

West Virginia Olympic Development Program



Player Information
2009-10

Welcome

Congratulations on your son or daughter's selection to the West Virginia Soccer Association's Olympic Development Program pool. With their selection they have been recognized as among the elite players in their age group within the state.

There are three main objectives of the Olympic Development Program:

- 1) To have players recognized for their playing ability and advance to the Regional and possibly the National level.
- 2) To promote a sense of confidence and independence in each player as they advance within our program.
- 3) To develop and maintain a training environment that promotes learning and player development.

Practice, mini camp, and match schedules will be posted on the WVSA web site, please visit this site often to note changes and/or finalizations to that schedule. After pools are selected we would appreciate one parent per team to act as team manager and assist the administrator with registration issues. We will also be in need of parents to act as chaperones at both the state mini camp and the regional camps for each age group. Please email odp@wvsoccer.net if you are interested.

The commitment parents make with elite players is extensive and WVSA recognizes the sacrifices you will make this winter, spring and summer in order to provide your child the opportunity to advance and develop as a player. Allow your child to develop as an individual and become their own self advocate. If he or she has a problem let them approach the coach and resolve any issues or work through them without your assistance. Often we enable our children whether it be at home, school or the playing field. We want to see them become more independent and gain confidence in their own abilities, because if they do represent the region or advance to a national team, they will be with only one chaperone and their coaches.

We welcome suggestions and as always, recognize the effort each of you has made to get your child to this level in their young careers.

What is ODP?

The **US YOUTH SOCCER Olympic Development Program**, or ODP as it is more commonly called, is a national identification and development program for high-level players. The program identifies and develops youth players throughout the country to represent their state association, region and the United States in soccer competition.

ODP teams are formed at the state association and regional levels, made up of the best players in various age groups. At the state association level, pools of players are identified in each eligible age group, and brought together as a team to develop their skill through training and competition. From the state pools and subsequent teams, players are identified for regional and national pools and teams.



What are the Goals of ODP?

1. To identify a pool of players in each age group from which a United States National Team will be selected for international competition.
2. To provide high-level training to benefit and enhance the development of players at all levels.
3. Through the use of carefully selected licensed coaches, develop a mechanism for the enhancement of ideas and curriculum to improve all levels of coaching.

West Virginia's Olympic Development Program

In support of these national/regional goals, the WV ODP program strives to give each and every player in the state an opportunity to participate in the statewide ODP program. It is our goal to identify the best players at each age level; Provide the best training possible in order to move players to the next level; and Provide them an opportunity to demonstrate their skills at the state and regional levels in a variety of different events as well as provide them an opportunity to be showcased for regional staff and college coaching staff.

While it is the ultimately the goal of the state program to have our players represented in the regional pools and teams, this is by no means the exclusive goal of the WV ODP program. Equally important is our goal to provide exceptional training and competitive opportunities for our players. To this end, we will strive to provide an experienced coaching staff to its players, many of whom have extensive college level play and coaching experience.

Each player and parent should understand that part of the ODP experience is not only the development of new and improved soccer skills but participation in a broad range of experiences contributing to the players emotional, maturational, and social development as well. The players will have the opportunity to meet highly skilled players from states both within and around our region. It is important for both the player and parent to realize that competition at the regional level is very tough and that not making the regional pool is not a negative. Helping your player to establish appropriate goals for his/her ODP experience is an important part of ensuring that your player gets the most out of this exciting opportunity.

Who is Eligible?

Any soccer player is eligible for consideration in the ODP provided that he or she meets the age requirements for the established age group. A player may try out in the state association in which he or she is eligible to be registered. A player may not try out for the ODP team in more than one state association. Tryouts are conducted at various times of the year. Interested players should check this web site or contact the WVSA office for dates and details.

Players are selected, in most states, on the basis of open tryouts. These tryouts are conducted by state association coaches who are recognized for their ability to identify and train players with superior skills. Some state associations combine scouting techniques and invitations to certain players with the open tryouts. Selection of these players is not an easy task. The state association head coach or State Coach will, in most cases, be assisted in the selection process by several

other qualified coaches from the club or league level. Players are evaluated on the four components that make up a soccer player:

Technique - Tactics - Fitness and athletic ability - Psychological component (attitude)

How Are WV Players Selected?

Each age group coach is responsible for assessing the performance of each player in his/her age group during the course of a three-hour tryout period. Players will again be assessed at a second training session the following month. The following are some of the important criteria that the ODP coaching staff is assessing at these events: speed, agility, physical fitness, ball skills, team performance, performance under pressure, tactical and strategic understanding of the game, coachability, and player attitude.

What do ODP Players do?

Upon selection, a state association ODP player is expected to participate in all activities of their team. These activities may include exhibition matches, invitational tournaments and sub-regional and regional camps, as well as individual team training sessions and the state ODP mini camp. If players are not available for a specific event, they may be replaced by another player from their player pool. Players are expected to take their participation in the program seriously, and should be committed to improving their individual skills as well as improving as a team player. Players are subject to the ODP Code of Conduct upon entry into the program at the state association level.

A player pool will be chosen in each age group. All players in the pool will be invited to, and expected to attend, all scheduled training events. All players in the pool will also be invited to, and expected to attend, all competitive events that do not have roster limits. If a team is scheduled to participate in an event with limited roster size, only those selected for that particular event will be expected to attend (participate) with those not chosen to still be considered in the training pool for that age group with consideration for the next competitive event. In the event a player is not chosen for a single event, a portion of the ODP fee will be refunded to that player IF ALTERNATE TRAINING IS NOT PROVIDED IN PLACE OF THAT EVENT.

Attendance

All Olympic Development Program players are expected to take their commitment seriously. Players are expected to be punctual, attend practices and events, and participate with a positive attitude, intensity and passion. Poor attendance, attitude, and punctuality will be a factor in final roster selections. Your hard work will allow you to represent our state at the regional level where you will be exposed to new coaching staff, soccer players and great experiences.

It will be your responsibility to follow the rules of the ODP program and the Code of Conduct which you will sign after being selected into the pool. We cannot stress enough the importance of a positive attitude, commitment, respect for your teammates, the program itself, and the sites we use to train at. Players who do not abide by the code of conduct and the guidelines set forth in this

manual are subject to dismissal from the pool, at the exclusive discretion of the ODP Coaching Staff, the WV Director of Coaching, the WV Executive Director or the ODP Administrator.

What is the ODP Region 1 Tournament?

This tournament is held for only ODP teams within our region at Rider University and surrounding sites in New Jersey. It is traditionally held on the first or second full weekend in June. The event is a three game tournament with the U15 and U17 age groups going on to play in semi-finals and finals later on in the season. This tournament is attended by much of the Region 1 Staff who spend their time watching and evaluating payers on every field. **From these evaluations, begins the identification process for the opportunity to play on the Region 1 ODP team. This tournament is also highly attended by college coaches from all over the country. The coaches are provided with team rosters and spend the entire weekend watching U15, U16, and U17 games identifying potential players for their schools.

**Note: If available, Region 1 staff will attend our State Mini Camp and begin the evaluation process there, giving each of our state players an additional opportunity to be 'seen' by a regional staff member.

What are Regional Camps?

US YOUTH SOCCER is divided into four regions, each of which offers a regional camp for state association ODP teams in each eligible age group. The camps are designed to provide high level competition and training for participating players, and are the final process in identifying players to be selected to the Region 1 ODP teams. The camp provides intensive, high level training as well as games each day and each player has the opportunity to work with other State ODP coaches (who may often be college coaches too), Regional ODP coaches and National ODP coaches. Often members of the National Team Staff will be present at camp as well, also evaluating the players. Your state association or regional administrator should be contacted for more information. For more information, please visit the ODP Page on Region1.com. Regional camp fees are in addition to the WV ODP fees. Commitment to camp is due by January 10th and partial payment is due by April 1st. The cost of the camp is just a slightly higher fee than any area overnight camp that players might attend.

What is a National Camp?

National Camps and Interregional events are held throughout the year at various locations in the United States. The National Team Coach or a National Staff Coach is present at these events to observe, train and identify players for placement in the national pool or on a national team. Players must be chosen to attend the National Camp and the fees are not included in the WV ODP fees.

What are the Benefits of Participating in ODP?

1. Development as a player. The opportunity to train and play with the best players in one's age group.
2. Quality instruction from nationally licensed coaches.

3. Quality competition. Games against other state association ODP teams.
4. Exposure to regional and national team coaches.
5. The opportunity to represent one's state, region or country in competition.
6. Exposure to college coaches.

Responsibilities of players and parents:

Players:

Devotion to the Game—This level is typically represented by players who have selected soccer as their sole competitive activity.

Time Commitment—Players are expected to attend all training sessions and games. Any absences must be documented and approved by the Director of Coaching and/or Administrator.

Communication—PLAYERS, not parents, are expected to communicate with age group Coaches, the Administrator or the Director of Coaching regarding any question or area of concern.

Pay Attention—Please pay particular attention to ALL deadlines and instructions for various activities. Adherence to these dates are key to reducing hassles and costs.

Parents:

WWSA asks that you be sensitive to the pressure that most players feel when participating in these events. Your POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT toward all players, at all levels of state team functions, is appreciated. Please limit your contact with coaches/selectors during these events. WWSA appreciates the time and commitment parents make on behalf of the players.

Program Fees

The total cost of the ODP program for the 2009-10 year is \$550. The registration fee of \$50 (included in the total) is due prior to tryouts and is non-refundable regardless of whether the player is selected into the pool. The second payment of \$250 is due in December and the final payment of \$250 is due on or around February 15th. This program runs as a self-sufficient program meaning that the fees collected are used exclusively to cover the costs of running the program, all training sessions, all tournament fees, staff/coach salaries, and all administrative supplies. Players are expected to attend all events as outlined in the ODP calendar. **No refunds** will be given to players who chose not to attend a training session or an event which they have been chosen for, or to players who chose to drop out of the program. Players who become injured during the season (with a signed medical excuse) may receive a partial refund for the remainder of the events he/she will be unable to attend, and those players not chosen to attend a tournament will be reimbursed the cost of that particular event only if alternate training was not provided. (Remember, a player not chosen to attend an event due to limitations on the roster size are still considered in the state pool and will have an opportunity to be selected for the next competitive event.)

Players will be assigned a uniform that will be used during the season. These will be collected after each event in which they are used. Additional ODP gear may also be available to purchase but is not required. The cost of these will be made available as soon as they are acquired. Returning players will continue to use the 08-09 gear. Players may also use a 'retired' players uniform if available and the uniform number doesn't conflict with an existing number on the team.

Scholarships / Fundraising

It is our intent to try and have as many players as possible involved in the program and while we have only limited funds available for scholarships, we strive to see to it that any player selected is not precluded from participation for financial reasons. Of course, because of limited funds, we are not always successful in meeting this goal. A limited amount of scholarship funds are available to players where there is a demonstrated financial need. Application forms are available to download on the wvsoccer.net website. All scholarship request forms will be kept confidential and are due as soon as players realize they have a need. **Scholarship applicants should work aggressively to raise sponsorship funds as described below to help defray the ODP tuition costs.**

Players are encouraged to seek individual and/or corporate sponsorships to help defray the costs of their participation in the ODP program. Sponsors will receive recognition on the WVSA website, and contributions are tax deductible. Sponsorship forms are available on the wvsoccer.net website and completed forms should be mailed to the ODP Administrator as soon as they are received so that recognition can be made.

ODP Structure

Players are registered with a club or team which belongs to the West Virginia Soccer Association. WVSA in turn is a member of US Youth Soccer – the largest member of the US Soccer Federation which provides rules and guidelines for the sport of soccer and is made up of 55 member state association. WVSA is also one of 16 (state) members of Region 1 soccer. The US Soccer Federation is one of the first organizations to be affiliated with FIFA and is the governing body of soccer in all its forms in the United States. It is also the largest member of the US Olympic Committee national governing bodies. The Federation Internationale de Football (FIFA) is soccer's world governing body.

Forms Needed

1. WVSA ODP Registration Form - needed the day of tryouts by players who do not pre-register
- ~~2. WVSA ODP Medical Release Form — needed the day of tryouts~~
3. ODP Player Code of Conduct Form - needed the day of tryouts (this form should have been printed out when you registered on-line – both player and parent need to sign)
4. ODP Player Information and Medical Release Form - needed the day of tryouts (this form should have been printed out when you registered on-line – please make sure you copy both the front and back of your insurance card and attach to this form)
5. ODP Medical History Questionnaire - needed at December training event (this form should have been printed out from the on-line site if you were asked to remain in the program after tryouts)

6. ODP Player Profile Form - needed at December training event (this form should have been printed out from the on-line site if you were asked to remain in the program after tryouts)
7. Copy of Birth Certificate – new players only
8. Copy of Permission to play in WV – for out-of-state players only

Note** all forms are available to download from the wvsoccer.net website and some forms are also available on the region1.com website.

Form #3 and 4 will be printed out when you complete the on-line registration.

Form #5 and 6 will be printed out from the on-line site that you will receive if you are asked to remain in the program after tryouts.

Contact information:

Website: wvsoccer.net

Email: odp@wvsoccer.net

Administrator: Tina Mascaro 304-654-3847

Director of Coaching: Bob Gray grayr@marshall.edu