



USSF Player Development Initiatives

Small Sided Games & Calendar Year Registration





- **Small Sided Games**
- **Calendar Year Registration**
- **Questions**

Small Sided Games



Small Sided Games

Objectives from US Soccer:

- Develop skills on ball at an earlier age (increase number of touches and control, improve confidence)
- Develop soccer “intelligence” (promote faster decisions and better awareness)
- Develop partnership within the team (improve teamwork)
- Provide age appropriate environment

Standards Chart



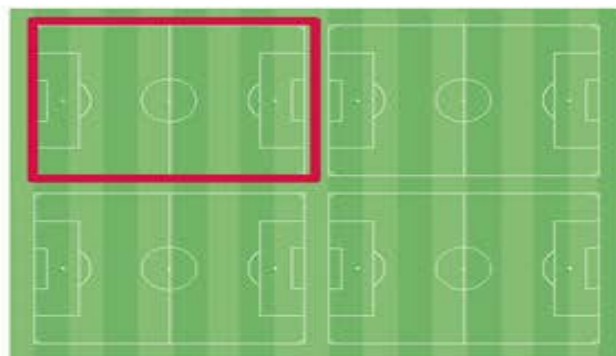
	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
Field Size (yards)	30x20	30x20	30x20	47x30	47x30	75x47	75x47	112x75
Number of Players	4v4	4v4	4v4	7v7	7v7	9v9	9v9	11v11
GK	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Playing Times (minutes)	4x8	4x8	3x15	2x25	2x25	2x30	2x30	2x35
Break Times (minutes)	5	5	5	10	10	10	10	15
Ball Size	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5
Goal Size (feet)	4x6	4x6	4x6	6.5x18.5	6.5x18.5	6.5x18.5	6.5x18.5	8x24
Offside	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



MINI FIELD - 30x20 yards

- U6, U7 and U8 - **4v4**

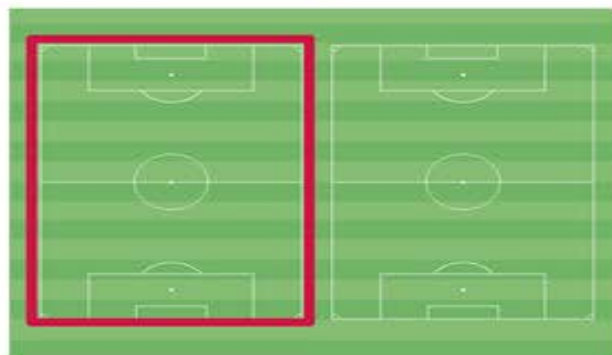
Players at this age need to develop basic motor skills such as walking, running and changing direction. A smaller space will help them to develop these skills while also providing more interaction with the ball, teammates and opponents.



DEVELOPMENT FIELD - 47x30 yards

- U9 and U10 - **7v7**

Players at this age need to develop speed and agility. For this reason we promote play on a bigger field. Players will have more space to move in control of the ball and face 1v1 situations against an opponent in different parts of the field.



SMALL SIDED FIELD - 75x47 yards

- U11 and U12 - **9v9**

Players at this age need to develop coordination, balance and visual awareness. Increasing the number of players requires faster decision making so players can develop partnerships and game intelligence.



Small Sided Games

U6, U7, U8

- 4v4
- Field Size: 30 (l) x 20 (w)
- Goal Size: 4 (h) x 6 (w)
- Size 3 Ball
- No Goalkeeper
- No Offside



Small Sided Games

U9, U10

- 7v7
- Field Size: 47 (l) x 30 (w)
- Goal Size: 6.5 (h) x 18.5 (w)
- Size 4 Ball
- Goalkeeper - Yes
- Offside - Yes

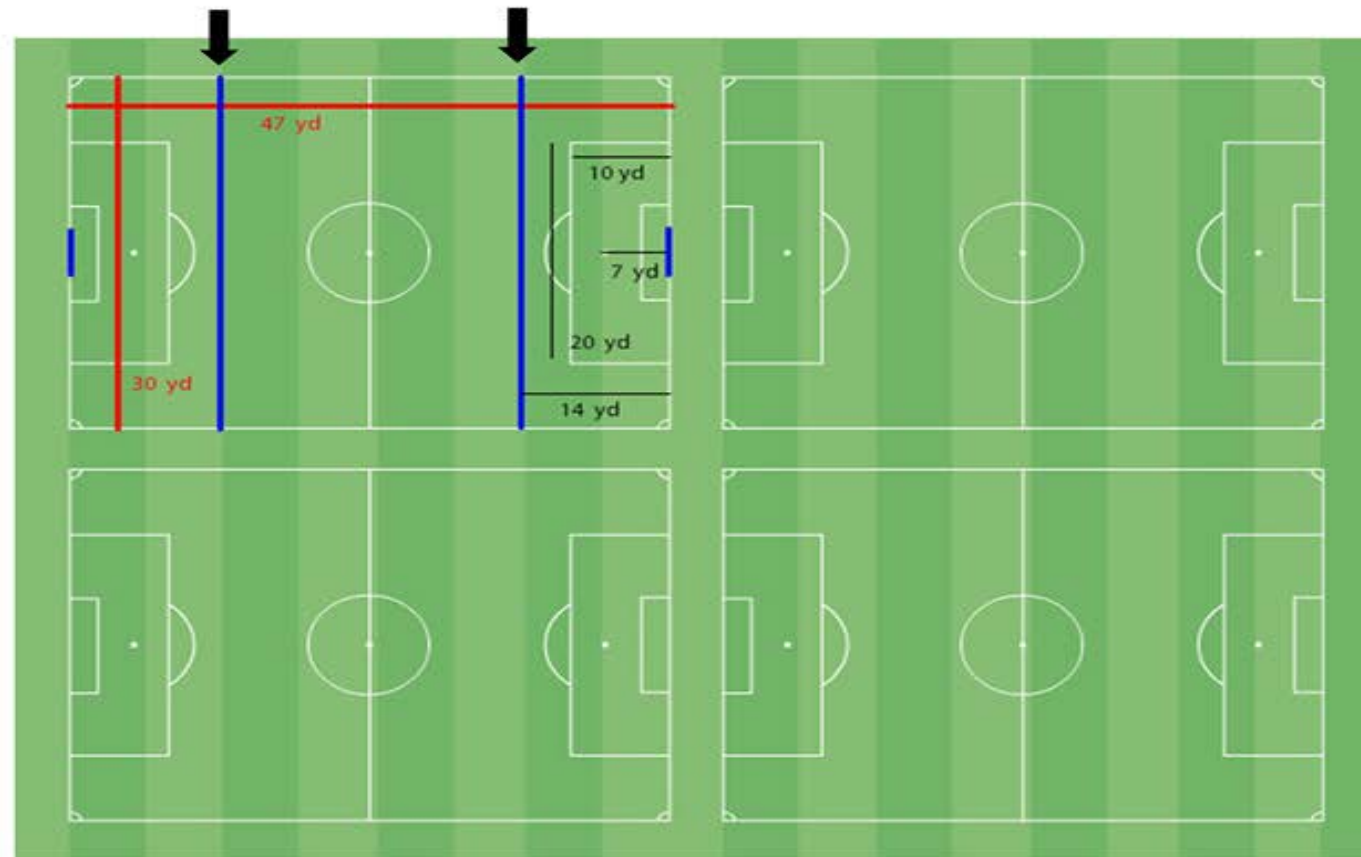


Small Sided Games

U9, U10 - Rules

1. The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in a unpressured setting
2. When the GK has the ball, with during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team should move behind the build out line
3. GK can pass or throw/roll (No Punting)
4. After the ball is put into play by the GK, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal

- Build out lines



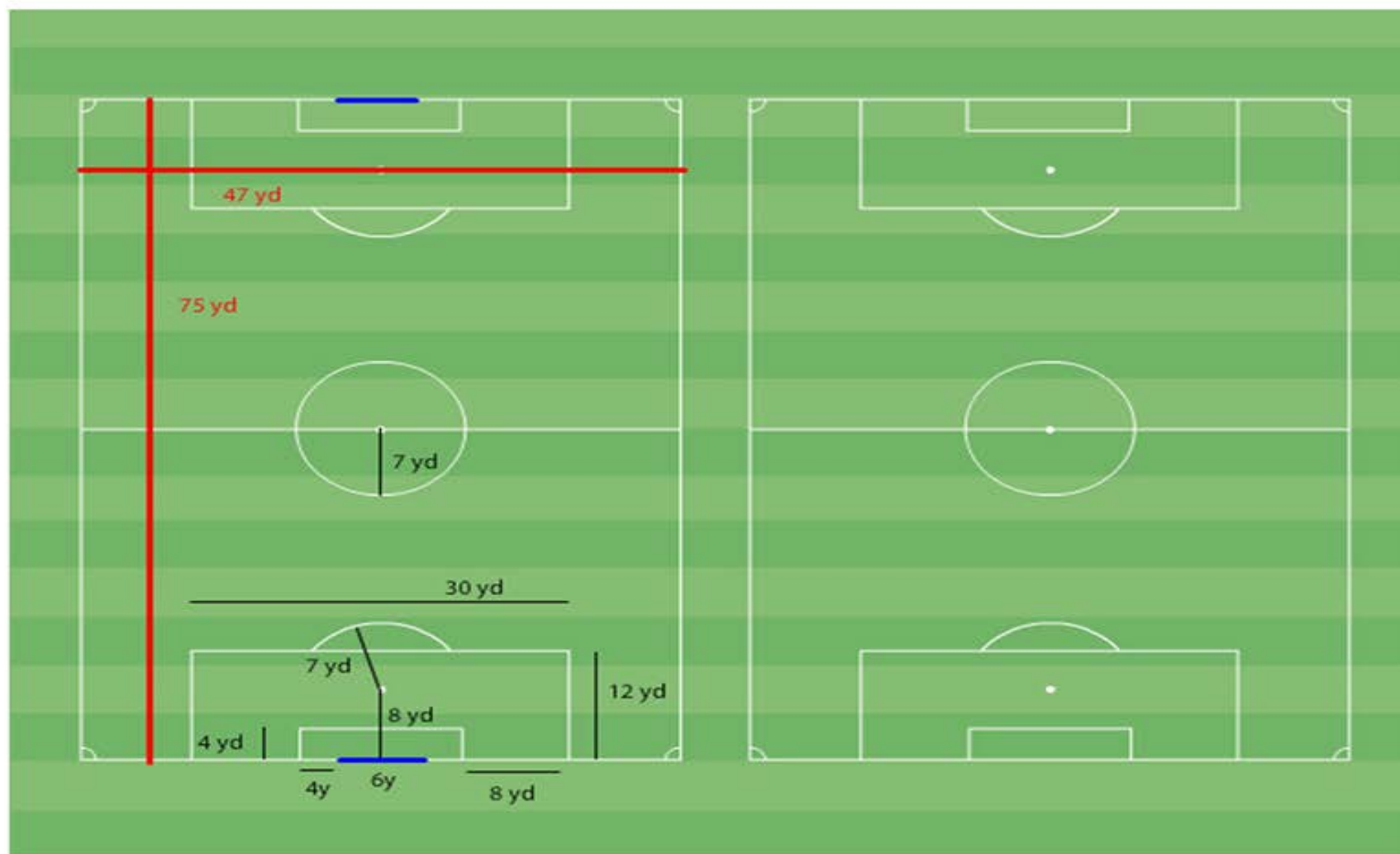


Small Sided Games

U11, U12

- 9v9
- Field Size: 75 (l) x 47 (w)
- Goal Size: 6.5 (h) x 18.5 (w)
- Size 4 Ball
- Goalkeeper - Yes
- Offside - Yes

Small Sided Field - 9v9 - U11 and U12





Small Sided Games

Implementation

Alabama Soccer will mandate the new Small Sided Standards for the 2016-2017 season

Calendar Year Registration



Calendar Year Registration

Objectives from US Soccer:

- Combat relative Age effect - the selection bias towards players born earlier in the year because they are more physical mature than their peers
- Align players for the purpose of individual development and team competition
- Allows for continued development of players who have yet to mature physically - appropriate challenge level
- Align with International standards and USSF Youth team programs



Calendar Year Registration

(January - December)

- Registration is not Team formation
 - Players have ability to play 'up' into age groups
 - Does not force teams to 'dissolve'



Calendar Year Registration

- Can be emotional or scary if not properly educated.
- With the new player registration, some teams will have minor to major roster changes
 - ✓ Kids will still have a chance to play with school friends, but now some of them will be in the grade/class above or below
 - ✓ Soccer clubs should always provide times and places for kids on different teams within the club to get together to continue, rekindle or make friendships with others in the club



Calendar Year Registration

Adapting to change...

Changes in the team roster occur annually with most soccer teams because:

- Kids moving to a different club
- Deciding to play for a different coach in the club
- Making the cut on one team but not another
- That part of youth soccer hasn't changed. One of the growth experiences in youth sports is playing with new teammates and interacting with new coaches — that's a life lesson.

MOVING FORWARD

For those looking to adopt the mandates in 2016-17, here is a list that shows the birth year for that season. Again, please note that when determining the age group for a season, the year the competition ends should be used.

Season	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Birth Year									
2020									
2019									U6
2018								U6	U7
2017							U6	U7	U8
2016						U6	U7	U8	U9
2015					U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2014				U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2013			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2012		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2011	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2010	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2009	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2008	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2007	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2006	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2005	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2004	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2003	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2002	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19				
2001	U16	U17	U18	U19					
2000	U17	U18	U19						
1999	U18	U19							
1998	U19								

There is another very important component to understand about this chart. To avoid players aging out of an age group during a season, the new top age group for youth competitions is U19. This change aligns with the birth year standard and makes sure that players are not eliminated from participating during the second half of a season. In short, all the existing U18 leagues should become U19 in the 2016-17 season and this change should cascade down the age groups (Ex: U17 becomes U18, U16 becomes U17, etc.).

Calendar Year Registration

Implementation

Alabama Soccer will adopt Calendar Year age groups (all ages) for the 2016-2017 season

Any Questions?

Thank you for your time!