



# **BIRTH YEAR TO SCHOOL YEAR CHANGE – HOW IT AFFECTS YOUR TEAMS**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 12:30 PM ET

PRESENTED BY:



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EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2026, INDIANA SOCCER WILL CHANGE TO USING THE PLAYER'S BIRTHDATE TO DETERMINE THEIR PLAYING AGE GROUP BASED ON THE SCHOOL YEAR (AUG 1 TO JULY 31).

BIRTHDATE ON OR BETWEEN	PLAYING YEAR (SEASONAL YEAR 8/1 TO 7/31)				
	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031
8/1/2025 - 7/31/2026					5U
8/1/2024 - 7/31/2025				5U	6U
8/1/2023 - 7/31/2024			5U	6U	7U
8/1/2022 - 7/31/2023		5U	6U	7U	8U
8/1/2021 - 7/31/2022	5U	6U	7U	8U	9U
8/1/2020 - 7/31/2021	6U	7U	8U	9U	10U
8/1/2019 - 7/31/2020	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U
8/1/2018 - 7/31/2019	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U
8/1/2017 - 7/31/2018	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U
8/1/2016 - 7/31/2017	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U
8/1/2015 - 7/31/2016	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U
8/1/2014 - 7/31/2015	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U
8/1/2013 - 7/31/2014	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U
8/1/2012 - 7/31/2013	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U
8/1/2011 - 7/31/2012	15U	16U	17U	18U	19U
8/1/2010 - 7/31/2011	16U	17U	18U	19U	
8/1/2009 - 7/31/2010	17U	18U	19U		
8/1/2008 - 7/31/2009	18U	19U			
8/1/2007 - 7/31/2008	19U				

## HISTORY:

IN 2017, US SOCCER MOVED THE PLAYER REGISTRATION TO BIRTH YEAR AGE GROUPS IN ORDER TO ALIGN WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND SIMPLIFY PLAYER IDENTIFICATION. AFTER SIGNIFICANT FEEDBACK ABOUT TEAM DISRUPTIONS AND SEPARATING PLAYERS FROM CLASSMATES, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2026, US SOCCER IS MOVING BACK TO SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION AGE GROUPS.

[WWW.SOCCERINDIANA.ORG/PLAYER-REGISTRATION/](http://WWW.SOCCERINDIANA.ORG/PLAYER-REGISTRATION/)



## INITIAL PER PLAYER IMPACT:

Players born in the first half of the calendar year (Jan-July) will find themselves in an older soccer age group (with older kids). They will "age up" like they have for the past 10 years.

Players born in the latter half of the calendar year (Aug-Dec) will move to play with their schoolmates, often making them "younger" in soccer teams, but playing within their actual school grade. They will remain the same age group they are today.

Summary: This is a significant shift designed to create a more cohesive youth soccer experience, making it easier for players to stay with their friends and classmates year after year.

NOTE: Indiana Soccer registration rules will only be changing to accommodate the new age group definitions. Nothing else is changing.



## INITIAL TEAM REGISTRATION IMPACT:

Teams will continue to be registered at the age of the oldest player on the roster.

There will be no change in the "play up" policy: Only four (4) players per team may play up over a game change format: EX: only four (4) 10U (7v7) players can be rostered to an 11U team.

Trapped player rule is not changing...

A 2010 Player may play as a "trapped" player on a 2011 team in the fall only. A maximum of three 2010 players may participate in any one game. You may roster as many 2010 players as you like. If a team is using a "trapped" player(s), that team is not eligible for promotion for the next season.





# HOW TO MANAGE THE TEAM AGE IN

At the end of the 2025-2026 playing season:

Do not change team ages to what they will be for 2026-2027. On August 1, 2026, every team will "age up" one (1) year in the system the same as it has been happening every year. After August 1, 2026, adjust any team age that is not correct.

If you are going to submit team applications prior to August 1 into any event, the ACTUAL team age must be one (1) year younger than what they will be on August 1 when the roll up happens.

**DO NOT CREATE ALL NEW TEAM RECORDS.** If a team is staying together and meets the minimum requirements to carry the previous seasons record for promotion and/or relegation, re-use the same team record. If you create a new team record, you will lose the relative history complicating the identification of that team for competitive placement.





**GUEST SPEAKER:**

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**DIRECTOR OF  
COMPETITION**



# COMPETITION LEVEL PLACEMENTS



## COMPETITION LEVEL PLACEMENT FOR THE 2026-2027 SEASONAL YEAR

During the registration windows, you will find links for ISL & CNC academy (8U-10U, all divisions) and ISL (11U & over, all divisions) on the Indiana Soccer League page.

Teams applying to ISL Academy (8U-10U) and ISL (11U & over) will have the opportunity to select the level of play that best aligns with their team's development (8U-10U) and/or competition (11U & over). Indiana Soccer offers different levels tailored to specific age groups.

Teams applying to 13U-19U Premier, 1<sup>st</sup>, or 12U 2<sup>nd</sup> White will need to show a level of competency from their previous season's league play, and the level of play must justify the promotion to Premier, 1<sup>st</sup>, or 2<sup>nd</sup> White. Other than Cup play, tournaments are not considered in team promotion.





## COMPETITION LEVEL PLACEMENT FOR THE 2026-2027 SEASONAL YEAR

For the 2026-2027 seasonal year **ONLY**, teams applying to USYS National League Team-Based Great Lakes or Midwest Conferences must demonstrate a retention of players from the previous season, could be from **more than one team**, who previously played at the National League Team-Based level or earned promotion from ISL Premier division the previous season.

If a team utilizes trapped players in the fall season, that team is not eligible for ISL and/or National League promotion the next season.

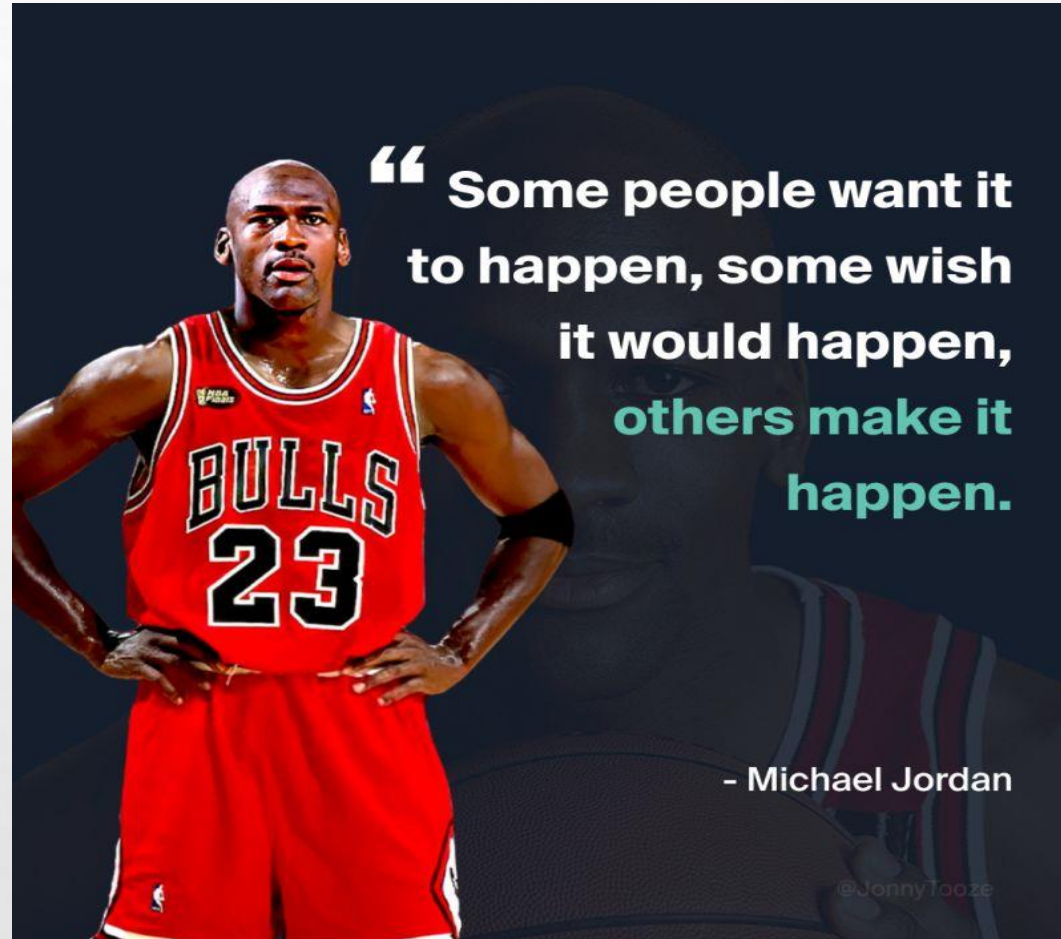
All these items will be discussed at the DOC meeting in February.



# QUESTIONS ON THE TOPIC OF BIRTH YEAR TO SCHOOL YEAR CHANGE



THIS WEEK'S  
GOAL GETTER  
MINDFUL  
MINUTE:



# UPCOMING FORUMS



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026 12:30 PM ET

TOPIC: MEMBER PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 12:30 PM ET

TOPIC: EARLY COMMITMENTS – WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 12:30 PM ET

TOPIC: RECREATIONAL PLAYER REGISTRATION –  
TIMING AND OPTIONS

IF YOU HAVE A TOPIC YOU WOULD LIKE US TO COVER, DROP ONE OF US AN EMAIL.