

Suburban Friendship League
**Allowing Under 20 Age Players to Participate on
Under 19 Teams for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 Seasons**
(July 25, 2020)

Several clubs have requested information on whether the SFL is planning on allowing U20 aged players to participate on U19 teams since VYSA sent out an Email on July 24, 2020, saying that “VYSA will be adding the 2001 birth year for the 2020-2021 season. It will remain up to the individual clubs and leagues as to whether or not they also implement the age group.”

The SFL Commissioners have reviewed this change and decided that it would not be adopted by the SFL for the following reasons.

- Adult leagues are available for individuals in the 2001 birth year to play soccer if they are interested. In addition, for those going to college, many colleges have intermural sports programs that include soccer.
- The VYSA Email clearly states that it is up to the clubs and league on whether to adopt this change, i.e., it is not a mandatory requirement.
- The SFL rules currently allow U15s and above age players to play on U19 teams. Allowing U20s to also play on these teams will effectively allow college sophomores to play with high school freshmen and the U19 age group would encompass 6 age groups. The SFL receives several requests per season requesting that U17 age players born in November or December be allowed to play down on U16 teams because of the 3 year U19 range. These are routinely denied.
- It is logical to assume that this may not only be a one year exception. As noted elsewhere, the SFL has cancelled its Fall 2020 season. Accordingly, the same logic used to justify U20 players playing on U19 for the Fall 2020/Spring 2021 seasons could also be used to allow U19 players for the Fall 2020/2021 season to play in the Fall 2021/Spring 2022 season as U20 players, i.e., they lost the Fall 2020 season.