

Calendar Year Age Determination

USSF Mandate

The USSF issued a mandate in mid-2015 to require age determination to be made according to the calendar year by the Fall of 2017. It was optional to adopt the mandate sooner, but all state associations were required to adopt it by the fall season 2017.

Most state associations made it optional for the playing circuits within their jurisdiction to adopt the mandate in 2016, but required all to conform by the Fall 2017. In Southern California, most playing circuits decided to adopt the mandate in the Fall 2016.

AYSO Position

AYSO stated in late 2015 that the registration system in place at the time did not permit it to easily adopt the mandate in 2016. However, the new registration system to be rolled out in early 2017 could and would be set-up to conform to the calendar year age determination.

At the 2016 EXPO, it was indicated that there was a technical committee of youth soccer organizations from across the country that were discussing the age determination mandate and would arrive at a recommendation/compromise for conformance with the mandate.

In late Fall 2016, it was announced that the mandate would be adopted not using the calendar year to determine age, but age at the end of the membership year. In effect, this approach changes the current system by one day, from August 1 to July 31. Further, this method adds more confusion by requiring age groups to be now labeled "XX and under" instead of "under XX."

Additionally, all groups within AYSO that either play in external circuits or cross to external circuits during the membership year must conform to whatever the external circuits require. This creates a dual system for many Regions, Areas, and Sections.

Section 11 Position

Section 11 will adopt the calendar year age mandate from USSF starting in the Fall 2017 for all programs in Section 11. This is the best option for our programs since it will allow for consistency across all programs and alleviate any confusion with multiple age determination systems for each program within the Section.

Furthermore, adopting the calendar year age determination will create parity with the strong club soccer competition present in Southern California. The EXTRA program would be the most affected if a different platform were to be adopted as those players would be more heavily attracted to leave AYSO in preference of going to the club soccer platform that has embraced the USSF mandate.

While the majority of the core program teams do not venture into competitions outside of AYSO, some do. This position would allow those teams to participate in other competitions with no detrimental effect on their teams due to the age difference of their players when compared to the competition.