



ISC Soccer Club

Age Group Cut-Off Update (2026–27 Season)

Overview

Starting in the **2026–27 season**, youth soccer organizations such as US Club Soccer, US Youth Soccer, and AYSO will implement a change in how age groups are determined.

Current System: January 1 – December 31 (calendar birth year)

New System: August 1 – July 31

Why is this change happening?

1. Fewer “Trapped Players”

“Trapped players” are athletes placed in an age group that does not align with their school grade.

This can negatively impact player experience, especially: - During **8th grade**, when teammates transition to high school teams - During **senior year**, when older players move down an age group

The new August 1 cutoff significantly reduces this issue.

2. Better Alignment with the School Year

The updated system more closely matches school grade groupings.

Benefits include: - Playing with **friends and classmates** - Improved **social experience** - Increased likelihood of **long-term participation**

3. Why August 1 Instead of September 1?

While **September 1** was initially by the governing associations such as US club and USYS, feedback led to choosing **August 1** because it:

- Further reduces mismatches between school and soccer age groups
- Minimizes:
 - “Trapped players”
 - “Force-ups” (players moving up to stay with classmates)

Age Group Chart (New System)

Age Group	Birth Date Range
19U	Aug 1, 2007 – July 31, 2008
18U	Aug 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009
17U	Aug 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010
16U	Aug 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011
15U	Aug 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012
14U	Aug 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013
13U	Aug 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014
12U	Aug 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015
11U	Aug 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016
10U	Aug 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017
9U	Aug 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018

Tip: Players are grouped based on their birthdate falling within these ranges.

4. Key Takeaways

- Returns to the system used **prior to 2017**
- No system is perfect — some mismatches will still occur
- Focus is on **player experience**, not competition level

Bottom Line

Beginning in the 2026–27 season, age groups will shift to an August 1 – July 31 format to better align with school years and improve the overall player experience.
