

Youth Soccer Age Group Cutoff Change – Overview

Beginning with the 2026–27 season, US Soccer and North Texas Soccer will use an August 1 – July 31 seasonal year for youth age groups. This document explains the change, how players may be impacted, and the recreational protections that remain in place under GWFSA and NTSSA.

Key Takeaway

While age group cutoffs are changing, recreational team formation rules are not. Existing protections for player placement, continuity, and fairness remain fully enforceable.

Sample Team Roster – Who Moves / Who Stays

Icon	Birthdate	Placement Under New Cutoff
●	Feb 12, 2013	Moves up with team to next age group
●	May 28, 2013	Moves up with team to next age group
●	Aug 10, 2013	May choose to stay in current age group and ‘play down’ OR move up with team
●	Oct 3, 2013	May choose to stay in current age group and ‘play down’ OR move up with team

Fall 2026 GWFSA Recreational Soccer Placement

Maintain Current Policies with Player Choice:

- Existing policies remain in place. (No changes to the constitution during Spring GWFSA AGM)
- All teams move up an age group each fall
- **All returning players may choose to stay with their team** from Spring 2026/Fall 2025 **or go into the player pool**
- **New Players U4-U6** may request to play with a friend on an existing/new team. Requests must be included during registration.
- **Returning players with August–December** birthdays may choose to **stay in their current age group** and ‘play down’ **or promote to the next age group**

Complications: This mirrors the existing process for dissolving a team, with a focus on keeping returning players together when possible. However, if many players—including a coach’s child—choose to stay down, an older-age team may not form with those returning players.

To increase the likelihood of keeping players together, we need **more coaches** in the pool to form additional teams. For example, if there is a team of 8 players, with 4 playing down and 4 up, and each group of 4 has a coach, we will be able to add players to those two new teams when possible to try to

However, if one group doesn’t have a coach, the players are likely to be split up and distributed among other pool players. This is done to try to avoid any ‘pool’ teams consisting entirely of brand new players. **Please consider volunteering to coach!**

Age Group	Birthdate Range	Players	Max Roster	Playing time	Ball Size	Keeper	Special Rules
19U	Aug 1, 2007 – Jul 31, 2008	11v11	22	Two-35	5	Y	
18U	Aug 1, 2008 – Jul 31, 2009	11v11	22	Two-35	5	Y	
17U	Aug 1, 2009 – Jul 31, 2010	11v11	22	Two-35	5	Y	
16U	Aug 1, 2010 – Jul 31, 2011	11v11	22	Two-35	5	Y	
15U	Aug 1, 2011 – Jul 31, 2012	11v11	22	Two-35	5	Y	
14U	Aug 1, 2012 – Jul 31, 2013	11v11	18	Two-35	5	Y	
13U	Aug 1, 2013 – Jul 31, 2014	11v11	18	Two-35	5	Y	
12U	Aug 1, 2014 – Jul 31, 2015	9v9	16	Two-30	4	Y	
11U	Aug 1, 2015 – Jul 31, 2016	9v9	16	Two-30	4	Y	
10U	Aug 1, 2016 – Jul 31, 2017	7v7	12	Two-25	4	Y	No Punting, build out line
9U	Aug 1, 2017 – Jul 31, 2018	7v7	12	Two-25	4	Y	No Punting, build out line
8U	Aug 1, 2018 – Jul 31, 2019	4v4	8	Four-12	3	N	No Offside, throw-ins
7U	Aug 1, 2019 – Jul 31, 2020	4v4	8	Four-12	3	N	No Offside, throw-ins
6U	Aug 1, 2020 – Jul 31, 2021	4v4	8	Four-10	3	N	No Offside, kick-ins
5U	Aug 1, 2021 – Jul 31, 2022	4v4	8	Four-10	3	N	No Offside, kick-ins
4U	Aug 1, 2022 – Jul 31, 2023	4v4	8	Four-10	3	N	No Offside, kick-ins, coaches ref games

May 9th Registration Opens \$85

June 6th Registration Increases to \$100

July 20th Registration Increases to \$110

August 4th Registration CLOSES

August 18th Rosters Released to coaches, players contacted

September 14th First Day of Play

[Link to register through GotSport](#)

