

**Motion:**

To implement the Small Sided Standards and Birth Year Registration mandates included in US Soccer's new Player Development Initiatives effective August 1, 2016 for all Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association players and programs.

**Purpose:**

US Soccer has recommended their Player Development Initiatives be adopted as Best Practice beginning August 2016 and will be mandated in August 2017.

**Rationale:**

Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association is required to meet the August 2017 mandate for Small Sided Standards and Birth Year Registration. US Youth Soccer has confirmed that player eligibility for Regional and National programs (National Championship Series, Presidents Cup, National League and Midwest Regional League) will be based on Birth Year Registration effective with the 2016-2017 playing season. Because a phase in by division would be logistically complicated and since all players will be required to register according to Birth Year by August 2017 it is our recommendation that both changes be adopted to take effect August 1, 2016.

**Additional Information:**

US Soccer's new Player Development Initiatives:

**1. Small Sided Standards – notable changes**

- Field Sizes, particularly at the U7-U10 age groups
  - Mini Field – 4v4 (U6, U7 & U8)
  - Development Field – 7v7 (U9 & U10)
  - Small Sided Field – 9v9 (U11 & U12)
  - Full Size Field – 11v11 (U13 & Older)
- Number of Players at U6, U9, U10, U11 & U12
- Game Lengths at U7 & U8
- Goal Sizes U7-U12
- Offside at U9 & U10
- Addition of “Build Out Line” on Development Field

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'x8'	4'x8'	4'x8'	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

\*PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS THE CURRENT APPROVED STANDARDS CHART AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION IN AUGUST 2016.

## 2. Birth Year Registration

Upon implementation players will register according to the year they were born. Players will no longer be age appropriate based on a birth date between August 1 and July 31 and/or their grade in school. Instead, players will register and be age eligible according to their birth year (2009, 2010, 2011, etc). Birth years still correlate with U groups.

Birth Year	2016-2017	School Age
2011	6 & under	K4 & K5
2010	7 & under	K5 & 1
2009	8 & under	1 & 2
2008	9 & under	2 & 3
2007	10 & under	3 & 4
2006	11 & under	4 & 5
2005	12 & under	5 & 6
2004	13 & under	6 & 7
2003	14 & under	7 & 8
2002	15 & under	8 & 9
2001	16 & under	9 & 10
2000	17 & under	10 & 11
1999	18 & under	11 & 12
1998	19 & under	12 & C
1997	20 & under	C
1996	21 & under	C

## How Do these Changes Effect WYSA Programming?

### LEAGUES

Each competition has the authority to form playing groups according to need. A summary of competition offerings for WYSA programs are below. In certain leagues, like the SECL, two year age groups for teams 14 & under best serve the league participants. Other leagues, like State League, may continue to operate with single age groups, with the exception of certain years where the birth year effect has a greater impact on the eligible players. This is true for players in the 15 & under and 19 & under categories where players in the same birth year are in two grades with different interscholastic schedules. (15 & under teams will be players born in 2002 who are 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> graders during the 2016/2017 season. 19 & under teams will be players born in 1998 which will include 12<sup>th</sup> graders and college freshman.)

To accommodate the players born in 2002, WYSA will offer a combined 14/15 & under division. In the SECL these are full year divisions. In the State League, these are fall or spring only divisions offered during the respective high school season to provide a playing opportunity to those eighth graders who have been displaced by their high school teammates' interscholastic schedule. The 14/15 & under division will return to single age groups (14 & under and 15 & under) in the season opposite the high school season. Only single age group results will be considered for promotion/relegation and seeding of State League teams participating in the Wisconsin State Championships.

All WYSA leagues will be 18/19 & under for the oldest age group to accommodate those high school seniors who were born in 1998 and otherwise age out according to the chart. (Please note, the National Championship Series will continue to be based on single age group teams in 2016/2017 and therefore players are only eligible to compete in that event according to their birth year age eligibility.)

Clubs are encouraged to take advantage of WYSA's flexible rostering policies – club passes and pool rostering. Club passes may be best to accommodate the 14/15 and 18/19 age groups. Pool rosters are intended to serve those teams 12 & under and below. Please contact the State Office for guidance with team formation, if needed.

**Youth Academy:** WYSA will continue to administer youth academy programming for 8, 9 and 10 & under age groups. Age eligibility is determined by birth year in accordance with the US Soccer birth year and season matrix.

### DIVISION OFFERINGS BY LEAGUE & SEASON (see age evolution chart on page 6)

#### Southeast Classic League:

BOYS SECL		GIRLS SECL	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
11 & under	11 & under	11 & under	11 & under
12 & under	12 & under	12 & under	12 & under
13 & under	13 & under	13 & under	13 & under
14/15 & under	14/15 & under	14/15 & under	14/15 & under
	16/17 & under	16/17 & under	
	18/19 & under	18/19 & under	

*Teams 11 & under and 12 & under will be placed according to a review of all applications received and their geography. (For the spring 2017 season, teams will be re-aligned based on fall 2016 results.) For teams 13 & under and older, spots in leagues remain with the team and club, and move up according to the age evolution chart.*

**State League:**

BOYS STATE LEAGUE	
Fall	Spring
12 & under	12 & under
13 & under	13 & under
14/15 & under	14 & under
	15 & under
	16 & under
	17 & under
	18/19 & under

GIRLS STATE LEAGUE	
Fall	Spring
12 & under	12 & under
13 & under	13 & under
14 & under	14/15 & under
15 & under	
16 & under	
17 & under	
18/19 & under	

*Teams 12 & under and 13 & under will be placed according to a review of all applications received and their geography. (For the spring 2017 season, teams will be re-aligned based on fall 2016 results.) For teams 14 & under and older, spots in leagues remain with the team and club, and move up according to the age evolution chart.*

**Wisconsin Developmental Academy:**

WDA BOYS	
Fall	Spring
11 & under	11 & under
12 & under	12 & under
13 & under	13 & under
14/15 & under	14 & under
	15 & under
	16 & under
	17 & under
	18/19 & under

WDA GIRLS	
Fall	Spring
11 & under	11 & under
12 & under	12 & under
13 & under	13 & under
14 & under	14/15 & under
15 & under	
16 & under	
17 & under	
18/19 & under	

**Midwest Regional League & National League**

WYSA will utilize the same process and criteria to determine MRL placements in 2016/2017.

For teams 13 and above, spots in the MRL remain with the team and club, and move up according to the age evolution chart.

**EVENTS**

**State Cup / Presidents Cup:**

FALL STATE CUP
Girls 14 & under
Girls 15 & under
Girls 16 & under
Girls 17 & under
Girls 18 & under
Girls 19 & under

SPRING STATE CUP
Girls 13 & under
Boys 13 & under
Boys 14 & under
Boys 15 & under
Boys 16 & under
Boys 17 & under
Boys 18 & under
Boys 19 & under

*The Rules and Regulations of each respective competition will continue to govern team seeding in the tournaments.*

*In order to allow teams to compete for a Wisconsin State Cup/Presidents Cup Championship during their main competition period (dictated by league season), the Girls 14 & under and Girls 19 & under tournaments will be played in the fall.*

### **Tournaments**

WYSA sanctioned tournaments, like all competitions are required to comply with the mandate. Tournaments do have the discretion to form playing groups according to need.

### **PLAYER REGISTRATION / LEAGUEONE**

The LeagueOne registration system will be updated to reflect age eligibility according to birth year as of May 1, 2016. This means that the program year 2016/2017 will not be available to clubs prior to May 1, and all 2016/2017 registration will begin following that date. Clubs may wish to submit setup documents to Active on or after April 10 in preparation for the system changeover.

In addition to age eligibility, team approval rules will be updated to comply with the US Soccer mandates. (i.e. roster sizes)

### **WYSA POLICIES**

The only WYSA policy changes you will see as a result of the implementation of US Soccer's new Player Development Initiatives are those that relate directly to Small Sided Standards and Birth Year Registration.

#### Changes Correlated to Small Sided Standards

- Field Sizes (*WYSA recommends using the maximum allowable field size per the Standards Chart*)
- Number of Players at U6, U9, U10, U11 & U12 (*see updated roster minimum/maximum chart below*)
- Game Lengths at U7 & U8
- Goal Sizes U7-U12 (*It is not necessary for clubs to immediately replace goals. Use discretion and do your best to meet the standards, but do not unnecessarily replace goals.*)
- Offside at U9 & U10 (*Individual competitions and referee availability will determine how offside will be managed at the U9 & U10 age groups.*)
- Addition of "Build Out Line" on Development Field

	6 & Under	7 & Under	8 & Under	9 & Under	10 & Under	11 & Under	12 & Under
Roster Minimum	5/9	5/9	5/9	8/15	8/15	10	10
Roster Maximum	8/12	8/12	8/12	13/18	13/18	15	15

*Players in the U6 through U10 age groups have two acceptable roster maximums for Recreational play or Rec Side by Side play (i.e. for "8/12" – 8 is the roster maximum for team play, while 12 is the maximum for side by side soccer). Side by side soccer is one roster broken into two teams where games are played simultaneously side by side against their opponent.*

#### Changes Correlated to Birth Year Registration

The most significant impact of US Soccer's new Player Development Initiatives is the move to Birth Year Registration. (Please see the US Soccer FAQ document for additional information, including rationale.) Birth Year registration effects the way players register (age eligibility) and how teams are formed. WYSA is making every effort to offer programming that provides the best playing opportunities for all members. Individual competitions have discretion to form age groups according to their player population and what best serves their membership, as long as it complies with the policies and procedures of WYSA.

Approved 11/14/15  
WYSA Board of Directors

