

Chargers Soccer Club



2026/2027 Age Group Changes

Official Club Announcement – February 20th, 2026

The Chargers Soccer Club continued commitment to long-term player development remains the sole focus and priority during the transition from birth-year age groups to school-year age groups, beginning with the upcoming 2026/2027 season. In alignment with the U.S. Soccer player development framework, all Charger programs, except for the MLS Next Homegrown Division, will transition to school-year age groups for the upcoming season. MLS Next HG will continue to operate on birth-year age groups, as announced by MLS Next.

US Youth Soccer CEO Tom Condone addressed the adjustment to the registration process: “At US Youth Soccer, our mission is to support the development of every player. After careful collaboration with our partners and listening to our membership, we believe this shift to an August 1 player formation cycle better aligns with school calendars, supports social and individual needs, and ultimately enhances the youth soccer experience for families across the country.”

As a result, teams will be formed based on the player’s school graduation year, rather than calendar birth year. Over the coming weeks, players will train and compete with peers they attend school with and fall in the same school year, helping team chemistry, building confidence, and promoting leadership development. This model aligns with the broader youth soccer landscape across the United States and creates opportunities for continued collaboration and growth between USYS, FYSA, MLS NEXT, US Club Soccer, and the wider youth soccer ecosystem.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child still be able to play up?

Playing up is earned, not guaranteed. Playing up will continue to be determined by our club’s development philosophy. While playing up will be considered on an individual basis, players must begin tryouts with their school-based age group. Factors considered when evaluating a player’s ability to play up include technical ability, physical development, tactical understanding, mental maturity, and ability to compete at a high level in the environment.

Does this apply to all Charger soccer programs?

Yes. This applies to all Chargers programs except for the **MLS Next Homegrown Division**, which continues to follow the birth year age groups.

Does this impact current teams and rosters?

Yes. With the landscape change across the country, individual teams and rosters will be impacted. The Chargers’ staff are committed to use the coming weeks ahead to evaluate individual and development readiness and address these situations and decisions in the best interests of player development.

What about teams where the player pool does not support this change?

All age groups, genders, and teams will be taken into consideration by the club directors when determining rosters.

Who will make final roster decisions?

The Chargers technical directors will have final say on roster decisions in consultation with the coaching staff and conversation with the individual players and families

AGE DETERMINATION CHART

SOCCER SEASON 2026/27



BIRTH YEAR / MONTH	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
January	U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
February	U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
March	U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
April	U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
May	U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
June	U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
July	U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
August		U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
September		U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
October		U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
November		U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
December		U4	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19

CLEARWATER - LAKEWOOD RANCH - TAMPA

USYS Statement

- <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/news/2025/06/10/updated-decision-on-age-group-formation/>

FYSA Statement

- <https://www.fysa.com/news/2025/03/07/us-youth-soccer-us-club-soccer-and-ayso-returning-to-seasonal-year-age-group-formation-in-2026/>

MLS Next Statement

- <https://www.mlssoccer.com/mlsnext/news/mls-next-announces-age-group-update>

US Club Soccer Statement

- <https://usclubsoccer.org/age-group-cut-off-update-for-2026-27-season/>



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