North Carolina Youth Soccer Association
Olympic Development Program
Parent Information Packet
2019-20

Thursday, September 19, 2019

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Players and Parents:

Welcome to the NC Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program! This information packet describes the purposes of the North Carolina Olympic Development Program and its focus upon the growth and development of soccer players within North Carolina. Also included are a listing of North Carolina Olympic Development Program Events and a fee schedule (page 8). The event and fee information are preliminary and subject to change.

The ODP program is designed to complement a player's club commitment. US Youth Soccer's ODP is not only the first and original ODP program, it's the only elite player development program that can claim members of Major League Soccer and Women's Professional Soccer Leagues, as well as most current and past national and youth team members, as alumni.

The North Carolina Olympic Development Program demands a commitment to excellence as the program offers the experience of being developed, exposed and identified by some of the State and Region's top collegiate, youth and US National team coaches! Those participants who are selected will be representing our state at an elite level of youth soccer.

If you have any questions about the evaluation trainings or the Olympic Development Program, please email or call. Again, we thank you for your time and commitment. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Art Rex
VP of Player and Coaching Development

Bill Furjanic
Technical Director of Coaching Education & Player Development

John Trice
Assistant Technical Director of ODP

Keri Jones
ODP Administrator/Sports Medicine Services Coordinator

This information packet is designed to educate both parents and players about the ODP process. Please utilize this information packet as a tool to answer most of your questions as well as give you an insight into our ODP program.

The US Youth Soccer / North Carolina Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program

Philosophy

To identify players of the highest caliber on a continuing and consistent basis, which will lead to increased success for the U.S. National Teams in the international arena.

Purpose

The US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (ODP) was formed in 1977 to identify a pool of players in each age group from which a National Team would be selected for international competition; to provide high- level training to benefit and enhance the development of players at all levels; and, through the use of carefully selected and licensed coaches, develop a mechanism for the exchange of ideas and curriculum to improve all levels of coaching.

Key Changes

- Alignment of Boy's ODP (BODP) and Girl's ODP (GODP) programs across all four regions
- Implementation of an Invitational Identification Camp for each region
- Formation of a nation-wide scouting network to identify players
- Creation of a National Training Camp (NTC) for select players from each region
- Establishment of an ODP National Team, fully funded by US Youth Soccer, which will compete in international events

The Olympic Development Program Provides Superior Benefits

The Olympic Development Program is an integrated and comprehensive approach that provides benefits superior to other elite player concepts:

- Focus upon the individual player.
- Development of the individual player is enhanced as he or she trains and plays against the best players in his or her age group.
- Development of the individual player is enhanced because he or she must learn to adjust to varying groups of teammates. This requires the player to respond to the varying styles, strengths, weaknesses and abilities of the other elite players, rather than becoming dependent on habits of a fixed group.
- The highest quality of competition against the best of the best selected from the entire state rather than one or two associations.
- Exposure to regional and national team coaches.

- Exposure to college coaches within the environment of the highest quality competition.
- The opportunity to represent North Carolina, the South Region and the United States in domestic and international competitions.

How Are Players Selected?

Players are selected in North Carolina based on evaluation trainings conducted by the NC ODP Staff which consists of experienced college and club coaches. These coaches are selected by the State Select Standing Committee based on the coaches' ability to identify and train players with superior talents. Players can also be invited into the ODP program if they are scouted and identified by our extensive ODP staff and/or by US Youth Soccer scouts.

Selection of Olympic Development Program players is not an easy task. Players are evaluated on the four components that make up a soccer player:

1. Technique
2. Tactics
3. Fitness and Athletic Ability
4. Psychological Component (attitude/desire for excellence)

What Will Happen at Evaluation Trainings? (Policies and Procedures)

- ODP goes by birth year and you must be evaluated in your age group for ODP regardless of what year you play in club. The age groups available for Boys & Girls for the 2019-20 NC ODP season are: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 & 2008. **Exception: players born in 2009 are eligible for evaluation with the 2008s for the 2019-20 season.*
- Dates and locations of ODP evaluation trainings, training sessions and events can be found on the ODP Calendar on our website http://www.ncsoccer.org/odp.
- Please check the calendar on the website and be mindful of the day and times of evaluation trainings as well as training sessions. They may change throughout the year (for example, one age group may not always train on Saturday mornings).
- All players are expected to be at all three evaluation trainings for their respective age group. If a player is unable to attend a Training Evaluation, it is not held against them. It simply limits their total opportunities to be evaluated for selection moving forward.
- The 2008 age group will be the only age group split up by Region (East and West). Once you select a Region at registration, you cannot switch so please be mindful of locations for all evaluation trainings and training sessions throughout the year. **For help in selecting the correct Region, please feel free to email Keri at odp@ncsoccer.org. For reference, in years past, players who live from Burlington west select the WEST region, those who live from Mebane east select the EAST region.*
- Players will receive two dri-fit numbered shirts which they use for evaluation trainings and throughout the year at trainings and events. This assigned number is how you will be identified by coaches and on our results pages through the year. In the 2008 age group, numbers will NOT duplicate across regions. *We do not take size requests for ODP shirts but will do our best to accommodate if necessary.*
- Coaches will receive a list with players' designated numbers and name only.

Communication with Identification and Selection

- All US Soccer affliated players are welcome to register to attend evaluation trainings but all players must currently be registerd with NCYSA (please see our FAQ for more details).
- All Players must meet the USSF minimum International Clearance (ITC) requirements if applicable (please see our FAQ for more details).
- **Players can be released from the program at two different points throughout the ODP season: after training evaluations and after the February training session.**
- Payment for training sessions are required (unless training session is listed as optional on the ODP calendar), whether a player is in attendance or not, to stay in the ODP Program. **Similar to Club dues, ODP fees are required regardless of attendance as budgeting plans for field usage, staff and equipment are pre-determined.*
- Payment is due no later than 9 AM the Monday prior to training. Attendance is notated during the payment process. If attendance status changes after you have completed payment, please email Keri Jones, ODP Administrator at odp@ncsoccer.org. You will not be able to access your players account until a new payment is due.
- Payment can be made online, by mailing in a check or over the phone by credit card. **PLEASE DO NOT PAY AT THE FIELD.**
- If withdrawing from the ODP program please notify Keri Jones, ODP Administrator, via email of your intentions at odp@ncsoccer.org Players need to notify the NC ODP Administrator to formally withdraw from the program or they will be responsible for payment for all training sessions in which they were invited before formally withdrawing whether or not they attended.

What happens if I miss a Training Evaluation?

Players are highly encouraged to attend all 3 training evaluations for their age group. Missing a training evaluation will not be held against a player however please remember that for each missed training evaluation, it is one less opportunity for that player to be evaluated by the ODP staff.

Remember that you are responsible for the entire registration (training evaluation) fee regardless of attendance status.

What happens if I miss a Training Session?

Players are being evaluated at every training session. Missing a training session will not be held against a player however please remember that for each missed training session, it is one less opportunity for that player to be evaluated by the ODP staff.

Coaches plan their sessions early in the week based on the number of players attending and we plan for coaches based on expected attendance numbers. The sooner we know the number of players missing the better we can plan. Attendance is notated during the payment process.

Attendance/payment should be completed no later than **Monday at 9 AM** prior to a training session. Once you have completed payment for a particular session, you will not be able to change your attendance status in the system. You will need to email Keri Jones with this information at odp@ncsoccer.org as soon as possible.

Remember that you are responsible for the training session fee regardless of attendance status.

What happens if I am selected for a Subregional Event but can't attend?

Invited players who can not attend a Subregional event will not complete the online RSVP and payment request. They need to send an email to Keri Jones at odp@ncsoccer.org to decline their invitation. No payment is due for a Subregional event if you are selected but can't attend.

If a player needs to decline their invitation to a Subregional event, it will not be held against that player. They will remain in their respective age group pool for selection for the next training/event.

What are the ODP Regional Championships?

US Youth Soccer is divided into four Regions. North Carolina is in the South Region. Beginning in 2019/2020, the South Region will host an ODP Regional Championship. This is an important event in the identification process and the ODP Scouting Network. In addition to the Scouting Network, college coaches and MLS scouts will be in attendance. The championships will host age groups from 12U to 17U with group games against other state teams from our region, semi-finals and finals taking place across a long weekend to crown a regional champion in each age group.

Participation in the ODP Regional Championships is by invite only. North Carolina ODP will take one team per age group/per gender to the applicable ODP Regional Championship event for that age group.

What is the South Region ODP ID Camp?

The National ODP cycle starts in July when all regions hold their Identification Camps. Beginning in July 2019, USYS will implement a new ODP camp structure that will provide more consistency across regions and better opportunities for participating players. **Under the new camp structure, only identified players will be invited to attend the South Region ODP ID camp. All invited players will attend camp as individuals.** Players are identified by the USYS ODP Scouting Network at events such as the NC ODP training evaluations, NC ODP training sessions, Subregional Events & South Region Championships. There will be six boys/ five girls identification age groups for these camps: 12U to a combined 16/17U for girls, 12U to 17U for boys.

Invitation
NC players being invited to the South Region ODP ID camp will be contacted by the US Youth Soccer South Region ODP Administrator in the Spring of 2020.

Registration
Each player, with assistance from his or her parent/guardian, will register through the platform provided by US Youth Soccer. Required documentation and camp payments will be handled directly by USYS and the South Region ODP Administrator. **The camp fee for 2020 is $600 per player and includes his or her training kit, room, and meals**. Players are responsible for the cost of their travel to and from camp.

Camp Structure and Outcome
The ODP Invitational Identification Camp will be 5 days long. During camp, players will receive training, participate in classroom sessions, play in intra-camp games, and compete against elite external teams. The intensive camp atmosphere provides ODP Regional Coaches the opportunity to work with identified players in a constructive and competitive environment.

At the conclusion of the Region ODP ID Camps, the region staff will select players in all age groups to form Regional Training Pools. Region staff will also name the top 18 players from within each age group that will be invited to attend the Inter-regional events.

What are the Players Expectations?

NC Youth Soccer Association has rapidly become a leader within our Region largely due to the strong clubs/associations in North Carolina. NC Youth Soccer Association provides several avenues for the players to improve, but it is their own enthusiasm, and commitment to excellence, as well as the support from their club coaches, that promotes them to the State, Region and National Teams.

The Olympic Development Program expects a lot from its players:

- Commitment to Excellence.
- Work Hard – Play Smart!
- Positive representation of yourself, your family, your team, your club and your state
- Absolutely no bullying.
- Attendance – players are expected to attend all training/competitive events, absences for a training session must be notated during the payment process.
- Please advise your Director of Coaching, Coach or Team Manager to avoid scheduling games on ODP dates.

What are the Parents Responsibilities?

NC Youth Soccer Association appreciates the time and commitment parents make on the behalf of their sons and daughters. Please be aware of the following Parents Responsibilities:

- ***IT IS THE PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK E-MAILS AND OUR WEBSITE PRIOR TO ALL TRAINING DATES. FIELDS CAN BE CLOSED UNEXPECTEDLY FOR REASONS OTHER THAN WEATHER.***
- Please pay attention to ***ALL*** deadlines and instructions for various activities. Adherence to these dates is the key to reducing costs.
- ***IT IS THE FAMILIES' RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPOND TO CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE STATE OFFICE***. Not doing so in a timely fashion may jeopardize the players' opportunity to participate in an event.
- ***Due to Risk Management restrictions, parents are not permitted on the sidelines during evaluation trainings and/or training sessions throughout the year.***
- Please advise your child's club team's Director of Coaching, Coach or Team Manager to avoid scheduling games on ODP dates.
- Parents are responsible for transporting players to and from training sessions, sub-regional events and South Region camp.
- It is highly recommended that if you are registering more than one child in the ODP program (even if they are twins), that you use a different email address for each player if possible. This will help reduce any confusion in automated communications sent out by our system database.
- Please feel free to email the NC ODP Technical staff (John – john@ncsoccer.org or Keri – odp@ncsoccer.org) with any questions or concerns.

2019-20 NC ODP Fee Structure

Evaluation Training Fees (covers 3 evaluation sessions, registration fee and 2 dri-fit shirts)	$150.00	If registered before October 31st – early bird fee.
	$175.00	Beginning November 1st. On-line registration closes at midnight the Wednesday night prior to each age group's first evaluation
	$200.00	Walk-up fee if not pre-registered for training evaluations (walkups will only be accepted during the training evaluation period for each age group)
Training Sessions (covers fees for coaches, fields, equipment, medical, admin fees)	$50.00	$50.00 per session; If a session is listed on the ODP calendar as optional, training fees are not due for that session if you do not attend. If sessions are cancelled due to weather, any paid will roll over to the training session or refunded if it is the last one for an age group
January Sub-Regional Boys and Girls	$240.00	Covers fees for Friday night training, event, coaches, fields, equipment, medical, admin fees plus gear (*players will receive NC ODP shorts and socks) *does not include hotel, meals or transportation (*all age groups)
ODP South Region Championships Boys and Girls	$200.00	Covers fees for event, coaches, fields, equipment, medical, admin fees plus gear (*players will receive NC ODP uniforms) (*all age groups) *does not include hotel, meals or transportation
February Sub-Regional Boys and Girls (details TBA)	$190.00	Covers fees for event, coaches, fields, equipment, medical, admin fees plus gear (*players will receive NC ODP swag item TBD) *does not include hotel, meals or transportation
2008 May Event (details TBA)	$190.00	Covers fees for event, coaches, fields, equipment, medical, admin fees plus gear (*players will receive NC ODP swag item TBD) *does not include hotel, meals or transportation (*2008 Boys & Girls)
South Region ID Boys and Girls	$600.00	Covers fees for camp plus room and board (*does not include transportation) – paid directly to South Region (*all age groups)

The NC Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program is financially self-supporting. It will be the policy of this administration to keep the total cost of this program as efficient as possible. Costs are determined by facilities, hotels, coaches, medical, entry fees and other projected miscellaneous expenses.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available for those that demonstrate a need. Families that need to apply for financial assistance can request an application by contacting Keri Jones, ODP Administrator, at odp@ncsoccer.org. **Please note that all players – regardless of their need for financial assistance - may be required to pay a portion of their registration fees.* Applications that are not complete will not be submitted to the ODP Scholarship Committee; they will be returned to you for completion and re-submission prior to being considered.

Financial assistance is accepted on a rolling basis as we understand that people's situations can change unexpectedly, however we strongly suggest completed applications be received in the office by March 30th, 2020. Financial assistance is not retroactive and will only apply to fees accrued after your application has been approved. Please apply early as funds are limited.