



The US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program

<http://www.oysan.org/ODP/odpnews.htm>

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US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program Mission

The US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (ODP) was established in 1977 as a nationwide process dedicated to the identification and training of players for state, regional and national teams.

The United States is divided into four ODP regions and Ohio North is part of Region II.

Region II is comprised of the 14 state associations in the Midwest, which stretches from Ohio to Iowa and from Minnesota to Missouri. Region II has a population base of over 75 million people and approximately 850,000 soccer players! Regional teams are selected for U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17 and U-18 boys and girls, and U-20 girls.



While the primary mission of the Olympic Development Program is the identification of United States Youth National Team prospects, broad-based player development is considered integral to the broader, long-term mission of the Olympic Development Program at the state and regional levels.

The “Representative” Soccer Pyramid (see diagram on page 2)

US Soccer

The United States Soccer Federation (US Soccer) was founded in 1913 and is the national governing body of soccer in the United States. US Soccer is directly affiliated to FIFA, the world governing body for soccer. For more information on US Soccer, link to USSoccer.com.

US Youth Soccer

US Youth Soccer, founded in 1974, is the largest affiliate of US Soccer and is the largest youth sports organization in the world, with over 3.6 million registered players. For more information on US Youth Soccer, link to USYouthSoccer.org.

Ohio Youth Soccer Association North

Ohio Youth Soccer Association North (OYSAN or Ohio North) was founded in 1976 and is one of 55 state associations that comprise the membership of US Youth Soccer. For more information on OYSAN, link to OYSAN.org.

For the vast majority of players, the path to the US Youth National Youth Team’s program begins by being selected to “represent” a home State Association; in our case, Ohio North.



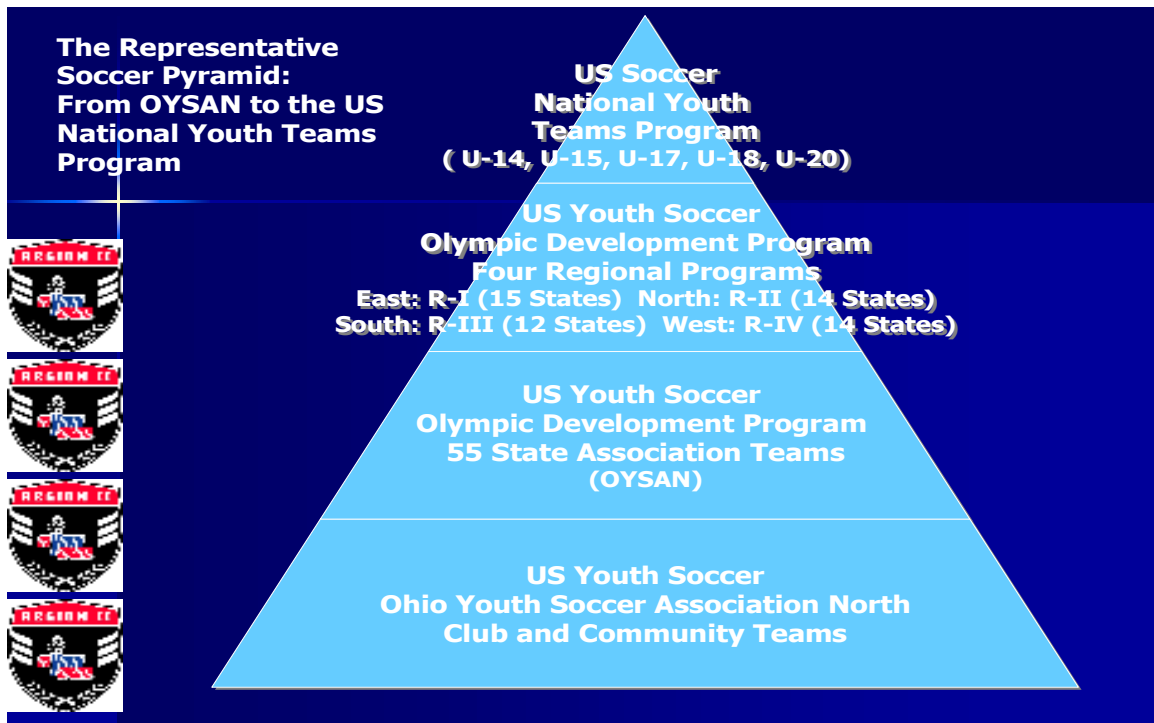


This process starts in September for non-high school players (November for high school players) and concludes in July when the OYSAN state teams compete at the Region II ODP camps.

Once named to a state team, the selection process to represent Region II (North) takes place during the regional camps held each July in Illinois (Girls) and Kansas (Boys). This is the end-point of the State Association ODP process.

The primary identification opportunity for the US Soccer Youth National Teams (YNT) takes place each fall at the US Youth Soccer ODP inter-regional events.

The goal of the YNT selection process is to monitor known talent and discover new players. The YNT selection process is therefore ongoing and players who are identified at any event in any location during the year can be steered towards a state or regional program or invited into a YNT training camp, as schedule and ability dictates.



Age Groups

International competition, and therefore ODP selection, is based on a January 1st to December 31st calendar year. The OYSAN state team selection process during season 2010/11 concludes in July 2011 with the regional pool selections for season 2011/12. ODP birth years for 2010/11 are as follows:

- 1999's (Attend July 2011 Regional Camp in the U-13 Developmental Program)
- 1998's (Attend July 2011 Regional Camp as U-14's for season 2011/2012)
- 1997's (Attend July 2011 Regional Camp as U-15's for season 2011/2012)
- 1996's (Attend July 2011 Regional Camp as U-16's for season 2011/2012)
- 1995's (Attend July 2011 Regional Camp as U-17's for season 2011/2012)
- 1994's (Attend July 2011 Regional Camp as U-18's for season 2011/2012)



Ohio North State Team Structure in Summary

Birth Year	Ohio North Boy's State Teams	Ohio North Girl's State Teams
1999	One State Pool (up to 50 players) attends Regional Development Camp in Illinois.	One State Pool (up to 50 players) attends Regional Development Camp in Illinois.
1998	OYSAN International Trip Two State Teams (36 players) divided 1 st 6 Months (Jan-Jun) / 2 nd 6 Months (Jul-Dec) attend Regional Camp in Kansas.	OYSAN International Trip Two State Teams (35 players) divided 1 st 6 Months (Jan-Jun) / 2 nd 6 Months (Jul-Dec) attend Regional Camp in Illinois.
1997	Two State Teams (36 players) divided 1 st 6 Months (Jan-Jun) / 2 nd 6 Months (Jul-Dec) attend regional Camp in Kansas.	Two State Teams (36 players) divided 1 st 6 Months (Jan-Jun) / 2 nd 6 Months (Jul-Dec) attend regional Camp in Illinois.
1996	One State Team (18 players) attends Regional Camp in Kansas. ODP National Championship	Two State Teams (36 players) divided A/B attend Regional Camp in Illinois. ODP National Championship
1995	One State Team (18 players) attends Regional Tournament in Kansas. ODP National Championship	One State Team (18 players) attends Regional Tournament in Illinois. ODP National Championship
1994	One State Team (18 players) attends Regional Tournament in Kansas.	One State Team (18 players) attends Regional Tournament in Illinois.
1993 & 1992	No ODP Programming	Invitation Only for Regional Camp

ODP participation for U-20 girls (1992 and 1993 birth years) is by invitation only and based on previous national and regional achievement. U-20 girls can also be invited into regional camp upon the recommendation of a college coach, a US Soccer National Staff coach, or by the State Association Director of Coaching.

****District Level Programming: Fall**** (September / October)

District Training

In Ohio North, ODP for non-high school players is a year-round process starting at the district (local) level. The six district sites are noted below.

Youngstown Area
Akron-Canton Area
Cleveland East
Cleveland West
Mansfield-Ashland-Wooster Area
Toledo Area

District coaches, many of whom serve as state team head or assistant coaches, conduct the fall training sessions with the goal of improving the individual and collective decision-making of players within an organized playing structure.

Training Philosophy

Technical development, which is the primary responsibility of the individual players and their respective clubs, is also a training element of the fall training program.



ODP Coaches' Certification

District head coaches hold at minimum of a United States Soccer Federation (US Soccer) "C" license and the vast majority of the OYSAN staff have earned more advanced certification. Ohio North can lay claim to the most qualified coaching staff of any state association in the United States, with over 50 "A" and "B" licensed coaches and a significant number of college and Region II ODP Staff coaches. In addition, over 25 OYSAN staff coaches have earned the US Soccer National Youth License.

Fall Training and Selection Program

Registration for the 2010/11 OYSAN Olympic Development Program opens in August and the training and selection process for the 2011 state teams begins after Labor Day.

For non-high school players, the traditional fall ODP training sessions take place on Sunday mornings from 9am - 11am.

Aspiring young soccer players need to train more frequently with good coaches and other good players. ODP offers a midweek training session in all six districts from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm.



Make-up

OYSAN will schedule one additional training date in each district should weather or any other unforeseen circumstance cause a cancellation.

Missed Session

Players who miss a training session are not permitted to attend a session in another district.

Initial U-13/14 Boy's and Girl's State Pools

The initial 1998 (U-13) and 1996 (U-14) boy's and girl's state team pools are selected during the fall season. The U-13 and U-14 ages send two teams to regional camp, based on birth month: Jan-Jun (older) and Jul-Dec (younger).

Players assessed to be capable of competing for one of the 36 state team places will be invited to enroll for the winter program. Ideally, the state pools for the U-13's and U-14's will number approximately 60 players. Extenuating circumstances aside, winter session invitations are only extended to "discovery" players who are new to ODP; and to those who attended high school during the fall season.

Players selected to advance to the next stage of the process will be posted on the OYSAN website at the conclusion of the fall season.

Players who have participated in ODP during the previous seasonal year are expected to try-out and participate during the fall season.



On-line Player Evaluation

Each ODP participant who attends a minimum of three Sunday or Midweek training sessions will receive an electronic evaluation via e-mail.



Registration

The on-line registration link is <https://ssl.hammerhead.net/ohionorthodp/odpregristration.asp>.



1998 (U-13) International Trip

OYSAN has established the practice of taking the U-13 age group on an international trip each March.

The 2011 trip for boys and girls born in 1998 is tentatively planned for March 25 - April 3 and includes training sessions, games, attendance at professional matches, and sightseeing. The trip itinerary includes stops in Germany (Frankfurt and Munich) and the Czech Republic (Prague).

The selection and invitation process for the international teams (typically 18 players per

gender) will begin during the fall season, with the final squads named in December. The international teams will hold at least five training sessions prior to departure.

****State Level Programming: Winter**** (November through March)

New players in the Developmental (1999) and high school age groups can register at any time for the winter ODP sessions, held between November and March. The state team selection process begins in earnest during the winter months when players from all corners of the state compete for places.

In order to balance the travel time for all state pool players, training is conducted at Brad Friedel's Premier Soccer Academies in Lorain; a facility which provide for both small-sided and expanded-number training activities that replicate the demands of the outdoor game.

During the winter months, each age group is scheduled for five training / selection sessions, which may include scrimmages against club teams and other state association ODP teams.



In situations where an age group has large numbers, players may be divided into ability-based training groups at the discretion of the age group coach. Conversely, where pool numbers are lower, the entire squad may be combined throughout the winter session.

Final State Team Roster

At the conclusion of the winter session, state teams of 18 players plus up to four alternates will be named for each non-Developmental age group. For age groups with two teams, 18 players plus four alternates will be named for each team.



Goalkeeper Training

In addition to training with their respective age groups, ODP goalkeepers can attend three additional GK specific training sessions over the winter months at no additional charge. These sessions are also held at PSA.

On-line Player Evaluation

Each ODP participant who attends a minimum of three training sessions will receive an electronic evaluation via e-mail.

Registration

The on-line registration link is <https://ssl.hammerhead.net/ohionorthodp/odpregristration.asp>.

****State Team Regional Camp Preparation: Summer**** (June / July)

The final state teams of 18 players plus up to four alternates will be named by the beginning of April and the final preparation for regional camp will begin approximately two weeks prior to departure. Each state team will train up to five times in the Cleveland-west district.

ODP National Championships

Boys and girls in the 1995 and 1994 age groups compete during the regional camp to represent Region II at the Adidas National ODP Championships, held in March 2011 at Pizza Hut Park in Dallas, TX.

****Regional Level Olympic Development Programming**** (2011/2012)

The table below presents an overview of the 2011-12 Regional ODP programming by age. The OYSAN state team selection process for 2010/11 filters players into the Region II ODP program for seasonal year 2011/12. For more information on the Region II Olympic Development Program link to <http://www.region2.com/odp.html>.

Birth Year	US Youth Soccer Region II Boys	US Youth Soccer Region II Girls
1999	No Regional Team Events	No Regional Team Events
1998	US Soccer U-14 National Camp Inter-Regional Event (Two Teams) Domestic Event (Two Teams)	No Regional Team Events
1997	Inter-Regional Event International Event	US Soccer U-15 National Camp Inter-Regional Event International Event
1996	Inter-Regional Event International Event	Inter-Regional Event Domestic Event International Event
1995	Inter-Regional Event International Event	Inter-Regional Event Domestic Event International Event
1994	Inter-Regional Event	Inter-Regional Event Domestic Event
1993 & 1992	No ODP Programming	Inter-Regional Event



US Soccer National Camps

The top 20 boys (1998) and 25 girls (1997) from the 14-state Midwest Region are selected to represent Region II at the US Soccer National Camps in late summer. The U-14 (boys) and U-15 (girls) Youth National Teams are selected from these camps.

Regional Programming in Summary

Regional Pools

A regional pool of up to 36 boys is named for the 1998 through 1994 age groups at the end of the regional camp in July.

A regional pool of up to 36 girls is named for the 1997 through 1994 age groups at the end of the regional camp in July.

Hold-Over Camps

The players named to the regional pools are invited to stay-over at regional camp for additional training with their respective regional coaches.

Note: OYSAN players named to the hold-over pools are transported home from regional camp with the next OYSAN state team attending regional camp.

Extended Pools

An extended regional pool of approximately 60 players is published after regional camp. This list recognizes players on the cusp of the regional pool.

Players named to a regional pool (including the extended pool) in July 2011 are eligible to attend the inter-regional event and also any international or domestic events during the 2011/2012 seasonal year.

On-line Player Evaluation

Each ODP participant who attends the regional camp will receive an electronic evaluation via e-mail.

Inter-Regional Events

Each age group attends one inter-regional event each fall. US Soccer National Staff attend these events to scout players not involved in the Youth National Team's program.

Domestic Events

Various Regional Teams participate in a domestic event each winter or spring.

International Events

Various Regional Teams participate in an international event each winter or spring.



US Soccer Developmental Academy Restrictions

The US Soccer Developmental Academy (DA) program encompasses the U-16 and U-18 age groups and is for boys only. Rosters for the DA teams are named in August and finalized in April and, by Academy rules, the 25 rostered players are precluded from participation in outside club soccer, including the Olympic Development Program. Players who are not listed on the 25-man roster, but who train with a DA team or participate on a limited game basis are eligible to participate in ODP at all levels.

Players who anticipate being offered an Academy roster spot during the **following** year should carefully weight their participation in ODP as Academy players cannot be named to regional hold-over pools or to regional teams.

Registration

The on-line registration link for invited players is <https://ssl.hammerhead.net/ohionorthodp/odpregistration.asp>.

Why should talented players compete for places on US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program teams?

1. The US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program has been in existence for over 30 years and has established a track record for quality and commitment in elevating the best players to the national teams programs. On the women's side in particular, ODP is the most widely recognized pipeline to the national teams. For example, the vast majority of the current USA National Team squad were members of a state ODP team at one point in their careers.
2. With over 30 years of experience, US Youth Soccer is the most organized youth soccer organization in the world. This experience means top quality programming, top quality administration, and top quality professional coaches working closely with national team coaches to make the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program the best vehicle American soccer has to offer for player advancement.
3. Bringing players together for national trials is not inexpensive in a country as vast as the United States. At the regional level, the cost for regional camp is considerably less than most large college camps and, given the level of players and coaches, infinitely higher in quality. At the national level, the cost for inter-regional play (generally airfare) is heavily subsidized by each region, making the final hurdle prior to national team selection a relatively inexpensive outlay.





Why should OYSAN players attempt the ODP process if it is obvious that they are not national team caliber?

Two Reasons: Training and College Exposure.



1. The OYSAN Olympic Development Staff is not under pressure to win games and therefore better positioned to teach the “international” game. Too often at the club level, where winning is deemed important to imply success or maintain a cash flow, direct play becomes a coaching mantra. Because the ODP process is geared towards finding or developing future national team players, training the international style is vital. This approach includes teaching players to understand how to control and change the games’ rhythms: by opening or constricting space; by dribbling or circulating the ball at speed; and by combining in small groups. This style of play brings inherent risks that often result in loss of possession and loss of goals, but players who aspire to higher levels must understand and apply this knowledge or pay the price of eventual exclusion.

ODP teams do not play “kick ball” and they do not “bunker and counter” to manufacture results. If players are to learn and advance, they must appreciate how to play in control and under pressure and the ODP process is one of the very few vehicles willing and able to create this environment for young players.

The second main benefit of ODP participation is exposure to college coaches. The regional camps are amongst the most important dates on the recruiting calendar and the identification process begins as early as the freshman year for the major schools who now receive verbal commitments from sophomores! Typically around 100 college coaches, including all the major schools in the Midwest, attend the region II camps in July to ID players.

2. Many smaller schools (the so-called Mid-majors) also attend regional camp looking for second and third-tier state team players because they cannot attract or afford the elite performers who often commit to a university in their sophomore year of high school!
3. Given the sheer volume of players in the United States, having “ODP” on a resume is almost as vital as having a solid SAT or ACT score! Simply, the ODP acts as a national filter system and “ODP state team” players have established a status and credibility that college coaches recognize and appreciate as being superior for the more competitive states: Ohio North and Ohio South routinely combine to place approximately 20% of all regional pool players in both boy’s and girl’s programs.

ODP is not for everyone, but is an excellent opportunity to train under top quality coaches, train with and against some of the best players in the country, and to experience the exciting and rewarding challenges of representative soccer.

