



STYSA
USSF Player
Development Initiatives





USSF Player Development Initiatives

Calendar Year Registration Small Sided Games

USSF Board Approved 7/5/15

Adopted as Best Practice 2016-17

Mandated as Best Practice 2017-18





OVERVIEW

1) Calendar Year Registration

2) Small Sided Games

3) Discussion

4) Questions





Calendar Year Registration





Objectives from US Soccer:

1) Combat relative age effect – the selection bias towards players born earlier in the year because they are more physically mature than their peers

2) Align players for the purpose of individual development and team competition

3) A balance of players born throughout the year is recommended

4) Allows for continued development of players who have yet to mature physically – appropriate challenge level

5) Align with international standards and YNT/ODP program





Calendar Birth Year Registration (January-December)

Will allow players to move up into older
age groups; does not force teams to
dissolve





Birth Year and Season Matrix

When determining the age group for a season, the year the season ends should be used for determining the birth year. Also note that the format "U followed by age" really means that age and younger. For example, U8 should be read as 8 and younger. For more age-group information please reference [U.S. Soccer's Player Development Initiatives](#).

Season	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
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							





Implementation

US Youth Soccer will adopt
Calendar Year age groups for
events/program for the 2016-17
season

STYSA will also adopt Calendar
Year age groups FOR ALL AGES for
the 2016-17 season





Small Sided Games





Objectives from US Soccer:

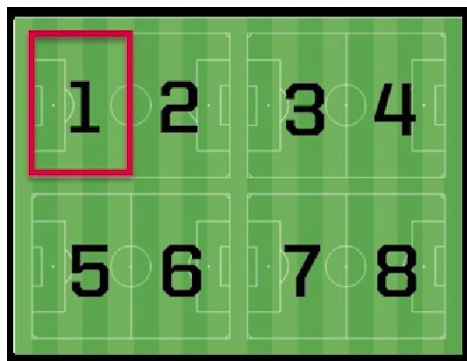
- 1) Develop skills on ball at an earlier age (increase number of touches and control, improve confidence)
- 2) Develop soccer “intelligence” (promote faster decisions and better awareness)
- 3) Develop partnerships within the team (improve teamwork)
- 4) Provide age-appropriate environment



Standards Chart



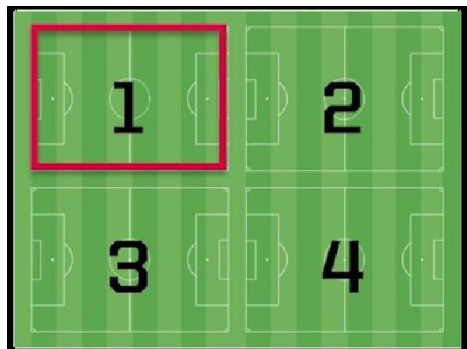
	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
Field Size	30x20 yards	30x20 yards	30x20 yards	47x30 yards	47x30 yards	75x47 yards	75x47 yards	112x75 yards
# of Players	4v4	4v4	4v4	7v7	7v7	9v9	9v9	11v11
GK	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Playing Times	4x 8 min	4x 8 min	3x 15 min	2x 25 min	2x 25 min	2x 30 min	2x 30 min	2x 35 min
Break Times	5 min	5 min	5 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	15 min
Ball Size	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5
Goal Size	4'x6'	4'x6'	4'x6'	6.5'x18.5'	6.5'x18.5'	6.5'x18.5'	6.5'x18.5'	8'x24'
Offside	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



Mini Field – 30 x 20 yards

U6, U7 and U8 – 4v4

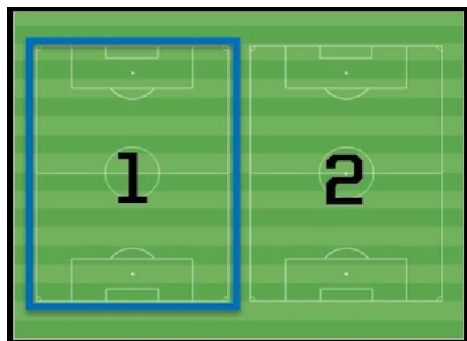
Helps players develop basic motor skills such as walking, running and changing direction. Smaller space also provides more interaction with ball, teammate & opponents.



Developmental Field – 47 x 30 yards

U9 and U10 – 7v7

Helps players develop speed and agility. Players will have more space to move in control of the ball and face 1v1 situations against opponents in different parts of the field.



Small Sided Field – 75 x 47 yards

U11 and U12 – 9v9

Helps players develop coordination, balance and visual awareness. Increasing number of players requires faster decision making so players develop partnerships and game intelligence.





CURRENT U6/7/8

- 4v4 or 7v7 (Varies)
- 30x20 field size (U6); 40x60 or 50x70 (U7/8)
- 4x6 goal (U6); 6x12 or 18 (U7/8)
- Size 3 Ball
- NO Goalkeeper (U6); 7v7 has GK
- NO offside (U6); U7/8 varies

NEW U6/7/8

- **4v4**
- **30 (l) x 20 (w) field size**
- **4 (h) x 6 (w) goal**
- **Size 3 Ball**
- **NO Goalkeeper**
- **NO offside**



CURRENT U9/10

- 6v6 or 8v8 (varies)
- 60x80 or 40x60 field size
- 7x21 or 6x18
- Size 4 Ball
- YES Goalkeeper
- YES offside

NEW U9/10

- **7v7**
- **47 (l) x 30 (w) field size**
- **6.5 (h) x 18.5 (w) goal**
- **Size 4 Ball**
- **YES Goalkeeper**
- **YES offside**



CURRENT U11/12

- 8v8
- 70x90 field size
- 7x21 goal
- Size 4 Ball
- YES Goalkeeper
- YES offside

NEW U11/12

- 9v9
- 75 (l) x 47 (w) field size
- 6.5 (h) x 18.5 (w) goal
- Size 4 Ball
- YES Goalkeeper
- YES offside



Implementation

US Youth Soccer will mandate
Small Sided Games for the 2017-18
season (2 year phase-in)

STYSA will mandate the new Small
Sided Games for the 2016-17
season





Discussion

- 1) U19 Age Group
- 2) U6-U12 Roster Sizes will change
- 3) Roster Continuity rules will be removed for 2016-17 only
- 4) Got Soccer will accommodate new birth year age groups
- 5) Tryouts in Spring 2016
- 6) Play-ups





STYSA / USSF Player Development Initiatives Q & A

