



# BASC Small Sided Initiatives FAQ



## Will BASC implement the new small sided standards?

Yes, in soccer unlike many sports, there is a distinct hierarchy; as a member of Oklahoma Soccer Association (OSA) and US Youth Soccer (USYS), we fall under the jurisdiction of US Soccer. As such, we are required to follow their guidelines.

## Why doesn't BASC just do their own thing, we're a large club?

One of the key factors to the initiative is standardization. Everyone in a given age bracket will now be playing under the same set of rules. Should BASC not follow the new guidelines, we would no longer be sanctioned under OSA & USYS. That would also significantly increase our expenses for insurance and club management since we would have to do everything ourselves. Additionally, BASC teams would be playing a different format / age group than all other clubs. Thereby making it very difficult for any BASC team to compete in an outside tournament. Plus most tournaments require a USYS or US Club approved roster, if BASC was unsanctioned, our teams would not be able to obtain an acceptable roster. It would also make our tournaments unsanctioned and drop attendance drastically since our format would be different than everyone else.

## I understand the mandates do not go into effect until 2017. Why are we implementing them now?

US Soccer issued the mandate for Fall of 2017, but also issued a "recommended best practice" for Fall of 2016. USYS and the other major youth soccer organizations (US Club, AYSO) have all agreed and will be implementing the standard in the Fall of 2016.

## Is BASC going to bust up existing teams and reorganize teams to the new age guidelines?

Not directly. We are a Recreational Club and recognize kids want to play with their friends. However in some cases that is not in the best interest of the child or the best interest of the team. We highly encourage you to evaluate each child before requesting they play up. Play up is voluntary and is not automatic. It must be requested and approved. BASC also recognizes each case really needs to be evaluated on a child by child basis. Because of the variety and number of children and teams involved; BASC has determined that BASC Staff cannot effectively make those decisions. Instead BASC has chosen to put the decision on whether to keep teams together or split them up in the hands of the Head Coach for that individual team. Therefore the Head Coach for that team will determine what's best for the team and players on the team. Any new teams formed by BASC or additions to existing teams will be made following the new age guidelines.



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**My child wants to play up / stay with their existing team. Is that allowed? Are there limits to what's allowed?**

Yes, playing up is allowed. However, there are 3 criteria required before a child will be allowed to play up. 1. The child may only play up 2 years in age, this equates to one primary age bracket. Primary age brackets are U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, and U19. (For example, a U10 could play up to U12, but not into U13. A U11 could play up 2 years with U13, but please recognize, they would be competing against U14's.) 2. The parent must approve the play up, recognizing their child will be competing against older and likely stronger/faster kids. 3. The Teams' Head Coach must approve the play up and agree as a coach he is willing to accept a younger player. NOTE: Playing down an age level is not allowed under any circumstances.

**How do I keep my team together?**

Only the Teams Head Coach can make that decision. However if a head coach chooses to keep his team together (which requires younger players to "play up") they may do so. The easiest way to do this for the Head Coach to submit the Recreational Team Play Up Form:

[http://www.bascok.com/docs/home/BASC%20Team%20Play%20Up%20Form\\_2016.pdf](http://www.bascok.com/docs/home/BASC%20Team%20Play%20Up%20Form_2016.pdf)

**My child will be moving up age brackets, how is that good for them to be competing against kids that are older?**

They will not actually be playing against kids that are that much older than they are now. (Assuming a child is not voluntarily playing up.) Everyone moves up. (It's easier explain using an example of a child who is currently U11, but will be classified as U13 in the Fall.) Currently U11/U12 play together. So there is already a 2 year age band. The same two year band will exist. So while your U11 becomes a U13, the U12's become U14. Those currently in U13/14 will move up too. So unless your chose for your child to "play up", with you'll basically be competing against the same teams / age groups you are competing against currently.



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## AGE GROUP EXAMPLE #1

In this example we have a team that is U11 in Spring 2016 with 2 players currently playing up 1 age bracket.

Birthdate	Current Age Bracket	Age Group in Fall 2016
9/2/2004	U11	U13
9/12/2004	U11	U13
11/13/2004	U11	U13
1/5/2005	U11	U12
1/12/2005	U11	U12
1/18/2005	U11	U12
2/18/2005	U11	U12
6/21/2005	U11	U12
8/20/2005	U10*	U12
11/30/2005	U11	U12
1/20/2006	U10*	U11
* Currently playing up one age bracket		
Current U11 = July 2006 to August 2005		
Current U12 = July 2005 to August 2004		

## COACHES OPTIONS:

1. Keep the entire team together as a U13 team. (2004's become U13. Players born in 2005 will play up 1 year. Player born in 2006 would play up 2 years.) Note entire team will compete in U13/14 bracket. So parents and coach must determine if a 2006 player can compete against those born in 2003 (U14).
2. Keep 'most' of the team together with older players as a U13 team. (2004's become U13. Players born in 2005 would play up 1 age bracket. The player born in 2006 would be placed on a new team that is age appropriate.) Team would compete in U13/14 age bracket.
3. Keep 'most of the team together with the younger players as a U12 team. (Keep the 2005's and allow the 2006 player to play up 1 year. The 3 players born in 2004 would be released and have to be placed on an older U13 team. ) The remaining team would be U12 and would compete against U11/12 teams.



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