

The purpose of this note is to provide information about the age changes adopted by US Soccer. Change is unsettling, but this is an opportunity for players to expand their circle of friends and continue development in the Sport.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Player age groups currently run from Aug 1 to the following July 31. For instance girls born between Aug 1, 2005 and July 31, 2006 would be on the same team.
- Starting in the fall of 2016 team ages will be by the year of the player's birth (birth year). Girls born in 2005 will be on one team, and 2006 girls will be on another team. This is a US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) initiative – this is **NOT** the idea of SPFSA
- Since New Jersey Youth Soccer (NJYSA) is part of USYSA, NJYSA is adopting these guidelines
- These guidelines cover **All** Leagues and Clubs playing under NJYSA – MAPS, JAGS, MNJYSA, CJYSA, etc. **All** of the clubs we play against
- Starting in the fall 2016 players on the field during a game will be – 2004s 11v11 – 2005 & 2006 9v9 – 2007 & 2008 7v7

**SPFSA POSITION:**

- SPFSA has discussed the age changes along with other guideline changes since they were made public almost a year ago
- Clubs will still have the option to form teams with combined age groups, essentially have part of the team play up. We have met and discussed the age changes with other Clubs, all whom will adopt the birth year guidelines.
- We have analyzed our existing rosters, although player personnel will change somewhat the number of teams in each age group should stay about the same
- As in the past, consideration for players playing up an age group will be dependent on the individual situation.
- There are quality players in each age group, restructuring teams will not impact the level of play

**8<sup>th</sup> GRADERS:**

- Leagues (such as Mid New Jersey) will provide divisions for the 2002 birth year teams in the fall
- The 2002 teams will include 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.
- 9<sup>th</sup> graders playing SPFHHS freshman soccer will be able to play Club ball for SPFSA in the fall 2016
- If needed, there is the possibility of combining SPFSA age groups in order to field a team
- Nearby Clubs have expressed interest in combining 2002 players if needed to field teams

**DIAMOND ACADEMY:**

- There will be 2007 Travel teams
- There will be a Diamond Academy II and Travel available to 2008 players
- There will Diamond Academy for 2009 players

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SPFSA TRAVEL COMMITTEE