



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



The HFC Challenge 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, U11-U12 age groups will play 9v9 as opposed to 8v8. U13-U19 will continue to be played as 11v11, but the Challenge program may offer in-house programming for U13/14 players in a 9v9 setting.

### 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 Challenge 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>, 2006. Billy will play in the 2006 age group.*

*Example: Jane's birthdate is January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005. Jane will play in the 2005 age group.*

### Will my daughter or son be able to play up an age group? (i.e. can a '05 play up with the '04s?)

HFC's consideration to have a player play up an age group is solely based on the discretion of the HFC Challenge Program's Directors of Coaching and Staff.

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

#### Birth Year Chart for 2016-2017

Age Group	Birth Year
U11	2006
U12	2005
U13	2004
U14	2003

**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 Challenge Evaluations be administered this coming May?**

HFC Challenge 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 2006 or 2005 will be eligible for U11/12 Challenge while players born in 2004 or 2003 will be eligible for U13/14 Challenge 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)