



Clarence Soccer Club's Age Change Matrix Policy as of March 2, 2026

Parents/players,

Many of you are aware that an announcement has been forthcoming with the US Soccer guidelines changing. I have included a statement below that Clarence Soccer is publishing regarding the rosters that will be formed later this year (This has no impact on your child's current roster for the 2026 outdoor season).

Please take the time to read the statement and understand it.

Age Group Changes for the 2026/2027 Season

- The following age structure is a mandate handed down by US Soccer and impacts the entire Nation. To read more about it please click here: - [To view the age group 2026/2027 age matrix, change please click here.](#)
- If you are born between January 1, to July 31- THIS DOES NOT IMPACT YOU.
- Current CSC Travel Players who birthdays from August 1 to December 31 (hereinafter "Trap Players") are impacted.
- Trap Players will have a **CHOICE** on what age group they would like to play on, (they still must make the team) for players born before 1/1/17 with a few exceptions for the remainder of their CSC Career.
- The Club wants to focus on "CHOICE" for trap players.
- Trap Players will have to try out at BOTH age groups (appropriate age group and the higher age group for tryouts)
- Trap Players are allowed to dual card, however, placement on a Black level team is in the Club's discretion after considering dual carding factors.

All age groups below U11 will have strict compliance with the new age matrix, and any trap players in this range will be placed in their age-appropriate year. The only exception to this will be that we will create a roster for both boys and girls, one team each at the u10 age group that will be playing in the u11 division next

year. This would allow children born between 8/1/16 and 12/31/17 to try out for these rosters. If your child does not make one of these rosters, they will be placed at the appropriate age level, based on the new guidelines.

We understand this might not account for every hypothetical situation your child may be in. The Club is handling this with transparency and fairness as it relates to Trap players, remember CSC did not make this decision or even have any input on the decision regarding the age change. The Club is aware of what “other” clubs are doing as it relates to “graduation year, or other exceptions”. However, we as a club believe this is the best approach moving forward for our trap players, coaches and club.

Please respect the fact that from an administrative standpoint this is an absolute nightmare to keep track of every Trap player in the club, and it is much easier to adhere to strict compliance across every age group. As a Board, we feel that doing the right thing and absorbing more work is the best approach moving forward for families who are impacted.

We also believe that it is unfair for coaches, families and players to have teams ripped apart after spending years together. Our club is driven by volunteers who love what they do, sure our teams may be on the younger side if trap players decide (and make) the teams they are currently on, but as a Club we feel we will be competitive in any situation and a positive experience for the kids is paramount to a win-loss record.

In an effort to continue the conversation with transparency, there are very real scenarios where teams could drastically change depending on the choice of Trap Players.

This policy directly impacts 254 players born between August 1, to December 31.

If you have any questions, please email me at this time and I will respond as timely as I can, but again, there is no effect on the current rosters or schedule. The tryouts in June for next year will be used to make up the rosters that will be impacted.

Sincerely,

Scott J. Zgoda
CSC Travel Director