



TOWN & COUNTRY SOCCER

FAQ: T&C Soccer PDI Adoption

T&C Adoption of US Soccer Player Development Initiatives (PDI)

Background and general information

1) I've heard rumors about upcoming changes to T&C soccer. Do you have a short summary?

The following changes have been mandated as part of the US Soccer Player Development Initiative:

- a. Birth year (rather than school year) will now determine the alignment of players to age group
- b. The limit to number of "play-ups" will be removed, any number of younger players can play up one year to an older team
- c. Small-side game changes:
 - Team size: U9-10 increase to 7v7 (from 6v6); U11-12 increase to 9v9 (from 8v8)
 - U9-10 7v7: no punts; add "build-out line" to play out goal kicks and keeper passes
 - Field size: small-side fields (non 11v11 games) will be decreased in size to eliminate space and increase player participation in game

2) When does this all take effect?

Town & Country will adopt all of these changes for the Fall 2016 season.

3) The US Soccer website says the changes are required by Summer 2017. Can't we wait until then?

Town & Country is part of STYSA, which has assessed the impact to all member clubs and has chosen Fall 2016 to implement the changes. This ensures that all clubs migrate together, and so fields, team sizes, and player ages are consistent for inter-club play.

4) Why are all of these changes being made? Doesn't US Soccer realize how disruptive this will be to my team? My child will not be able to play with all of his/her friends!

There are several reasons, but the main reason is to improve individual player development and ultimately make the US more competitive in international play.



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5) I'm confused about the birth year alignment. Can I see a [chart](#)?

SEASON	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
BIRTH YEAR									
2020									
2019									U6
2018								U6	U7
2017							U6	U7	U8
2016						U6	U7	U8	U9
2015					U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2014				U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2013			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2012		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2011	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2010	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2009	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2008	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2007	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2006	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2005	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2004	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2003	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2002	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19				
2001	U16	U17	U18	U19					
2000	U17	U18	U19						
1999	U18	U19							
1998	U19								

How to use the chart: find your child's birth year in the left column, then scan to the right for the age group he/she will play in for the given year.

6) Where can I read more?

- [US Soccer PDI announcement](#)
- [US Soccer PDI FAQ](#)

FAQ for Coaches/Parents

1) With the new Birth Year alignment, what is my child's age group in the Fall'16 season?

Refer to the above chart to perform an actual age group mapping.

To determine your child's Fall age group compared to the Spring season:

- If a child has a January-August birthday (a "younger" player), he/she must move up one age group in the fall, or can choose to move up two age groups.
- If your child has a September-December birthday (an "older" player), he/she must move up two age groups in the fall.

2) How does the Birth Year alignment affect my child's team?

Your coach's child's birthday will likely determine what age group the team will play in next season.

Obviously, if you and the coach both have older children, or if you both have younger children, then your children will move together, and your child can return-to-team in the correct age group.



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If you have a younger child and your coach is moving up two age groups (your coach may do this if he/she has an older player or simply to keep the team together), you may choose to have your child “play up” to a higher age group and return-to-team. Refer to FAQ 5 below for more on this.

You may not return-to-team if you have an older player and your coach is moving up only one age group. In this case, refer to FAQ 4 below in this section.

3) Is there a limit to the number of players who can “play up”?

Unlike past years, there is no longer a limit to the number of players per team choosing to “play up” to an older team. This provides options for teams to stay together if so desired. Players are not allowed to “play down” to a younger team, of course.

4) What if my child is unable to stay with his/her previous coach in the Fall?

This may happen if your child is too old to stay with his/her team (refer to FAQ 2) or if the team simply doesn’t exist in the fall. We expect this will happen to a lot of players due to the Birth Year alignment changes. The best thing you can do in this case is to register as early as possible to result in most optimal team placement according to T&C’s Recreational Team placement guidelines. These guidelines are as follows:

U4-U10 and DIII teams:

1. If you select return-to-team, your child will be placed with all your other prior-season teammates in your registered age group who have also chosen return-to-team
2. Buddy requests are honored if possible
3. Your child is placed with the nearest team, ideally in same neighborhood or school, to maximize chances of playing with friends and minimize drive time for practices. Please ensure your address, neighborhood, and school are up to date in your registration profile.

D2/S2 teams:

Since there are so many kids who will be migrating to a new team due to the PDI mandates, in order for any player to be rostered on a D2/S2/D1 T&C team they must attend one of the T&C organized tryouts.

The T&C tryout dates are:

- (U11 only) May 9th & 16th
- (U12-U19) May 31 & June 1st

Players can register at

U11: <http://goo.gl/forms/hTsjnjPefl>



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U12-U19: <http://goo.gl/forms/Ni1WgakwA4>

5) What does T&C recommend for my child next season?

This question addresses the decision of whether or not to “play up”, particularly if your team from the Spring season is moving up two age groups. You as a parent are in the position to make the best decision for your own child. If your child is performing beyond their age level, and if you think he/she will respond well to the challenges of “playing up”, then it may be a good idea. If your child is still developing skills that other players have in his/her same age group, then your child might be better served by not “playing up”, instead focusing on mastering the appropriate skills of his/her true age group.

6) My child plays recreational (DIV or DIII) soccer and I've talked to the coach about the age group that they should play in next year. How do I register and make this happen?

First, our best advice is to register as early as possible during the registration window. This gives you priority over later registrations. It also allows T&C commissioners to forecast coaching needs and align your request with available teams.

Steps:

- 1) If your child is playing up next season, be sure to register for the age group older than your child.
- 2) If you are returning to team, select “Return to team” and be sure to indicate your coach’s child as your buddy.
- 3) If you are not returning to team, do not select “Return to team”. You may select a buddy, or simply ensure your neighborhood/school information is accurate to ensure placement with other families you may know.