

**KANSAS STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
FOR
PLAYERS**

It is the responsibility of every Kansas ODP participant to read and understand all ODP Policies.

OVERVIEW

Olympic Development Programs aim to identify and advance the most talented and passionate youth players through state, regional and national team selection and competitions. US Youth Soccer ODP, designed to identify and develop a pool of players from which U.S. National Teams may be selected, is the original ODP program. US Youth Soccer has identified more players participating on Professional and National teams than any other program. And, with programs in all 55 State Associations as well as regional and national championships and participation in international tournaments, USYS ODP continues to lead the way in elite player identification and development.

This program is the place for talented players who are actively working toward furthering their young adult careers in soccer. It can be especially important to gifted players from small high schools or less successful teams as it provides invaluable exposure to coaches, trainers and athletic directors from around the nation. State Teams will be chosen for each age group and those teams will attend regional camp with the opportunity to advance to a regional team. College coaches, players, and high-level licensed club coaches are engaged to train, tryout, choose and coach state teams. Players have the chance to compare themselves to others of the same high caliber and the opportunity to learn from talented and caring coaches. 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.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The development of players in Kansas is primarily the responsibility of our affiliate clubs and ODP should not interfere with that development, but should enhance it. It is the responsibility of KSYSA to supplement player development by identifying and allowing the best players in the state to play alongside each other and against other select teams, in tournaments, events, and at Region II ODP camps. The success of Kansas ODP and its players is a direct result of the quality of players, coaches and level of competition within Kansas.

POLICIES FOR KANSAS ODP PLAYERS

1. **AGE GROUPS.** ODP program age groups have a January 1 cutoff date instead of the August 1 cutoff date used for club teams. ODP teams are referred to by year of birth (i.e., 92s), rather than as Under 13, etc. While it is not uncommon in club ball for players to play up an age group, players in ODP MUST participate in their own age group.
2. **COMMITMENT.** Players are expected to take their participation in the ODP program seriously, and should be committed to improving their individual skills as well as improving as a team player. Players are subject to the ODP Code of Conduct upon entry into the program.
REGISTERING for the program indicates that a player wants to be considered for pool/team selection and that, if chosen as a State Team Player OR Alternate, he/she fully intends to accept that honor and participate at the State, Regional and/or National Level if asked. Players selected to State Teams will be expected to attend Region II Olympic Development Camp the summer following their selection. There is an additional cost for this camp.

UPON SELECTION, an ODP player is expected to participate in all activities of their team. These activities may include mini-camps, exhibition matches, tournaments, and sub-regional and regional camps. If a player is not available for a specific event, he/she may be replaced by another player from the player pool.

Players selected for the FINAL POOL, must not take this as an invitation to decrease their commitment to the program. Teams continue to practice, and the training sessions become more important than they ever have been. Players who do not show the same commitment as in the previous training sessions may be dropped from the final team and replaced at the discretion of the coach.

3. **REGISTRATION, DATES & DEADLINES.** All Kansas residents, regardless of organizational affiliation, are eligible to participate in the program as long as they are within the age limits and adhere to the rules and guidelines of the program. Non-affiliated players must register with KSYSA prior to the camp/trials/training session and pay the insurance fee.

PLAYERS MUST REGISTER for the program, each year, using the current year Registration materials. All players signing up after the state camp will pay the same fee as the players who attended state camp, plus the late registration fee. Players that do not attend camp and wish to participate in the monthly training/evaluation sessions must submit a complete (notarized) Registration form to the KSYSA office two (2) weeks prior to the training session that will begin their participation in the program. NO "walk-ons" are allowed at training sessions. The fee for camp-eligible age groups will be the same whether they attend camp or not. Boys and girls in the oldest age group, in which there is an Invitation-Only Regional ODP Camp/Tournament, must be registered with Kansas ODP in order to be recommended for the Regional event.

DECEMBER 1 (except for oldest boys and girls) shall be the deadline for players, girls and boys, to sign up for the ODP program and still be eligible to attend regional camp.

(Note: Anyone signing up after this date can still participate ---unless their age group has already made cuts to State Pool --- in the training sessions but will not be considered for the state team. Exceptions will be made for players who have recently moved to the state and for Discovery players, but they must sign up 48 hours before a scheduled event and participate in one scheduled event before final selections have been made. Once final selections have been made, no players will be considered for selection unless they are part of the current pool. The only exception will be if, even after inviting all alternates, an age group doesn't have a full roster.)

DEADLINES for State Pool and State Team selections will be determined each year by the ODP Committee. These dates will be posted on the ODP Calendar.

PAYMENT DEADLINES. A deadline will be established each year, based on Region II deadlines (usually mid-April) for all players selected for the final pool team to pay their regional camp fee. Alternates selected to the final pool should also pay fees and complete all paperwork for regional camp.

4. **TRAINING SESSIONS AND POOL/TEAM SELECTIONS.** All age-eligible players are encouraged to attend state summer camp. Those who cannot attend camp, and the older age groups, may register and participate in monthly training/evaluation sessions.

THE ODP SELECTION PROCESS. The USYSA ODP Program was formed to identify a pool of players in each age group from which a national team may be selected for international competition. Selection to the Kansas State Team is a first step in this process. Kansas State Select teams attend Region II ODP camps. At Regional Camps (there are 4 Regions in the U.S.), a Regional pool of players is named in each age group. From these Regional pools, the National pools and teams are formed. Selection at each level (state, regional, national) is generally based on the 4 components that make up a soccer player: (1) Technique; (2) Tactics; (3) Fitness and athletic ability and (4) Psychological component (attitude).

Kansas ODP Age Group coaches will be responsible for coordinating the selection and training of the players within their particular age group in accordance with the guidelines of the program. The Head State Coach and the State Director of Coaching shall review and consult on all state team selections. Team lists will be mailed only after review by the State Director of Coaching.

NOTE: Only the KSYSA Director of Coaching, the State Coach, or the Age Group Coach may be requested to inform the participants of general observations and discuss areas of needed improvement. No other individuals will be allowed to discuss these matters with either the players or their parents

ALTERNATES. Some players will be selected as alternates to training with the state team. The players selected to the team will be attending Regional camp. If one of the selected players cannot attend camp, an alternate will be named in their place. Alternates should submit all required paperwork and fees and are expected to continue to participate in all practices up until Regional Camp. Alternates are eligible to participate in all State Pool trainings, matches and events, to include mini-camps. If an alternate is named to attend Regional camp, he/she will be contacted by the Age Group Administrator at least 24 hours in advance of departure of the camp bus.

COMMUNICATION. The line of communication on administrative matters will generally be: KSYSA ODP Committee > Head Gender Administrator/Head Gender Coach > Age Group Administrator > Players and parents. The primary mode of communication with players will be via email and/or the KSYSA website and/or the KSYSA ODP Hotline. If a player does not have an active email address, they must notify their age group administrator of an alternative means of contact. It is the player's responsibility to regularly check their ODP email and to regularly check the KSYSA ODP Calendar at the KSYSA website.

The following procedure for **COMMUNICATION WITH COACHES** will be required:

- a. No direct parent/age group coach conversation is permitted.
- b. Players are to obtain feedback regarding their performance directly from the coaches.
- c. Parent concerns should be put in writing (email is acceptable) to either the age group administrator or the head gender administrator. Concerns are passed along to coaches, if appropriate, and coach feedback is relayed to parent via the head gender administrator (i.e., Head Boys or Girls Administrator)

5. **ATTENDANCE.** Attendance is all-important in the ODP Program. The more a coach sees a player, the better the coach's ability to make player selections. Players who miss more than 50% of scheduled practices will be placing their potential for selection to the state pool in jeopardy. Attendance will be taken at every scheduled state training session and event, and will be part of the criteria for state team selection.

6. **ATTENDANCE POLICIES.**

- a. **CAMP:** If camp is offered for an age group, camp attendance is important. If a player in a camp-eligible age group cannot attend camp, the stated fee will not be reduced, and the player will commence the program with the next scheduled monthly training.
- b. **MONTHLY TRAINING SESSIONS:** The player should attend all sessions, with the understanding that there may be some conflict with league games and/or previously scheduled tournaments. If the player must miss a scheduled training session, the following must be adhered to:
NOTIFICATION: PRIOR to the session, the player must notify the age group administrator **IN WRITING** (email is acceptable). A detailed explanation for the absence request is required.
DO NOT call or write to the state office to notify of an absence.

The Olympic Development Program expects all players to continue in the program throughout the selection process unless cut by the staff coaches. If a player is not cut by the coaches and fails to attend all of the sessions/practices (except with permission granted per above policy) he/she will be considered as having voluntarily withdrawn from the Program.

NOTE: Unexcused absences from ODP trainings and events may be cause for dismissal from the program.

- c. **STATE POOL/TEAM TRAININGS AND MINI-CAMPS:** Mandatory for all selected players. Upon selection, an ODP player is expected to participate in all activities of their team. These activities may include mini-camps, exhibition matches, tournaments, and sub-regional and regional camps. If a player is not available for a specific event, he/she may be replaced by another player from the player pool.
If a player absolutely must miss a Pool or Team training session, the same notification policy as stated above applies.

Absences are always excused for medical reasons, if a physician's note is presented. Players should not participate if they are injured, and they are expected to disclose any injury to their coach and age group administrator prior to or during a training session or event.

7. **T-SHIRTS AND LOST SHIRTS.** Players will receive two state program t-shirts (one white, one colored). These shirts will be worn at camp and throughout the year at monthly trainings and at events. NO club soccer apparel may be worn at any time (club bags are permitted). If players lose one or both of their assigned t-shirts, they must purchase a full replacement set.

Players may not wear or use club apparel at any state or regional training session and/or game. Player bags are not considered apparel.

8. **FEES AND REFUNDS.** Players may register late, if the late fee is paid. There will be no reduction in fees for sessions missed. The fee for camp-eligible age group players will be the same whether they attend camp or not. Events or Activities other than training/evaluation sessions will involve additional per-player fees. All state and regional fees must be paid by stated deadlines or the player will not be allowed to train. If a player's fees are not paid by stated deadlines (including players on approved payment plans or delayed payment plans), the player will be placed in bad standing and may not participate in any US Soccer sanctioned activity (including club play, ODP activities, etc.) until all fees and late fees are paid.

Team members who decide not to attend Regional/Sub-Regional camp and do not give enough notice in order for the coaches to name a player to attend in their place will not receive a refund. Administrative fees will be withheld from all refunds, except those for medical reasons when submitted in proper and timely manner. Medical illness or injury, with physician note, will be eligible for refund.

Scholarships/Financial Aid. A player who isn't able to participate in the program because of the cost may petition the KSYSA Board of Directors (via the ODP Administrators) for assistance. Payment plans may be arranged through the Boys or Girls ODP Administrator. Kansas ODP will sponsor the equivalent of one player per age group (maximum of ½ the registration fee to any individual player) where there is a case of certified need.

NOTE: Proof of certified need, along with a written request for assistance (from parent or player) will be required. Requests for assistance should be sent to the Boys or Girls ODP Administrator.

9. **EVENTS.** Players may be selected to participate in events throughout the year. If an ODP team or age group participates in an event (i.e., inter-state or intra-state tournament, scrimmage games with other states, etc.), an event fee will be charged, to cover tournament and coaching expenses. Since attendance at events is vital, it is assumed that everyone, except those with medical excuses, will attend. Budgeting for events will be based on this philosophy. Therefore, all players, except those with medical excuses on file, will be expected to pay event fees, whether they are in attendance at the event or not.

10. **EVENT AND TRAINING SESSION CANCELLATION POLICY.** In most cases, players and parents should plan to show up for ODP events as only in extreme conditions will ODP events be cancelled. ODP events for all ages will only be cancelled due to weather or city/county/state/national emergency by the State Administrators. In order to check on potential cancellation, players and parents should consult the ODP telephone hotline (number will be provided to players and is also available at the KSYSA website.)

11. **ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION TO REGIONAL CAMP.**

The Kansas ODP program strongly discourages players attending Regional Camp from arriving at camp on their own, or traveling to camp by any means other than the team bus. The team bus to/from camp is considered mandatory for all players. However, if, due to family emergency, serious family conflicts, or certain medical conditions, a player is unable to ride the team bus to or from camp, the following provisions will apply:

a. If a player will not be riding the team bus to or from camp, player's parent or legal guardian must submit a written request for permission to travel to or from camp via private transportation means. This request for permission shall state the reason that the player won't be riding the team bus, and shall be submitted to the Boys or Girls ODP Administrator at least three weeks prior to the first day of camp. Players not riding the team bus to or from camp will receive no discount to their Regional Camp fees. The cost of transportation is included in every player's fee under the assumption that the bus is mandatory for all players.

If a player must take private transportation home from camp, a parent or legal guardian of the player must arrive at camp on the last morning of camp, to pick up their child. The required Region II Early Release Form AND a notarized letter, stating that the parent/legal guardian assumes responsibility for their child's trip home, must be presented to the head team chaperon prior to the child's release into the parent/guardian's custody. A child may ONLY be released in this manner to their own parent or guardian. Parent/guardian may be

required to provide two forms of photo ID at time of pick-up.

b. A player traveling to camp via private transportation (i.e., not on the team bus) must arrive at the Regional Camp check-in site no later than NOON on the day scheduled for team check-in. If the team has not yet arrived, the player's parent/guardian MUST remain at the site with the player until the bus arrives. NO player shall be left unattended, and players may NOT be left in the custody of any Regional camp personnel. Until the Kansas bus arrives, the parent/guardian MUST remain on site with their child. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to obtain an accurate map of the camp location and driving directions, if needed.

c. If a player who is traveling to camp on his/her own is not present at the time of the Kansas team's check-in, that player may be removed immediately from the State team roster and may not be allowed to remain with the Kansas team at camp. Regional staff makes no provision for registering late-arriving players, and the late arrival of one player places the entire team in a bad light.

NOTE: This Alternate Transportation section does NOT apply to disciplinary situations in which a player is sent home from camp due to misbehavior. However, a release as mentioned in #11.a. will be required of a paren/guardiant picking their child up early from camp for any reason.

*This document is effective for the 2006-2007 program year
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KSYSA OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT **CONTACT INFORMATION**

<u>ODP Comm. Chair</u>	Donna Kaminsky, odpchair@kansasyouthsoccer.org
<u>Boys Administrator</u>	Diane Nebbia, boysodpadmin1@kansasyouthsoccer.org
<u>Girls Administrator</u>	Vanessa Bross, girlsODPadmin1@kansasyouthsoccer.org

KSYSA OFFICE 708 South Rogers Road, Suite C, Olathe, KS 66062
Phone: (913) 782-6434 Fax (913) 782-0417
EMAIL: stateoffice@kansasyouthsoccer.org
WEB PAGE: <http://www.kansasyouthsoccer.org>
*A calendar of ODP Training Dates/Events and other ODP information
Is at the KSYS website.*

KSYSA ODP Information/HOTLINE:

For the most current information about ODP practices, schedules and events, call 913-782-8609.
If you are calling from outside the Greater KC Metro area, you can dial 1-866-ODP-NEWS.