



Memorandum

Date: November 4, 2015
To: Leadership of US Youth Soccer
From: Chris Moore
Re: U.S. SOCCER'S BIRTH YEAR MATRIX

Several questions have been raised about changes to the birth year chart recently released by U.S. Soccer. In a call yesterday with Ryan Mooney of U.S. Soccer, he confirmed that the matrix published on their website (next page) is the correct birth year chart that should be used by all members. We have therefore mirrored this exact same chart on USYouthSoccer.org.

SOURCE OF CONFUSION

The birth year chart originally presented by U.S. Soccer at our July AGM in Tulsa depicted the age groupings in a **single calendar year** format (e.g., 2016, 2017, 2018), in which a player born in 2004, for example, would play as a U12 in 2016. This chart has since been removed from U.S. Soccer's website and replaced with the chart on the next page, which groups players' ages by **soccer year** (e.g., 2016-17, 2017-18). Using the same example above, a kid born in 2004 would play as a U13 in the 2016-17 soccer year. According to U.S. Soccer, the two charts are in fact consistent with one another. It's just that the first chart did not address the competitive season, so they created the "Birth Year and Season Matrix" to account for the competitive seasons.

DETERMINING BIRTH YEAR

In the attached FAQ document, <http://www.ussoccer.com/~media/files/coaches/2015/player-development-initiatives-faqs-final.pdf?la=en>, U.S. Soccer explains that birth year registration should be calculated based on the year in which the season ends. For example, if a season begins in the fall of 2017 and ends in the summer of 2018 (ex: 2017-18 season), the players would be registered based on their age in the year 2018. Competitions that take place in a single year (ex: fall of 2018 only) should use that year to determine birth year. To simplify determining the age group, just subtract the birth year from the year the season ends.

Year Season Ends – Birth Year = Age Group:

- 2017-18 – 2003 = U15
- 2022-23 – 2016 = U7

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								

To facilitate the above birth year calculation, we are looking at recommending a US Youth Soccer player rule change that would have players classified according to **"the player's age as of December 31st of the upcoming/current soccer year."** So, if you were beginning to put together teams for the 2016/2017 season and the player was born on December 31, 2011 (meaning he/she would turn 5 years of age on December 31, 2016) then, according to the above chart, that player would be in the U6 age group. That way of determining a player's age seems to work in all situations.

The national staff is fielding several calls and responding to many emails on this issue, and with customer service in mind, are trying to help answer questions and provide clarity to you, your coaches, clubs and leagues with information that we receive from U.S. Soccer. In recent days, we have been speaking with the Federation to clear up all of the confusion over the various charts. In fact, U.S. Soccer will be issuing a memo of their own later today which, hopefully, provides clarity to you and your constituents. In the memo, they will propose a series of conference calls and/or webinars to answer any additional questions.

On a parallel track, US Youth Soccer remains committed to bringing together all the technical directors of the Youth Council to discuss and vet these player development issues in greater technical detail. We are convening a meeting of this group in early December.

Thanks and feel free to call or email with any questions.