

# NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### OVERVIEW AND FAQs



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The North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) established its Olympic Development Program (NTX ODP) in the late 1970's. NTX ODP provides a competitive learning environment to enhance the development of our athletes; ultimately preparing players for success at regional, national, and international levels of play.

### **NTX ODP Mission Statement**

Our mission is to create a positive, competitive, and inspiring learning environment that is unique and conducive to the enhanced development of both players and coaches.



NTX ODP offers many benefits, including training and playing with the best players in one's age group, instruction from highly-qualified coaches, competition against other states' ODP teams, exposure to regional team, national team, and college coaches, and the opportunity to represent one's state, region, or country in competition.

### **NTX ODP Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **TRYOUTS**

***My child is in NTX ODP. Does he/she have to go through the NTX ODP Open Tryouts again?***

No; once a player makes the NTX ODP Player Pool, they will be invited to continue their participation the following year. As long as players remain in "good standing" by maintaining a current registration, their payments, and continuing their participation in their pool, they will continue to be invited back year after year without being subject to further tryouts.

***My child was in NTX ODP, but took a year off. Does he/she have to go through Open Tryouts again?***

Yes; if there is a lapse in registration/participation in NTX ODP, players must go through NTX ODP Open Tryouts again to re-enter into NTX ODP.

***My child was in ODP in a different state association. Does he/she have to go through NTX ODP Open Tryouts?***

Yes; NTX ODP does not have a "transfer" policy between states. Therefore, all players are subject to open tryouts when moving to a new state association.

### ***When are NTX ODP Open Tryouts?***

NTX ODP Open tryouts take place annually and registration for the Open tryouts can be found on the NTX website and are announced on “The Pitch”. Tryouts information is also announced under the ODP tab on the NTX Soccer website at <http://www.ntxsoccer.org/>, Twitter, & via email blasts through GotSoccer as available.

### ***How is player eligibility determined?***

Eligibility for NTX ODP is determined by the player’s birth date, not their soccer year (i.e. a child born in 2001 is an '01 in NTX ODP); NTX ODP goes by calendar year, not school year.

### ***My child is a year too young for tryouts, but is an exceptional soccer player for his/her age. Can he/she register to attend the tryouts?***

NTX ODP’s first, and foremost, concern is to ensure the safety of every player anytime they are on the pitch. Though NTX ODP player eligibility is based upon age purity (calendar year in which the player was born), we recognize there are some exceptionally talented players who “play up”. As a result, NTX ODP will consider allowing younger players to try out only under the following provisions:

- The player’s parents, coach, and club DOC must understand that the player may be a full two years younger than our youngest ODP age group. There will be vast differences in the physical and mental development of the players.
- The club coach and club DOC will discuss the player in question. The DOC must feel that the player is developmentally capable, and able, to compete mentally, physically, emotionally, technically, and tactically with players who are one-two years older without a high risk of undue harm or injury.
- The club DOC may then contact Gary Williamson, NTSSA DOC, to confirm that the club DOC believes that the player should be allowed to participate in NTX ODP tryouts on an exception basis.
- The player may, or may not, receive approval to register for tryouts. The decision will be made by Gary Williamson based on the referral received.

### ***My child plays on a Club or Rec Soccer team. Can he/she still participate in NTX ODP? If so, how many games will he/she play?***

NTX ODP is different from the “regular soccer” players and parents are used to. It is a developmental program. This means players receive a training schedule, not a game schedule. The only time players compete in games is if they are selected, and register, to participate in events NTX ODP attends, South Region Summer Trials or Developmental Camp. Therefore, since NTX ODP is a developmental program intended to enhance a player’s performance whether they play Club, or Rec Soccer, they may play both.

### ***My child plays ECNL or US Club Pre-Academy. Can he/she still try out and participate in NTX ODP?***

Yes; players may play both NTX ODP and ECNL or US Club Pre-Academy, and are encouraged/welcomed to do so. To play both, players must complete a dual registration US Youth Soccer Association to be eligible. To register with US Youth Soccer Association, players go to their NTSSA Home Association (complete list of NTSSA Home Associations may be found at <http://www.ntxsoccer.org/youth/>), and register as a Non-Rostered player.

***My child does not play Club or Rec soccer. Can he/she still try out and participate in NTX ODP?***

Yes; all they have to do is register with US Youth Soccer Association as a Non-Rostered player. To register as a Non-Rostered player with US Youth Soccer Association, players go to their NTSSA Home Association (complete list of NTSSA Home Associations may be found at <http://www.ntxsoccer.org/youth/>).

***What does the Tryouts Fee include?***

For players born in 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003 or 2002 the tryouts will be over two days, with one two-hour session on each day. Players are HIGHLY encouraged to attend as many of the dates as possible to ensure the best possible evaluation(s) for acceptance to NTX ODP. Players should attend the dates in which they are available whenever possible. The coaches will evaluate the players during the sessions in which they do participate.

For players born in 2007 or 2008, the tryouts will be over three days, with one three-hour session on each day. Players are HIGHLY encouraged to attend as many of the dates as possible to ensure the best possible evaluation(s) for acceptance to NTX ODP. Players should attend the dates in which they are available whenever possible. The coaches will evaluate the players during the sessions in which they do participate.

***My child cannot make it to one of the tryout dates, may run late, or may need to leave early. Is this okay?***

We encourage players to attend all tryout sessions available if possible, but their Club/Rec team takes priority over ODP. It is better for a player to arrive late, than not at all. Players may leave early if necessary. The more exposure they can get to the coaches during the tryouts process, the better.

***How many players will be selected to NTX ODP from Open Tryouts?***

There is not a specified number (no min/max) of players accepted to the Player Pools. Pool Players will be selected based on evaluation of performance and ability.

***How will my child know if he/she has been selected for NTX ODP from Open Tryouts?***

5 - 10 business days after the last tryout session, each player will receive a "Letter of Notification" via email notifying them about the outcome of the tryouts. Please ensure that your contact information is accurate when you complete your registration. If you have not received an email after 10 business days, please email Joe Weber, NTSSA ODP Specialist, at [joe@ntxsoccer.org](mailto:joe@ntxsoccer.org).

**WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER A PLAYER IS SELECTED TO NTX ODP**

***When do I need to register my NTX ODP child for the next year's season?***

Due to the NTSSA fiscal year not ending until August 31st, registration for the next year's season may not occur before September 1st. Therefore, all NTX ODP players in "Good Standing" will receive their invitation email the first week of September, asking them to register.

***What is the cost for the NTX ODP Player Pool?***

The 2018/2019 Pool Fee is \$360 for the entire year. Players may pay in full at the time of registration, or they may select to pay in 3 easy payments.

*\*Selected teams will be formed to attend Developmental Camp or South Region Summer Trials in the summer. All Pool Fees must be paid in full in order to participate in NTX ODP, and to be eligible for selection to NTX ODP events. More information about the South Region Summer Trials becomes available after the selection process late spring.*

***My child was born in 2008. Will he/she train with the 2007 birth year players this year?***

Yes; the 2007 & 2008 birth year NTX ODP players will train in a combined pool for the 2018/2019 soccer year. In September of 2019, the 2007 birth year players will break away into their own pool in the same way the 2006 birth year NTX ODP players did in the fall of 2018.

***I did not receive my invitation email. Is there anything wrong I should be aware of?***

The following are a few possible reasons players may not have received an email sent:

- The player may no longer be "Age Eligible" to participate in NTX ODP (i.e. 01 Boys and Girls).
- The player may not be in "Good Standing" with payments. If a player registered for an event, and still has not paid the event in full, they will not receive the email of invitation until their account is paid in full, and they are back in "Good Standing".
- Some email servers block GotSoccer as SPAM. As a result, we encourage NTX ODP families to have multiple emails in their GotSoccer player profiles. That way if one email fails, one, or the other, of the other emails will be received.
  - We also suggest having at least one Gmail account. So far, we have not had a complaint from a family with a Gmail email account in their GotSoccer player profile.

***My son/daughter is out on injury (i.e. torn ACL, broken arm/leg/clavicle, etc.). How do I register him/her to make sure they are not dropped from NTX ODP until released by their doctor?***

Please email Joe Weber [joe@ntxsoccer.org](mailto:joe@ntxsoccer.org) with a copy of the player's doctor's documentation for auditing purposes.

***When will the fall and spring NTX ODP training schedules be available?***

NTSSA does not own its own soccer fields; NTX ODP rents fields for training from the local Parks and Recreation Departments. Though the field requests are submitted to them long in advance, they are unable to provide us with the fall or spring field schedules until they have scheduled everyone else (i.e. leagues, rec programs, tournaments, etc. for both youth and adult soccer). As a result, we typically do not receive our fall field schedules until late September - early October, and spring field schedules until late January - early February.

***Once a player makes the ODP program, what is the time commitment?***

Players selected to NTX ODP, will be invited every fall to register in the Player Pool and train with their age/gender group. We schedule 10 2-hour training sessions per year on Sundays; 5 in the fall, 5 in the spring. We, like all others, are subject to cancellations due to inclement weather and/or tournaments receiving priority over our field reservations. Make-up trainings due to unforeseen cancellations are subject to field availability.

***My child cannot make it to one of the training dates, may run late, or may need to leave early. Is this okay?***

We encourage players to attend all training sessions available if possible, but their Club/Rec team takes priority over ODP. It is better for a player to arrive late, than not at all. Players may leave early if necessary.

***Do we travel to tournaments?***

Selected teams will only travel to events NTX ODP attends, Developmental Camp or South Region Summer Trials.

- Occasionally, NTX ODP is invited to travel and compete in “Friendlies” with other State ODP Programs (i.e. North Carolina, Cal-South, South Texas, Oklahoma, etc.). Sub-Regional Friendly Competitions are attended by teams consisting of selected players.
- Occasionally NTX ODP teams consisting of selected players will compete in tournaments such as the FC Dallas Showcase and other similar events.
- NTX ODP hosts a Sub-Regional Friendly Competition at the end of the spring season (annual date TBD) that, if selected to Developmental Camps or South Region Summer Trials, players will compete against available teams from the South Region (i.e. OK, LA, STX, etc.). Every player selected to attend the South Region Summer Trials in Alabama will be invited to attend the Sub-Regional Competition.

***Are the players assigned to a team, or teams, based upon their skill level?***

ODP players belong to a Player Pool, not a team. The only time teams are formed is if we travel to ODP Friendlies/Events, Developmental Camp or South Region Summer Trials during the year. Players are selected for ODP events, including South Region Summer Trials, based on “good standing” status and ranking in their Player Pool, in addition to player availability, by their head coach according to their ranking in the pool from the training session evaluations in which they attended.

***Does ODP take into account the players' team schedule when scheduling the training sessions?*** We do our best to schedule with as few conflicts as possible for the majority of the Player Pools. However, with the multiple leagues/soccer programs in North Texas, and limited field & coaching availability in DFW, this is not always possible. Should a player find themselves in jeopardy of losing their “good standing” status due to conflicts, please contact NTSSA ODP Specialist, Joe Weber [joe@ntxsoccer.org](mailto:joe@ntxsoccer.org), to discuss alternative options.

***When and where are trainings held?***

Trainings are scheduled in the DFW Metro area on TBD. The time and location depends on the field and coaching staff availability. Trainings may be scheduled in the morning, afternoon, or evening. We make every effort to schedule sessions after 12:00 pm when possible.

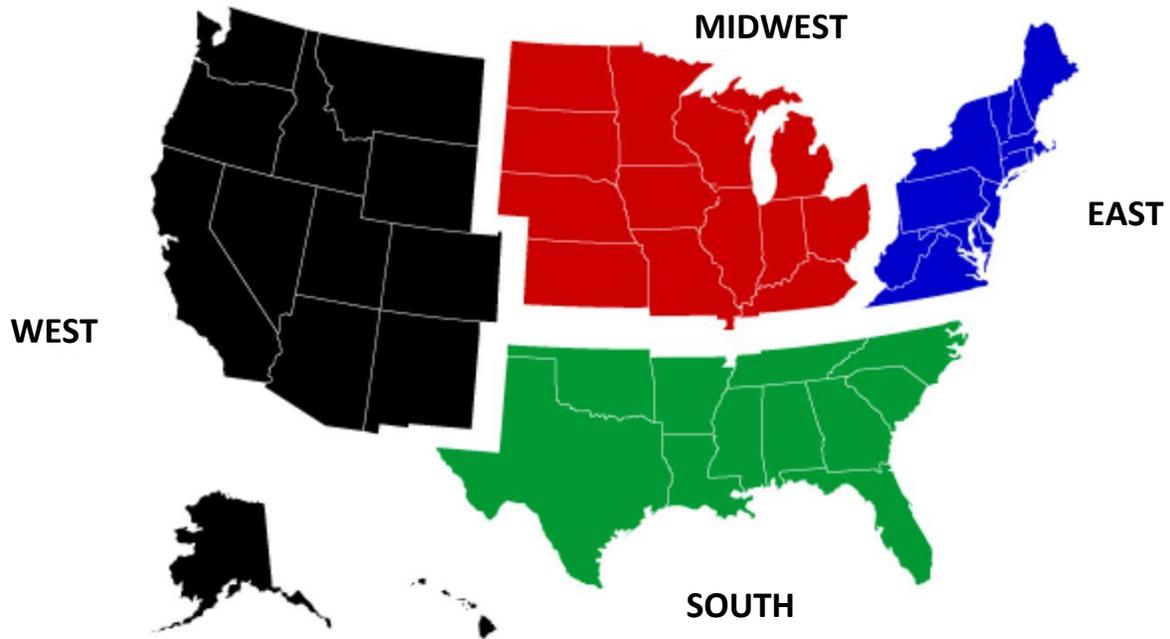
***How do we know if a practice has been changed or cancelled?***

To view the NTX ODP inclement weather policy, please go to the following link:

[http://www.ntxsoccer.org/inclement\\_weather/](http://www.ntxsoccer.org/inclement_weather/)

## **US Youth Soccer Breakdown**

US Youth Soccer is divided into four regions, each of which offers Regional Trials for state association teams in each eligible age group. North Texas is in the South Region (Previously Region III), along with South Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida.



### **EAST**

**Connecticut**  
**Delaware**  
**Maine**  
**Maryland**  
**Massachusetts**  
**New Hampshire**  
**New Jersey**  
**New York West**  
**New York East**  
**Pennsylvania West**  
**Pennsylvania East**  
**Rhode Island**  
**Vermont**  
**Virginia**  
**West Virginia**

### **MIDWEST**

**Illinois**  
**Indiana**  
**Iowa**  
**Kansas**  
**Kentucky**  
**Minnesota**  
**Michigan**  
**Missouri**  
**Nebraska**  
**North Dakota**  
**Ohio North**  
**Ohio South**  
**South Dakota**  
**Wisconsin**

### **SOUTH**

**Alabama**  
**Arkansas**  
**Florida**  
**Georgia**  
**Louisiana**  
**Mississippi**  
**North Carolina**  
**Oklahoma**  
**South Carolina**  
**Tennessee**  
**Texas North**  
**Texas South**

### **WEST**

**Alaska**  
**Arizona**  
**California North**  
**California South**  
**Colorado**  
**Hawaii**  
**Idaho**  
**Montana**  
**Nevada**  
**New Mexico**  
**Oregon**  
**Utah**  
**Washington**  
**Wyoming**

Regional Trials are held during the summer and are designed to provide development, high-level competition, and training for participating players. During the trials, players who perform at the highest level of play are identified for possible regional and/or national team pool or team participation.



North Texas state teams participate in South Region Summer Trials every summer. The specific dates of the South Region Summer Trials vary each year and are based on the age of the teams; they are held in late June and July of each year. The South Region Summer Trials for boys are held on the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; girls are held on the University of Montevallo campus in Montevallo, Alabama. North Texas state team rosters are selected by our coaches. Traditionally, we send teams from all of our pools except for the youngest pool to the South Region Summer Trials.

Each year, all players, boys and girls, in our youngest pool are invited to attend Developmental Camp.

## **ODP DEVELOPMENTAL CAMPS AND SOUTH REGION SUMMER TRIALS CAMPS**

### ***When is ODP Developmental Camp or South Region Summer Trials?***

Beginning 2017, North Texas & South Texas youngest two age groups attend ODP Developmental Camp together on campus at Texas A&M in College Station. Players are housed in the university dormitories.  
Date: annually in June

\*EVERY NTX ODP Pool Player from the youngest player pools will receive an invitation to the Developmental Camps.

Once age eligible, selected NTX ODP Pool Players attend South Region Summer Trials in Alabama. They may travel by car, or plane, depending on transportation costs and family choices; the boys attend in Tuscaloosa, and the girls attend in Montevallo. While attending the South Region Summer Trials in Alabama, players are evaluated in the same way our NTX ODP Open Tryouts are conducted for possible selection to the South Region ODP Pool for their age/gender.

\*All accommodations regarding food and lodging for camps and summer trials are made by NTSSA, and cost is covered by the event fee.

### ***How much does Developmental Camp or South Region Summer Trials cost?***

The camp/summer trials fee schedule for 2018 is/was as follows:

'06/'07 Developmental Day Camp in McKinney, TX was \$90

'01 – '06 Girls South Region Summer Trials Residential Camp in Montevallo, AL was \$975

'01 – '06 Boys South Region Summer Trials Residential Camp in Tuscaloosa, AL was \$975

*\*Camp/summer trials fees are subject to change from one year to the next depending on the costs factored in the event. Developmental Camps & South Region Summer Trials Dates: June - July TBA*

### ***Is there any type of financial aid or fundraising available?***

There are a limited number of PARTIAL/FULL scholarships available for the South Region Summer Trials Residential Camp fees ONLY. Scholarships are given on a financial need only basis. Application forms are available through the North Texas Office at camp/summer trials time only. Donations are another great way for players to raise funds to help pay for ODP events, Developmental Camps, and South Region Summer Trials. Please contact the NTSSA office for a document to supply donors for income tax purposes.

### ***Which and how many teams go to South Region Summer Trials or Developmental Camps?***

Below is a team chart of the 2017/2018 ODP year:

<b>Boys</b>	<b># of Teams</b>	<b>Location of Camp</b>	<b>Camp Type</b>
2001	1 Team of 18 Players	University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL	South Region Trials
2002	1 Team of 18 Players	University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL	South Region Trials
2003	1 Team of 18 Players	University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL	South Region Trials
2004	1-2 Teams of 18 Players	University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL	South Region Trials
2005	2-3 Teams of 18 Players	University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL	South Region Trials
2006/2007	3-4 Teams of 18 Players	TBD	Developmental

<b>Girls</b>	<b># of Teams</b>	<b>Location of Camp</b>	<b>Camp Type</b>
2001	1 Team of 18 Players	University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL	South Region Trials
2002	1 Team of 18 Players	University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL	South Region Trials
2003	1 Team of 18 Players	University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL	South Region Trials
2004	1-2 Teams of 18 Players	University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL	South Region Trials
2005	2-3 Teams of 18 Players	University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL	South Region Trials
2006/2007	3-4 Teams of 18 Players	TBD	Developmental

**\*NOTE:** The above number of teams and players is subject to change.

**NTX ODP Contact Information**

***Who do we contact if we have questions?***

Joe Weber - 214-297-5022 (Ext. 107) [joe@ntxsoccer.org](mailto:joe@ntxsoccer.org), NTSSA ODP Specialist

Gary Williamson - 214-297-5022 (Ext. 105) [gary@ntxsoccer.org](mailto:gary@ntxsoccer.org), NTSSA Director of Coaching and Player Development

Rob Martella – 214-297-5022 (Ext. 102) [rob@ntxsoccer.org](mailto:rob@ntxsoccer.org), NTSSA Director of Operations

Lori Rhodes – [lrhodes@ntxsoccer.org](mailto:lrhodes@ntxsoccer.org), NTSSA Board Chair

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