

Dear Parents and Coaches,

As you may have read from our email that went out on June 5, 2016 our age divisions are changing starting this fall 2016. These rules were passed by USSF and are mandated to all Associations across the country and have been mandated to us by **North Texas State Soccer Association** which is the parent organization the we operate under. Basically the previous age division followed the public school calendar year which allowed players in the same grade to play together. Starting this fall players will be playing together based on their birth year. For example, all players born in 2005 will be in one age group, players born in 2006 will be another age group and so on... Since our teams currently have players born in the fall of one year and the spring of the following year, this new age rule change could potentially cause teams to be split. However, there are a few options should you as coaches and parents like to try and keep your team or most of the team together.

**Option 1. Entire team moves up with older players.**

We can not allow older players to play down but younger players could request to play up one year to join their older fellow team mates. This would move the entire team up into the older players year age bracket. I know this may be confusing to some of you but let me see if I can explain.

For example if your team was a U7 team last spring with five 2009 and two 2008 players, the two 2008 players would now be classified in the U9 age bracket and the five 2009 players in the U8 bracket thus splitting the team up. If the parents and coach are all in agreement the five U8 players could elect to play up to the u9 bracket and keep the team together. Should you elect to take this option we would need an email request from the five younger players requesting to play up.

\*Exception to this option:

This option would not apply to any player who was currently playing up one age bracket already in our U6-U12 age brackets. We only allow players to play up one age bracket for the age brackets we offer teams in.

**Option 2: Team splits with coach staying down.**

Given the previous example if the coach's child was part of the five 2009 players then he/she could elect to stay together playing in the U8 age bracket and the two 2008 players would then go into the draft for the U9 age bracket.

**Option 3: Team splits with coach going up.**

Given the previous example if the coach's child was part of the two 2008 players then he/she could elect to keep his team with his two players and hope to get new players in the draft. The five 2009 players would then be placed back in the draft.

**Coaches** - Below are some steps of action that we recommend you take in order to decide which route is best for your team:

Find out what year all your players were born.

Decide what you as the coach, assistant coach would like to do based on this information and conversations with your parents.

If you decide to have team stay together in older age bracket, help your parents with their request to play up.

**Parents** – Please get in touch with your coaches so you can decide what options your team(s) have.

Thank you for your participation in Texoma Soccer Association and for your patience as we work through these new changes.

Sincerely,

Texoma Soccer Association