



## US Soccer Mandates: Impacts on the HFC Academy Program



The HFC Academy Program will follow the USSF mandates and adhere to North Carolina Youth Soccer Association's (NCYSA) required timeline for implementation. These mandates will commence for the 2016 Fall season.

### What is the Small-Sided Games Mandate and who does it affect?

There will be a minimal impact on programming regarding the small-sided games mandate. Starting in the 2016 OR 2017 Fall season, U9-U10 age groups will play 7v7 as opposed to 6v6.

### What is the Birth Year Registration mandate and who does it affect?

Per U.S. Soccer's mandate, all US Youth Soccer competitive members will be required to transition age grouping of teams from school year based (August 1<sup>st</sup> thru July 31<sup>st</sup>) to birth year based (January 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>). In essence, age groups will now be determined by the year in which a player is born.

### How does this mandate affect my daughter or son's involvement with the HFC Academy Program?

Starting with tryouts this May for the 2016-2017 seasons, program selection will be based on the year in which a player is born.

*Example: Billy's birthdate is August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Billy will play in the 2008 age group.*

*Example: Jane's birthdate is January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. Jane will play in the 2007 age group.*

With these mandates and different from the past, current U7's who are born in 2008 will be eligible to attend Academy U9 evaluations in May. Additionally, some current U9's who are born in 2006 will be eligible for U11 Classic and/or Challenge tryouts in May/June.

### Will my daughter or son be able to play up an age group? (i.e. can a '08 play up with the '07s?)

HFC's consideration to have a player play up an age group is solely based on the discretion of the HFC Academy Program's Directors of Coaching and Staff. Historically, HFC Academy DOC's have had players play up from U9 to U10 if this would best suit a player's development – but this is a very rare occurrence. No U8 players will be permitted to play in the U9 Academy.

### What age group will my child play in for the 2016-2017 seasons?

Birth Year Chart for 2016-2017

Age Group	Birth Year
U9 - Academy	2008
U10 - Academy	2007

**Why is Birth Year Registration being mandated to competitive youth soccer members?**

U.S. Soccer has mandated the shift from school-year age groupings to birth year registration. You can read U.S. Soccer's explanation for this change here:

<http://www.ussoccer.com/stories/2015/08/24/18/07/150824-coaching-player-development-initiatives-rel>

**How will HFC Academy Evaluations be administered this coming May?**

HFC Academy Evaluations will be held in May to determine program formation for the 2016-2017 seasons. Specific details regarding exact dates and times will be announced in the coming weeks.

Only players born in 2007 or 2008 will be eligible for Academy Evaluations in May for the upcoming 2016-2017 soccer year.

**Additional Resources regarding the Birth Year Registration Mandate:**

U.S. Soccer Federation Official Statement:

<http://www.ussoccer.com/stories/2015/08/24/18/07/150824-coaching-player-development-initiatives-rel>

US Youth Soccer Statement:

[http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/us\\_youth\\_soccer\\_statement\\_on\\_us\\_soccer%E2%80%99s\\_birth-year\\_registration\\_mandate/](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/us_youth_soccer_statement_on_us_soccer%E2%80%99s_birth-year_registration_mandate/)

NCYSA Statement and Resources:

[http://www.ncsoccer.org/news\\_article/show/566435?referrer\\_id=1955877](http://www.ncsoccer.org/news_article/show/566435?referrer_id=1955877)