

OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



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Olympic Development Program



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Olympic Development



Program



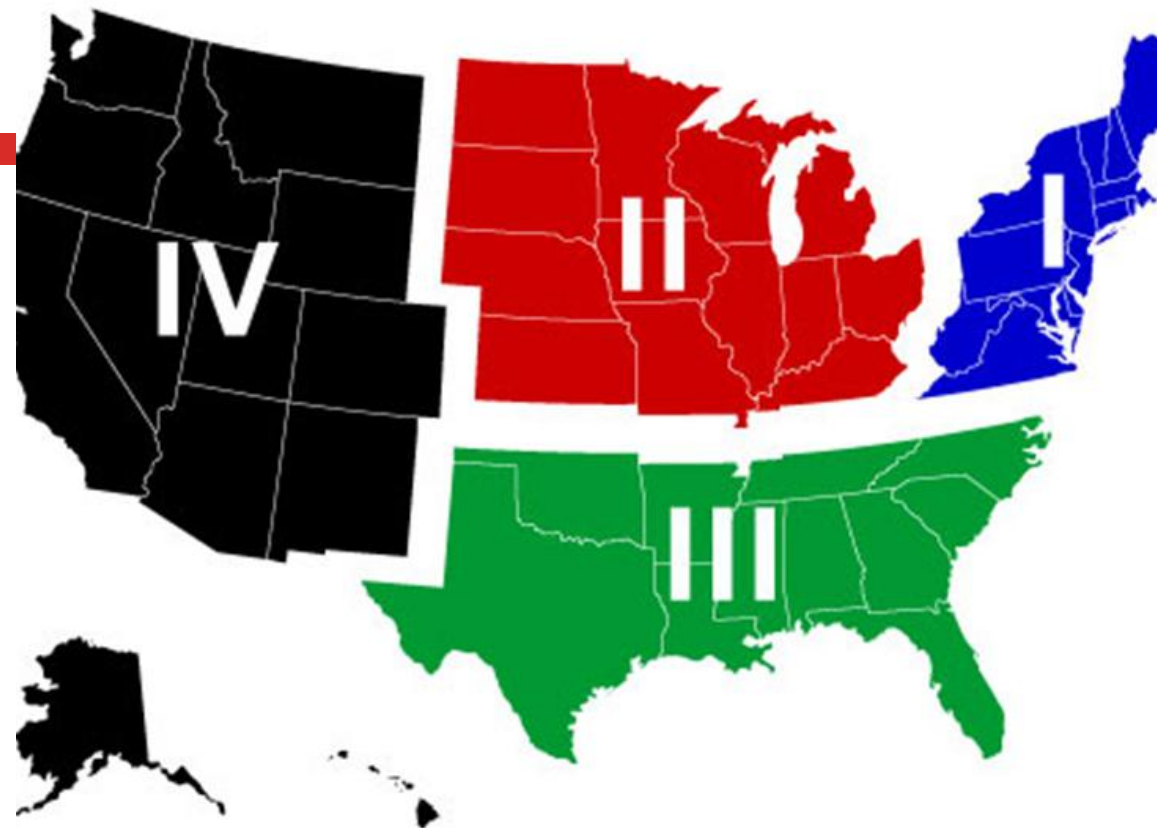
- The beginning of a soccer journey that will take you farther up the American soccer pyramid than ever before!
- Top level players!
- Top level coaches!
- Top level administrators!
- First rate domestic competition!
- Professional training!
- International experiences!
- Exposure to college and professional scouts!

“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

~Helen Keller



**US YOUTH
SOCCER**



State & Region Level Identification & Competition Process for Elite Players

There is also US Youth Soccer ODP in Europe for American players.

This Program spans half the globe!



Olympic
Programs
Development
Drogram

The US Youth Soccer ODP 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.



US Youth Soccer ODP

Purpose

The US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program was formed in 1977 to identify a pool of players in each age group from which a National Team will 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.



State Select Team



To develop each player in the program to their full potential to enhance the enjoyment of playing the game.

To increase the skill level of the players to raise the level of play in their local environment.

State Select Team



To develop all players to achieve their highest possible level.

To identify players of the highest caliber on a consistent basis to lead to increased success for the US National teams in the international arena.

Region Trials



- US Youth Soccer Regions offer regional trials for State Select Teams in each eligible age group. The trials are designed to provide 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.

Region Teams



- The US Youth Soccer Region ODP teams participate in the National Camps and Interregional events that are held throughout the year at various locations in the United States. National and Regional Staff Coaches are present at these events to observe, train and identify players for placement in the national pool or on a national team. The Region ODP pools also participate in international competitions with teams from other countries.

Climb the Soccer Pyramid



U. S. National
Teams

Professional
Team

1223 Men's Programs

1383 Women's
Programs

College Team

30,000 players go on to
play men's &
women's college
soccer

Olympic Development
Program

Youth Soccer – Club Soccer –
Scholastic Soccer



Player evaluation criteria – the ability to consistently execute the **Principles of Play** at speed while under pressure.

US YOUTH SOCCER OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Player Evaluation

Roles of Play

- Recognize when to be 1st or 2nd or 3rd attacker or defender.
- Ability to effectively execute those roles.



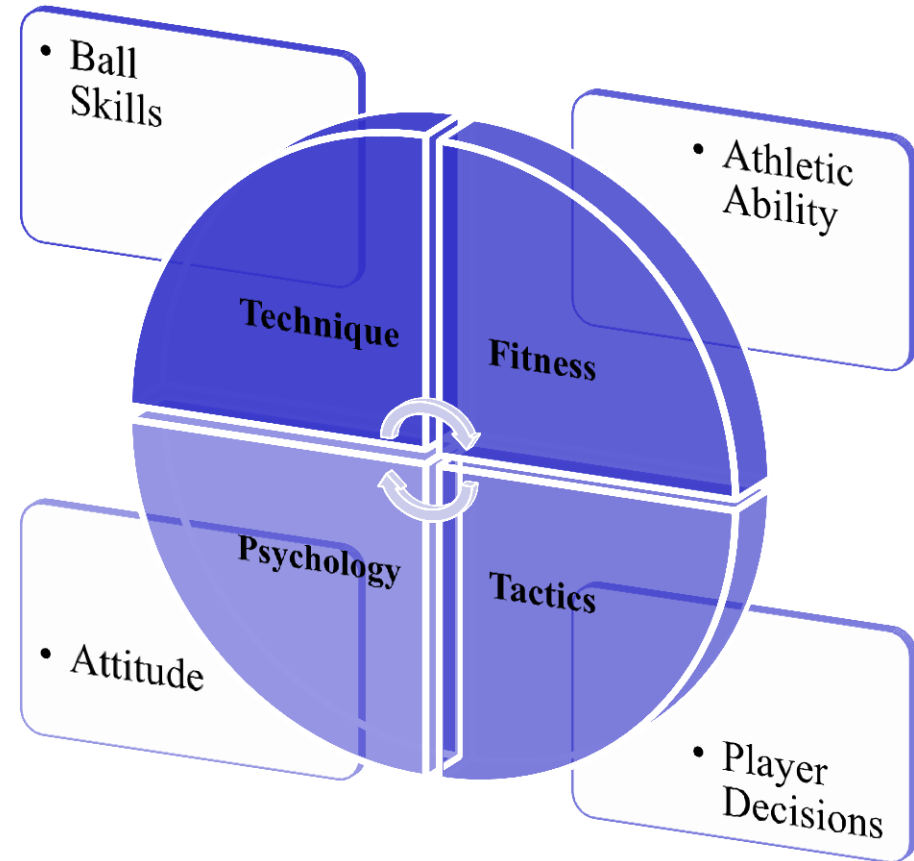
"Winners display competitiveness and composure at the right moment."

Arsène Wenger



Identification – Selection Criteria

- ✓ Technique – quality of first touch, comfort level on the ball, can you play inside a phone booth?
- ✓ Fitness – natural physical talents, current physical fitness level
- ✓ Tactics – 80% of tactical movement (decisions) occur off-the-ball...what are you doing at those moments in the match?
Quality of decisions made when on the ball.
- ✓ Psychology – composure, determination, mental toughness, awareness, ability to stay focused for a full match



Player Evaluation



- Technical Skills
 - Technical speed
 - Consistent skills
 - Range of skills
 - Quality of skills

"Being optimistic, not arrogant – I believe I will win. To be afraid of losing removes the willingness to win."

Vanderlei Luxemburgo

Player Evaluation



- Athletic Ability

- Speed ... especially acceleration
- Vertical Jump
- Power ... explosiveness
- Agility ... balance
- Endurance ... stamina
- Range of Motion ... flexibility

Player Evaluation



Tactics

- Positioning (off-the-ball movement) will show to the greatest extent what a player sees in the game
- 1 vs. 1 decisions (defense & offense)
- Can play more than one position (versatility)
- Understands more than one formation and system of play
- Anticipation or reaction player (RTG)



Mental



Can handle adversity | Can control emotions ... thinking tactically | Strength of character | Positive impact on teammates | Fair Play | Competitor – will to win | Willingness to PREPARE to win! | Creative | Adaptable | Versatile | Composure | Enjoys the game – spirit of the game – FUN

"If you want to have a winning attitude, you have to win every match – even in training."

Ottmar Hitzfeld

Try-Out Process



- Open Trials are required by U. S. O. C., U.S. Soccer and US Youth Soccer at least once per year.
- Invitation only trials are also allowed.
- Scouting to identify and invite players to trials may be part of the state level process.
- State Trials
- Regional Trials
- National Camp

Player Evaluation



- The scouting aspect of US Youth Soccer ODP identifies players under match conditions at league matches, tournaments and state cup competitions.



Player Selection

"Success in football management depends on selection, decision making, ability to handle players, and luck. "

Sir Alex Ferguson – Manchester United

Coach Development at Region Level



- Evaluation with professional feedback to the US Youth Soccer Region ODP Staff Coaches by the US Youth Soccer Technical Staff
- Coaches who relate to specific age groups and how those kids learn
- International competition
- Continuing education
- Ensure communication between staff
- Be objective but have an open mind
- Support group decision



How does participation in the Olympic Development Program help soccer to mature in the state?

STATE SELECT TEAM

State Youth Soccer ODP



Positives

- Chance for driven players to grow in the game
- Playing with and against very good players
- Exposure to out-of-state college coaches and professional scouts
- Professional growth for coaches and administrators
- Broaden the soccer horizons for all participants ... including parents

Negatives

- Time commitment
- Travel distances
- Cost
- Fear of failure
- It's political
 - They only pick players from the big clubs / states

Court of Public Opinion



- US Youth Soccer ODP is continually one of the most visible state and regional programs. Determining who the best players are in the state and making appropriate selections through evaluation/try-outs and scouting is very difficult. Parents often perceive the program as an opportunity for a college scholarship; however, the program's number one priority is the identification of players with the ability to move to the next level of competition.



State ODP Team Selection



What are the challenges?

- Increase the participation of club coaches to recommend quality players to the program
- Reach out to rural areas, inner-city areas and small clubs more effectively
- Reduce the subjectivity in the identification process
- Improve communication between state coaches
- Have all of the state coaches attend training
- Getting state coaches to remain open minded during the selection process
- Increasing the level of competition

State ODP Team Selection



Once a player is in the state pool coaches should ask themselves these questions to further evaluate the players:

- Are they comfortable outside their club environment?
- Can they adjust to a different system?
- How do they react when they are asked to play a different position?
- What are their playing tendencies when playing alongside equal or better players?
- Are they committed and willing to make the sacrifice?
- Can they handle the level of competition?
- Can they perform well under the pressure of:
 - Matches versus other state select teams?
 - A championship match?
 - The observation of college coaches, national scouts and regional staff?
 - Coming off the bench?



QUALITIES WE MUST FIND

US YOUTH
SOCCER

- 1) “SOCCER BRAIN” – DECISION MAKING
 - 2) TECHNIQUE
- +
- SPEED THAT BOTH OF THESE ARE USED...
 - SMALL OR BIG – DOESN’T MATTER: BRAIN AND TECHNIQUE DOES.



US YOUTH
SOCCER

PLAYER SELECTION

One coach with 3
players of same
age



SELECTING ODP PLAYER



- THE CHALLENGE - ESPECIALLY WITH THE YOUNGEST AGE GROUPS:
 - EFFECTIVENESS VS. SOCCER ABILITY VS. POTENTIAL...
 - WHAT TYPE OF PLAYER DO WE OFTEN SELECT AT THE YOUNG AGES?

WHAT TEAM?



5'7"

5'9"

5'6 1/2"

5'7"

5'7"

6'2"

6'1"

5'9"

6'4"

5'8"

6'0"

BARCA VS. MAN U 2011



PEDRO

VILLA

MESSI

INIESTA

XAVI

BUSQUETS

ABIDAL

MASHERANO

PIQUE

ALVES

VALDES*

WHO'S TEAM?



6'1"

5'9"

6'1"

6'1"

5'10"

5'8"

5'9"

6'0"

6'1"

5'6"

6'3"

USA-GHANA-2010 WC



ALTIDORE

FINDLEY

DEMPSEY BRADLEY CLARK DONOVAN

BORNSTEIN

CHERNUNDOLA

BOCANEGRA DEMERIT

HOWARD

US-ITLAY-1990



- ARMSTRONG – 6’0”
- DOYLE – 6’3”
- TRITTSCHUH 6’1”
- WINDISHMANN – 6’0
- VERMES – 6’1”
- MURRAY – 6’2”
- MEOLA – 6’1”
- ** 1 PLAYER UNDER 5’10 – WHO?

TAB RAMOS – 5'8"



Olympic Development Program



What are the Benefits of Participating in US Youth Soccer ODP?

1. Development as a player. The opportunity to train and play with the best player's in one's age group.
2. Quality instruction from nationally licensed coaches.
3. Quality competition. Games against other state select teams.
4. Exposure to regional and national team coaches.
5. The opportunity to represent one's state, region or country in competition.
6. Exposure to college and professional coaches.

ODP ADVANTAGE



- **Elite training and events not available to anyone else and only available for elite**
- **Ability to expand soccer horizons by not only playing for club and school teams, but also having the honor of representing your state and possibly the Region.**
- **Playing in events verse the best of the other 3 regions in front of college and national team coaches.**
- **Playing in international tournaments with the top professional youth teams in the world.**

ODP ADVANTAGE



- **Ability and encouragement to play high school soccer and reap the social, athletic and academic benefits of being a student athlete.**
- **While the #1 goal of our program is to get players into our national teams, the main benefits are exposure to colleges and making your club/HS teams better through your development with us.**
- **We are a bridge between your club and the top levels that cannot be provided by any other program. When you go through state and regional tryouts and camps you get exposed to different players and coaches just as you will if you have a national team camp or even when you go to collage. Therefore a major advantage of this program is being better prepared for performing in environments out of your comfort zone.**
- **We will be part of the process of how you choose a school while helping you reach your highest level of play in order to be a part of a path to the pros and national teams.**

ODP TASK FORCE



- KATHY ZOLAD – PRES. CJSA
- BRENT MAGNUS – CHAIR, ODP BOYS COMMITTEE
- MARCELO BALBOA – FORMER US NATIONAL TEAM
- CARLOS BOCANEGRA – CURRENT US NATIONAL TEAM
- MIKE DICKEY – FORMER US STAFF COACH
- TONY DiCICCO – FORMER WOMENS NATIONAL TEAM HC
- JENNIFER PLANTE – CLUB, ODP AND PRO SOCCER TIES
- JERRY SMITH – REGION IV GIRLS HC
- MIKE STRICKLER – DOC, FLORIDA YOUTH SOCCER
- TOM TURNER – DOC, OHIO NORTH
- ERICA WALSH – FORMER ODP PLAYER AND US U17 HC

Olympic Development Program



Together
Everyone
Achieves
More



"There is no defeat, except in not trying."

Aristotle