

**NORTH TEXAS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION
OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
HANDBOOK**



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The U.S. Youth Soccer/Texas Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program Mission and Purpose

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, ultimately preparing as many players as possible for the National Team level and the international arena.

Program Goals

- To provide a consistent structure for identification, selection, training, competition, and evaluation during the ODP Athlete Development Process.
- To appoint and maintain a highly qualified coaching staff for each age group.
- To effectively and efficiently identify, select, and train players providing them with sufficient evaluations & feedback so that they are enabled for State, Regional, and National Team Selection.
- To establish a schedule for training and activities for each age group and publish schedules several weeks in advance.
- To consistently & effectively communicate the selection process and schedules to players and parents utilizing website and emails on a regular basis.

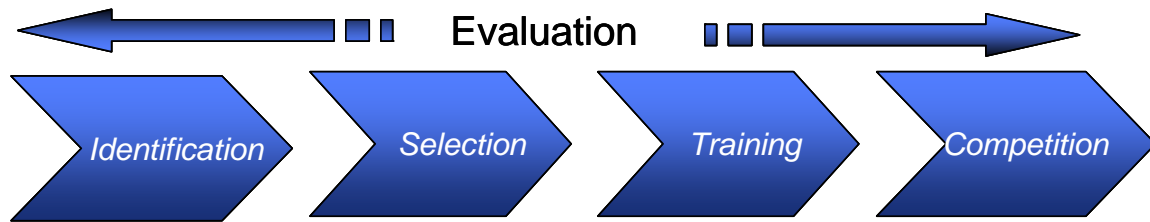
The Olympic Development Program provides superior benefits

The Olympic Development Program is an integrated and comprehensive approach that provides multiple benefits to players:

- Focus is placed upon the individual player
- Development of the individual player is enhanced as he/she trains and plays against the best players in his/her age group
- Development of the individual player is enhanced because he/she must learn to adjust to the varying groups of teammates. This requires the player to respond to varying styles, strengths, weaknesses, and abilities of the other exceptional players.
- Provides the opportunity for the player to participate in the highest quality of competition against the best of the best drawn from the entire State, rather than one or two associations
- Provides exposure to regional and national coaches
- Provides exposure to college coaches within the environment of the highest quality of competition
- Provides the player with the opportunity to represent our State, Region, and Nation in domestic and international competitions

What is the Process – What Should You Expect?

The Olympic Development Program journey is a rewarding experience for both the athletes and their parents. Athletes receive advanced training by qualified and dedicated coaches with emphasis placed on skill and tactical development – not winning. The athletes are encouraged to make their own decisions and to be creative in their play. This environment provides an outstanding atmosphere for young athletes to grow, try new things and develop into the best player that they can be. For the parent, there are none of the pressures typically associated with club teams and competition – you can sit back and enjoy watching your child grow and develop, not only as a player but also as an individual.



The Olympic Development Process for athletes can be summarized as follows:

1. Identify Players, by age group (U12-U17), for the ODP State Pool
2. Select Players, by age group (U12-U17), for the ODP State Pool (for camps, teams, & other events)
3. Train Players, by age group (U12-U17), within the ODP State Pool
4. Compete at the sub-regional, regional, and national levels
5. Players are evaluated on an ongoing basis

Eligibility & Identification

Player Eligibility

[DL Response:] Any player registered with a North Texas Association or any other USYSA State Association and are in the qualified age groups is eligible to participate in the Olympic Development Program.

Under the mandate of the U.S. Soccer Federation, an organization cannot prevent any player from participating in any other US Soccer sanctioned organization (USYSA, US Club, AYSO, etc). The only exception to this is if a player is on a team that is in the US Soccer Developmental Academy League (not US Club Pre-Academy) they cannot participate in other soccer activity.

If you are being told you cannot participate in ODP because you are a part of some particular program that is not a true statement, unless you are in the US Soccer Developmental Academy. It is yours and your child's decision on which programs most benefit them and their soccer development, and the ones you participate in.

If for some reason your club/team has decided not to register with North Texas Soccer or any other USYSA association, your child as an individual player can register with any North Texas Association and be eligible to participate in the Olympic Development program and be fully covered by our insurance.

With the new direction and emphasis of the ODP we would hate for our gifted players to miss out on the opportunity to participate in the Sports Source E Lab program and the outstanding programs that are being planned by Athletes Performance. We are also in the process of trying to schedule more competition with international teams for both our boys and girls, and more interregional events with top programs such as Cal South, Georgia, Cal North, Washington State, Ohio and others.

Identification for the ODP Pool

The first step involved with building an ODP Pool is for the ODP Coaches to **identify** highly skilled candidates. ODP Coaches attend games and tournaments for each age group to observe the athletes as they play. They then identify and rank the players that they have observed.

Selection

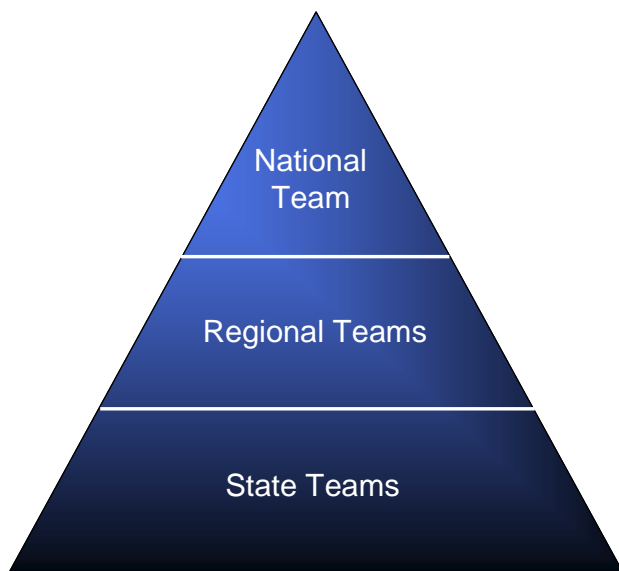
Selection for the ODP Pool

The next step in building the ODP Pool is to **select** athletes for the pool. Evaluation, relative to performance, dedication, attitude, and potential, by the ODP Coaches, is performed during ODP Tryouts/Training. Selection occurs by age group and is performed by multiple highly qualified coaches.

Selection for teams, camps, competitions, and other ODP Events

Evaluations performed during ODP Pool Training, once an athlete is selected for the ODP Pool, are also used as a basis for selecting athletes to participate in sub-regional/regional camps, national, competitions, and other ODP Events. Selection occurs by age group, and is performed by multiple highly qualified coaches.

Players are evaluated, in their age group pool and placed on teams for their State. As the ODP athletes progress, there are continually evaluated by multiple coaches at the State and Regional level at training, Camps, and Competitions to be selected for the Regional Teams. Subsequently, these players on the Regional Teams are evaluated during training, competitions and camps, for selection onto the National Team.



ODP Tryout Frequency & Timing

The ODP tryout process may occur one to two times a year: once in the Fall and again in the Spring. Tryouts are open to age groups U12 – U17 and are based upon the athlete’s true birth year (January 1 – December 31).

Please note that this is different from the Club Soccer age groups, which are organized from August 1 – July 31 and cross over the year boundary.

Registration

In order to tryout for ODP, each athlete must register online using the GotSoccer.Com website. As a part of the registration process, you will be asked for some general information (Player’s Name, address, birth date, etc...), and T-Shirt size. Each athlete will be assigned a player number. This player’s number will be printed on the back of an ODP T-Shirt that will be issued at the tryout/training sessions. The numbered T-Shirt will be used, by the ODP Coaches, to identify each athlete during tryouts, and afterwards during ODP Pool Training. Please do not lose the T-Shirt as new ones will not be issued. Tryout fees must be paid at the time of registration. Athletes cannot participate until the registration fee is remitted.

Payment

It is preferable that the registration payment be remitted online, using the GotSoccer registration process. This is the most straightforward means of payment. However, there are other methods by which you can pay. Checks and credit cards are also accepted by the NTSSA office.

If remitting payment by check, please write the following in the memo line, in order to expedite posting of payment to your account:

- Athlete First Name Last Name Birth Year Gender, Reason for payment.

For example: “ Joe SoccerStar 98G ODP Fall Pool Registration Fee”.

Please note that credit card payments can still be made after the registration date, via telephone. Keep in mind that late fees may apply.

ODP Pool Tryouts

Tryouts typically consist of 2-3 three-hour training sessions, but depend upon the number of candidates that register. During the tryout & training sessions, athletes will be split out into smaller positional groups and taken through a series of skill drills. You will notice that the athletes will be moved between groups, eventually being combined into larger groups for scrimmage play by the end of each session. Players are evaluated by a number of different coaches. This provides each athlete with a fair assessment.

Coaches will meet after every session to compare notes and rank players. After the final session, coaches will make their final evaluations and recommendations. Each player will receive a letter within 2-3 weeks, by mail, notifying them whether or not they were selected to become a member of the State Player Pool. If they were selected, they will continue their training as a member of the State Player Pool for their age group.

Equipment & Uniform for Tryouts/Training

For every tryout and/or training session, the player should wear and bring:

- The numbered ODP T-shirts provided at tryout sign-in – At the first tryout/training session Please arrive wearing a plain white T-shirt until the ODP numbered T-shirt has been issued. There are restrooms at the fields where the athletes can change once they receive their ODP T-Shirt.
- Black Shorts
- White Socks
- Cleats and Flat Shoes
- Shin Guards
- Soccer Ball – sized for their age group
- Water/Sports Drink

Note: It is important that all of your equipment and uniform parts be free of club and/or team logos. The focus of the tryouts & training is skill and performance, regardless with which club team each athlete is affiliated.

Tryout/Training Attendance

It is preferable that the ODP candidate attend as many of the tryout/training sessions as possible in order to receive high quality training and receive exposure to the ODP coaches for evaluation. As each athlete arrives at Tryouts/Training, they need to check-in with the Team Admins, so that they can be marked as attending the session. If a player cannot attend, please contact the Team Admin, via email, in advance of the tryout session, indicating that you will not be attending. Please provide the reason. It is understandable that there may be conflicts.

Camp Selection

Once selected for the pool, each athlete participates in the regular pool training sessions scheduled for their age group. (Please see Training & Tryout Schedule). As the athletes train, they are **evaluated**, by multiple ODP coaches, on their performance, dedication, attitude, and potential. These evaluations are used to determine who is selected to participate in the camps. Camps typically occur during the summer months.

For the younger age groups, several teams of 19 are selected (depending upon the size of the pool) for camp. For the older age groups, fewer teams are selected.

Please note that ALL ODP Pool members (in good standing) remain in the ODP pool, even if they are not selected for camp. Pool training resumes in the Fall, after camp, and after Fall registration.

Training

Timing & Frequency

Once an athlete has been selected as a member of the ODP Pool for a particular age group, the athlete will begin to participate in regular pool training sessions. Training sessions for each age group will be held in both the Fall and the Spring. Training Sessions are typically held every 2 to 3 weeks in the Fall, between September and November, then again in the Spring between March and May (Pool Members will need to register for each season - Spring, then again in the Fall). Training Session times and locations will be communicated by the team administrator via email and will be posted on the

www.Ntxsoccer.Org web site on the ODP Calendar. These schedules are subject to change based upon weather and/or coach availability. Many of the coaches also have University and/or High School responsibilities which may take priority over their ODP duties.

Each training session will be run by coaches assigned to that specific age group along with the State Director of Coaching. Each session is planned in advance with lessons building in a progression upon previous sessions. Training will include skills as well as positional training with each session concluding in a scrimmage to provide tactical training and encourage players to apply the skills learned that day.

The pools for most age groups will have enough players to form more than one team. The younger age groups may have as many as 4 to 5 levels of teams. Players will be placed on a team level based upon their performance, dedication, attitude and potential. This is an ongoing and fluid process; players will move between teams as determined by the coaches. This is not a reflection on the player's ability but is done to best enable the player's development & growth.

Equipment & Uniform for Pool Training

For every training session, the player should wear/bring:

- The numbered ODP T-shirts provided at registration – if you are new to the pool and have not received your ODP T-Shirt yet/or have outgrown it please see the contact list to obtain a T-Shirt.
- Black Shorts
- White Socks
- Cleats and Flat Shoes
- Shin Guards
- Soccer Ball – sized for their age group
- Water/Sports Drink

Pool Registration

Each athlete will need to register for their ODP pool using the GotSoccer.Com website twice a year; in the Spring and again, in the Fall. Team Admins will provide the details of when and how to do this. Pool fees will be collected by the NTSSA Administrator at the beginning of each Spring and Fall session.

Payment

It is preferable that the registration payment be remitted online, using the GotSoccer registration process. This is the most straightforward means of payment. However, there are other methods by which you can pay. Checks and credit cards are also accepted by the NTSSA office.

If remitting payment by check, please write the following in the memo line, in order to expedite posting of payment to your account:

- Athlete First Name, Last Name, Birth Year, Gender, Reason for payment.

For example : "Ima SoccerStar 99G ODP Spring Pool Registration Fee".

Please note that credit card payments can still be made after the registration date, via telephone. Keep in mind that late fees may apply.

Pool Policies

- Pool registrations & payments must always be kept current or the athlete will not be considered in “*good standing*”.
 - Once fees are paid in full the athlete will return to **Good Standing**.
- If a player registered but did NOT attend any sessions or did NOT receive uniforms/equipment
 - There will be no charge
 - He/She will no longer be considered an active member of the pool
 - He/She will need to try out again for pool selection
- If a player registered and did NOT attend any sessions but DID receive uniforms/equipment
 - Uniforms/equipment will need to be returned
 - Balance will be cleared
 - He/She will be considered an active member of the pool.

Training Attendance

It is important that each ODP athlete notify their Team Manager/Admin , in advance, if they cannot attend a training session.

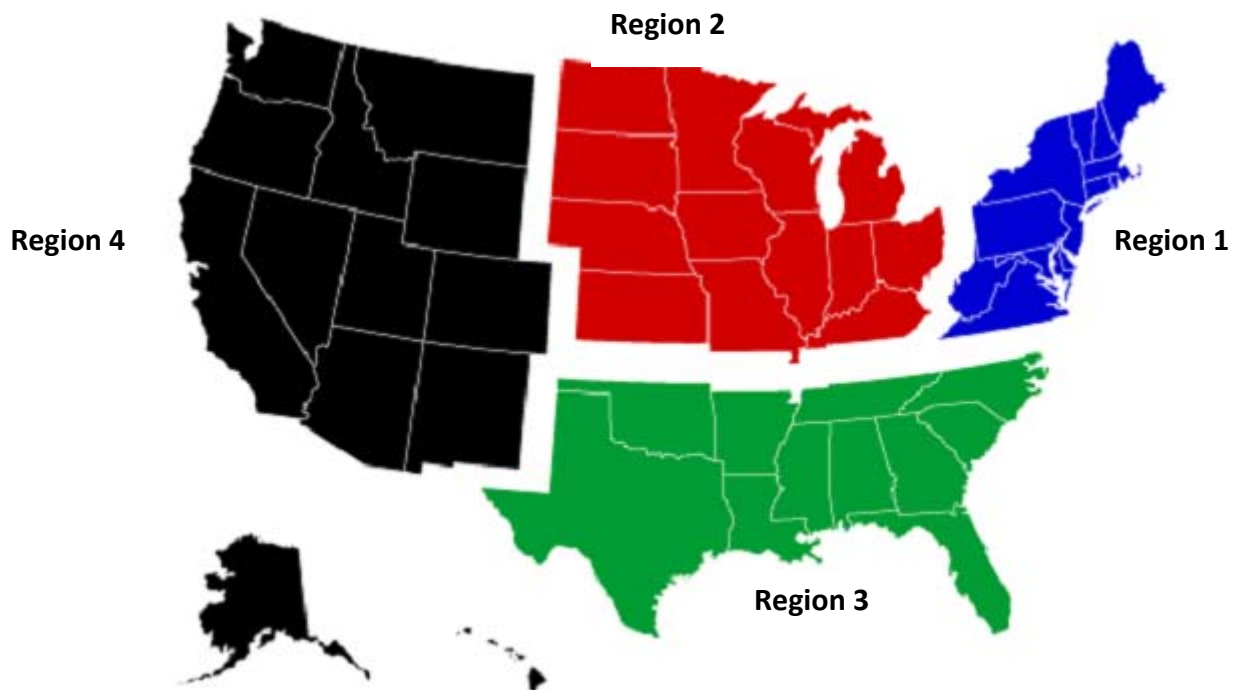
Attendance is important for several reasons:

1. If a majority of the players have conflicts, (due to tournaments, league games, etc...) the training session will be rescheduled.
2. The coaches need an accurate head count in order to plan the most effective training session for the players.
3. Soccer is a Team sport. The Team is at its best when every valued player attends and participates to their best ability
4. Players can only receive valuable training if they attend
5. Players are continually evaluated at training, competitions, and camps. If they do not attend, they cannot be evaluated.

Camps

Regional ODP 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. Texas is included in Region III, along with Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida. The camps are designed to provide development, high level competition, and training for participating players. During this training and competition, players who are capable of performing at a higher level of play are identified for possible national team camp, pool, or team participation. Each region varies somewhat as to the specifics and the cost of their camps.



Region I

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

Region II

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

Region III

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

Region IV

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

National ODP Camps

National Camps and Interregional events are held throughout the year at various locations in the United States. The National Team Coach or a National Staff Coach is present at these events to observe, train, and identify players for placement in the national pool or on a national team.

Girls ODP Sub-Regional Developmental Camp - Norman, Oklahoma

1st Year Girls ODP Pool Players that are selected to participate may attend the Norman, Oklahoma Camp, at the University of Oklahoma. Hosted by the Oklahoma State Soccer Association, the primary focus of this 5 day camp is *development and training*. State teams from Oklahoma, North Texas, South Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana will be in attendance. The camp format consists of training in the morning, educational sessions in the afternoon, and games in the evening.

All State Teams are housed in the OU Campus Dorms with meals served in the Campus Cafeteria.

The Norman, Oklahoma Developmental Camp is staffed by US Soccer and Region III coaching staff. Parents are allowed to attend both games and training but are encouraged to let their young athlete focus on their training during the camp. There are local hotels in Norman, if parents/family would like to stay in the area. Our staff and administrators will be supervising the athletes at all times and believe that this will be one of the best soccer experiences for them both on and off the field.

Girls ODP Regional Developmental Camp - Montevallo, AL

2nd – 6th Year Girls ODP Pool Players selected to participate, may attend the Montevallo, Alabama Camp, at the University of Montevallo. Hosted by the Alabama State Soccer Association, the primary focus of this 4-5 day camp is *development and training*. State teams from Oklahoma, North Texas, South Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, & South Carolina will be in attendance. The camp format consists of training in the morning, educational sessions in the afternoon, and games in the evening.

All State Teams are housed in the Montevallo Campus Dorms with meals served in the Campus Cafeteria.

The Montevallo Regional Developmental Camp is staffed by US Soccer and Region III coaching staff. Our staff and administrators will be supervising the athletes at all times. As with the sub-regional camps, parents are allowed to attend both games and training but are encouraged to let their young athlete focus on their training during the camp.

Boys ODP Regional Developmental Camp – Tuscaloosa, AL

2nd – 6th Year Boys ODP Pool Players selected to participate can attend the Tuscaloosa, Alabama Camp. The Boys stay in the campus dorms at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. They compete against other Region III State Teams, which include Florida, North Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, Oklahoma, North & South Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas, and Alabama. A typical day includes early morning games vs. one of the region teams, a mid day lunch and player meeting, afternoon training sessions, small sided games, and regional pool games. The boys are bused to and from the fields using the campus bus system. Campers receive 4 meals a day in the campus dining hall.

Training & Tryout Schedule

Please see the WWW.NTXSoccer.Org Website Calendar.

Key Contacts

NTX Role	Name	Contact Info
Chairman, ODP	Dave Luckey	DLuckey@NTXSoccer.Org
Director of Coaching	Gary Williamson	Gary@NTXSoccer.Org
ODP Administrator	Shawn Morgan	Shawn@NTXSoccer.Org

Always check the hotline prior to leaving for training. Please contact your team administrator if you will be unable to attend a practice or ODP event.

Pool	Hotline Number	NTX Extension	WTX Extension
NTX ODP Hotline	972-323-1323		
95 Boys & Girls		2	12
96 Boys & Girls		3	13
97 Boys & Girls		4	14
98 Boys & Girls		5	15
99 Boys & Girls		6	16
00 Boys & Girls		7	17

Following are your Team Administrator contacts. Please contact them for all information relative to your age group pool. Also contact your Team Administrator if you will be unable to attend a practice, or ODP event.

Pool	Team Administrator	Contact Email
95 Girls	Vicky Wheatley & Ruth Martinson	vdwheat@aol.com giantfn2@aol.com
95 Boys	Laura Adams	amwalm@aol.com
96 Girls	Whitney Lyon	whittneylyon@gmail.com
96 Boys	Shirley Otto	smjotto@att.net
97 Girls	Seve Carnera & Karen Douglass	seve_carnera@yahoo.com karendouglass@tx.rr.com
97 Boys	Doug Crise & Linda Calderon	dcrise3@tx.rr.com lindamcalderon@gmail.com
98 Girls	Paul DeFrain & Christie Heady	pauldefrain@yahoo.com bluebonnets@tx.rr.com
98 Boys	Doug Watson	watson-doug@aramark.com
99 Girls	Carla Krumins (Temp)	carla.krumins@sbcglobal.net
99 Boys	Carla Krumins (Temp)	carla.krumins@sbcglobal.net
00 Girls	Carla Krumins	carla.krumins@sbcglobal.net
00 Boys	Carla Krumins	carla.krumins@sbcglobal.net
WTX	Lori Rhodes	wtodp@yahoo.com

Fee Schedules

Event	Description	Duration	Fee
Tryouts	1st Year ODP	Three 3-Hour sessions	\$75.00
Tryouts	2nd-6th Year ODP	Two 2-Hour sessions	\$50.00
Pool Registration	By Deadline	If registered & paid by the deadline	\$100.00
Pool Registration	After Deadline	If registered and/or paid AFTER the deadline	\$150.00
Girls Camp	1 st Year ODP Norman, Ok	5 Days	
Girls Camp	2 nd Year ODP Montevallo, Al	4 Days	
Girls Camp	3 rd – 6 th Year ODP Montevallo Al	5 Days	
Boys Camp	1 st Year ODP – No camp offered at this time	N/A	
Boys Camp	2 nd – 6 th Year ODP Tuscaloosa, Al	5 Days	

*Region III charges \$25 more for the boys' camp than for the girls' camp effective 2011