



Hello all,

Now that we have passed the half-way mark of the fall ODP season, I'd like to pass along some relevant information about the fall and winter sessions.

First, I want to thank everyone for their efforts in getting their kids to practice. The attendance has been very good and the coaches have been very pleased with the level of play.

What is ODP?

Many families attend ODP without a clear understanding of the program's scope and purpose. In brief, ODP is part of the national selection process for US Soccer National Youth Teams, which begin at U-14 for boys and U-15 for girls. At the state level, the process ends with the selection of state teams, which participate at the ODP Regional Camps in Illinois in July. Players who are subsequently selected to regional teams compete in a limited number of competitive/identification events throughout the remainder of 2011-2012.

For a fuller description of the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program, please read the information posted on the ODP page of OYSAN.org.

Inflated Soccer Balls

Those of you attending the midweek sessions in Copley and Toledo may have seen me hauling around a rather large bike pump. While admittedly a pet peeve, there is reason behind the obsession: under-inflated soccer balls are a blight on technical development.

In short, please ensure that your son or daughter arrives at practice with an inflated soccer ball. If it "pings" off the foot, it's good; if it sounds like a dull thud, it's not!

Please Dress for the Weather

Given the time of year, please dress your son or daughter in layers, with sweat pants, hats and gloves added, as necessary. The numbered ODP T-shirt should be the top layer.

For any families new to ODP, the training uniform is gray-black-white.

Cancellations

Thank you to everyone for rolling with the changes to Pinnacle and Hawken last Sunday.

Because of the variability in field and weather conditions across the state, decisions to cancel a practice are generally made on site.

If early close notice is given by a facility (tonight at Oberlin, for example), the information will be e-mailed to everyone and posted on the front page of the OYSAN website.

Winter ODP Training/Selection

The winter ODP schedule will be confirmed and posted by next week and the registration link will be activated at that time. Winter training will be held at the PSA facility in Lorain.

The qualification process is as follows:

1) The Developmental players (2000's) can register at any time. However, those who do not plan on attending regional camp in July should register on-line and pay "by check". FYI...The cost of the 2011 developmental camp was \$675. No significant change is anticipated for 2012.

2) The 1999 and 1998 age groups register by invitation only and the list of invited players from the fall season will be posted on the OYSAN website on, or before, Wednesday, October 26. I will also send an e-mail when the lists are posted.

For the winter session...1999 and 1998 players who did not attend regional camp in July 2011, or who were not involved during the fall session, will require a coach's recommendation to participate. Decisions to invite new players will be made on a case-by-case basis.

3) The 1997's can register at any time.

IMPORTANT: STATE TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

Please read the ODP Regional Camp refund policy posted at OYSAN.org before deciding to commit to the winter session.

The winter state team selection process consists of five training sessions held once a month between November and March. Training is held on Friday nights, Saturday mornings or Sunday mornings.

There is no formal selection process for the 2000 age group, although the top players may be invited to participate with the 1999 group at the discretion of the staff coaches.

The 2012 state teams (18) and alternates (6 max) will be named by the end of March. This timing is designed to help families, staff coaches, and OYSAN better prepare teams for the regional camps in July.

For the 1999 and 1998 age groups, OYSAN selects an "older" team comprised of players born between January and June; and a "younger" team, comprised of players born between July and December. Both "older" and "younger" teams attend regional camp.

At the regional level, "younger" and "older" 1999 boy's teams are selected to attend two events: OTC - Chula Vista in November and Williamsburg, VA in February.

In order to confirm each player's commitment to attend the regional camp as a member of an OYSAN state team, the registration process for the winter session includes a \$200 deposit towards the regional camp fee. A second \$200 deposit is due on, or before Wednesday, February 15th and the final payment will be due on, or before Wednesday, May 2nd.

Only players who have paid their \$400 deposits will be named as state team members or alternates.

The 2011 regional camp costs for the corresponding age groups were as follows:

2000's - \$675
1999's - \$800
1998's - \$800
1997's - \$800

The 2012 costs will be confirmed in late October, but no significant changes are anticipated.

Regional camp costs include transportation to and from Illinois, room and board, uniforms, coaching costs, and team fees.

Full refunds will be issued to players who are cut in March and also to any alternates who do not attend regional camp in July. Refunds to alternates are issued in late July. Historically, most alternates have been able to attend regional camp as a member of an OYSAN state team or as a guest player with another state team.

Once named to a state team or as an alternate, only players with a medical excuse will be refunded in full.

As a courtesy to others, players with no intention of attending regional camp, but who wish to attend the winter session on a "training only" basis are asked to update Bernie Telmanik at btelmanik@ohionorthsoccer.org

OYSAN Skill Awards

The OYSAN Skill Awards program was created to encourage players to spend more time juggling. Simply, those who develop more of a comfort level with the ball typically become more skillful and therefore capable of playing more quickly.

There is a Basic Award (Bag Tag), which requires the completion of seven tasks; and three Advanced Awards (Plaques) which primarily call for juggling with the feet (100, 500, 1000) and head (15, 30, 50).

There are videos posted on YouTube and linked to OYSAN to demonstrate each skill and all that is required to qualify for an award would be a parent or coach's signature on a completed form.

The OYSAN link is http://www.oysan.org/FOR_PLAYERS/Skill_Awards.htm

This is an honor-based program, so please encourage your son or daughter to complete as many levels as possible.

ODP-Europe

Information about the ODP-International trip to Europe in March will be e-mailed later today. The trip includes stops in France, Belgium and Holland and is targeted towards the 1999 age groups. The 1998's will also receive information and are welcome to respond.

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