

Dear Parents,

Over the weekend, I attended a MOSSL/Buckeye spring season meeting and learned that **"US Youth Soccer will implement the best practice of calendar year age grouping for player registration beginning with the 2016-2017 soccer year forgoing the original plan of phasing it in over two years, with mandatory compliance in 2017."**

Previously, age groups were determined based on players born between Aug. 1 and July 31. The change to calendar year age groups will reflect the calendar year, or Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Players are still allowed to "play up" or play in an older age group. "The initiative will align registration with the international standard, while simultaneously providing clearer information on player birth dates to combat 'relative age effect. Relative age effect refers to the selection bias related to players that are more physically mature than their peers due to being born earlier in the year. U.S. Soccer seeks a balance of players that are born throughout the year so that all players, those born in the earlier months, and those born later have equal opportunity to grow and develop as soccer players."

This year's tryouts will reflect the age changes and players will be grouped accordingly (see attached). Due to this change, we realize that parents might have numerous questions and we have scheduled a **Santos Parent meeting at the Tremont Municipal Building, Council Chambers, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-8:00 PM.**

Regards,  
Maziya Chete  
Director of Coaching