

# BEGINNING FALL 2026, PLAYER REGISTRATION CHANGES NATIONWIDE.

US SOCCER IS CHANGING TO GRADE-BASED PLAYER REGISTRATION BEGINNING WITH THE 2026/2027 REGISTRATION CYCLE.



## MISSION STATEMENT

WE TEACH THE CORE VALUES OF INTEGRITY, RESPECT, DISCIPLINE AND WORK ETHIC THROUGH A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WHICH ENABLES ALL INVOLVED PARTIES TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS ON AND OFF OF THE FIELD. SOCCER COMPETITION IS THE MEANS BY WHICH WE CAN LEARN AND CULTIVATE THESE CORE VALUES.

United States Soccer governing bodies have mandated that clubs return to grade-based organization of teams for the 2026-2027 season. (USYS, US Club and USSSA).

Organizations will be using an August 1 to July 31 age group, for the 2026-27 season. This is a change from the previous January 1 to December 31 cut-off.

**This is a nationwide change.** ALL CLUBS will be transitioning to grade based teams. ECNL, ECNL-RL, GA, GA-Aspire, DPL, EA, MLS Next Academy and State Leagues. \*MLS Next Homegrown Division teams will remain organized by birth year and only affect RSL Academy in our region.

## WHY THE CHANGE

A uniform system of organization to form teams allows for equitable competition, targeted instruction and focused skill development. The primary reason for the change to grade-based teams is to better align soccer age groups with school years, which is intended to **keep more players on teams with their classmates**. The goal is also to increase player participation and retention allowing for children to play with friends from the same grade.



# OUR COMMITMENT

We are optimistic about the age group change and feel that it is an effective plan for the long term stability of our sport. While we realize change can be scary, we are confident that we will navigate the changes successfully, as we continue to create opportunities for our players, coaches and families.

We have been collaborating with clubs across the Surf Nation network. Here are a few of the steps we will be implementing to ensure that we can provide the best soccer opportunities in that state:

- We've been organizing our coaching staff and will announce coaching assignments earlier than ever.
- We'll be holding age group combines March-May to provide players with the chance to get to know the coaches and players in their respective age groups.
- We will hold a club-wide webinar to navigate FAQs and to answer questions in early March.
- We encourage open communication and invite you to reach out to our directors with any questions or concerns.

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Please see the Age Group Matrix below to determine the appropriate age group for your child. As we navigate these changes as a club and as a community, we are excited for what's ahead for youth soccer and invite you to join us in our quest to be the best of the best soccer club in Utah!

	JR SURFER ACADEMY	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18/19
		2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
JAN	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
FEB	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
MAR	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
APR	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
MAY	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
JUN	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
JUL	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
AUG	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
SEP	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
OCT	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
NOV	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
DEC	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008