



## **US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program**

### **2012 OYSAN International Tour Frequently and Infrequently Asked Questions Tom Turner, OYSAN Director of Coaching December 2011**

#### **Part I: Team Selection Process and Preparation**

##### **Age Groups**

One team of 1999 boys and one team of 1999 girls are invited to participate in an international trip each March. Players must be registered in ODP to participate. Older players are often included to complete the roster.

##### **Initial Player Declarations**

Interested players are asked to make a non-binding declaration to participate by mid-October.



##### **Team Selection Process**

The team selection process (try-out) takes place during November and December at ODP-Europe specific training sessions.

##### **Team Announcement**

The teams and alternates are named by the middle of December.

##### **Accompanying Adults and Siblings**

Family members are welcome to travel with the teams.

##### **Team Preparation**

The international team participates in six training sessions between November and March.

## **Alternates**

Players named as alternates should continue to practice with the team and be prepared to travel until the airline ticket exchange window closes, approximately two weeks before departure. Historically, most alternates have eventually traveled with the group. Alternates should not make payments until named to the squad.

## **Part II: General Tour Information**

### **Tour Operator**

OYSAN works in conjunction with Travel and Play, based in Willoughby, OH. The owner/operator is Mr. Barry Walmsley (travelandplay@aol.com).

### **Tentative 2012 Tour Schedule**

#### **Friday, March 23**

Depart Detroit on Air France flight to Europe

#### **Saturday, March 24**

Arrive Paris  
Transfer to training facility in Montdidier via Compiègne  
Check into Montdidier Sports Center.  
Parents at the Ibis-Amiens

#### **Afternoon training**

Evening dinner at accommodations



#### **Sunday, March 25**

Breakfast at accommodations

#### **Morning training**

Afternoon visit to  
Amiens

#### **Evening games**

Evening dinner at sports center

#### **Monday, March 26**

Breakfast at accommodations

Full day sightseeing in Paris

Evening dinner at the hotel

**Tuesday, March 27**

Breakfast at accommodations  
Transfer to Ibis-Brugges  
Sightseeing in Dunkirk and WW-II coastal bunker  
**Evening games**

**Wednesday, March 28**

Breakfast at hotel  
Full day sightseeing in Brugges

**Thursday, March 29**

Breakfast at hotel  
**Morning training**  
Sightseeing in Prague  
**Evening games**  
Dinner with opponents

**Friday, March 30**

Breakfast at hotel  
Transfer to Hague area of Holland  
Sightseeing in Kinderdijk and Delft  
Check into hotel  
**Evening games** in Hoek of Holland  
Dinner with opponents



**Saturday, March 31**

Breakfast at the hotel  
Full day sightseeing in Amsterdam  
Attend professional game

**Sunday, April 1**

Fly home to USA



**Ideal Soccer Schedule: Friendly Disclaimer**

The schedule above represents the ideal soccer schedule for a 9-day international trip, including four games and three-four training sessions. Confirming youth games months in advance is very difficult, making changes to the actual schedule almost inevitable. The timing of professional games -- and ticket availability -- and the willingness of local youth teams to accommodate foreign tour groups will ultimately dictate the final schedule.

## Costs and Payment Schedule

The cost of the 2011 trip is \$2800 for players and siblings under 18; and \$3100 for accompanying adults. The trip costs can be paid in one lump sum or in installments. Deposits and payments to airlines and hotels dictate the following minimum payment schedule:

- Mid-December: \$600 per person
- Late-January: \$1500 per person
- Mid-February: Remaining Balance



## The Tour Cost Includes...

Training sessions at PSA  
Opposing team gifts  
Uniform package  
Team Doctor, courtesy of University Hospitals  
Airfare from DTW including taxes and fuel surcharges  
Eight nights' accommodations  
Two meals daily  
Full-time private bus  
Full-time courier  
Four games per team  
Practice fields, as needed  
1 professional match ticket  
Most sightseeing entry fees  
All European taxes, gratuities and fees (except driver tip)



**Extras:** Snack lunches and personal spending money.

## Sponsorship Letter

Each player will receive a sponsorship letter to assist in raising funds to pay for the trip. Any funds generated are tax deductible to the donor and can be used for any ODP function, including regional camp.



### **Refunds**

Once deposits have been paid to hotels and airlines, refunds for late withdrawals will exclude monies paid. OYSAN is not obligated to refund monies for withdrawals within a month of departure.

### **Bookkeeping**

Each family will receive monthly invoices from OYSAN outlining payments and balances.



## **Part III: Travel Preparation**

### **Risk Management-1**

All adults traveling with youth teams must complete background checks as part of the OYSAN Risk Management policy. The following link will require a Social Security number and the process should be completed by Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$5.00. <http://www.oysan.org/KidSafe.html>

### **Risk Management-2**

Confirmed Risk Management applications should be submitted to Bernie Telmanik ([btelmanik@ohionorthsoccer.org](mailto:btelmanik@ohionorthsoccer.org)).

### **Passports-1**

Passport application forms can be downloaded at the following website: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

Passport applications can be submitted to most post offices and the turn around time is typically under four weeks.

### **Passports-2**

To purchase a seat on an international flight, all members of the travel party must submit their legal name to the travel agent through OYSAN. This information must be submitted no later than one month from departure.

### **Passports-3**

All players must submit copies of the first two pages of their passport to OYSAN.



### **Passports-4**

OYSAN will also collect copies of adult passports (1<sup>st</sup> two pages) for anyone wishing an extra measure of security in case of loss or theft. At a minimum, copies of passports should be left with a home-based contact.

### **School Absence Letter**

Each player will receive a letter of explanation to assist in securing time away from school. The letter will outline the educational value of the experience and highlight the teaching backgrounds of the coaches. Permission to miss school should be obtained well in advance



### **Study Halls**

Study halls will be scheduled as time permits and players should bring homework assignments.

### **Player Reports**

Each player is required to write a 2-page report from a list of pre-determined topics. The compilation of reports provides a basic reference to places of interest and the history of the countries visited. The reports are assigned on a first-come basis, are due in late February, and are presented to teammates during bus transfers between cities.

### **Player's Paperwork**

All ODP players are required to complete paperwork prior to the regional camps in July. This paperwork also satisfies the requirements for international travel.

**Original Signatures Are Required.**



The packet includes:

- Photocopies of the personal information pages of the players passport
- Completed medical release forms
- Completed permission to travel forms
- Completed player profile (including emergency contact information)
- Completed code of conduct
- Completed medical history questionnaire
- Completed medical insurance cards

## Marking Soccer Clothes

Please use a permanent marker to write the players names or initials on all soccer clothes, which will be laundered several times.

## Average Temperatures

The average temperatures in northern Europe in March are in the mid-40's to low 50's, so layering is the suggested approach to clothing selections. Rain wear is recommended.

## Suggested Packing List

A typical packing list for players would include the following:

- Jeans (no holes, please)
- Light sweaters
- Casual clothes, such as t-shirts, polo's, tops, and shorts
- Lightweight rain jacket (provided)
- Fleece wear
- Lightweight gloves
- White long-sleeve undershirt (for games, as weather dictates)
- Tennis shoes
- Soccer shoes (should be packed in the Adidas backpack and carried aboard the outbound flight)
- Shoe polish / cleaner and a cloth or brush
- Dress shoes (optional)
- Underwear (week's supply)
- Medications (should be packed in Adidas backpack)
- Watch
- Toiletries: toothbrush / toothpaste / deodorant / hygiene products / brushes / combs / shampoo / conditioner / soap. Small appliances require a inexpensive converter, available at Radio Shack and other locations.
- Zip-lock bags for wet/muddy clothes and liquid toiletries
- Schoolbooks and papers for study halls

And for the adults....

- Books and magazines (for the busses and planes)
- Camera / DVR
- Extra discs



- Extra batteries (Loose lithium batteries are not allowed in checked baggage)
- Battery charger kits
- International voltage adaptor (necessary for charging batteries and using US electrical devices)



### **Soccer Balls**

OYSAN will ship one bag of soccer balls for each team. Players should not pack a soccer ball.

### **Players Equipment-1**

Players will be provided with two Adidas uniforms (shirt, shorts, socks), an Adidas rain jacket, an Adidas woolly hat, and an Adidas backpack; all of which will be retained by the players after the trip.

### **Players Equipment-2**

Players will be sized based on current ODP registration information and all items should be clearly marked with the owner's name or initials.

Adidas is the official sponsor of OYSAN and US Youth Soccer. Please try to limit the number of non-Adidas products worn by the players.



### **Players Equipment-3**

Players should bring their ODP training uniforms (gray numbered shirts, black shorts, white socks), shin guards, soccer shoes, lightweight gloves, and a white long-sleeve t-shirt. It is also recommended that players bring a pair of black sweat bottoms as northern Europe can be wet and cold in March!

### **Player Fitness-1**

One of the challenges of living in the Midwest is being fit to play outdoor soccer in March. Players should ensure that they are self-training in the weeks prior to departure. Soccer fitness requires elevated heart rates, so shorter faster-paced running is recommended over longer, slower-paced jogging.

### **Player Fitness-2**

Players must report any debilitating injuries prior to departure. Where time allows, alternates will be given the opportunity to replace injured or sick players. When an injury occurs late in the process, the player will be given the option to travel with the group.

### **Medical Insurance**

American medical insurance coverage does not automatically extend to overseas travel. Families should check with their insurance carriers and consider a supplemental policy, if necessary.

### **Travel Insurance**

Supplemental travel insurance can be purchased through [www.travelexinsurance.com](http://www.travelexinsurance.com) (Travel and Play code: 35-0404)



### **Emergency Contacts**

Each person (or family group) must list an emergency contact person prior to departure. This information should include a name and a phone number(s).

### **Money-1**

ATM cards are recommended over traveler's checks or cash. While ATM's are very accessible all over Europe, Euro's can be pre-purchased in advance at select banks and on the "extras" page of [www.travelandplayonline.com](http://www.travelandplayonline.com).

### **Money-2**

For unaccompanied players, the tour covers two meals per day, so some cash is required for lunches and snacks. Buying souvenirs for family members can become quite expensive - and can add weight to cases for the return flight - so agreeing on a limited gift budget can alleviate some money pressures.



### **Money-3: Exchange Rates**

The dollar continues to trade at historically low rates. Today's cost is \$1.32 per Euro.

While these rates are not forecast to rise significantly in the coming months, families are encouraged to buy some Euros in advance.

#### **Money-4: Personal Duty Exemptions**

Each person can bring goods valued up to \$800 through US Customs without incurring additional duty penalties.

#### **Phoning Home-1**

The purchase of toll free phone cards (MCI, etc.) prior to departure is strongly recommended. Use of these cards requires an international access code which should also be confirmed prior to departure. To call the US requires the card access code and then 00 + 1 + area code + number



#### **Calling Home-2**

Calling out of hotels is very expensive and not recommended.

#### **Calling Home-3**

BlackBerry's and other worldwide phones can carry steep roaming charges. While very convenient, users should check costs with their carriers before departure.

#### **E-Mail**

E-mail access is available from the hotels and all are wireless. The use of air cards can be expensive for long e-mail sessions (see **Calling Home-3** above). Internet café's are common in the towns and cities.



#### **Skype**

For a very inexpensive way to contact the US by phone and chat on-line, travelers can download Skype (skype.com) and bring a microphone for their laptop or purchase a set of Skype-compatible headphones. Calls to Skype members are free and calls to regular phones are pennies per minute. The user must be on-line to use Skype.

### **Final Organizational Meeting**

Between the March 16th practices (the boys and girls train separately), there will be a final organizational meeting. Every player (family group) should be represented. The players will receive their uniforms and travel gear and any remaining travel and transportation details will be confirmed.

### **Transport to Detroit**

To avoid flying out of multiple destinations, the group will depart out of Detroit. Families are encouraged to car-pool wherever possible. This option has proven to be more cost effective than organizing a bus for a limited number of people.



## **Part IV: Travel Day Information**

### **Airport Security**

Successfully navigating airport security requires a valid ticket and a photo identification (passport). All medications should be stored in original containers and small quantities of liquid toiletries are now permitted. Please visit this web site for complete information. <http://www.nwa.com/features/advisory.html>

### **Travel Wear**

Players should travel in khaki pants, tennis shoes, the white ODP tour T-shirt and the Adidas rain jacket. All travelers may wish to bring a change of clothes (sweats) for the plane journey and even a change of clothes for arrival day.

**Player's Adidas Backpack** Players should pack their game uniforms, soccer shoes and shin guards in their backpacks and carry this bag aboard the outbound flight. Additionally, medications, basic toiletries (toothbrush and toothpaste) and other items for the plane journey should also be packed in the backpack.



### **Baggage Allowance**

Air France allows each person to stow one bag in the hold and carry one bag on-board the plane. Stowed luggage cannot exceed 50 pounds per bag (without penalty) and computer bags do not - currently - count as carry-ons.

### **Bags-1**

Bags must not be locked. Each bag must have a tag with the name, address and phone number of the owner. For added security, enclose a sheet of paper with the same information on the inside of the bag or case (tags and handles get knocked off).



### **Bags-2**

Prior to departure, itemizing the contents of each bag is recommended, in case of loss or theft.

### **Air France International Terminal**

Air France's international departures from Detroit are typically from the McNamara Terminal. This information will be confirmed closer to departure.



### **Detroit Airport Address**

For those driving to Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, the address is William Rogell Drive, Detroit, MI 48242

### **Flight Arrangements**

Outbound Flight: Air France TBA  
Inbound Flight: Air France TBA

### **Boarding passes / e-Tickets**

Boarding passes will be issued to all travelers at Detroit and Frankfurt airports.

### **Arrival Time in Detroit**

All travelers should arrive at Detroit airport no later than two hours prior to departure. The emergency contact number for Tom Turner is (216) 496-4683.

## **Part V: On the Ground in Europe**

### **Jet Lag**

The travel party leaves Detroit on the evening of Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and arrives in Paris on the morning of Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. The time difference in Europe will be 6 hours (ahead). Jet lag feels like being up all night; but, with luck,

everyone will get about 3-4 hours sleep on the plane. Montdidier is approximately 90 minutes' drive from Paris.

### **Emergency Contact**

Tom Turner's cell phone number is (216) 496-4683. International roaming rates are expensive so please use restraint in calling this number from the US. When a non-emergency connection is requested, please send an e-mail to [coaching@ohionorthsoccer.org](mailto:coaching@ohionorthsoccer.org).

### **Hotel Information**

In Montdidier, France  
Hotel Ibis Amiens Centre Cathédrale  
4, rue du Marechal de Lattre de Tassigny  
80000 Amiens, France  
Phone: +33 22 92 57 33

In Bruges, Belgium...  
Hotel Ibis Bruges Centrum  
Katelijnestraat 65  
8000 Bruges, Belgium  
Phone: +32 50 33 75 75

In Amsterdam: TBA



### **Player's Rooming Arrangements**

Players will be assigned roommates by the OYSAN coaching staff.

### **Adult's Rooming Arrangements**

Adults will typically be roomed in doubles, unless additional family members require larger suites. These are not always available in European hotels.

Where necessary, older siblings will be asked to room together.

### **Single Room Surcharge**

There is an (estimated) single room surcharge of between \$350 & \$400 for the tour.

### **Voltage Adapters**

Europe uses a 220 volt system. Voltage adaptors are required to power small appliances, such as battery chargers, curling irons and hair driers. Multi-system adapters can be purchased at Radio Shack and other electrical stores for under \$15.

### **Bussing Arrangements**

In the event that two busses are required for the tour, players and coaches will travel on a separate bus from accompanying family members.

### **Access to Player's Hotel Rooms**

Accompanying family members are not permitted to enter the player's hotel rooms. This is regarded as a Risk Management issue.



### **Possession of Passports**

Player's passports should be kept with their accompanying adult. The OYSAN coaches will hold the passports of unaccompanied players.

### **Sideline Behavior During Games**

Accompanying family members are asked to offer only positive commentary and no coaching during games. Players will be asked to take tactical and technical



risks that will likely result in turn-overs and may cost goals. Mistakes are necessary for learning; as is judgment free coaching!

### **Playing Time**

Pre-determined substitutions will be made at half-time and all players will start at least one game. It is unlikely that the strongest eleven will ever play together.

### **Post-Game Analysis**

Accompanying family members are requested to avoid post-game analysis with their son or daughter. Congratulations on sportsmanship and positive effort are encouraged.

### **Parent Education Program**

OYSAN coaches will conduct parent education programs as often as schedules permit during the tour. These sessions will include a discussion of goals and related practice activities, pre-game expectations, and post-game analyses.



### **Resources**

As primers for the coaching education program, accompanying adults are invited to read the following articles prior to departure.

The Better Team Lost

<http://www.oysan.org/CoachingArticles/BetterTeamLost.doc>

US Soccer: Best Practices for Coaching Soccer in the United States

[http://www.ussoccer.com/articles/viewArticle.jsp\\_280734.html](http://www.ussoccer.com/articles/viewArticle.jsp_280734.html)

Coaching Ethics and the Developmental Process

<http://www.oysan.org/coachingarticles.html>

### **Team Time vs Family Time**

Accompanying adults are requested to respect “team time” when players are training or preparing as a group. There will be plenty of family time!

### **Medical Staff and Player Medications**

Courtesy of University Hospitals Orthopedic Department, a Sports Medicine MD will accompany the teams.

In general, unaccompanied players will be responsible for taking their own medications. The OYSAN coaches are not allowed to dispense medication; however, players will be monitored while taking their medications should such a request be made.



## **Admissions**

The tour includes admission to one professional match and group tours. Self-selected tours or attractions visited during free time are not covered.

## **Player Supervision-1**

There are typically around 40 adults accompanying the players, providing more than adequate supervision at the hotels and in the towns and cities.

## **Player Supervision-2**

When given time to explore alone, players are required to form groups of at least four.



## **Player Evaluations**

Each player will receive a written and verbal evaluation from their coach at the end of the tour. The accompanying adult(s) is/are welcome to participate in this discussion.



## **Religious Services**

Players and family groups are welcome to attend local religious services, as schedules permit. The soccer schedule will be structured to accommodate any significant religious celebrations that fall during international trips.

## **Conduct**

Each player is required to sign a Code of Conduct as part of their

ODP registration. While major issues are not anticipated, serious discipline problems can result in suspension or dismissal from the ODP program.

## **Bus Cleanliness**

The bus drivers in Europe take particular pride in the cleanliness of their very expensive vehicles and are held to very high standards by their employers. The busses will be in excellent condition upon arrival and should stay that way for the duration. Please deposit trash in the garbage cans. Players, please remove (and clean) muddy shoes prior to boarding.

## **Attitude**

Finally, one of the important lessons from international travel is patience, and traveling with a large group demands flexibility on everyone's part. Please arrive

early (10 minutes) for everything. Please be willing to arrive early and leave late. Please be understanding of the logistics in coordinating a large group. Please be willing to lend a hand without taking control. Please follow the lead of the tour courier, the bus drivers, or the OYSAN coaches as each situation dictates. Please do not wander out of earshot without notification if there is a schedule delay. Please handle any “issues” in a manner that produces solutions without raising temperatures.



### **Part V: ODP-Europe and the OYSAN State Team Selection Process**

And finally...

Participating on an ODP-Europe trip is often regarded as a life-changing experience for those players with the financial means to travel. The playing ability of the squad typically ranges from regional or national team prospect to district pool.

While the emotional growth may impact each individual for years to come, the primary missions of ODP are short-term identification and long-term development. Each player is constantly assessed throughout the tour and recommendations are provided to the respective state team coaches upon return. After as many as ten practices and four games, some players naturally raise their stock, while others expose their limitations to compete at the state team level.

ODP-Europe holds no guarantees for state team selection and players should continue to attend the regularly scheduled state pool training sessions at PSA.

