

## USYS AGE GROUP FORMATION FOR THE FALL 2026 SEASON

US Youth Soccer (USYS affiliated with MSYSA) and US Club Soccer have decided to shift from the current calendar birth year system (January 1 – December 31) back to a **seasonal/school-year system (August 1 – July 31)**. This change aims to better align soccer teams with school grade levels, allowing more players to compete alongside their classmates and reducing the challenges faced by "trapped players" (those whose birthdays cause them to be separated from grade-level peers at key transition points like 8th grade or high school senior year). In order to be eligible to participate in US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer leagues and competitions, Phoenix Football Club must be compliant with this change.

Additional Information: [MSYSA Registration Changes for 2026-2027](#)

**Starting in fall 2026, the new August 1 – July 31 cutoff will apply to the competitive leagues of CMSA and EDP.**

### What This Means for Your Player

- Teams will now span two calendar birth years (e.g., a U12 team might include players born August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015, plus any approved play-up/play-down exceptions).

### What This Means for the Current PFC Teams:

- The PFC team naming convention will change to associate each team with the high school graduation year:

| CURRENT PFC TEAM       | CURRENT BIRTH DATE RANGE (Ends 6/30/2025) | NEW PFC TEAM NAME | NEW BIRTH DATE RANGE (Beginning 7/1/2026) | Assigned Group |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|---|----------------|
| PFC 2013               | Jan 1, 2013 – Dec 31, 2013                | <b>PFC 2031</b>   | <b>Aug 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013</b>        | <b>U14</b>     |
| PFC 2014               | Jan 1, 2014 – Dec 31, 2014                | <b>PFC 2032</b>   | <b>Aug 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014</b>        | <b>U13</b>     |
| PFC 2015               | Jan 1, 2015 – Dec 31, 2015                | <b>PFC 2033</b>   | <b>Aug 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015</b>        | <b>U12</b>     |
| PFC 2016               | Jan 1, 2016 – Dec 31, 2016                | <b>PFC 2034</b>   | <b>Aug 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016</b>        | <b>U11</b>     |
| PFC 2017               | Jan 1, 2017 – Dec 31, 2017                | <b>PFC 2035</b>   | <b>Aug 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017</b>        | <b>U10</b>     |
| PFC 2018               | Jan 1, 2018 – Dec 31, 2018                | <b>PFC 2036</b>   | <b>Aug 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018</b>        | <b>U9</b>      |
| New Team for Fall 2026 |   | <b>PFC 2037</b>   | <b>Aug 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019</b>        | <b>U8</b>      |

\*\*\*\*Players with a 2020 birth year will NOT be eligible for the 2026 Fall season\*\*\*\*

### What This Means for Tryouts:

- Players NEW to PFC should register for tryouts based on the New Birth Date Range as shown in the chart.
- Existing PFC players may register for tryouts based on the New Birth Date Range OR tryout to 'play up' with their existing team. Example: A player with DOB of 8/20/2013

that has played on the PFC 2013 team for 5 years will most likely want to continue with the 2013's now PFC 2031 instead of dropping to the team that meets birth date range. This is fine!

**PLEASE NOTE – All existing PFC players MUST attend at least ONE tryout to be evaluated and considered for a team. No existing PFC players are guaranteed a roster spot for Fall 2026.**

## FAQ

- **We are new to PFC. What team should they try out for?**
  - Please use the chart above and try out for the team which your child's birthday falls in the column 'New Birth Date Range'. You can also access the MSYSA Age Group Finder calculator here, [MSYSA Registration Changes for 2026-2027](#).
- **My child with a DOB of 9/1/2016 has already played with PFC for 2 years. We are unsure whether we should try out for the team that meets their birth date range or try out to 'play up' in effort to stay with their current team. What should we do?**
  - It is recommended to speak with your child's current PFC coach. They have worked with your child and may have helpful insight as to which direction to go.
- **Can my child try out for both the team that meets their birth date range and their current team to 'play up'?**
  - Yes. Please note they must try out for at least one day for each team to be considered for the roster.
- **If my child is 'playing up', does that mean they may be playing against opponents that are older?**
  - Yes! This is something to consider if your child is playing up. Example: A player born on 12/31/2013 playing up on PFC 2031 (New Birth Date Range 8/1/2012–7/31/2013) may compete against players up to 17 months older.
- **Does this really matter? How will anyone know if my child meets the birth requirements for a team?**
  - A player that are offered a roster spot MUST upload a proof of birth (birth certificate or passport) that will then be verified by MSYSA prior to being added to the team roster. Players are allowed to play up under MSYSA, but older players may NOT play down. Example: A player with a DOB of 7/31/2014 is NOT eligible for the 2033 team

**NEW PFC TEAM NAME**

**NEW BIRTH DATE RANGE (Beginning 7/1/2026)**

**PFC 2033**

**Aug 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015**