



US SOCCER MANDATED CHANGES

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The US Soccer Federation has recently announced significant changes in youth soccer. These will take effect spring 2016 for all California Youth Soccer Organizations.

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What is changing

Age grouping

Age grouping had been running from August 1st thru July 31st. For example, a player who had a birthday on August 1st 2000, was on the same team as a player with a birthday on July 31st 2001 and called U15 in 2015.

The new age groups will run on the calendar year, January 1st thru December 31st.

Smaller-sided play

A new nationally standardized small-sided Games format for players in the Under-6 to Under-12 age groups. The introduction of 4v4, 7v7 and 9v9 will be starting spring of 2016.

All competitions: league, tournaments, State Cup and playdates, will all run under the new format in 2016.

We all understand this will create some uneasiness within parents and players, but we want to ensure you all we will be making these changes as comfortable as possible. Below are questions we have been asked or feel are of great importance for the membership to understand.

Thank you, **Livermore Fusion Soccer Club Executive Board of Directors**

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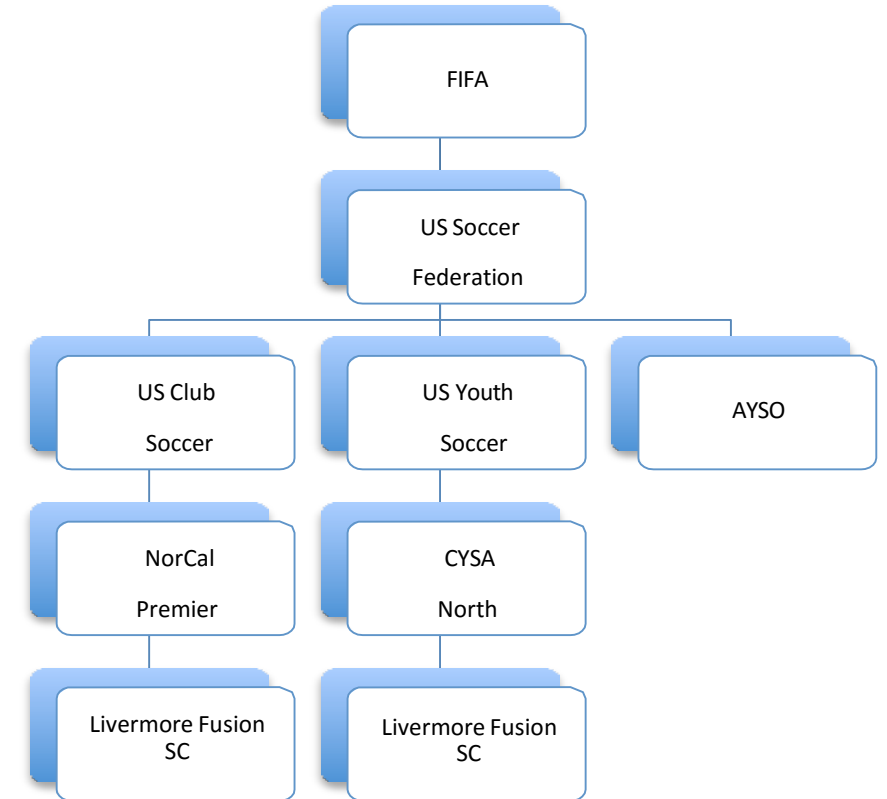
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Who is making these changes?

Here's a hierarchy of governing bodies for soccer, both domestically and internationally. To the right is a simplified org chart that shows the governance structure we operate under.

US Soccer created these initiatives and announced them in the late summer of 2015. They mandated that all youth soccer programs adopt them no later than August of 2017. US Youth Soccer (governing body of CYSA-North) took the step of early adoption with implementation starting in 2016. This led to US Club Soccer (governing body of NorCal Premier) doing the same.

These were not changes or decisions made by Livermore Fusion SC, NorCal Premier or CYSA. Instead we are being mandated by our national governing bodies to do so. These changes impact all youth soccer programming in the country. We do not control any of these decisions and have to comply.



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Age groupings

Starting in spring, 2016, all age groups from U8 thru U13 will be playing in the new calendar format.

Starting in fall, 2016 all age groups U14 thru U19 will be playing in the new calendar format also.

The age groups and corresponding year of birth are outlined in the table to the right.

Every player will progress up an age group, some two.

Example: Take the current U12 age group. Half of the birthdays are 2003 (August 1st thru December 31st) and the other are 2004 (January 1st thru July 31st). The 2004 will become U13 but the 2003 will become U14 and have a two year jump.

Birth Year	Age Group	# of Players
Born in 2009	U8	4v4
Born in 2008	U9	7v7
Born in 2007	U10	7v7
Born in 2006	U11	9v9
Born in 2005	U12	9v9
Born in 2004	U13	11v11
Born in 2003	U14	11v11
Born in 2002	U15	11v11
Born in 2001	U16	11v11
Born in 2000	U17	11v11
Born in 98 or 99	U19	11v11
Open	Adult	11v11

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Age groupings

Does US Soccer realize they are splitting up teams and friends of many years?

Rosters are going to change, but this is the case for everyone. Some age groups will have a bigger change than others depending on the age group split in current teams.

What if we want to play with a friend or play with our old team?

No player can play down an age group; however as currently stated, players will be able to play up. Livermore Fusion SC will be open to allow players to play up if the Coaching Staff, Technical Director and Director of Coaching all feel it will benefit the player's development.

The mandated changes are to benefit player development and playing up has always been in place to develop players.

Birth Year	Age Group	# of Players
Born in 2009	U8	4v4
Born in 2008	U9	7v7
Born in 2007	U10	7v7
Born in 2006	U11	9v9
Born in 2005	U12	9v9
Born in 2004	U13	11v11
Born in 2003	U14	11v11
Born in 2002	U15	11v11
Born in 2001	U16	11v11
Born in 2000	U17	11v11
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Age groupings

How do we request to play up?

All players will have to tryout for their natural age group for the Premier Program. When you register for evaluation days, you will have to request you want to play up. The staff will then note the request during the evaluation days. You will be asked to attend tryouts for both age groups.

What do the 2002 birth year players do in the spring? Players with a 2002 birthday from January to July 31st will still be playing in the old format and the August 1st to December 31st will not have tryouts until April.

This is still being answered by NorCal; they are sending recommendations on how this should be handled. However there will be training provided in the spring for that age.

Birth Year	Age Group	# of Players
Born in 2009	U8	4v4
Born in 2008	U9	7v7
Born in 2007	U10	7v7
Born in 2006	U11	9v9
Born in 2005	U12	9v9
Born in 2004	U13	11v11
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New game formats

	U6 & U7	U8	U9 & U10	U11 & U12	U13 & Older
Field Size	30x20 yards	30x20 yards	47x30 yards	75x50 yards	112x90 yards
# of Players	4v4	4v4	7v7	9v9	11v11
Goal-keeper	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Playing Times	4x 8 min	3x 15 min	2x 25 min	2x 30 min	2x 35-45 min
Break Times	5 min	5 min	10 min	10 min	15 min
Ball Size	3	3	4	4	5
Goal Size	4' x 6'	4' x 6'	6.5' x 18.5'	6.5' x 18.5'	8' x 24'
Offside	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

The new game formats will benefit the long-term development of soccer in the United States. Along with the new game formats, playing rules and breaks at the younger ages have changed.

U8 now plays three 15-minute thirds and the U9-U10 age groups will play in the 7v7 format

The goals for 7v7 and 9v9 will be the same size.

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US Soccer Documentation

Below are links to the US Soccer announcement and documentation

[US Soccer Federation
Player Development Mandate](#)

[Español](#)



[US Soccer Federation](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Español](#)

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Thank You



As always, we appreciate you as Livermore Fusion Soccer Club members, and will be working hard to make sure this transition is as easy as possible for you all.

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