



2026-27 Age Group Transition Policy

Legacy Soccer Inc. Board-Approved Policy

Legacy Soccer Inc.

2025/2026 Board of Directors

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Approved: April 23, 2026 (unanimous)

Legacy Soccer Inc.



Purpose: This policy governs how Legacy Soccer will implement the national shift to August 1 - July 31 seasonal-year age groups for the 2026-27 season while balancing long-term age alignment, team competitiveness, player development, and retention of existing players.

Core Principle: All teams will be formed according to the official August 1 - July 31 birth-date ranges required by US Youth Soccer, Idaho Youth Soccer Association (IYSA), and all sanctioned events.

Policy Details - How It Will Work

1. Formation of Teams

- a. Every team (new or existing) will be built to the new age-group standard.
- b. The 2026 & 2027 Season Birth Year Chart (attached) will be the sole reference for age eligibility.

2. Existing Legacy Players (Returning 2025-26 Players)

- a. Players whose birthdate places them outside their current team's new age group will have the explicit option during June tryouts to request a play-up evaluation to remain with their current team.
- b. This option is available to all returning Legacy players, including those already playing up one or two age groups.
- c. Players will indicate their request on the tryout registration form.

3. Approval Criteria for Play-Up Requests (Existing Players Only). Play-up requests will be approved only when the move provides both:

- a. A competitive advantage to the team, and
- b. A developmental advantage to the individual player.
- c. Decisions will be based on the following factors (in no particular order):
 - i. Player skill level and technical ability
 - ii. Physical maturity and readiness
 - iii. Emotional/social maturity
 - iv. Team fit and positional needs
 - v. Overall roster size and balance

4. Special Consideration for August-Born Players Because: Idaho schools use a September 1 cutoff for grade placement, players born August 1-31 are in the same school grade and class as the older soccer age group. These existing and new players will receive favorable consideration for play-up approval when requesting to stay with their current team and school peers, provided the move also meets the competitive and developmental criteria above. This consideration does not apply in cases where a

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player's current school grade placement differs from the standard age-based placement due to an adjusted academic timeline.

5. **New or Incoming Players**

- a. All new or incoming players will be placed in their correct new age group.
- b. Play-up requests from players without prior Legacy history will be considered only on a case-by-case basis when needed to fill roster spots or for exceptionally skilled players who clearly demonstrate they belong at the higher level.

6. **Decision Timeline and Communication**

- a. All play-up evaluations will occur during June tryouts.
- b. Final decisions will be communicated at the time the player is offered a spot on the Legacy roster (post-tryout offer letters).
- c. There will be no "bait-and-switch" - players and families will know their team placement and coach before they accept the offer.

7. **Post-Offer Roster Balancing**

- a. After initial offers are accepted and commitments are received, the club may still need to combine teams or shift additional players up an age group to create viable, balanced rosters.
- b. Players will only be shifted up in age group or level of play - never down.
- c. Any post-offer shifts will be communicated immediately to the affected families.

8. **General Rules**

- a. Play-down requests are not permitted.
- b. Future seasons will continue moving toward stricter age alignment as the player pool grows.
- c. The Legacy Soccer Board of Directors reserves the right to make final decisions in exceptional circumstances.

This Legacy Soccer Age Group Transition Policy will implement the approved national August 1 - July 31 age group standard for all 2026-27 teams while providing existing players a limited, criteria-based opportunity to request play-up to remain with their current team when it serves both the competitive advantage of the team and the developmental advantage of the individual player. August-born players will receive favorable consideration to align with their Idaho school-grade peers.

The intent of this policy is to achieve proper long-term age alignment for sustained player development, maintain roster viability and competitiveness in our small-club environment, ensure clear and consistent communication regarding team placement, and give returning families a fair and transparent retention pathway without compromising the national rules or the club's future direction.



2026-27 Planned Team Structure

*Changes are to be expected; this is the 26/27 target structure and will depend heavily on our 2026 June tryouts' registrations and team placement offer acceptance.

1. Coaching Staff:

- a. Technical Director: Michael Knight
- b. Head of Girls Football: TBD
- c. Head of Boys Football: Miguel Rocha
- d. Goalkeeper Coach: Taffy Johnson

2. Girls Teams

- a. **LSC SG** - Head Coach: Michael Knight
 - i. Tryouts open to players in the 2026-27 U18 and U17 age groups. This combined team will only be formed if we have at least 33% of the roster from the U18 age group to properly accommodate the U18 players. If this threshold is not met, we will field a U17 Girls team.
- b. **LSC 29G** - U16 Girls - Head Coach: Michael Knight
- c. **LSC 30G** - U15 Girls - Head Coach: Miguel Rocha
- d. **LSC 31G** - U14 Girls - Head Coach: Savino Olivares
- e. **LSC 32G** - U13 Girls - Head Coach: Open
- f. **LSC 33G** - U12 Girls - Head Coach: Shasta Howard
- g. **LSC 34G** - U11/U10 Girls - Head Coach: Open (Development team)

3. Boys Teams

- a. **LSC 31B** - U14 Boys - Head Coach: Open
- b. **LSC 32B** - U13 Boys - Head Coach: Clint Moses
- c. **LSC 34B** - U12/U11/U10 Boys - Head Coach: Heidi Leigh

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2026 & 2027 Season Birth Year Chart:

Age Group	Birth Date Range	'26/'27 School Year	Graduation Year
U18	Aug 1, 2008 - Jul 31, 2009	12th Grade, Senior	2027
U17	Aug 1, 2009- Jul 31, 2010	11th Grade, Junior	2028
U16	Aug 1, 2010 - Jul 31, 2011	10th Grade, Sophomore	2029
U15	Aug 1, 2011 - Jul 31, 2012	9th Grade, Freshman	2030
U14	Aug 1, 2012- Jul 31, 2013	8th Grade	2031
U13	Aug 1, 2013 - Jul 31, 2014	7th Grade	2032
U12	Aug 1, 2014 - Jul 31, 2015	6th Grade	2033
U11	Aug 1, 2015 - Jul 31, 2016	5th Grade	2034
U10	Aug 1, 2016 - Jul 31, 2017	4th Grade	2035
U9	Aug 1, 2017 - Jul 31, 2018	3rd Grade	2036
U8	Aug 1, 2018 - Jul 31, 2019	2nd Grade	2037
U7	Aug 1, 2019 - Jul 31, 2020	1st Grade	2038
U6 and below	Aug 1, 2020, and later	NA	2039 and later

This age group matrix is the official, approved standard for the 2026-27 season under US Club Soccer, US Youth Soccer, Idaho Youth Soccer Association (IYSA), and all associated competitions and events. The August 1 – July 31 seasonal-year cutoff will be strictly enforced for league, tournament, and state cup eligibility starting with 2026-27 registration. This is a national change designed to better align teams with school grades.