FPYC Recreational Soccer Age Grouping Policy

Introduction

In alignment with a recent U.S Soccer mandate , FPYC Recreational Soccer is transitioning from calendar-year to school-year age groupings. Under this new system, players born between August 1 and July 31 of the following year will be placed together, ensuring most teammates are in the same grade level. This change is designed to strengthen team chemistry, enhance player development, and create a more cohesive playing experience.

Background

Until the Spring of 2025, FPYC grouped players by calendar year (January 1–December 31). U.S. Soccer's new rule—effective nationwide in Fall 2026—requires grouping by school-year (August 1–July 31

Why the Change is Being Made

U.S. Soccer believes this system will keep players who are mostly in the same school grade together on the same teams. Until now, many teams have had players from different grades mixed together. For example, U9 teams often had both second and third graders. Under the new system, second graders will mostly play with second graders, and third graders will mostly play with third graders. Reference U.S Soccer Path Forward on Player Registration.

Applicability

This policy applies to all players registered in FPYC Recreational Soccer. It governs how age group assignments are determined, and how special requests will be handled. School-year alignment will apply to all leagues and groupings.

- Benefits for Players–
    - Stay with school friends and classmates.
    - Build stronger team chemistry.
    - Improve confidence and communication.
    - Enjoy a more consistent soccer experience.

- Player Movement–
    - Most players will advance one age group as usual.
    - Some players may remain in the same age division and stay with their grade.
    - Special requests within 60 days of cutoff may be accommodated.