



## U.S. Soccer Mandates: Impacts on the HFC Boy's Classic Program



### U.S. Soccer Mandates

The HFC Boy's Classic 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 the 2017 Fall season, U11-U12 age groups will play 9v9 as opposed to 8v8. U13-U19 age groups will continue playing 11v11.

Age Group	Old Playing Format	New Playing Format
U11 and U12	8 vs 8	9 vs 9
U13 – U19	11 vs 11	11 vs 11

### 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 son's involvement with the HFC Boy's Classic Program?

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

*Example: Billy's birthdate is August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Billy will play in the 2002 age group.*

*Example: Jared's birthdate is January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004. Jared will play in the 2004 age group.*

We acknowledge that the birth year registration mandate will alter the composition of existing teams. The pool of players competing for positions within an age group changes due to the birth year registration mandate. An additional effect of this mandate is that it alters which players are the oldest and youngest players within an age group. Currently, players born in August of a given year are the oldest players and players born in July are the youngest players. The shift to birth year registration makes players born in January the oldest players and those born in December the youngest players.

*Example: Johnny's birthdate is August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000. Johnny is currently playing on a U15 team and is the oldest player in his age group. In adhering to the new birth year registration mandate, Johnny will attend tryouts with all the players born in 2000. The pool of players he will be trying out with will come from the current U15 teams whose players were born from August 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000 as well as the current U16 teams whose players were born from January 1<sup>st</sup> thru July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000.*

**My son seems to be moving up two age groups with this new mandate (i.e. going from U11 to U13). Does this mean he's losing a year of soccer?**

No, players will not lose a year of soccer. In the past it has been U11-18, but now it will be U11-U19. In fact, some players are actually gaining a year of classic soccer.

**Will my son be able to play up an age group?** (i.e. can a '01 play up with the '00s?)

HFC's consideration to have a player play up an age group is solely based on the discretion of the HFC Classic Program's Directors of Coaching and Staff. Player placement is entirely based on individual player development and is very rare in the HFC Boys Classic program.

**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>

**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
U15	2002
U16	2001
U17	2000
U18	1999
*U19	1998

\*new age group for 2016-2017\*

**How will HFC Classic Tryouts be administered this coming May?**

HFC Classic Tryouts will be held in May to determine team formation for the 2016-2017 seasons. And, we will continue to hold supplemental tryouts for high school aged players in November. Specific details regarding dates and times will be announced in the coming weeks.

HFC Boy's Classic Tryouts

HFC Boy's Classic players will attend two tryout dates with players born in the same birth year.

*Example: Billy was born in 2002 and will attend tryouts only with other players born in 2002.*

*Example: John was born in 1998 and will attend tryouts only with other players born in 1998.*

**What are the impacts on the U15 age group?**

The U15 age group has historically been the transition year from playing two club seasons (fall and spring) to one season (spring only) due to high school soccer in the fall. The new birth year registration mandate makes it highly probable that our U15 teams (i.e. players born in 2002 for the 2016-2017 seasons) will be comprised of both 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. We are actively working with NCYSA to address concerns for those 8<sup>th</sup> graders to ensure they receive appropriate training and playing opportunities during the fall season. Once NCYSA makes an official plan for the U15 Fall season we will communicate our course of action.

**What are the impacts on the U19 age group?**

As a result of the birth year mandate, more players will now be considered U19 players. Therefore, NCYSA has formed a true U19 age division to ensure the needs of these players will be met. Thus, the impact on our newly defined U19 players will be minimal, and we will provide these players every opportunity that we provide younger age groups both in terms of training and competition.

**How will promotion/relegation slots be determined?**

NCYSA has mandated that all divisional slots earned at the conclusion of the 2016 Spring season will remain with the named year of that team. There are no exceptions to this rule.

*Example: The current '01 HFC Red team competes in the First Division West (this team has players born in 2001 and 2002). The divisional status earned at the conclusion of the 2016 Spring season will remain with the 2001 age group, not the 2002 age group.*

**Conclusion**

This will be period of transition for every club in the country. Please know that a great deal of thought and consideration has been put into how to best handle this transition for the players within our club. We will make sure that we do everything possible to make sure that the development of the players remains the priority. Please note that there will be a constant evaluation of the process to ensure we continue to do what is best for the players.

We hope that this document has answered many of the questions that you may have had concerning the mandates. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your DOCs.

Sincerely,

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

U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) Official Statement:

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

US Youth Soccer (USYS) 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/)

North Carolina Youth Soccer Association (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)