



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ?



What are the benefits of my child participating in these programs?

Olympic Development soccer is very important to the U.S. national teams for obvious reasons. The programs are primarily set up for players to work their way through the system and obtain a position in the US National Teams. 80% of the current Men's and Women's National Teams from U14 through to the senior squads have been selected through a state program.

It is also important to all players for different reasons. Players get an opportunity to train under high level coaches and take that experience back to their club, team, high school, or wherever they play. The chance to expand their skills and refine their game is very important to them.

The hidden advantage of the Olympic Development Program is in the area of exposure to college and university coaches and scouts. Not only do ODP players receive training from college and university coaches at state, regional and national camp, many other coaches and scouts also attend the camps and look at the players.

There are many good reasons to at least give ODP a try. Even if you aren't successful the first time out, the experience itself will make you a better soccer player. You can only get better by playing against those at your level and above. The ODP program is designed to give each player the opportunity to find out how good he or she really is compared to others in the state.

Kentucky ODP has seen its players exceed at the regional and national level. Of the 700 players who participated in Kentucky ODP over the past two years, 36 were selected for the Regional Pool and 18 have participated in Regional Team events, 2 have participated in National Pool Events and 1 player has represented at the U18 National Team level.

Who is Eligible to participate?

Any soccer player is eligible for consideration in the ODP provided that he or she meets the age requirements for the established age group.

- A player may try out in a state in which he or she resides and is registered as a player. They are not permitted to try-out in another state.
- Players that reside within the state but are rostered as a player in another state may participate in their residing states program. If the player chooses to participate in the state that they are registered with the must seek permission from both state Directors of Coaching and can only participate up till the final state teams are selected.
- A player may not try out for the ODP in more than one state per year.

Try-Out Procedure

Players are selected on the basis of open tryouts. These tryouts are conducted by Kentucky Youth Soccer Staff coaches who are recognized for their ability to identify and train players with superior skills.

These events take place over two designated weekends; players must attend one of the two scheduled open tryouts to be eligible for selection to a State ODP Pool. **Players that attend both of the try-outs have a better opportunity of being selected.**

Players can register to attend the try-outs online at www.kysoccer.net or onsite at the try-out venue.



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Player selection process at open tryouts will proceed as follows:

- Each player who pre-registers for open tryouts will be pre-assigned a scrimmage vest coded by color and number.
- Upon arrival, each evaluator/coach will be given a list of vest colors and numbers that correspond with their respective age group.
- All and any players, who register on-site, will be assigned a vest and number, and at that time will be deemed eligible for evaluation.
- Coaches will not be given player names, and will only identify players by vest color and number.
- Players may not wear any item of clothing at the try-outs connected with clubs or high schools in the state of Kentucky.
- Players are not required to attend both try-outs however it is preferred. Those that do attend both have a better chance of being selected to the State Pool.
- At the conclusion of the tryouts, coaches will submit the list of their initial player pools to the Director of Coach and Player Development.
- The Pool List will then be posted on www.kysoccer.net up to 72 hours following the final try-outs

A player may also be identified and asked to join at anytime during the year. It is the KYSA State Coaches responsibility to provide the best players in their respective age groups. They will scout games throughout the year looking for player talent. Any player that is scouted will still have to be officially invited in by the state Director of Coaching.

Player recommendations need to be sent by a Club or High School coach to the Director of Coach & Player Development. Any recommendations sent by a parent or guardian will not be accepted.

Additional Selection Opportunities

A player, who did not attend open tryouts, can be scouted or brought into Pool Training Session for a one-time evaluation. In order for a player to be scouted, or granted an invitation for an alternative tryout, a letter of recommendation must be received by the Director of Coach and Player Development, no later than 14 days prior to the final scheduled try-out

- The letter of recommendation can come from any soccer coach within the community: high school coach, club, coach, etc.
- The letter must clearly state the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of both the player/s being recommended and the recommending coach.
- This letter should also include the name of the player/s team and the number that this player/s wears while playing with his/her team.
- This letter must be dated and signed by the coach, along with reasons as to why this particular coach feels this player would benefit from or be an asset to the Kentucky Olympic Development Program.
- The player's winter/spring team schedule should also be attached to the letter.

Once the letter of recommendation has been received by the State Director of Coach and Player Development, the player will either be scouted while playing with his/her team or the player will be contacted with an official invitation to attend a pool training session.

- If the scouted player is deemed material for the state pool, the player will receive notification to join the state pool.
- If the player is not deemed material for the state pool, the player will receive a notification indicating that this is the case.



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- All players will be required to pay when they register and letter has been received
- The player is entitled to a one-time evaluation, and should the age-group head coach choose to retain this player, this player's name will be added to the state pool on the state website within 7 days of the tryout.

Kentucky ODP is under no obligation whatsoever to retain a player in the program who has been recommended. This policy only guarantees this particular player a one-time scouting look or alternative tryout, providing that the requirements for recommendation have been met.

The Director of Coach and Player Development reserves the right to invite a player to tryout without a letter of recommendation if he personally sees the player play, or is aware of special circumstances that have previously prevented a player from trying out. No players will be invited in for a try-out after the final pool session of the season.

What is the State Pool?

Following the official open try-outs the pool will be named which is an initial group of players who are under consideration for selection to a final state team. After the final tryout there will be a number of state pool training events take place. During these sessions the players will practice and work with the state staff.

The youngest age group within the program will have a maximum of 60 players selected to the Pool. The other age groups will vary depending on the level of play and ability of players. Some of the age groups will be split by birth months (Jan-June- **Older** or July-Dec- **Younger**) however players can be moved at the discretion of the State Director of Coaching.

No player selected to an initial player pool will be released before the final state team is selected.

How many players are kept for the ODP Pools?

This varies by age and by group. Sometimes our staff invites more than the planned number to insure that they are getting another look at players. Below is a general number that the staff will keep for the ODP Pool, which is always subject to change depending on the level and ability of players at the try-out:

U17 boys and girls Up to 26-36 players
U16 boys and girls Up to 26-36 players
U15 boys and girls Up to 45-55 players
U14 boys and girls Up to 45-55 players
U13 boys and girls No reduction

Will there be specific training for Goalkeepers

Yes, throughout the try-outs and all of the pool training events players who specialize in playing as a Goalkeeper will receive specific training for this position. There may be some sessions where they will be integrated with the team from the beginning.

What is the State Squad?

Following the pool training sessions the pools will be reduced to a maximum of 23 players. This could be 46 players for those that have split birth months. The state squad will then attend and participate against other state associations in games or college showcase events.

The youngest age group will remain at a maximum of 60 players but will still participate in these events.



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What is the State Team?

For the two youngest Olympic Development age groups in each gender and maximum of 50 players can be selected to attend the regional camp. Two final state teams of 18 players will be selected for each age group that operates by split birth months.

For all other age groups in each gender, one final state team of 18 players will be chosen.

Final State teams will be announced in June on the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association website. State team coaches can then set up extra practice sessions for their age groups at their discretion.

Once the state team has been named **it is final** and no changes will be made unless an injury occurs to a player and an alternate needs to be placed on the official roster.

The alternate list is for a player who was not selected to a final state team, but has been designated as a possible replacement for a state team member who incurs an injury or illness that would prevent them from attending a state team function (this includes regional events).

What are Regional Camps?

US Youth Soccer is divided into four regions, each of which offers a regional camp for state association ODP teams in each eligible age group. Kentucky Youth Soccer is located in US Youth Soccer Region 2, along with Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio-North, Ohio-South, Missouri, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota. The camps are designed to provide the best quality of competition and training for participating players. During this training and competition, players who are capable of performing at or above the regional level of play are identified for possible national camp, or regional pool or team participation.

If my child makes the state team, what chances does he/she have of making the Regional Pool/Team?

People that look upon the ODP experience solely as a chance to have a shot at making the regional or national team, or who see it as a vehicle in which a college scholarship is to be obtained are rarely rewarded for their efforts. In fact, these individuals frequently are so disappointed that they drop out of the program after only one or two years.

Therefore, it is critical that the players and parents look upon this opportunity as a tremendous challenge. They should see what can be learned, put themselves in an environment that demands that they reach beyond their comfort level, strive to be the best that they can be, and improve as players and as people.

There are five primary levels in elite soccer:

Level 1: is making a travel/select team

Level 2: is making the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association State Pool

Level 3: is making the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association State Team



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Level 4: is making the Region II ODP Team

Level 5: is making the National Team, professional team, college team depending on how far your ability, standard of education, attitude, personality and desire can take you.

What happens if your child has a conflict with their club and an ODP event?

Special Thanks are extended to the club coaches who encourage their players to participate in the ODP process. Through their efforts these coaches are participants in the ODP process and the development of their players. These coaches have the best interest of their players in mind and have enough confidence in their own ability to allow their players to be trained by other coaches to reach their potential. In turn the ODP players bring honor to their coaches and clubs.

Although ODP takes precedence by law, the program tries not to conflict with regularly scheduled outdoor league play; high school soccer season, State Cup games, US Youth Soccer National championship Series Midwest Regional Championships and National Championship games, US Youth Soccer and US Soccer regional and national ODP events.

We respect that the clubs may have to schedule tournaments during our events. Due to the short amount of time that the state coaches are allocated to work with these players it is preferred that they attend the ODP event. The player is expected to make the decision on whether they attend the event with their club or with ODP. The decision will be respected and in return we expect every final decision made by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association State Staff to be respected as well.

The child that attends all of the scheduled events has a better opportunity of being selected for the final team; an attendance record will be kept.

If your child is not attending the ODP event you must contact your Age Group Administrator.

How much does it cost to participate in the programs?

The Olympic Development Programs are not a profit generating program. Some of the costs associated with ODP are field rental and maintenance; medical trainers and supplies; coaches stipends and associated travel expenses; hotel/university accommodations at State and/or Regional Events, meals at Regional Camp, ice; administrative costs; vehicle rental; university administrative costs; regional camp fees.

If your child goes through the whole Olympic Development Program for a season please budget approximately \$750 - \$1000 for the entire annual Kentucky Youth Soccer Association ODP process. The cost varies with the number of events.

The major cost is associated with the regional tournament/camps but remains below other camps, none of which have the distinction associated with the Olympic Development Program.

There are scholarships plans available for those individuals who need financial aid to be able to participate in the program. Those in need of financial support may apply to the Director of Coach & Player Development by completing the following required steps for application:

- Submit a letter of request to the Director of Coach and Player Development / State Coach, stating the circumstances that may render this player eligible to receive financial aid. This letter also must include the amount that the family in case can afford



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- Submit a letter from the player's affiliated soccer club verifying that similar alternate arrangements have been made on this player's behalf at the club level due to family financial constraints.

Fees for events are non-refundable unless the player is unable to compete due to an injury documented by appropriate medical professionals administering treatment to the player.