the support and execution at the local level. This long-term plan is truly a collaborative effort between U.S. Soccer and all of its members. Together, we have the ability to transform the soccer landscape to develop players to best of their abilities.

Changing our soccer culture to prioritize the development of individual players ahead of team results will also allow us to create a future generation of players that can compete and succeed domestically and internationally for years to come.

Questions?