What Every Family Needs to Know About

Age Groups for Fall 2026 Soccer

⚑ Big Change This Season
Starting with the 2026–27 season, all youth soccer organizations in the U.S. are switching to a new age group system. Instead of grouping players by calendar birth year (January–December), players are now grouped by an **August 1 – July 31** window. This change was made to better align soccer teams with school-year classmates.
Your child may be in a different age group than last year. Please read below to find out where they belong.

1. Why Did the Age Groups Change?

For decades, youth soccer in the U.S. grouped players by their calendar birth year — everyone born January through December of the same year was on the same team. Three of the nation's largest youth soccer organizations — **US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer, and AYSO** — worked together to study whether this was the best approach.
Their research found a real problem called **"trapped players."** Here is what that means:

- **Example:** A child born in February 2019 was grouped with other 2019-born kids. But their school classmates born in September, October, November, and December 2018 were placed in an *older* soccer age group. These classmates could not play on the same team — even though they sat next to each other in class every day.
- This mismatch caused some children to have fewer teammates their own age, and to miss out on playing with their school friends.
- Fixing this required shifting the age-group cut-off from **January 1 to August 1** — the date that most closely matches how school years are structured across the country.

The Simple Summary
Your child's soccer age group is now determined by a soccer year that runs **August 1 through July 31**, instead of the calendar year. This keeps kids playing with their school-year classmates.

2. How to Find Your Child's Age Group

Look at your child's birthday and find the August 1 – July 31 window it falls in below. That is your child's age group for the 2026–27 season.

The official BASC age division chart is always available at **basoccer.club/programs/age-division-chart** — use that as your definitive reference.

Division	Birth Date Range	Game Format	Approximate School Grade (Fall 2026)
KICKSTART	Ages 2–5 (see registration)	Non-competitive	*Pre-K
U6	Aug 1, 2020 – Jul 31, 2021	4 v 4	*Kindergarten
U7	Aug 1, 2019 – Jul 31, 2020	4 v 4	*1st Grade
U8	Aug 1, 2018 – Jul 31, 2019	4 v 4	*2nd Grade
U9	Aug 1, 2017 – Jul 31, 2018	7 v 7	*3rd Grade
U10	Aug 1, 2016 – Jul 31, 2017	7 v 7	*4th Grade
U11	Aug 1, 2015 – Jul 31, 2016	9 v 9	*5th Grade
U12	Aug 1, 2014 – Jul 31, 2015	9 v 9	*6th Grade
U13	Aug 1, 2013 – Jul 31, 2014	11 v 11	*7th Grade
U14	Aug 1, 2012 – Jul 31, 2013	11 v 11	*8th Grade
U15	Aug 1, 2011 – Jul 31, 2012	11 v 11	*9th Grade
U16	Aug 1, 2010 – Jul 31, 2011	11 v 11	*10th Grade
U17	Aug 1, 2009 – Jul 31, 2010	11 v 11	*11th Grade
U18	Aug 1, 2008 – Jul 31, 2009	11 v 11	*12th Grade
U19	Aug 1, 2007 – Jul 31, 2008	11 v 11	* 12th Grade to Post-senior year

** Approximate grades assume a September 1 school cut-off. Your child's actual grade may vary by school district. The birth date range is the official determinant.*

⚽ *Always verify your child's division with the official BASC Age Division Chart at basoccer.club/programs/age-division-chart*

3. Will My Child Be in a Different Group Than Last Year?

It depends on when your child was born:

Birthday Falls In…	What Changes	Bottom Line
August 1 – December 31	Your child stays in essentially the same age group. They will now be joined by kids born January–July of the *next* calendar year (who were previously in a younger group).	**Little or no change**
January 1 – July 31	Your child will move **up one age division**. They will now play with kids born in the previous August–December, who are in the same school year. This is the "trapped player" fix — your child will finally play with their classroom friends.	**Moves up one age group**

Quick Example
A child born **March 15, 2016** was previously in U10 (all 2016-born players). Under the new system, March 2016 falls in the *August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016* window — so this child is now in **U11**. They will play alongside friends born August–December 2015 who are in the same grade.

4. BASC Team Structure & Game Formats

BASC teams are organized by age division, and the game format is set by how old players are.

Younger players play smaller-sided games so they get more touches on the ball and a better learning experience.

Age Group(s)	Format	What That Means
KICKSTART (U3–U5)	Non-competitive	Introduction to soccer fundamentals for ages 2–4. Fun, no score kept.
U6, U7, U8	4 v 4	4 players per team on a small field — lots of ball time for every player!
U9, U10	7 v 7	7 players per team on a medium field — building teamwork skills.
U11, U12	9 v 9	9 players per team — developing team shape and tactics.
U13 and older	11 v 11	Full-size game with a full-size field, same as the professional game.

5. Registration — What You Need to Know

Registration Periods

BASC has two registration periods each season:

- **Normal Registration:** Opens at the beginning of the season and closes **7 weeks before the first game**. Players who register during this period are **guaranteed a spot** on a team roster (as long as a team forms in their age and gender group).
- **Waiting List Period:** Begins the day after Normal Registration closes. Players registering late are **not guaranteed a spot**. They may join a waiting list and will be contacted in order if a roster opening becomes available.

How Players Are Assigned to Teams

BASC places your child on a team based on the following priority order:

- Coach-designated players (a coach's child or one specific player they request — up to 2 per team)
- Current team affiliation — the team your child was on last season
- Siblings in the same age and gender group
- Previous team affiliations from earlier seasons
- Residence or school affiliation (so teammates tend to be neighbors or classmates)

Sibling Requests

If you have more than one child registered with BASC, you may request they be placed on the same team — as long as both children's birthdays fall within the same age group. Contact the registrar during Normal Registration to make this request.

Playing Up (Requesting an Older Age Group)

If you would like your child to play in an older age group than their birthday qualifies them for, you must submit a written **Play Up Request Form**. The BASC Registrar reviews all requests and will approve or deny them based on club guidelines. The BASC Board has final authority on these decisions.

Every Child Plays

BASC is committed to equal playing time. All players on a recreational team must play **at least half of every game**. This is a club policy — coaches are required to follow it.

6. Frequently Asked Questions

Q: My child played U9 last year. What group are they in now?
A: Look up your child's birthday in the table in Section 2. If born January–July of their birth year, they will move up to U10 this season. If born August–December, they stay in the U9 division.

Q: Will my child be with the same teammates as last year?
A: It depends on birthdays. If all teammates fall in the same new Aug 1–Jul 31 window, they may still be together. BASC will do its best to honor existing team affiliations when assigning players, but roster changes may occur if teammates shift age groups.

Q: My child was born in January. Will they be playing against older kids?
A: Under the new system, your January-born child moves into the age group that spans August of the previous year through July of their birth year. Their new teammates include kids born in August–December of the prior year, who are typically in the same school grade. This is actually better alignment than the old system, where your child was grouped with the youngest in their calendar year division.

Q: Is this change permanent?
A: Yes. US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer, and AYSO — the three largest youth soccer organizations in the country — have jointly agreed to this change starting with the 2026–27 season. BASC follows this national standard.

Q: What if my child wants to play in a higher age group?
A: Submit a Play Up Request Form (available on the BASC website or at the office). The Registrar reviews each request individually. There is no automatic approval.

Q: What if a team doesn't form in my child's age group?
A: If a team fails to form in your child's age and gender group, BASC will provide a full refund of registration fees.

7. Contact Us & Helpful Links

Broken Arrow Soccer Club

Office location: Swift Collision / 2nd Floor
20701 East 81st St. S
Broken Arrow, OK 74014
Phone: 918-258-5770
Registration: registration@basoccer.club
General: info@basoccer.club

Helpful Links

- ⚽ BASC Age Division Chart
- ⚽ Player Registration
- ⚽ US Soccer Age Group Calculator
- ⚽ BASC Frequently Asked Questions
- ⚽ Play Up Request Form

We look forward to seeing your family on the field this fall!

Go BASC! ⚽