

**OYSAN Olympic Development Program
U-13 Boys / U-14 Boys and Girls State Team Selection Process**

Context

OYSAN elects to send two state ODP teams in both the U-13 Boys (1995 birth year) and U-14 (1994 birth year) Boys and Girls and age groups to the Region II (North) camps held in Illinois each July. The “North” region consists of the 14 states situated between Minnesota and Missouri and between Ohio and the Kansas, Nebraska, N/S Dakota border.

The purpose of the regional camps are to select a pool of players for the Region II ODP teams which compete against the East, South, and West regional teams at the two national inter-regional events. US Soccer National Team coaches select the national pools from these events. The U-13 girls do not have a national team program; therefore no state teams are created for this age group.

The Structure and Purpose of Double Teams

The OYSAN double teams at U-13 and U-14 are divided along birth years (see table below), with an older team generally comprised of players born between January and June and the younger team generally comprised of players born between July and December (see “Note” below).

While every other soccer competition in the United States is based on a September 1st - August 31st calendar, the ODP program is based on international competition standards and is structured around the calendar year of January 1st through December 31st.

	Older Team (1st Six)	Younger Team (2nd Six)
U-13 Boys (1995 Birth Year)	Players born between January 1 st – June 30 th	Players born between July 1 st – December 31 st
U-14 Boys and Girls (1994 Birth Year)	Players born between January 1 st – June 30 th	Players born between July 1 st – December 31 st

The double team approach has been utilized in Region II to safeguard against the “age effect,” which consistently demonstrates selection advantages of around 70% to players born in the first half of the year. Until young players negotiate puberty and settle into their changing bodies, selecting only the best 18 players in an age group has been found to systematically eliminate some of the younger, smaller, more skilled players with the potential to reach the higher levels. The double team approach serves to protect a larger pool of young players.

Note: Players and parents should appreciate that the “Olympic” development program is, first and foremost a filter system to advance talented players. The secondary purpose is the development of a broader, more competent player base. While the ODP selection process strives to honor the spirit of the double team process, there is rarely an exact division of 36 players along age lines. The double team age group coaches are instructed to select the best 36 soccer players available and then balance the older and younger

teams by age, as necessary. This typically requires some older players moving to the younger team. The best younger players are never advanced to the older team.

Selection Process

During the fall season, any player who registers for ODP is entitled to train within their district and be evaluated for the state pool. The fall season consists of a minimum of six training/evaluation sessions and a maximum of 12. Players who are deemed capable of competing for a place on the state team are invited to participate during the winter session.

Approximately 50 players are invited to train with each double team age group during the winter. In addition, players who first enter the ODP process during the winter session will have up to four observations to qualify for the final pool.

The state pools train at the field houses of Bowling Green State University, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, The University of Akron, and Brad Friedel's Premier Soccer Academy.

The double teams are divided by birth months (January-June / July-December) for indoor training. Players may be moved between groups to balance the training numbers. Regional and National team players may also be moved to training groups that maximize their competitive environment.

The winter schedule consists of four pool sessions and two additional sessions for the final pool of 22-26 players.

Regional Camp Preparation Period

State teams typically utilize a six to eight date preparation period for regional camp. The final state pool (from the indoor session) and any additional players invited into the process, begin preparation for regional camp between the OYSAN State Cup weekends.

The initial spring training dates are:

Wednesday, May 21st and Wednesday, May 28th

Tuesday, June 3rd and Thursday, June 5th

Tuesday, June 10th and Thursday, June 12th

Tuesday, June 17th and Thursday, June 19th

The final state team (18) and a limited number of alternates (4-5) will be named on Friday, June 20th. Players named as alternates participate as members of the state team throughout the final preparation period and may be named to the final roster at any time until the team departs for camp.

The Region II ODP camps begin in early July and consist of four days of training, competition, and identification. The ODP training nights for spring are Tuesdays and Thursdays, with the actual dates determined by the regional camp schedule, which will be released in October.

Tuesday, June 24th and Thursday, June 26th
Tuesday, July 1st and Thursday, July 3rd
Tuesday, July 8th and Thursday, July 10th
Tuesday, July 15th and Thursday, July 12th

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the OYSAN State office by phone, at (330) 659-0989; or by e-mail, at coaching@oysan.org.