



US Youth Soccer ODP Structure

THE US YOUTH SOCCER ODP PHILOSOPHY

To identify players of the highest caliber on a continuing and consistent basis, which will lead to increased success for the U.S. National Teams in the international arena.

PURPOSE

The US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (ODP) was formed in 1977 to identify a pool of players in each age group from which a National Team would be selected for international competition; to provide high-level training to benefit and enhance the development of players at all levels; and, through the use of carefully selected and licensed coaches, develop a mechanism for the exchange of ideas and curriculum to improve all levels of coaching.

In an effort to better align with the ODP Mission Statement, the organization has identified several areas of improvement. This document provides an overview of these improvements, starting with the 2019/20 season, and ensures that the leadership from the Member State Association is fully informed.

KEY CHANGES

- Alignment of Boy's ODP (BODP) and Girl's ODP (GODP) programs across all four regions
- Implementation of an Invitational Identification Camp for each region
- Formation of a nation-wide scouting network to identify players
- Creation of a National Training Camp (NTC) for select players from each region
- Establishment of an ODP National Team, fully funded by US Youth Soccer, which will compete in international events



I. ODP SCOUTING NETWORK

One of the many improvements being implemented is the enhanced identification and scouting of players. ODP Scouting Network will consist of ODP Technical Staff, State Association Technical Staff, and Club Staff (internal scouting). The identification and scouting of players will take place during regularly scheduled USYS events, such as the ODP Regional Championships. The ODP Scouting Network will also be available to attend sub-regional events throughout the country. Sub-regional events include any state-run event which pulls together multiple state organizations for competitive purposes. Examples of such events are the Virginia Friendlies or the Florida or Tennessee sub-regional events. If a scout is requested to attend a sub-regional event the financial responsibility will be on the host state.

Each Member State Association, based on space limitations and general availability, will have the opportunity to host or participate in any of the sub-regional events taking place across the country. It is the responsibility of each Member State Association to provide their players with the opportunity for identification and subsequent invitation to the Regional Invitational Identification Camp. Member State Associations will determine which sub-regional events they will attend based on the number of players in their age group pools with consideration to other pertinent travel and cost-based variables. Players will also have the opportunity to be scouted at individual player ID camps.

ODP Scouting Network Goals

- Identify potential state association personnel to become members of the ODP Scouting Network
- Provide continuing education, best practices, and effective training for members of the ODP Scouting Network
- Create and maintain a comprehensive, professional network of scouts which provides coverage for the entire country based on both area and population
- Utilize the ODP Scouting Network to identify players with the potential to play for ODP Regional Teams and/or the ODP National Team (see Section VI)
- Align US Soccer, MLS and NWSL to assist in providing competitive environments for top players
- Establish a national scouting player database to track players over time

II. ODP REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Beginning in 2019/2020, each region will host an ODP Championship. This is an important event in the identification process and the ODP Scouting Network. In addition to the Scouting Network, college coaches and MLS scouts will be in attendance. The championships will host age groups from 12U to 17U with group games, semi-finals and finals taking place across a long weekend to crown a regional champion in each age group. The regional champions will advance to the ODP National Championships (Late July).

Registration

Participating Member State Associations will register and pay the team fees through the registration platform selected by US Youth Soccer. A username and password, along with a link, will be provided.



III. INVITATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CAMP

The National ODP cycle starts in July when all regions hold their Identification Camps. Beginning in July 2020, the National ODP will implement a new camp structure that will provide more consistency across regions and better opportunities for participating players. Under the new camp structure, only identified players will be invited to attend the ID camp. Players will be identified through the ODP Scouting Network (see Section I) and with input from various state technical leaders. There will be six boys/ five girls identification age groups for these camps: 12U to a combined 16/17U for girls, 12U to 17U for boys.

Registration

Each player, with assistance from his or her parent/guardian, will register through the platform provided by US Youth Soccer and will complete all required documentation. **The camp fee for 2020 is \$600 per player and includes his or her training kit, room, and meals.** Players are responsible for the cost of their travel to and from camp. Member State Associations will not be invoiced for any camp fees; however, those desiring to subsidize any portion of a player's camp fee may do so by contacting their National ODP Administrator.

Camp Structure and Outcome

The ODP Invitational Identification Camp will be 5 days long. During camp, players will receive training, participate in classroom sessions, play in intra-camp games, and compete against elite external teams. The intensive camp atmosphere provides ODP Regional Coaches the opportunity to work with identified players in a constructive and competitive environment.

At the conclusion of the Region ODP ID Camps, the region staff will select players in all age groups to form Regional Training Pools. Region staff will also name the top 18 players from within each age group that will be invited to attend the Inter-regional events (see Section IV).

Camp Staff and Administration

Each region will secure, train, and pay all chaperones and coaches. In an effort to increase the quality of chaperones and coaches, states are encouraged to providenames/contact info for interested individuals

IV. ODP INTER-REGIONAL EVENT

As outlined above (see Section III), each region will select its top 18 players at each age group to compete at the Inter-Regional Event. There will be four age groups invited to this event: U13, U14, U15, and U16/17. At the event, the regional teams will compete against each other. The Regional Staffs and the ODP Scouting Network will evaluate players throughout the event. A selection of top players from the Inter-Regional Event will be invited to attend the USYS National ODP Training Camp (NTC) (Section V). Details for the Inter-Regional Event are found in Table 1.

Table 1. USYS Inter-Regional Event Details

Program	Girls	Boys
Location	Boca Raton, FL	IMG Academy, FL
Dates	November 22-28, 2019	December 17-21, 2019
Cost	\$600/player	\$550/player



V. USYS NATIONAL ODP TRAINING CAMP

A selection of players – Boys and Girls – will be invited to the National ODP Training Camp (NTC) at the Tournament Sportsplex in Tampa Bay, FL from January 23-28. Players will receive an invitation to attend the NTC in one of two ways: 1) identification at the Inter-Regional Event; or 2) identification through the ODP Scouting Network. Players may be scouted directly into the NTC from any event throughout the USYS ODP cycle.

Players invited to the NTC are responsible for the cost of travel; however, the cost of the camp will be covered by USYS. This event is designed to take the top players selected from the GODP and BODP inter-regional events and further evaluate and showcase their talents with high-level training and top-level competition for both genders.

National Training Camp Benefits and Opportunities

- Exposure to top level Division I, II, and III coaches
- Exposure to MLS Academy Scouts
- Exposure to US Soccer Scouts
- Possible selection for international competition

VI. ODP NATIONAL TEAM AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Starting in Spring 2020, USYS National Teams will be selected to participate in four international competitions (2 boys and 2 girls). Players will be selected for the 18-person roster from USYS ODP events throughout the cycle, the Inter-Regional Event and the NTC. Age groups, location, and competitions have not yet been selected. Selected players are responsible for the cost of travel to the point of departure from the United States; however, the remaining costs will be covered by USYS.

VII. BENEFITS OF THE RESTRUCTURED ODP PROGRAM

- Defined pathway to the USYS National Team
- Exposure to Regional Coaches, US Soccer Scouts, MLS Academy Scouts, and College Coaches
- Exposure to high-level competition and coaching at the state, regional and national levels
- Purposeful training camps and meaningful competitive matches, including possible advancement to the ODP National Championship
- Possible inclusion in the USYS National ODP Training Camp (NTC)
- Enhanced monitoring and tracking of players through a comprehensive and collaborative scouting network
- International competition with exposure to international clubs and immersive cultural experience

