

Frequently Asked Questions About the Olympic Development Program (ODP)

1. Can my son or daughter still tryout even though we missed the initial tryout weekend?

Yes, your child can still participate in the tryout process for the 2019-2020 ODP Cycle. We are having tryouts the weekends of October 12-13 and November 16-17 (3 sessions per age group). We will also be using our December Friendlies against Kansas as the final tryout.

2. What are the benefits of participating in the ODP.

- *Players are exposed to high level coaches from around the state (college coaches, high-level club coaches, accomplished high school coaches, Regional Staff Coaches, etc.).*
- *The USSF Training Methodology is used throughout the Missouri ODP. In some cases, this is reinforcing what players are hearing in other soccer environments, which is valuable for them. In other cases, this information is exposing them to new ways to look and play the game.*
- *ODP players have the opportunity to play against some of the best players in the state, region and country.*
- *The ODP can be a pathway to the Region Team, National Team, college recruitment and even professional soccer.*
- *Participation in the ODP will help players build their soccer resume.*
- *Participation in the ODP is a positive environment where kids get to share their passion for soccer with other kids that share that same passion.*
- *Friendships are made that can last a lifetime.*

3. Is it OK to participate in the ODP if I am currently playing club soccer?

Yes, almost all of our ODP players play club soccer. MYSA offers the ODP to all of its members in order to enhance the players' soccer experience. The program is designed to give players the opportunity to further their development and provide them with additional opportunities.

We realize that players may have club events that may conflict with an ODP event. We encourage all players to communicate with both their club coaches and ODP coaches to work out any conflicts. We respect the need for players to attend club events and missing an ODP event for this will NOT be held against them.

4. Who is eligible for the ODP?

Any competitive soccer player that is registered with MYSA is eligible to participate in the ODP, with the exception of those that are playing in the Developmental Academy.

5. What if my child is unable to attend one of the tryouts/training sessions?

We would like the players to make as many sessions as possible, but we realize that there will be conflicts. We want to work in conjunction with the Clubs and we respect their schedules. They should notify their specific ODP age group coach so he/she is aware of any conflicts.

6. What are the opportunities for my child once they go through the tryout process?

- ALL players remain in the ODP for the entire cycle. For the 2007-2002 age groups, the players will be placed in one of three categories. They will be assigned to the State Team, Alternates, or Pool players.*
- Players in the 2010-2008 age groups are considered developmental. We do not designate the players into State Teams, Alternates and Pool Players. The coaches will be sorting the players into "like skill groups" so they can be appropriately placed in events. All players are eligible to participate in all of the events.*

7. What does it mean to be a State Team player?

A State Team player is a player that has been selected to represent our state in tournaments, sub-regional events, and friendlies. There will be training sessions scheduled in advance of events so they can prepare for the event. State Team players will also be evaluated for the opportunity to participate at Region Camp

8. What does it mean to be an “Alternate?”

Alternate players should plan on attending all trainings that are being held for the State Team. At times, State Team players may not be able to attend events. In these situations, the Alternates will have an opportunity to participate in these tournaments, sub-regional events or friendlies.

9. What does it mean to be a “Pool Player?”

- *A Pool player is a player that remains in the ODP system and will have access to additional training. These training sessions will be open to ALL players in the age group. It is highly recommended that players attend these sessions so they can further their development.*
- *Pool players also have the opportunity to participate in events with the State Team if the numbers warrant it.*

10. How does a player get selected to go to Regional Camp?

Coaches observe and evaluate players throughout the course of the ODP Cycle. Recommendations are made from these observations. It is important to note that the initial invitations for Region Camp go out approximately April 1, however, we will continue to evaluate players throughout the entire cycle. During this past cycle, we added players after our last event in June. This is why it is important for players to continue to participate in as many of the events as possible.

11. How many players make it to Regional Camp?

That number varies from age group to age group. If the coaching staff evaluates a player and determines that they have the skill set to participate at the Regional level, they will be offered an opportunity to attend. In the past we have seen the number range from 4-14 players in each age group.

12. When can you expect to hear about the placement of your child?

We will have all team selections completed by the end of December.

13. What is the cost to participate in the ODP?

The registration/tryout fee is \$250 for the 2019-2020 ODP Cycle. The registration fee includes pre-tryout training sessions, six tryout sessions, 2 tryout shirts, and any additional training (for Pool, Alternates and State Team players) throughout the cycle.

14. What additional cost may I incur throughout the ODP Cycle?

- Each player that is placed on the State Team or is an alternate, will be required to purchase a uniform. The cost of the uniform kit is approximately \$80. That include two New Balance Dry Fit Jerseys, a pair of New Balance shorts and two pairs of New Balance socks.*
- The cost of any additional events/tournaments that a team participates in will be split among the players on that team. You can figure \$75-150 per event, in addition to hotel costs.*

15. Where are the ODP events held?

- We will hold pre-tryout events in Cape Girardeau, Booneville, Kansas City, Springfield and St. Louis. Once the official tryouts begin, we will use the Missouri Soccer Park located in Booneville, Missouri for training. This is a centrally located turf soccer complex. The tournaments, sub-regional events, and friendlies that we participate in are scattered among several states within our region - Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, and Tennessee are all included on this year's calendar.*