



Technical Director's Report
August 15, 2018

Coaching Education:

It is our hope that as many clubs as possible will host a Grassroots Course in the upcoming year. The first step is to encourage all of your coaches to create a free account in US Soccer's Digital Coaching Center.

<https://dcc.ussoccer.com>

There you will find the free Introduction to Grassroots Coaching module that you can complete in about 20 minutes. There is also a link to FAQs which is very helpful.

What is needed to host an In-Person Grassroots Course?

- A room that will serve as a classroom with space for at least 12 candidates.
- At least half of a field for the field session.
- A team to participate in the field session.
 - (The team must be the appropriate age for the respective course: 4v4, 7v7, 9v9, or 11v11)
- A little over 4 hours to complete the in-person portion of the course.

We are overdue for a D License Course and want to get one in the works before Spring 2019. Please contact Mike to schedule a course: Coaching@DYSA.org

ODP:

The 2017-18 cycle came to a close with completion of the ID Camps on July 22nd.

Delaware boys and girls in almost every age group were selected to play in Pool Games at the ID Camps.

8 Delaware players selected to the final Regional Pool.

3 Delaware players selected to represent the East Region in Florida against the other regions in Nov/Dec and several others have a good chance to be selected for the Spring 2019 international trip.

I attended the 2005 Girls ID Camp and the 2006 & 2004 Boys ID Camps this summer and I am Assistant Coach for the 2006 Boys Regional Team. In my opinion, the camps were excellent this year. Something special happened at the Boys Camps this year and the Girls Camps may start this next year.

- The 2005 Boys live streamed a game of prospective Regional Pool players against the Ukrainian Nationals, who had won Regionals and were preparing to compete at the National Championships. After 1 training session and a 25 minute classroom session the East Region played Ukrainians off the park on the way to winning 3-0.
- The 2004 Boys played Lehigh Valley's Development Academy team the following week and won 8-1.
- The games now have several thousand views.

I make it very clear to our ODP coaches that I evaluate their performance in terms of the results they help produce for the players. Game results, while important, are of secondary importance for ODP teams. One reason is that success in tournament play can sometimes be more about survival skills than soccer skills. That is a fact made very clear during World Cup 2018. Selection to the Regional and National Teams is achieved by consistently demonstrating quality in your skill and intelligence, desire, positive communication, and teamwork.

- **After the game with the 2005s, the Ukrainians coach told Todd West, East Region Technical Director, he was shocked at how high the quality of play was and that every one of his players would be trying out for ODP in 2018.**

If more of Delaware's best players took advantage of this opportunity it would raise the level of play in this state tremendously with a lot of positive side effects for our clubs. In fact, a higher participation rate in ODP, especially by more of Delaware's best players may be the one change that would have the single greatest impact on soccer in Delaware.

Our training sessions are very good and the players are well prepared. They are learning how to have a greater influence in the game and then bring this experience back to their club team to help raise the level for everyone.

Right now, for various reasons, we actually have a lot of players from outside the state populating our ODP program. They understand the opportunity that ODP is and they jump at the chance to play. The parents recognize very quickly that Delaware ODP is delivering great value, and at a significantly lower cost than ODP in their home state. We are working on ways to bring down the cost, but we are not hearing from parents that our program is not worth the money. Too many Delaware players are missing out on this excellent opportunity. Let's change that now.

Please ask each boys and girls travel coach (2007-2002) in your club to provide the names and contact info for the team's top 5 players (in their opinion). Please invite them and anyone else to try out for Delaware ODP.

Registration is done online at DYSA.org and all the information will be posted there.

ODP Try-outs begin September 16th for the 2018-2019 cycle.

Forming Boys and Girls Teams: 2007 - 2002

Please share with every travel player in your club.