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## Cal South Announces Aug. 1st as Seasonal Year Age Group Registration Start Date

### *Decision Aligns with US Youth Soccer's Statement from Previous Week*

Anaheim, CA (Wednesday, June 18, 2025) – After a full review, Cal South officially announces that it will align with US Youth Soccer in accepting August 1st as the Seasonal Year age group formation start date. Even though USYS will begin using this in the Fall of 2026-2027, Cal South plans to begin using seasonal year registration in the Spring of 2026 to allow clubs to get acclimated to the new system.

The move is being made to ease registration alignment for all leagues, clubs, teams and players in our region – based on school year not birth year, per U.S. Soccer's decision earlier this year – regardless of affiliation with any particular organization.

The seasonal year will run from Aug. 1 through July 31, rather than Sept. 1 through Aug. 31 as many organizations, including Cal South, had previously announced. This change will NOT affect the upcoming Fall 2025-2026 season at all.

US Youth Soccer announced its decision to move to an August 1 start date last week. The move was made in a collective decision alongside AYSO and US Club Soccer. This was US Youth Soccer's announcement last week...



#### Updated Decision on Age Group Formation

Following extensive review and discussion, US Youth Soccer, AYSO, and US Club Soccer have collectively decided to move to an age group player formation cycle that runs from August 1 to July 31, starting with the 2026-27 season/registration year. This change was made based on additional critical feedback, data, and expert input to better align players with their school-grade peers. Our associations feel that this age group player formation will be the most inclusive and help increase participation.

The August 1 to July 31 age group player formation cycle will be used for all USYS league and Cup competitions for the 2026-27 season/registration year including: National Championships, Presidents Cup, and National League.

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 reminder, under U.S. Soccer's new policy, each Federation member can determine age group registration rules for the leagues and competitions they operate or sanction. To support this transition, U.S. Soccer has introduced a tool to help parents and guardians easily understand the age groupings based on their child's birthdate.

Again, please note that this decision is effective beginning with each Organization Member's 2026-27 season/registration year.

To read on our website: <https://calsouth.com/cs-aug1-seasonal-year-pr/>



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