



FAQ: Age group change beginning 2026-27

Q1. Can my player's (2025-26) team stay together?

A. Unfortunately, we are not able to maintain teams as they currently exist. In most cases the new age parameters will allow at least a few players to remain together. We understand this will be disappointing for players who have built strong friendships on and off the field. Thank you for your help to ease the transition for your player.

Q2. Are any players allowed to play at an older level?

A. Yes, when **the club asks a player to do so** in order to fulfill age-appropriate development and team needs.

Q3. When would a player be asked to play at an older age group?

A. Players may be asked by the club to play with an older age group for two main reasons:

- To ensure **travel-ready players** have an appropriate level to play at, keeping as many players in the program as possible
- When the club believes a player's **Five Pillars of Development** would benefit from training and competing with older players

Q4. Will there be enough players for my daughter to have a team?

A. Our priority is to **create a place for all travel-ready players** within the FCB travel program.

Q5. Will there be Premier teams?

A. Yes, we aim to have both Elite and Premier teams for each age group. Naturally, this will differ by age group and the number of **travel-ready players who try-out**.

Q6. My player will now have another year of 7v7 — that makes four years total. Is that bad?

A. *This is a gift!* **More touches on the ball, more involvement, and more opportunities for development** are positives at this stage. Also remember this is happening across all of US Soccer, so there will be many players in this situation.

Q7. My child is joining 11v11 for the first time, while others already have experience. Will they be okay?

A. Yes. This is where our **Summer Player Development Camps** become very important. We will focus on athleticism and endurance alongside skill development and team-building. This will help the players feel supported so they can **move forward together as a (new) team**. There will be many players in this situation across all of US Soccer.

Q8. I heard some clubs or teams are maintaining birth-year based teams. Why?

A. Clubs competing in the **MLS NEXT Homegrown division** are remaining birth-year based to align with international competition. *This is the only league staying birth-year based.* The MLS Next Academy division will be switching to the new structure like the rest of US Soccer.



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TRY-OUTS

Q9. Do FCB travel tryouts cost anything?

A. No — there is no cost to attend FCB tryouts.

Q10. Can my player try out “up” an age level?

A. Players must attend their age-appropriate tryout only. Players will not be permitted to try out at a different age group.

Q11. Do players need to attend both FCB travel tryouts?

A. It is strongly **recommended that players attend both tryouts for their age group so that your player can be seen at their best. **Only one tryout is required** to be considered for selection.**

Q12. When are tryouts?

A. Dates are **not confirmed yet, but we expect to use a **Saturday and/or Friday evening as well as our usual weeknight dates**. We will most likely begin travel tryouts the weekend **following Easter (April 8+)**.**

FAQ compiled 2/4/26