

This past August, the United States Soccer Federation (U.S. Soccer) announced major changes for youth soccer which will affect Suffield Soccer Club and all other teams, leagues, and state associations throughout the United States, beginning in August, 2016.

One of the two mandated standards from the [U.S. Soccer Player Development Initiative](#) is a change in registration from a seasonal/school year to the calendar year (**Birth Year Registration**).

**Birth Year Registration** --The biggest modification and impact on our Club will be the change to Birth Year Registration. For the past 25 years, age groups were defined with an August 1st cutoff. For example, current U12 age group teams are comprised of players born between August 1, 2003 and July 31, 2004. **Starting in fall 2016**, CJSA has voted to implement the age group to a calendar year (January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>) for all age groups. In many cases, this will not affect your child. Players who may be impacted have birthdays August 1-December 31. See below chart to see player's age group next fall.

Season	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Birth Year							
2020							
2019							
2018							
2017							U6
2016						U6	U7
2015					U6	U7	U8
2014				U6	U7	U8	U9
2013			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2012		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2011	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2010	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2009	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2008	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2007	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2006	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2005	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
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						

Birth Year and Season Matrix 11-5-15

The main purpose of this change, **as mandated by US Soccer**, is so that our Country uses the same age group classifications as all other countries that play organized soccer. These changes will take place throughout the United States.

The Connecticut Junior Soccer Association recently voted to implement this mandate in the fall of 2016. **Therefore, Suffield Soccer Club tryouts that will take place this spring for the 2016/2017 playing season will use these new Birth Year classifications accordingly.**

Please keep in mind that this mandate to change for the fall of 2016 was just handed down by CJSA recently. **As such, the SSC Board is still assessing impacts to players and current teams; and more importantly, how to implement the change with minimal stress to our players, parents and coaches.** However, we wanted to ensure that all information available to us was disseminated quickly so that parents could prepare their players accordingly. The transition to Birth Year calendars for age groups will pose challenges. However, the Board is confident in navigating these changes to provide teams at all levels of play that is appropriate for Suffield Soccer families. *Additional details from Suffield Soccer will be provided once they are finalized.*

Suffield Soccer Club has developed an F.A.Q. sheet to help address the age change issue. We ask that you take a moment to read it and if there are still questions, you can e-mail [sscagechange@gmail.com](mailto:sscagechange@gmail.com).

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