

Greater Renton-Tukwila Youth Soccer Association

Birth Year Registration

USSF (United States Soccer Federation) has mandated player development initiatives for fall 2017, but encouraged organizations to begin earlier as a best practice. GRTYSA is progressing forward with the mandate for the fall 2016 season.

Here are the basics in regards of the *birth year* initiative:

- Organizing youth born in the same year to play at the same age group simplifies and standardizes soccer structure across the nation.
- Coaches do have the option to “play up” in order to keep their team together. This will be an association and coach decision.
- Having players train and play according to their age and developmental stage supports the objectives of the small sided standards by focusing on the physiological and developmental needs of the player.

We highly suggest reading the US Soccer Player Development Initiatives:

<http://www.ussoccer.com/coaching-education/resources/2015-player-development-initiatives>

USSF Age Chart

MOVING FORWARD

For those looking to adopt the mandates in 2016-17, here is a list that shows the birth year for that season. Again, please note that when determining the age group for a season, the year the competition ends should be used.

Season	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Birth Year									
2020									
2019									U6
2018								U6	U7
2017							U6	U7	U8
2016						U6	U7	U8	U9
2015					U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2014				U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2013			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2012		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2011	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2010	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2009	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2008	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2007	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2006	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2005	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2004	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2003	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2002	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19				
2001	U16	U17	U18	U19					
2000	U17	U18	U19						
1999	U18	U19							
1998	U19								

There is another very important component to understand about this chart. To avoid players aging out of an age group during a season, the new top age group for youth competitions is U19. This change aligns with the birth year standard and makes sure that players are not eliminated from participating during the second half of a season. In short, all the existing U18 leagues should become U19 in the 2016-17 season and this change should cascade down the age groups (Ex: U17 becomes U18, U16 becomes U17, etc.).