Massachusetts Youth Soccer
2016/2017 Soccer Year
MTOC Tournament Groups

Dual Grade Group Categories

	DUAL GRADE PLAYING GROUPS				
	Grades 5 / 6 (Formerly U12)	**Grades 7 / 8 (Formerly U14)**	**Grades 9 / 10 (Formerly U16)**	**Grades 11 / 12 (Formerly U18)**	**PG/College (Formerly U19)**
Eligibility	In 6th grade or below ***AND*** Born on or after 1/1/2004	In 8th grade or below ***AND*** Born on or after 1/1/2002	In 10th grade or below ***AND*** Born on or after 1/1/2000	In 12th grade or below ***AND*** Born on or after 1/1/1998	In college, PG or below ***AND*** Born on or after 1/1/1997
Eligibility Considerations	Organizations are permitted to use Born Between dates criteria. See last page for Examples. 4th grade players are permitted to play up based on current U10 guidelines.				
Under new US Soccer Player Calendar Year Age Group Labels, players in this age group will primarily be labeled as:	Older U11, all U12, and younger U13	Older U13, all U14, and younger U15	Older U15, all U16, and younger U17	Older U17, all U18, and younger U19	Older U19 and younger U20 (Approved by USYS)
Max. on Field	9	11	11	11	11
Min. on Field	6	7	7	7	7
Max on MTOC Eligible Team Roster	16	18	22 (18 on game day roster)	22 (18 on game day roster)	22 (18 on game day roster)

Massachusetts Youth Soccer
2016/2017 Soccer Year
Recreational Intown Leagues

Single Grade Group Categories

==**The information below is Mass Youth Soccer _Recommendations_**==

	PLAYING GROUPS					
	Pre K **(Formerly U5)**	**Kindergarten** **(Formerly U6)**	**Grade 1** **(Formerly U7)**	**Grade 2** **(Formerly U8)**	**Grades 3** **(Formerly U9)**	**Grades 4** **(Formerly U10)**
Eligibility	In Pre K **AND** Born on or after 1/1/2011	In Kindergarten or below **AND** Born on or after 1/1/2010	In 1st grade or below **AND** Born on or after 1/1/2009	In 2nd grade or below **AND** Born on or after 1/1/2008	In 3rd grade or below **AND** Born on or after 1/1/2007	In 4th grade or below **AND** Born on or after 1/1/2006
Eligibility Considerations	Organizations are permitted to use Born Between date criteria. See last page for Examples 2nd Grade players may play up based on current U8 Playing Up policy					
Under new US Soccer Player Calendar Year Age Group Labels, players in this age group will primarily be labeled as:	Older U5 and younger U6	Older U6 and younger U7	Older U7 and younger U8	Older U8 and younger U9	Older U9 and younger U10	Older U10 and younger U11
Max. on Field	4 No GK	4 No GK	4 No GK 5 W/GK	4 No GK 5 W/GK	7	7
Min. on Field	4	4	4/5	4/5	5	5
Max on Roster	8	8	10	10	15	15

What is the rational for going with Grade Groups as compared to the new Age Groups for MTOC and Intown Recreational Leagues?
In order to comply with the new calendar year based age group labels and continue to have children play with their peer same grade classmates a new group label is needed. By moving from the August-July to the Jan-Dec birthdate range players in the same grade will have two different age group labels. Using the dual group method provides for players to possibly have three different age group labeled players play in just a dual two year grade group. Also, if the new full calendar year and age group label were to be used next soccer year, players in an older grade could play town with a younger grade because they meet the age group birth year. For example the U7 age group would be comprised of older Kindergarten and younger 1st graders. Thus, in order to keep children of the same class year together, the simple change of the label of playing groups to Grade Based groups with date of birth criteria makes this easier. Using this method still operates within the coming mandates from US Soccer.

How does this Grade Group method work for recreational MTOC and Intown Recreational play and why the birthdates start of 1/1/xxxx?
Two examples will be used to help demonstrate how this applies. Note these are based on the 2016/17 soccer year.
- o   Recreational Intown Leagues – Grade 1 Group Example:
    - ▪ The new Grade 1 Group (formerly U7) will be comprised of players in the 1st grade or below AND born on or after 1/1/2009. Under new US Soccer player calendar year age group labels, players in this Grade 1 Group will primarily be comprised of players labeled as older U7 and younger U8. The bulk of these players will be born between 8/1/2009 and 7/31/2010, virtually identical to the current birth date ranges in use today.
    - ▪ There are some players who have a birthdate that would have typically placed them in an older grade in school, but for whatever reason, they attend school in the next lower grade. Players born earlier, before 1/1/2009, and in 1st grade may apply for a waiver from their organization.

- o   MTOC Travel League Play – Grade 7/8 Example:
    - ▪ The new Grade 7/8 Group (formerly U14) will be comprised of players in 8th grade or below AND born on or after 1/1/2002. Under new US Soccer player calendar year age group labels, players in this Grade 7/8 Group will primarily be comprised of players labeled as older U13, all U14 and younger U15. The bulk of these players will be born between 8/1/2002 and 7/31/2004, virtually identical to the current birth date ranges in use today.
    - ▪ There are some players who have a birthdate that would have typically placed them in an older grade in school, but for whatever reason, they attend school in the next lower grade. Having them play with their classmates was possible by waiver and only granted for them to Division 3, 4 or 5 players. Now those players born on or after 1/1/2002 can play with classmates without the need for waivers and play on a Division 1 or 2 team. Players born earlier, before 1/1/2002, and in 8th grade may apply for a waiver from their organization.
    - ▪ If this team were to enter a tournament with divisions based on Age Groups they would have to enter in the division based on the oldest player's age group label. Since the oldest player on the team could be born in 2002 this team would have to enter the tournament as a U15 team.

How do we use the Born Between Date criteria?
Many organizations prefer to start with a finite birth date parameter for registrations and then look at each player who may "play up". For example, using the Grade 7/8 Group the birth date criteria is "born on or after 1/1/2002". Using a Born By date the parameters could be "born between 1/1/2002 and 7/31/2004". This method would catch virtually all 7th and 8th graders. If this team were to compete in a tournament outside of MTOC it would be labeled a U15 team if any players on the team are born in 2002.