



February 11, 2016

CHANGES IN TRAVEL SOCCER FOR THE 2016-2017 SEASON

The United States Soccer Federation (U.S. Soccer) has announced major changes for youth soccer which will affect travel teams throughout the United States, beginning in August, 2016. These changes will impact our 2016-2017 Travel Team Program, starting with travel team tryouts this spring. This letter is intended to explain the changes and how they will affect the Cherry Hill FC Travel Program.

The biggest modification will be the change to "birth year eligibility." For the past 25 years, age groups were defined with an August 1st cutoff. For example, current Under 12 age group teams are comprised of players born between August 1, 2003 and July 31, 2004. Starting next season, the age group cutoff will switch to January 1st for all age groups. So, for next year, the Under 12 age group will be comprised of players born in the year 2005. This change will take place throughout the United States. The main purpose of this change is so align our country with the age group classifications used in all other countries that play organized soccer.

Tryouts for next year's travel teams will take place in the spring. Our tryouts will use these new age classifications, as mandated by U.S. Soccer. Tryout dates will be posted shortly.

Another change mandated by U.S. Soccer will be the number of players on the field for some age groups. Currently, games Under 12 and younger are played 8v8 while games Under 13 and older are played 11v11. Beginning next season, travel team games for under 10 and younger will be played 7 vs. 7 and played on slightly smaller fields. The Under 11 and Under 12 age groups will play 9 vs. 9 on a mid-sized field. Age groups Under 13 and older will still play full sided 11 vs. 11.

Below is a listing of how the age groups will be determined for the 2016-2017 seasons and their game format. Tryouts for teams with players not yet in high school will be held in the spring of 2016. We anticipate fielding the same number of travel teams for each age group as we do now.

AG	Birth Year	Format	Roster Max	CHFC Team Eligibility	Tryout Format
U19	1998	11v11	18	1998/1999	Team Tryout
U18	1999	11v11	18	1999/2000	Team Tryout
U17	2000	11v11	18	2000/2001	Team Tryout
U16	2001	11v11	18	2001/2002	Team Tryout
U15	2002	11v11	18	2002/2003	Team Tryout
U14	2003	11v11	18	2003/2004	Age Tryout
U13	2004	11v11	18	2004	Age Tryout
U12	2005	9v9	16	2005	Age Tryout
U11	2006	9v9	16	2006	Age Tryout
U10	2007	7v7	14	2007	Age Tryout
U9	2008	7v7	14	2008	Age Tryout
U8	2009	7v7	14	2009	Age Tryout

Cherry Hill FC POLICY REGARDING THESE CHANGES

In short, we will start from scratch and form NEW teams, with new coaches and new team names from the U8 age group to U12. Teams will be formed at tryouts in the same manner as previous years.

☒☒Age group changes will NOT be in effect yet for teams in 2016 spring leagues or 2016 state cups. Current team rosters will be used for all competitions through July, 2016.

☒☒U13 and older aged players will be allowed to try out for an age group older than defined by their year of birth. If a player wishes to try out for a team older than the respective birth year, the player must attend the tryouts for their birth year age group, as well as the older team for which they are interested in playing for.

☒☒All players wishing to tryout will need to pre-register. There will be no charge for pre-registration. This will be done through our web page in the Travel Team Program page.

Every club in the US has been grappling with these new guidelines over the past few months. We are required by our governing bodies to make these changes. The board has discussed the topic over the last few months, discussed the changes with other clubs, consulted with Cherry Hill FC coaches and we carefully arrived at this new format for Cherry Hill FC. These changes are in the best interest of player development and the club as a whole.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your respective Travel Coordinator, or me, via e-mail and we will be happy to discuss this with you.

Thanks,
Alan Feldman
Cherry Hill FC

