

# MNJYSA Flight Numbers Explained

Teams are placed in flights based on the age of the players, the player gender, and the competitive level of the team. For example a team for 5th grade girls has the 6 character flight number **411G06**.

The 1st digit in a flight number is the division. The divisions, based on age, have different game formats. For example, the 4 above means division IV where games are 60 minutes long and a size 4 ball is used.

The 2nd and 3rd characters are the age group. For example, the 11 above means the players are all under 11 on August 1, and is often referred to as U11. The following table correlates the soccer age brackets with the corresponding school grades, divisions, and game differences.

Divisions, Age Groups, and Game Differences							
Division	Age	School Grade	Players on Field	Max Players on Team	Game Length (min)	Ball Size	Game Day
6	U8	2nd	8	14	50	4	Sat
5	U9	3rd	8	14	60	4	Sun
5	U10	4th	8	14	60	4	Sun
4	U11	5th	8	14	60	4	Sun
4	U11	5th	11	18	60	4	Sun
4	U12	6th	8	14	70	4	Sun
4	U12	6th	11	18	70	4	Sun
3	U13	7th	11	18-game 22 roster	70	5	Sun
3	U14	8th	11	18-game 22 roster	70	5	Sun
2	U16	9th+10th	11	18-game 22 roster	80	5	Sun
1	U19	11th+12th	11	18-game 22 roster	90	5	Sun

It should be noted that the August 1 cutoff date for the soccer age brackets does not quite correspond to September cutoff date used for the schools in most towns, including Berkeley Heights. For example, while U11 is primarily a 5th grade team, 6th graders with August and September birthdays are permitted to play on U11 teams. Younger players are permitted to play on older teams (play up), but older players are forbidden from playing on younger teams. New Jersey Youth soccer has [additional constraints](#) concerning playing up for U7-U10 players.

The 4th character, is either a "G" for girls or "B" for boys. Girls are permitted to play on boys teams, but boys are not permitted to play on girls teams. If a team contains a mixture of boys and girls they must play in one of the "B" flights.

The 5th and 6th characters (last 2) are the flight. A flight is a group of 6, 10, or 11 teams that are at a similar competitive level. For all ages, except U11 and U12 teams that choose to play a small sided (8v8) format, the flights are numbered from 01 up. Small sided U11 and U12 flights are numbered from 51 up. The lower the flight number the more competitive the teams. Flights are rebalanced each season. Teams that win most of their games in a flight get moved to a more competitive level (lower numbered flight) for the next season, while teams that lose most of their games get moved to a less competitive level (higher numbered flights). In the 6 team flights each team plays all the other teams twice during the season, one game home and the other away. The 6 team flights are more common in the lower numbered flights. In the 11 team flights opponents are played once. In the 10 team flights all opponents are played once and for the last game you play the team that is closest to yours in the flight standings a second time.