



2026-2027 US SOCCER AGE GROUP CHANGES

What ASC Families Need to Know

Beginning in Fall 2026, US Soccer is changing the way youth age groups are organized nationwide. The goal is to better align youth teams with school grade levels, allowing more players to compete alongside classmates and peers.





WHY IS US SOCCER MAKING THIS CHANGE

The previous calendar-year system (Jan 1–Dec 31) often separated players from their classmates. The new structure creates age groups based on an August 1– July 31 cycle, which more closely aligns with the typical U.S. school calendar. This adjustment is designed to:

1

Keep more players with classmates and friends

2

Improve social and developmental alignment

3

Create more consistent team environments





ASC's APPROACH: PLAYER-FIRST

At Aledo Soccer Club, our priority is always our players and families. Every age group and team situation is unique, and our goal is to create the least amount of disruption possible while continuing to support player development.

Our focus will always be placing players in the environment that best supports their growth, confidence, and love for the game.



What This Means for Your Child
Because of the new August 1– July 31 age grouping, some players may notice changes in their placement compared to the previous calendar-year system. For ASC families and players, this means:



Some players may move to a different group than before



Some players may remain with many of the same teammates depending on birthdate and team structure



In some situations, players can be permitted to play up if it best supports their development



2026-2027 US SOCCER NEW AGE GROUPS

Starting Fall 2026 Season



Age Group	Birth Year Range	School Grade (approx.)
U19	Aug 1, 2007 – Jul 31, 2008	12th / graduated
U18	Aug 1, 2008 – Jul 31, 2009	11th – 12th
U17	Aug 1, 2009 – Jul 31, 2010	10th – 11th
U16	Aug 1, 2010 – Jul 31, 2011	9th – 10th
U15	Aug 1, 2011 – Jul 31, 2012	8th – 9th
U14	Aug 1, 2012 – Jul 31, 2013	7th – 8th
U13	Aug 1, 2013 – Jul 31, 2014	6th – 7th
U12	Aug 1, 2014 – Jul 31, 2015	5th – 6th
U11	Aug 1, 2015 – Jul 31, 2016	4th – 5th
U10	Aug 1, 2016 – Jul 31, 2017	3rd – 4th
U9	Aug 1, 2017 – Jul 31, 2018	2nd – 3rd
U8	Aug 1, 2018 – Jul 31, 2019	1st – 2nd



2026-2027 TRYOUTS & TEAM FORMATION

See below for additional information regarding our evaluation and tryout process as we transition to the new US Soccer age group guidelines for the upcoming season.



1

All current ASC and new players will try out under the new US Soccer age group guidelines.

2

During evaluations, some age groups may be combined so our staff can properly assess players and build the best teams.

3

Final team placement will consider development, team balance, and player experience.



FLEXIBILITY FOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

While the new guidelines provide structure, ASC will maintain flexibility when appropriate. Players can be permitted to play up an age group if it best supports their development. These decisions will be determined by:

- *Coaching staff evaluations*
- *Communication between coaches across age groups*
- *Final approval from the club*

1

Example 1– Grade Alignment

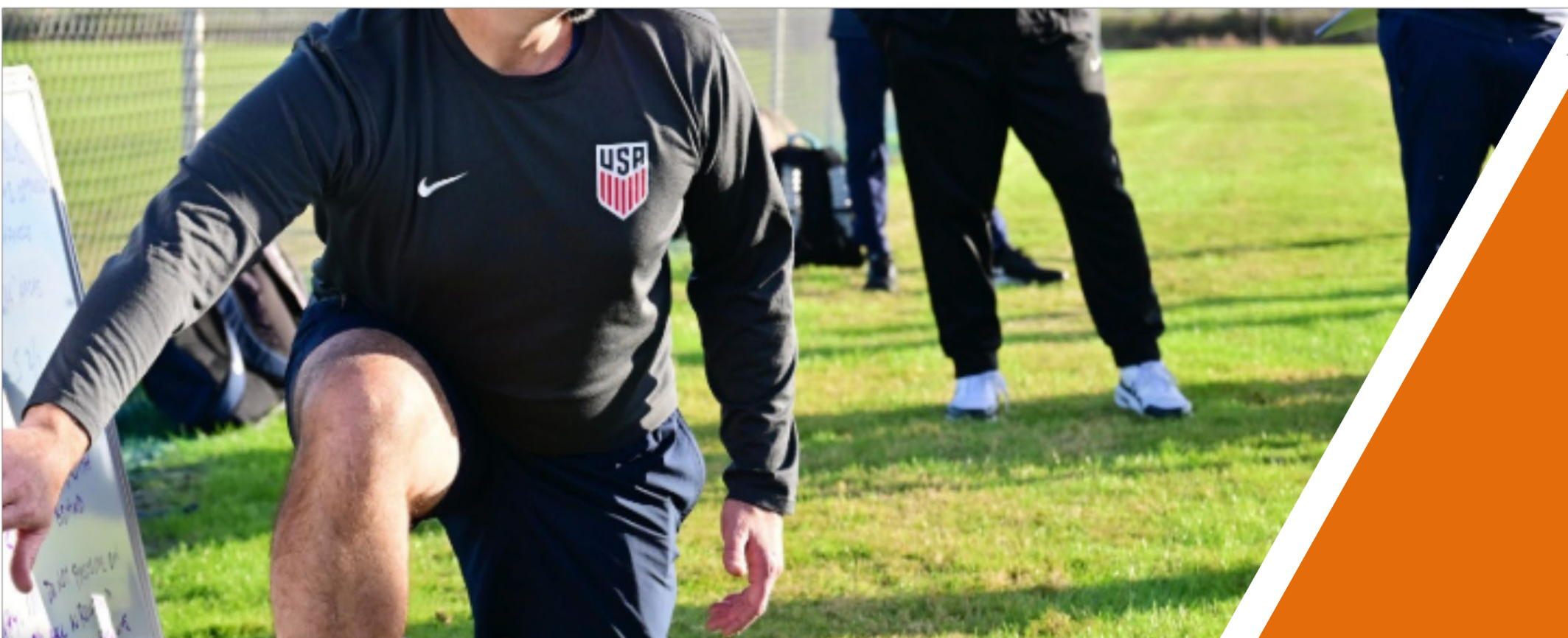
If a player’s birthdate places them in a younger age group than their school grade, the situation may be reviewed individually to keep the player aligned with classmates whenever possible.

2

Example 2 – Competitive Level

If a player technically “ages down” under the new system but demonstrates the ability to be further challenged within another group, that player may be allowed to play up if it best supports their development.

ASC will continue to prioritize what is best for each player, allowing flexibility when appropriate, with decisions guided by coaching staff evaluations, collaboration between coaches across age groups, and final approval from the club.



Throughout the season, ASC coaches will continue to:

- *Observe individual player development*
- *Communicate across age groups*
- *Work with club directors to determine the best pathway for each player*

ONGOING EVALUATIONS

Our goal is to ensure every player is placed in the environment that best supports their growth.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



01

Will my child automatically move teams?

Potentially. While the new age guidelines will be used, ASC will review each situation carefully to minimize disruption when possible.

02

Can my child stay with their current teammates?

Yes, in certain cases—provided players remain within the updated age guidelines.

03

Will this affect tryouts?

All players will try out under the new age group structure, but evaluations may include combined groups to help coaches properly assess players.

04

When will final teams be announced?

Final team placements will follow our normal post-tryout timeline, with communication sent to families once decisions are finalized.



WE'RE ALWAYS HERE TO HELP

We understand changes like this can raise questions. Our coaches and club directors are committed to helping families navigate this transition smoothly. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions.

info@aledosoccerclub.com