

OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

14.0. PURPOSE

- A. 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, United States Soccer Federation (USSF). South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) participates in this program through Region III of the United States Youth Soccer (USYS), a member of USSF.
- B. The goals of the USYS ODP are:
 - 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.
- C. A player may tryout in the state association in which he or she is eligible to be registered. A player may not tryout for ODP in more than one state association
 - 1. All players will advance to Regional and National Camps by having participated in their respective State and Regional ODP, except as follows:
 - a. A National coach shall make the final selection of players who will compete internationally and may add, with the approval of the National Director of Coaching, a player overlooked in the selection process.
 - b. The Regional Coach may identify and place, in consultation with the Regional Administrator, a player on a Regional Team without previous play in the program.
 - c. Players who have been called up to the National Team Pool, yet have not participated in their respective regional selections, will be considered, nonetheless, a part of their regional pool for the ODP selection year. This will allow all players who have participated at the National Pool level but who, through injury, cuts or other reasons not of the players own doing, are not participating with the National Team, an opportunity to continue in the ODP. Further, National Team players will be considered members of their respective regional teams when available for participation in regional team activities.
 - 2. USYS birth date verification documents will be the documents accepted by the ODP for verification of birth date and citizenship.
 - a. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a uniform services identification passport, alien registration card issued by the United States government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age or a certification of an American citizen born abroad

issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

- b. Citizenship rules as required by the USOC are to be followed, i.e., if citizenship residency eligibility requirements can be met by the date of the next international event that a player can participate in, that player may be placed on a Regional Team or participate in a Regional Camp. Each case would have to be reviewed individually by the Regional Administrator.
- c. For ODP, a youth player is one who has not reached the age of nineteen (19).
- d. United States citizens residing out of the geographical area of the United States are eligible for participation in this program.
- e. Any registered soccer player is eligible for consideration provided that he or she meets the age requirements for the established age group.

3. A player may tryout in the state association in which he or she is eligible to be registered. A player may not tryout for ODP in more than one state association.

D. Adherence to Policies. All states and regions of the USYS must follow Regional and National ODP rules and policies. For states or regions failing to comply with such established ODP rules and policies, as published, the USYS Olympic Development Committee will refer such matters to the USYS Board of Directors for disciplinary action.

E. Code of Conduct:

A person participating in any activity of the USYS ODP, including regional and state programs, is expected to conduct himself / herself in a manner which benefits worthy representatives of the United States and in conformity with the tradition of the Olympic Games.

Further, players shall be under the strict supervision of their administrators and coaches conforming to any rules set up for their team.

Further, any person who participates in violation of rules of good conduct or an applicable rule of USYS, the USYS ODP, but not limited to governments, Olympic Development Training Centers, colleges, hotels and airlines, shall be subject to penalties, including the rescission of participation rights, as may be appropriate in the circumstance.

In the case of an infraction of the above, the appropriate ODP Committee shall put forth a recommendation to the USYS Board of Directors for approval. As always, any sanctions taken against a player, coach, state, league, club, etc, would carry through to all affiliates, i.e., the Amateur Division of the Federation.

14.1. STYSA PARTICIPATION IN THE USYS ODP

- A. The purpose of the STYSA ODP is to identify highly skilled players who have a high likelihood of being chosen to the Region III ODP Team. It is not the purpose of the STYSA ODP to develop the elite STYSA player or state ODP Team.
- B. The primary responsibility for the development of players belongs to the clubs; thus ODP should not interfere with regular club play.
- C. STYSA's responsibility in regards to development is to identify and select the state's highly skilled players to compete with and against each other and facilitate these players' exposure to the Regional and National ODPs.

14.2 **STYSA ODP PARTICIPATION ADMINISTRATION**

- A. Functions of the ODP Committee – It will be the responsibility of the STYSA ODP Committee to plan and administer STYSA's ODP Program in accordance with USYS policies and procedures; and the rules and procedures contained herein.
1. STYSA ODP Committee executive group will consist of the Executive Vice President, Eastern District Vice-President, and Western District Vice-President. The purpose of the executive group will be to review and set policy for the STYSA ODP. The STYSA Executive Vice-President will serve as Chairperson of the executive group.
 2. The STYSA ODP Committee working group shall consist of the Executive Vice-President, STYSA Director of Coaching, the Girls and Boys ODP Regional Administrators, the Eastern and Western District ODP State Administrators, and the STYSA State Office liaison. The STYSA Executive Vice-President will serve as Chairperson of the working group.
 3. STYSA Executive Vice-President may name STYSA ODP Committee advisory members with the approval of the STYSA President.

B. STYSA ODP-related Disciplinary Action

1. Disciplinary action for misconduct or unacceptable behavior off the field, defined as violations of published rules or codes of conduct, on the part of players, coaches, and other participants of the STYSA ODP will be handled by the STYSA ODP Committee working group. If necessary, a Disciplinary Hearing may be called to investigate and decide allegations of misconduct as defined in 4.2.5. of the D&P Procedures. Disciplinary action may follow as defined in 4.2.6. of the D&P Procedures. Appeals will follow the line of jurisdiction as defined in 4.4, D&P Procedures, starting at 4.4.1.(b).
2. A player may be sent home at the parent's expense for violation of a rule that specifies this punishment and that is acknowledged by the parent or guardian prior to the event.
3. In addition to the rules of common sense and social behavior, players must adhere to the following:

Any player who drives himself to the event must relinquish vehicle keys to the event administrator at the beginning of and for the duration of the event.

NO alcoholic beverages

NO explosives or flammable devices of any kind.

NO drugs other than those specifically prescribed and brought to the attention of the Coach / Administrator.

NO girls in boys rooms, or boys in girls rooms.

NO guests in rooms (other than event players).

NO foul or abusive language.

NO unauthorized switching of rooms.

NO players allowed in any unauthorized vehicles.

NO kicking of balls, horseplay, or defacement of walls, ceilings, floor coverings or furnishings in housing facilities.

NO cleated shoes in any facility.

NO players are permitted to leave the central facility (even with parents).

DO respect other event participants' rights and property.

4. EVERY adult at the event is to be treated with respect and courtesy.
5. This list is not all-inclusive. A team coach or administrator may have additional policies to be followed. Every player will sign the ODP Player Code of Conduct and is expected to conduct herself / himself at all times in a manner which is in keeping with representing STYSA, Region III, and USYS and will not bring discredit upon those entities. If a serious breach of discipline occurs, a player may be sent home immediately at the parent's expense by whatever means is most convenient for the program administrators. No reimbursement of fees will be made to the dismissed player or the player's family.

C. STYSA-RELATED ODP EVENTS

1. The STYSA ODP Committee working group shall determine in which STYSA and Region III events its players participate.
2. Each STYSA ODP "team" must have at least two (2) adults (coach / administrator), one of whom must be identified as the administrator. The administrator is responsible for assuring the players are supervised at all times. At least one of the adults is to accompany the players everywhere they go. Assuming players are old enough to know how to conduct themselves or telling them to conduct themselves properly is not sufficient.

D. STYSA SELECTION PROCESS

1. **Scouting:** STYSA scouts will identify players in conjunction with input from club coaches and trainers. Selection is based upon players' performance throughout their club season.
2. **Open Trials:** In order to further identify players who may have been missed, open trials may be held at the discretion of the STYSA ODP Committee working group. STYSA staff and the STYSA Director of Coaching will evaluate players.
3. **State Pools:** Pools of players per age group may be named at the discretion of the STYSA ODP Committee working group. These pools will be evaluated during training sessions by the age level's head coach. A final pool of players will be named at the end of the last training session.
4. **State Team:** A final group of up to 18 players and several alternates will be named in late Spring. These players will be invited to attend Regional Camp or a Regional activity in which teams and / or players are evaluated by Region III Staff for participation in the Regional Pool.
5. The State Director of Coaching has the authority to add a player who has not previously participated in the program to the selection process at any time.

E. STYSA INTRODUCTORY AGE PROGRAM

The Under-14 age group is an introductory division of the STYSA ODP. Any STYSA player may enroll for participation in this introductory program provided he or she meets the age requirements and is registered with STYSA. STYSA State Staff conducts several sessions geared at exposing players to the STYSA ODP process. More specific details regarding this introductory program can be found in the STYSA ODP Informational Guide that is updated annually.

F. STYSA FINANCIAL AID POLICIES

1. Requests for financial aid must be made by January 1, 2004 for all events.
2. No financial aid shall be provided for the introductory program.
3. Non-introductory program event financial aid shall be based on the following formula:
 - a. First year:

If the annual gross household income is less than or equal to \$25,000, full scholarship shall be provided.

If the annual gross household income is more than \$25,000, a calculation of \$5,000 per dependent greater than 1 will be utilized to determine eligibility for financial aid (e.g., full scholarship for players with annual household income of \$30,000 with 2 dependents; \$35,000 with 3 dependents; \$40,000 with 4 dependents; \$45,000 with 5 dependents; etc.)
 - b. Second, third, fourth years: Financial aid available only to players who were selected to the Region III team in the previous year and who met above noted criteria.