



## **US Soccer Player Development Initiatives**

### **Tinton Falls Soccer Club Implementation Plan**

To all TFSC Coaches and Families:

In an effort to prioritize the development of individual players at the youth level, US Soccer and New Jersey Youth Soccer instituted new player development initiatives in 2015. The player development initiatives focus on creating small sided standards that focus on developing skill on the ball, developing soccer intelligence, enforcing partnerships within the team and providing an age appropriate environment at all ages. As a result of the US Soccer player development initiatives, soccer clubs and organizations across the country have been charged with evaluating the initiative, implementing mandated changes while reviewing all guidelines to determine the best solutions for each organization.

With that being said, the Tinton Falls Soccer Club will be implementing new Birth Year age groups that will become effective August 1, 2016. While we realize that the new age group mandates are not ideal for every situation, it is necessary to comply with the mandate by moving to the new Birth Year age groups in order to keep our teams as competitive in every age group while continuing to offer soccer opportunities to as many existing TFSC players as possible.

In order to limit confusion and eliminate uncertainty around these changes, the TFSC has developed the following implementation plan:

- 1) Birth Year age groups will be implemented for all players born after August 1, 2003 (current U12 and under). This means that all players with a Birth Year of 2004 and later, will play age appropriate according to their Birth Year.
- 2) Birth Year registration will now align with the start of the calendar year and will follow the January to December cycle, rather than 8/1 to 7/31 as it was previously.
- 3) In the Fall of 2016, small sided games will be played by teams up to and including the 2005 Birth Year.
- 4) The club will hold tryouts on May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>. Birth Year tryouts will be held for all players with a Birth Year of 2004 or later. Players must attend their age appropriate tryout in their proper Birth Year. Players are not allowed to tryout for an age group younger than their year of Birth. Team tryouts will be held for all 2003 and earlier Birth Years (please see the grid below). Tryouts will be run by TFSC selected trainers and TFSC Coaches who will independently evaluate the tryouts and work with the Current Coaches to select appropriate teams at each age group.
- 5) "Playing up" will be permitted but limited to exceptions for the best intentions of the Club as a whole and to ensure participation of a maximum number of current club players in 2016-17, not for the individual advantage of a single team or player. Playing up exceptions will be submitted by the Coach of the team that the child would like to play on. Each request will be reviewed and approved/declined by the TFSC Executive Board. In order to be considered to play up, a player must tryout at both their Birth Year tryout and the age they are looking to play up to. This will allow for evaluation at both age groups and will assist in the evaluation process.
- 6) In late May (subsequent to tryouts but before the selection process begins), all teams will be reviewed for # of players and level of competitiveness. At that time, teams may be added or removed based on the # of players.



- 7) Teams starting with the 2003 Birth Year and older can elect to play in the Year of Birth of their oldest currently rostered team player and will not be subject to the above Birth Year guidelines. Players on these teams will not have to attend an Age Group Tryout.
- 8) There will not be new U8 (Year of Birth 2009) teams formed in the Fall of 2016. Players in the 2009 Year of Birth and younger will join the existing Tinton Falls Co-ed Developmental program and will play 4 v 4 games within the program. Further information will be forwarded regarding the program later this year.
- 9) Below is a brief summary of the Years of Birth, # of Players and the Tryout required for the Fall 2016 season:

Birth year	# of Players on the Field	Tryout
2008	7 vs 7	Age Group Tryout
2007	7 vs 7	Age Group Tryout
2006	9 vs 9	Age Group Tryout
2005	9 vs 9	Age Group Tryout
2004	11 vs 11	Age Group Tryout
2003	11 vs 11	Team Tryout
2002	11 vs 11	Team Tryout
2001	11 vs 11	Team Tryout
2000	11 vs 11	Team Tryout

A final note about the US Soccer Play Development Initiatives, US Soccer has also recommended other modifications that will impact the rules of play, roster size, field size, etc. Please look for more information about these changes later this year. In the meantime, we have attached a copy of the U.S. Soccer Player Development Initiative and a copy of the NJYS Player Development Implementation Plan and FAQs. We encourage you to read both documents as they will answer many of the questions that you are likely to have regarding these changes. If you have any questions, please contact your current TFSC Coach.

Thank you to all of our coaches and parents for your cooperation. We look forward to working with each of you through this transition and hope to continue to provide an environment of individual player development and a positive atmosphere for all of our players to grow.

Sincerely,

Tinton Fall Soccer Club Executive Board