



2026/2027 TRYOUT POLICY

With the new school year changes implemented by US Soccer beginning the 2026/27 season, the SOCAL Tryout Policy and dates have been updated accordingly for tryouts for the 2026/27 season.

Below are the approved tryout dates for the 2026/2027 season.

| Age Group | Typical School Grade | Eligible Birthdate Range | 2026 Tryout Dates |
|------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| U6 | Pre-Kindergarten | August 01, 2020 – July 31, 2021 | Monday, December 1, 2025 |
| U7 | Kindergarten | August 01, 2019 – July 31, 2020 | Monday, December 1, 2025 |
| U8 | 1st Grade | August 01, 2018 – July 31, 2019 | Monday, December 1, 2025 |
| U9 | 2nd Grade | August 01, 2017 – July 31, 2018 | Monday, December 1, 2025 |
| U10 | 3rd Grade | August 01, 2016 – July 31, 2017 | Monday, February 23, 2026 |
| U11 | 4th Grade | August 01, 2015 – July 31, 2016 | Monday, February 23, 2026 |
| U12 | 5th Grade | August 01, 2014 – July 31, 2015 | Monday, February 23, 2026 |
| U13 | 6th Grade | August 01, 2013 – July 31, 2014 | Monday, February 23, 2026 |
| U14 | 7th Grade | August 01, 2012 – July 31, 2013 | Monday, February 23, 2026 |

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|------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| U15 | 8th Grade | August 01, 2011 – July 31, 2012 | Monday, April 20, 2026 |
| U16 | 9th Grade (Freshman) | August 01, 2010 – July 31, 2011 | Monday, April 20, 2026 |
| U17 | 10th Grade (Sophomore) | August 01, 2009 – July 31, 2010 | Monday, April 20, 2026 |
| U18 | 11th Grade (Junior) | August 01, 2008 – July 31, 2009 | Monday, April 20, 2026 |
| U19 | 12th Grade (Senior) | August 01, 2007 – July 31, 2008 | Monday, April 20, 2026 |

The Tryout window closes June 30, 2026 as the SOCAL Transfer Policy goes into effect July 1, 2026.

Published “Tryouts” may not occur AFTER July 1, 2026. Clubs may post on their websites for specific team openings or specific teams may post on social media about open roster spots but “Tryouts” may not be advertised after July 1, 2026.

NOTE: For the 2025/26 NPL teams in the age groups (U13 and U14) with extended competition into the Spring 2026 season that will be completed after State Cup 2026, only a MAXIMUM of 3 players may be added to your NPL roster for spring games. Since spring games will be completed after tryouts in these age groups, teams may not stack rosters to fulfill their 2025/2026 NPL schedule so the limit of 3 additional players may be added and teams may not exceed the maximum roster limits as set forth by SOCAL.

Players can NOT transfer to another club beginning July 1, 2025 unless:

1. The player is PAID IN FULL

AND

2. The outgoing DOC has given permission for the player to transfer.

CLUBS and TEAMS CAN:

Clubs **CAN** advertise for tryouts in any manner, and at any time, so long as the tryouts dates are not BEFORE the dates above.

Clubs **CAN** re-sign existing players from their own club at any time without holding tryouts at any age group.

Clubs **CAN** sign players coming from recreational programs or from CSL, Southwest Super League, or the Pacific Regional League. Teams/Players in these leagues are not protected by the SOCAL Transfer or Tryout Policies.

Clubs **CAN** have, free or paid, camps, clinics, etc., for players WITHIN their own club at any time. **This must be clearly indicated on all marketing materials and social media channels.**

Clubs/Coaches **CAN** have camps, clinics, etc., for players outside of their club **ONLY IF** there is a fee charged for the session.

CLUBS and TEAMS CAN NOT:

Clubs and teams **CAN NOT** hold tryouts ANY SOONER than the dates above.

Clubs and teams **CAN NOT** publicly advertise via any platform (social media, email blasts, website, etc) tryouts being held ANY SOONER than the dates above.

Clubs/Coaches **CAN NOT** have FREE camps, clinics, etc., for players OUTSIDE of their club.

The Tryout Policy is NOT an anti-recruiting policy. Recruiting cannot be controlled nor managed. However, players cannot transfer without BOTH of the criteria listed above and in the Transfer Policy.

Any club that violates the Tryout Policy will be fined as follows:

1st offense - \$500.00 fine

2nd offense - \$1,000.00 fine and probation

3rd offense - Club may be dropped from the league after review by Technical Committee.

As members of SOCAL, clubs agree to adhere to and follow all Rules and Regulations of SOCAL. Failure to adhere to the Tryout Policy and dates will result in monetary fines to clubs and coach suspensions for individual coaches that publicly advertise tryouts outside of the tryouts dates.

These dates apply to ALL MEMBERS of SOCAL. No club, or team, is exempt.

As member clubs of SOCAL- ALL member clubs have agreed NOT to hold tryouts for other league platforms sooner than the dates listed above.