



US Youth Soccer  
Olympic Development Program



Changes in ODP:  
Long Awaited Updates to  
an Aging Program



# US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program



## History

- Formed in 1977 to provide high level training to enhance the development of players at all levels.
- In 1979 State Associations encouraged to developed local programs to support the regional and national programs.
- In 1982 international events for National teams were introduced.
- It was the pre-eminent pathway to the US National team. Of the 23 players on the US Women's National Team at the World Cup this summer, 21 are alumni of US Youth Soccer's ODP.



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## A Time for Change

- US Youth Soccer is restructured. 4 Regional General Managers are all given National program responsibilities.
- ODP is no longer (and hasn't been for many years) the only pathway to the US National teams
- Out of date Mission Statement did not address the reality of the national youth soccer environment
- Value of the program came into question.



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## Redefining the ODP Mission

- ODP focus at the Regional and National level will be entirely the **scouting** and **identification** of the elite player.
- ODP focus at the State level will be threefold
  - Assisting in the scouting and identification of elite players at the State level
  - Development of ODP players, and
  - Partnering with Regional ODP to showcase and report elite players.



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## Changes to ODP at a Regional Level

- Regions expect States to build scouting networks and partner with the Region to identify elite players.
- Regional ODP Camp will be
  - By invitation only
  - Will utilize the scramble model rather than the state team model
  - Direct registration and limited participation by State ODP
- Regional ODP Championships
  - June 5-9 in Tennessee for 15U, 16U and 17U
  - January 24-28 in Florida for 12U, 13U and 14U



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Results of our ODP Satisfaction Survey reveal...

- Most players learned of ODP from their Club Coach
- For over 70 %, Coaching met or exceeded expectations.
- A majority felt the level of play was above average and that the Tryout Process was effective
- LSA must improve organization, communication and responsiveness
- 80% believe ODP is an important program for the development of individual players.
- More training and more identification opportunities





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## Changes to ODP in Louisiana Soccer

- There **must** be Club buy-in and cooperation
- LSA **must** build a strong club-based scouting network
- LA ODP Pools **must** be established through invitations and tryouts earlier in than in the past for our younger groups.
- Every LA ODP event **must** have a Regional or National ODP scouting component.
- LSA **must** be innovative and far-reaching in its planning.
- LA ODP **must** return to a truly elite program





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## How to Meet Those Changes to LA ODP

- Naming an LSA Chief ODP Scout
- Naming an ODP Scout in each Club
- Preseason recommendations from Clubs
- Invitation process together with tryouts, but EARLY
- Video analysis shared with Region
- Hosting a sub-regional ODP event
- Increasing involvement with Regional ODP Staff
- Foreign travel at specific age group (e.g. 14U)



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The Key to future success of LA ODP lies not just in Club involvement, but in Club commitment.



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*“The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed.”*

*Martina Navratilova*

