



MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER

OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Player / Parent Handbook

2018 ODP Season



Pride in the Program

Table of Contents

Welcome to Massachusetts Youth Soccer ODP	1
ODP Schedules	2
Payment Schedule	2
Parent Meetings.....	3
The ODP Step Ladder	3
ODP Training	4
Mini Camp	4
Region 1 ODP Tournament Selections.....	4
Region 1 Tournament	5
Region 1 ID Camp.....	5
Items to bring to ID Camp	6
Items Not to bring to ID Camp	6
Refund Policy.....	6
Player Evaluations	6
Injury Policy	6
Concussion Policy.....	7
Anti-Harassment, Anti-Bullying, and Anti-Hazing Policies	8

We are in the process of selecting the team administrators. Once they are identified, they will be in contact with you.

ALL FORMS ON MAYOUTHSOCCER.ORG UNDER ODP TAB

Both Medical Release Forms, Code of Conduct Form, and Girls OR Boys Player Profile Form, should be sent via email to your team administrator. You should also bring printed copies to the 1st winter training session.

Do *not* send them to the Massachusetts Youth Soccer office.

Welcome to ODP

The Massachusetts Youth Olympic Development Program, or ODP, is the start of the identification process for the National and Olympic teams. Massachusetts Youth Soccer conducts the program for US Soccer under the jurisdiction of the US Olympic Committee. The ODP is protected by the Amateur Sports Act, a federal law enacted by congress in 1978. The purpose of this prestigious program is to identify players on the basis of open tryouts and scouted players. Players are then developed to represent their state, region, and the United States in soccer competition.

The ODP Player

ODP is for the serious soccer player looking to play in college, who have hopes of making the US National or Olympic Team or wants to be a professional player. Players should be committed to the process of developing their soccer skills and fitness on a daily basis. In ODP, coaches expect players to be versatile on the field, have good coping skills, are coachable, and can adapt to the different styles of play.

There are many ways to achieve these ultimate goals, and it is entirely possible to make it to the highest level without going through all, or, indeed, any of the preceding levels of participation. However, the current system is the one most recognized throughout the United States as the best way to identify top-quality players who can perform in any environment and still cope with everyday demands.

From year to year and event to event, players evolve in many different ways. This is why after each full year of an ODP season, there is a clean slate and players have to go through the entire tryout process all over again. The only exception to this is if a player has made the regional or national pool within the past year, they will be given a pass onto the state team and do not need to attend tryouts. Although we are looking for the best players on the team, we do not select players exclusively from winning (successful) teams and programs. The Olympic Development Program tryout process is open to all players regardless of team affiliation or current level of play.

Purpose

The United States Olympic Development Program (ODP) is a national process of identifying, training and developing youth soccer players who have the potential to represent the United States in soccer competitions. This process promotes players to the US National Teams that represent the United States in international competition. The ODP is not an individual entity. In regards to soccer, it is a program licensed to organizations by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) through the governing body of soccer, US Soccer. Mass Youth has a long tradition of providing many of the players that comprise the regional and national teams including the World Cup and Olympic Teams. A large number of other players are currently on several professional teams.

Mission Statement

The function of Massachusetts Youth ODP is the identification, selection, and opportunity for development of the state's elite players. The ODP provides the means by which these players are prepared to compete for selection to regional, national, collegiate, and professional opportunities through high level training and competition.

Philosophy

The primary responsibility for the development of players belongs to the clubs; thus, ODP should not interfere with regular club play. It is the responsibility and function of Massachusetts Youth ODP to supplement that development by identifying and selecting the state's best players to compete with and against each other in preparation for regional, national, collegiate, or professional opportunities.

ODP Overview

Massachusetts Youth Soccer, a member of the US Youth Soccer, sponsors youth soccer programs in a geographical area of the state, stretching from Boston to the Berkshires. Currently, there are over 200,000 players registered through Massachusetts Youth Soccer the most talented and committed 1 percent of these players participate in the state Olympic Development Program.

As part of the National effort, the Massachusetts Youth Soccer program is committed to providing players access to the highest levels of youth soccer. Our main goal is to identify and prepare outstanding Massachusetts Youth Soccer players for Regional and National competitions. We must achieve this goal in a fair and objective environment. Individuals with integrity, experience, and impartiality must render judgment of ability.

Benefits of ODP

- The opportunity to play and train with the best players in one's age group across Massachusetts
- Quality of instruction from nationally licensed coaches
- The opportunity to represent ones state, region, or country in competition.
- Higher level of competition against teams from other states
- Exposure to Regional and National staff coaches
- Invites to National Training Centers
- FIFA 11+ at the start of every session
- Exposure to college coaches
- Free baseline concussion testing through Boston Children's Hospital
- Work with Springfield College Athletic Counselors during indoor season

ODP SCHEDULES (On MA Youth Soccer Website; ODP)

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

For planning purposes, below is a preliminary estimate of your cost for participating in the ODP Program.

Note that no player will attend any event unless previous event payment has been received in full.

	<u>12U</u>	<u>13U-14U</u>	<u>15U-17U</u>	
Winter Fee	\$310	\$310	\$310	Due by:12/17/2017
Spring Fee	\$310	\$310	\$310	Due by: 2/11/2018
Mini Camp Fee	\$145	\$145	\$145	Due by: 3/18/2018
Region 1 Tournament*	N/A	N/A	\$230	Due by: 5/20/2018
ID Camp*	\$425	\$525	\$525	Due by: 5/20/2018
Total Cost	\$1,190	\$1,290	\$1,520	

* Not all players will be selected to attend these events. Cost may increase based on location of event

**Prices are subject to change for 2018 season

All Financial Assistance requests must be received no later than December 17, 2017. In order to secure commitment to the program, the winter fee must be paid.

PARENT MEETINGS

12U-14U Girls' Parent Meeting

1/7/17 at Forekicks (upstairs) at 2pm with Team Coaches

12U-14U Boys' Parent Meeting

1/7/17 at Forekicks (upstairs) at 1pm with Team Coaches

12U-14U Parent Educational Sessions

1/21, 2/4, 2/25, 3/11 at Forekicks during your player's classroom session time with Springfield Athletic Counselors or Rick Spencer, College Recruiting and College Financing Informational Session

15U-17U Girls' Parent Meeting

1/14/17 at Forekicks (upstairs) at 2pm with Team Coaches

15U-17U Boys' Parent Meeting

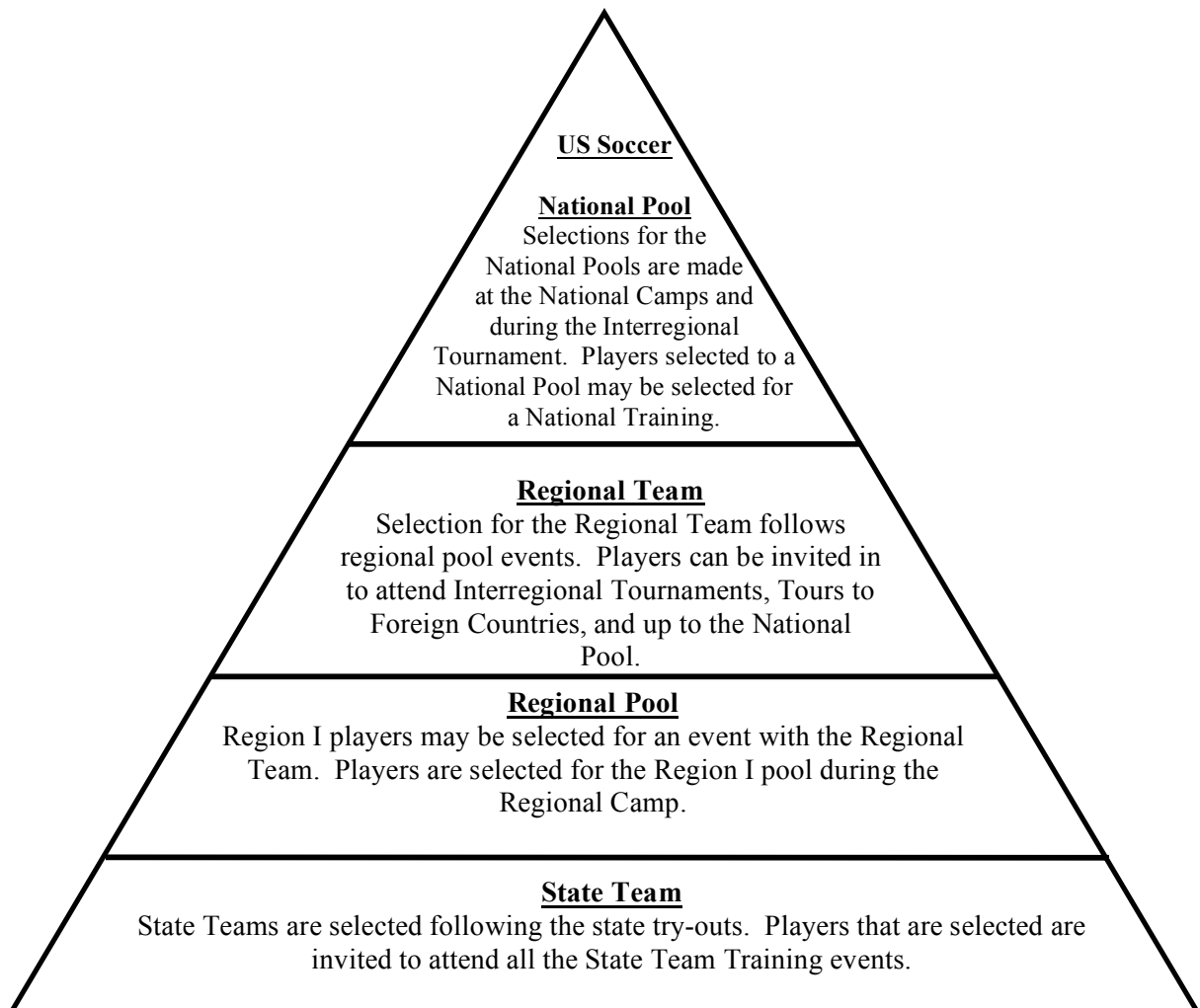
1/14/17 at Forekicks (upstairs) at 1pm with Team Coaches

15U-17U Parent Educational Sessions

1/28, 2/11, 3/4, 3/5, 3/18 at Forekicks during your player's classroom session time with Springfield Athletic Counselors or Rick Spencer, College Recruiting and College Financing Informational Session

GK Parent Meetings will take place on 1/7/18 during your player's classroom session

The ODP Step Ladder



ODP TRAINING

- Bring a ball and wear shin guards to every practice.
- Please bring both tryout shirts to every ODP training event.
- Come to practice at least 15 minutes prior to the start time.
- Come to games at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the match.
- Come to all games and training properly hydrated.
- Join Massachusetts Youth Soccer on Facebook and Twitter



- **Conflict Statement:** ODP requires a high level of commitment from players. When scheduling conflicts arise, players must ultimately make their own decision whether or not to attend an ODP practice or event. Before making that decision, however, they should consider the following:
 - ODP coaches are responsible for selecting the players who are, in the coaches' opinions, the best in the program. The only method available to them to make these decisions is the evaluation of the player's performance on the field. If players decide to forego an ODP practice or event in favor of a personal, club, or Region 1 activity, they diminish their opportunities to be analyzed by the coach. This does not mean that the player will certainly not progress in the ODP, but it does mean that they may lose a spot they could have had to a player that made the ODP more of a priority. Players who want to advance in the ODP should regard ODP attendance as mandatory. Each ODP event or practice missed will further jeopardize the likelihood of being selected for a position on an ODP roster.
- If you cannot attend a training session please contact your team administrator ASAP.
- Parents are reminded to please let the staff coach and simply encourage their children.
- As a parent, we ask you not to actively recruit players for your clubs. If you are found guilty of this offense it can result in the removal of your child from the program.
- As a parent, if you wish to discuss an in-game issue that just occurred, please wait 48 hours, and then approach the coach. If you feel it needs immediate attention, contact the ODP Manager.
- If a major storm is predicted for the day of a practice, any cancellation notification will be posted on the "Weather Announcements" portion of the "ODP" tab on the Massachusetts Youth Soccer website. Please check the website before leaving for practice and check your email.
- Training sessions that are cancelled due to inclement weather will **NOT** be re-scheduled.
- Each session will continue on the theme of playing from the midfield into the final third, with all teams playing in a 1-4-3-3.
- There will be spots on every team for players that might be identified later on in the ODP season. This is not to take the place of your son or daughter but in case we identify talent later on in the year.

MINI CAMP

- Teams are housed at Great Wolf Lodge in Fitchburg. Players are minimum of 2, maximum of four to a room. Coaches and chaperones are two to a room. Players will be bussed to and from the fields, with check out being Saturday morning. 4 chaperones per team for the 12U and 13U groups, 3 chaperones per team for the 14U and 15U groups, and 2 chaperones per team for the 16U and 17U groups. (pending #'s)
- Regional Staff Coaches will be brought in to observe and identify the top performing players
- Mini camp will occur Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon. The office will send a rooming list to the hotel once it has been finalized. Players will only be allowed in their own rooms. Friday night dinner and Saturday morning breakfast will be at the hotel, Saturday lunch will be a bagged lunch at the field.

REGION I TOURNAMENT SELECTIONS

- For **15U, 16U, and 17U** age groups the top 16-18 players will be selected and asked to attend the Region I Tournament. Players will be informed on 5/12/18 at the conclusion of minicamp with 1 on 1 meetings with the head coach. Players not initially selected should be informed they will be considered alternates.

REGION 1 TOURNAMENT

- Please check the Region 1 website frequently for information on the Region 1 Tournament (www.region1.com)
- **No one will go to any event if they have not paid prior to the dates on the payment schedule**
- If a player is asked to attend the Region 1 Tournament, that player and that player's parents must keep in mind that there is no "guarantee" of playing time. The coach tries his or her best to maximize the playing time of all players in attendance.
- Only 18 players can be selected to go to the Region 1 Tournament in 15/16/17 age groups. This is a Region 1 policy. Players must be available Friday through Sunday for games on June 8th – 10th 2018.
- Players will stay 4 players to a room. Parents are responsible for getting the players to the tournament and transporting the players to and from the hotel. Parents should look to book their own hotel room. Players and chaperones will each be designated an assigned amount of money for the weekend for meals.
- If team advances to Semi Finals and Finals weekend it will take place in Kirkwood, DE June 22-24.

REGION 1 ID CAMP

- Please check the Region I website frequently for information on the Region 1 ODP ID Camp, including the dates of the camps. (www.region1.com)
- All players that attend Regional camp must stay in the dorms. This is a Region I policy.
- **No refund can be given, unless a medical note from a doctor is given**
- There will be 2 same gender chaperones for every 18 players attending camp
- Camp is a scramble format. All the players in the region are put into a "hat" and drawn to create teams. This will be their team for the week.
- Players must attend the full camp and **may not come late or leave early.**
- As a parent, there is **no need** for you to approach a regional coach about your son or daughter. The coach is trying to do his or her job as best s/he can.
- If a player tries out for a US Soccer Development Academy team during the course of an ODP season and make the team, the player is not allowed to attend ID camp.
- Players who are not part of the State Olympic Development Program, will not be eligible to attend Region 1 Camp.

- It's an intense 4-5 day camp with 3x a day training and games. Players get put onto a team of 18 or so players, and they train with that team for the duration of the camp--unless they make the pool (see below). There may or may not be other players from Mass on your son/daughter's team.
- Either one or two times a day, the Region 1 coaches (not the state coaches) will get together and create a "pool" of players that they feel were the best performers and have what it takes to compete at the Region 1 team level. The pool changes all the time, you can be in one pool, and out at the next one. If you make the pool, you train with the pool instead of your team.
- The players typically are given a journal to keep and then go over those journals with their team coach 1v1 to get feedback on what they could be working on to become a better player.
- At the end of the camp, they name the final pool. and those are the players who are invited to Region 1 training and games throughout the fall, winter and spring in various locations in the US. Anyone who makes the pool gets invited to at least one Region 1 training. Making the final pool also exempts you from tryouts for Mass ODP the following year; you are already in.
- Meals and lodging are included. Transportation, drinks and snacks are not. Some chaperones usually collect some money per player to do things for snacks every night.

ITEMS TO BRING TO ID CAMP

- Soccer Ball *clearly marked with your name*
- Water Bottle
- Shin Guards, cleats, sneakers, flip flops
- Raingear, Sweatshirt, Jacket
- Training Clothing – sufficient for the duration of the camp
- Laundry Soap – be prepared to do your own laundry – this is not the responsibility of the chaperones.
- Linens (towels, sheets, pillows) and toiletries
- Small personal fan
- Alarm Clock
- Small amount of money (~\$40) for incidentals, laundry and meals on the trip home. You may want to bring quarters for vending machines and laundry.
- ***Please DO NOT bring your ODP tryout shirts, your ODP team uniforms, or any ID Camp training shirts from past years! This will REALLY CONFUSE the ID Camp staff!***

ITEMS NOT TO BRING TO ID CAMP

- An air conditioner OR refrigerator
- Video gaming units (you will not have time for them!)
- Enough clothes for the next two weeks (remember you are only away for a short time!)

REFUND POLICY

- **Fees for ALL ODP events are non-refundable.** Any player who is selected as a member of the state team will be expected to attend the regional event in his/her respective age group. Any player, who decides not to attend their regional event after they are selected to the final state team, and does not have official documentation of a medical hardship, may not be entitled to a full refund. Please note that refunds for medical reasons are reviewed individually and there is no guarantee of approval.
- Refund requests due to a medical situation or injury must be accompanied by a letter from a doctor explaining the injury. The decision to issue a refund is done on a case-by-case basis; the refund is not guaranteed.

PLAYER EVALUATIONS

- Each player will get an evaluation completed by the coaching staff at the end of the season. It will be sent via email.
- Players who quit the program do not receive an evaluation
- Players who attend at least attend 50 % of the sessions will get an evaluation. All others will not.
- Goalkeeper coaches are responsible for filling out evaluations for goalkeepers.
- Based on 3.5 - 4 = Made a National Pool, 3 - 3.5 = Made a Regional Pool, 2 - 2.9 = State Team Player.

INJURY POLICY

If a player is injured during an ODP event, they must be seen by the medical professional on site. The medical professional will then fill out an incident report. A head or assistant coach must be present when this incident report is completed.

CONCUSSION POLICY

PLEASE READ PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SEASON:

http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/pdf/coaches_Engl.pdf

During a session if a player is suspected of having a concussion, the coaching staff will remove the player from the session and will not allow the player to return to play for the remainder of the session. If there is an EMT on site, they are the only individual that can approve the player to return to play. This form needs to be filled out at well:

http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/UserFiles/file/USYS%20Concussion_Notification_Form.pdf

The coaching staff will inform the player's parent or guardian of the player's symptoms as soon as possible. They will also inform the Team Manager, ODP Manager, and Technical Director.

The player will not be able to return to activity in the Olympic Development Program until they have been cleared by their physician. A clearance to play letter must be given to the Coaching Staff.

If a player receives a concussion outside of training with the Olympic Development Program, the player still needs to be evaluated and cleared by their physician and a note has to be written. Coaches will inform the Team Manager, ODP Manager, and Technical Director.

**Massachusetts ODP
Anti-Harassment, Anti-Bullying and Anti-Hazing Policies**

Anti-Harassment Policy

Massachusetts ODP is committed to providing an environment that respects diversity and is free from discrimination and harassment based upon any legally protected status including race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability and veteran status. All decisions affecting employment and participation at ODP shall be made without discrimination against any person on the basis of any such legally protected status. The program believes all individuals must be treated with dignity and respect. Consistent with this commitment and consistent with federal and MA law, ODP does not condone discriminatory or harassing conduct of any individual. In particular, coaches and staff are prohibited from engaging in harassing or discriminatory conduct based on gender or race directed against any other person engaged to provide services to or perform work for ODP. In addition, coaches and staff are advised that physically, emotionally or sexually abusive conduct by coaches or staff directed toward players under the age of 18 must be reported to the Massachusetts Technical Director and ODP Manager and in certain instances, to law enforcement agencies and may result in criminal sanctions.

Behaviors that Violate this Policy

Discrimination against or harassment of an individual when based upon a legally protected status (see above) violates this policy when such conduct is pervasive or severe. Discrimination and harassment can take many forms. The following are examples of conduct that could violate this policy:

1. limiting opportunities on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected status;
2. slurs, jokes, statements, remarks, questions, gestures, pictures or cartoons regarding race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability veteran status, or any other legally protected status that are derogatory or demeaning to an individual's or group's characteristics or that promote stereotypes;
3. demands for sexual favors in exchange for favorable treatment or continued employment;
4. offensive or unwelcome sexual flirtation, advances or touching;
5. obscene, demeaning or abusive commentary about an individual's body;
6. responding to refusals to provide sexual favors with verbal, emotional or physical abuse.

This policy applies to discrimination and harassment occurring in MA Youth Soccer and in other settings where ODP personnel may be exposed to discrimination or harassment, including but not limited to activities away from Progin Park locations, such as co-sponsored activities that are off-site. This policy protects and applies to all ODP coaches, staff and players.

It is not the intent of this policy to prohibit consensual relationships between adults employed by the program. However, romantic and sexual relationships between ODP players and ODP coaches and staff are prohibited and will lead to immediate termination and dismissal. In addition, coaches and staff are advised that engaging in sexual relations with a player under the age of 16 constitutes statutory rape and is a criminal offense, while abuse of a child under the age of 18, including sexual abuse or physical or emotional abuse involving sexual relations or sexual overtones, are offenses which must be reported to the appropriate authorities. Coach and staff behavior with respect to players must be above suspicion. Coach and staff should avoid even the appearance of an improper relationship with players.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person or group of people want to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace and social media: through the use of e-mails, text messaging, instant messaging, and other less direct methods. This type of bullying can also lead to persons being hurt during or between the seasons and be especially hurtful when persons are targeted with meanness and exclusion.

At ODP bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against all types of bullying. We work together as a team to ensure that players gain self- confidence, make new friends, improve their skills and knowledge and go home with great memories.

Unfortunately, persons who are bullied may not have the same potential to get the most out of their experience. Our leadership addresses all incidents of bullying seriously and trains staff to promote communication with their staff and their players so both staff and players will be comfortable alerting us to any problems during their ODP experience and between ODP seasons. Every person has the right to expect to have the best possible experience at ODP, and by working together as a team to identify and manage bullying, we can help ensure that all players and staff have a great time.

Anti-Hazing Policy

ODP is proud to uphold a distinctive set of values and qualities in support of our player's growth and development. We understand that players in attendance come from different team environments and have valuable traditions, rituals, and rites of passage designed to create strong team connections to each other. ODP team initiations or traditions, however, which attempt to build these bonds between members, must do so in an affirming way without coercion of any kind. In a community such as ours, we value lasting relationships grounded in mutual respect, not artificial connections created through shared humiliation.

ODP Policy and MA Law

Hazing is strictly prohibited by ODP policy and by MA law. Violation of the hazing policy may subject an individual or team to disciplinary action, by ODP Technical Director, ODP Manager and ODP Coaches with penalties up to and including dismissal for individuals and suspension or termination in the team's future privilege of attending ODP. In addition to incurring serious ODP-imposed consequences for violations of the policy, players may be subject to criminal prosecution by legal authorities for violation of the MA law. "The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person." (Hazing Law, 269:17)

ODP has adopted a broader definition similar to many MA based schools and colleges defining hazing as: Any activity that is part of an initiation, participation, or affiliation in a group that 1) physically or psychologically humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers--regardless of a person's willingness to participate; 2) results in the disruption of the educational process or the impairment of academic performance; or 3) violates ODP policy or state law. This applies to behavior on or off the field.. Examples of hazing include but are not limited to the following: physical threats or abuse of any kind; encouraging or requiring a person to consume alcohol, drugs, or foreign or unusual substances; forcing a player into a violation of the law or ODP policy such as indecent exposure, theft, or trespassing; confining a person or taking a person to an outlying area and dropping him/her off; servitude such as encouraging or requiring a person to run personal errands; requiring a shaved head or the wearing of conspicuous apparel in public; and depriving a person of sleep.

Hazing has dangerous potential to harm individuals, to damage organizations and teams, and to undermine the mission of ODP and the fundamental values of our community. As such, no player, ODP employee, ODP volunteer, or other ODP-recognized individuals or groups shall conduct or condone hazing activities, consensual or not.

Taking Action

When in doubt about an activity, ask the Massachusetts Technical Director and ODP Manager. They can provide additional examples of behaviors that might constitute hazing, examples of positive group bonding activities and rites of passage for new members, assistance with organizing legitimate events to foster teamwork and cohesiveness, and other relevant information and support.

At ODP, where members of our community look out and care for one another, players and employees are expected to intervene personally or by contacting Massachusetts Technical Director and ODP Manager if they encounter activities that put others in physical or psychological harm or discomfort as long as they can do so without jeopardizing their own safety or the safety of others. By stepping up and taking action, bystanders are frequently able to put an end to inappropriate behavior before things get out of hand. ODP players and employees should notify appropriate ODP personnel of any perceived instance of hazing as defined by ODP policy and/or law and do so as soon as possible so the activity can be stopped or the allegations can be investigated. Reports may be made directly or anonymously by submitting an anonymous letter to an appropriate ODP officials or asking an ODP official that the report remain anonymous. You have the option to submit a report anonymously. Please note that although Mass Youth Soccer endeavors to investigate all reports, including anonymous reports, the nature of anonymous reports makes investigation, determination, and remediation more difficult and, at times, impossible. As a result, you are encouraged to provide your name and contact information.