



AGE GROUP TRANSITION INFORMATION FOR 2026/27

This presentation explores some of the the reasons why the national governing bodies have decided to move from birth-year to school-year cutoff registration beginning in the 2026–27 season, as well as the proactive steps Saline FC is taking prior to tryouts for a smooth transition.





2026/2027 AGE GROUPS



AGE GROUP	BIRTHDATE
U7	August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020
U8	August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019
U9	August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018
U10	August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017
U11	August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016
U12	August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015
U13	August 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014
U14	August 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013
U15	August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012
U16	August 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011
U17	August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010
U18	August 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009



WHY IS US YOUTH SOCCER REVERTING BACK TO A SCHOOL-YEAR CUTOFF?

1. Better Alignment With School & Social Development.
2. Reduced Disruption During Key School Transition Years.
3. Clearer Pathway Into High School Soccer.
4. Improved Retention and Participation.
5. Consistency Across Major Governing Bodies.
6. Supports Long-Term Player Development.



SCENARIOS

At Saline FC we believe our players will fall into one of these different scenarios as we take a proactive approach on planning for next season.





SCENARIO 1 - PLAYER FALLS WITHIN THE NEW AUGUST 1st TO JULY 31st CUTOFF WINDOW

If a player's birthdate falls within the new August 1st – July 31st calendar year, the player is encouraged to play within their new eligible age group for the 2026–27 season.

Please note that players are not permitted to play down under any circumstances. Players may only be considered for playing up when appropriate.



SCENARIO 2 - A PLAYER IS BORN EARLY IN THE NEW CUTOFF BUT IS ENTERING A HIGHER GRADE

If a player is born early within the August 1st – July 31st cutoff window but is entering a higher grade, we will typically recommend that the player move up to play with their grade-level peers.

Example: A U14 player born between August 1st, 2012 – July 31st, 2013 is entering 9th grade. Although the player is technically age-eligible for U14, we would recommend that the player compete at the U15 level to better align with their academic and social peer group.



SCENARIO 3 - A PLAYER FALLS WITHIN A 'YOUNGER' AGE GROUP CUT OFF & WOULD BE REPEATING A GAME FORMAT

In most cases, repeating an age group / small sided game format may be the most appropriate option.

Example: A current 2016-born player is currently playing U10. Their birthdate falls between August 1st, 2016 – July 31st, 2017, and they will be entering 4th grade. In this situation, it is probably in the player's best interest to repeat the U10 age group for an additional year. This would allow the player to play in the new age group, along with the grade that they would transition from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school.



SCENARIO 4 - WHAT IS THE BEST SITUATION FOR THE PLAYER?

There will be situations where individual circumstances suggest a different approach than the previous scenarios. These decisions are always handled case by case.

These types of conversations occur every year during tryouts; however, this transition year introduces additional social and developmental considerations. Ultimately, the guiding question will always be whether the level and environment make sense for the player's long-term development.



OUR PROCESS

WINTER & SPRING SEASONS

Our focus is on finishing the winter and spring seasons strong, providing players and families with the best possible soccer experience and minimal disruption.

SCHOOL YEAR CUT OFF TRAINING

In order to best formulate team plans during tryouts for the 2026/27 season, we will be adjusting our practice schedule for two separate weeks to school-year training sessions. The first week will be Feb 2nd-6th, the second week will be March 23rd-25th. This will provide players with an early look as to what the player pool in their age group will look like within the club.

SCENARIO CONVERSATIONS

We understand there may be questions or concerns about player placement for the 2026/27 season. These discussions will continue as we work through individual situations. If you would like a discussion, please reach out to our Director of Coaching, Leigh Rumbold, who will help coordinate and determine the best plan moving forward.





FEBRUARY 2-6 BOYS SCHOOL-YEAR TRAINING SCHEDULE

Age Group	Birthdate Range	Night 1	Location	Time	Night 2	Location	Time
U8 Boys	August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019	Tuesday Feb 3	Liberty	5pm-6pm	Wednesday Feb 4	Liberty	5.30pm-6.30pm
U9 Boys	August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018	Monday Feb 2	Liberty	5.30pm-6.30pm	Wednesday Feb 4	Liberty	5.30pm-6.30pm
U10 Boys	August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017	Monday Feb 2	Liberty	6.30pm-7.30pm	Tuesday Feb 3	Liberty	6pm-7pm
U11 Boys	August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016	Wednesday Feb 4	Liberty	6.30pm-7.30pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	6pm-7pm
U12 Boys	August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015	Tuesday Feb 3	Liberty	7pm-8pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	6pm-7pm
U13 Boys	August 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014	Tuesday Feb 3	Liberty	6pm-7pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	7pm-8pm
U14 Boys	August 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013	Monday Feb 2	Liberty	6.30pm-7.30pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	7pm-8pm
U15 Boys	August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012	Tuesday Feb 3	Liberty	8pm-9pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	7pm-8pm
U16 Boys	August 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011	Wednesday Feb 4	Liberty	8.30pm-9.30pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	8pm-9pm
U17 Boys	August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010	Monday Feb 2	Liberty	7.30pm-8.30pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	8pm-9pm
U18 Boys	August 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009	Monday Feb 2	Liberty	8.30pm-9.30pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	8pm-9pm

- Please have your player attend their correct age group based on the new format for the 26/27 season.
- The goalkeeping schedule on a Thursday will continue as normal.



MARCH 23-25 **BOYS** SCHOOL-YEAR TRAINING SCHEDULE

Age Group	Birthdate Range	Night 1	Location	Time	Night 2	Location	Time
U8 Boys	August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019	Tuesday Mar 24	Liberty	5pm-6pm	Wednesday Mar 25	Liberty	5.30pm-6.30pm
U9 Boys	August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018	Monday Mar 23	Liberty	5.30pm-6.30pm	Wednesday Mar 25	Liberty	5.30pm-6.30pm
U10 Boys	August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017	Monday Mar 23	Liberty	6.30pm-7.30pm	Tuesday Mar 24	Liberty	6pm-7pm
U11 Boys	August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016	Wednesday Mar 25	Liberty	6.30pm-7.30pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
U12 Boys	August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015	Tuesday Mar 24	Liberty	7pm-8pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
U13 Boys	August 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014	Tuesday Mar 24	Liberty	6pm-7pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
U14 Boys	August 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013	Monday Mar 23	Liberty	6.30pm-7.30pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
U15 Boys	August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012	Tuesday Mar 24	Liberty	8pm-9pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
U16 Boys	August 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011	Wednesday Mar 25	Liberty	8.30pm-9.30pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
U17 Boys	August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010	Monday Mar 23	Liberty	7.30pm-8.30pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
U18 Boys	August 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009	Monday Mar 23	Liberty	8.30pm-9.30pm	N/A	N/A	N/A

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FEBRUARY 2-6 GIRLS SCHOOL-YEAR TRAINING SCHEDULE

Age Group	Birthdate Range	Night 1	Location	Time	Night 2	Location	Time
U8 Girls	August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019	Monday Feb 2	Liberty	5.30pm-6.30pm	Wednesday Feb 4	Washtenaw Christian Academy	5pm-6pm
U9 Girls	August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018	Monday Feb 2	Liberty	5.30pm-6.30pm	Wednesday Feb 4	Washtenaw Christian Academy	5pm-6pm
U10 Girls	August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017	Monday Feb 2	Liberty	5.30pm-6.30pm	Wednesday Feb 4	Washtenaw Christian Academy	5pm-6pm
U11 Girls	August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016	Tuesday Feb 3	Liberty	5pm-6pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	6pm-7pm
U12 Girls	August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015	Wednesday Feb 4	Washtenaw Christian Academy	6pm-7pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	6pm-7pm
U13 Girls	August 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014	Wednesday Feb 4	Liberty	7.30pm-8.30pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	6pm-7pm
U14 Girls	August 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013	Wednesday Feb 4	Liberty	7.30pm-8.30pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	7pm-8pm
U15 Girls	August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012	Wednesday Feb 4	Washtenaw Christian Academy	7pm-8pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	7pm-8pm
U16 Girls	August 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011	Wednesday Feb 4	Washtenaw Christian Academy	8pm-9pm	Friday Feb 6	High Velocity	8pm-9pm
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U15 Girls	August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012	Wednesday Mar 25	Washtenaw Christian Academy	7pm-8pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
U16 Girls	August 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011	Wednesday Mar 25	Washtenaw Christian Academy	8pm-9pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
U17 Girls	August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010	Wednesday Mar 25	Washtenaw Christian Academy	8pm-9pm	N/A	N/A	N/A
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QUESTIONS?

With significant change there will always be questions. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Coach Leigh if you would like to discuss any impact the age-change will have on your child.

You can reach out to Coach Leigh either through email at doc@salinesoccer.org or his cell: 989-450-7532.