



The Olympic Development Program (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.

The ODP Selection Process

New Mexico Youth Soccer Association holds ODP try-outs on an annual basis. Selected players are placed in age group pools and participate in pool training sessions. The pool participants are then pared down into teams. The teams travel to various events, including ODP Regional Camp where they can be selected to Regional pools and teams.

How are Players Selected?

Team selection always begins with an assessment of individual players. There are four criteria that generally form the basis for most evaluation schemes. These criteria are collapsed into the acronym “TIPS,” which was first developed by the KNVB in Holland and stands for....

Technique

Insight

Personality

Speed



Technique—The most critical quality for all soccer players is technique. This would include the player’s overall range of techniques and the speed and ease with which they secure and use the ball. How comfortable are they under pressure? How economical do they play?

Insight—The ability of a player to read the game and make the correct decisions. Are they making a contribution both on and off the ball?

Personality—The ability of a player to understand their role within the team and how they play within those roles. Are they able to play with confidence regardless of role? Do they compete?

Speed—This is measured by speed on the ground and speed of reaction. If one or the other qualities is weak or missing it is very difficult for a player to play quickly and be effective in the game.

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

1. Player development . The opportunity to train and play with the best players in one's age group.
2. The opportunity to represent one's state, region, or country in competition.
3. Top quality competition. Games against other state association ODP teams.
4. Exposure to regional and national team coaches.
5. Top quality instruction from nationally licensed coaches.
6. Exposure to college coaches



*There are lots of opportunities for people to play soccer, but not many opportunities to develop soccer players.”
Alex Ferguson, Manager, Manchester United*

NMYSA ODP Timeline (subject to change)

August/ September— Playing Opportunities/ Tryouts

November— Pool selections posted on website

December— Pool Training Sessions

January—Pool Training Sessions and ODP Regional Championships Tournament

March— ODP Pool Training Sessions

June/ July—ODP Region IV training and selection camp.

ODP Costs

The cost of participation in ODP varies by event. Financial assistance is often available from local leagues and NMYSA.

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