



Tennessee State Soccer Association
Olympic Development Program
Information Packet

2008-2009



US Youth Soccer ODP Philosophy

To identify players of the highest caliber on a continuing and consistent basis; this will lead to increased success for the U.S. National Teams in the international arena.

Tennessee Soccer ODP Philosophy

The dynamics have changed over the years and the reality is ODP has become identification rather than development. Player development has shifted to the clubs, with ODP acting as a supplement, giving elite players opportunities to play against the best and to provide them exposure at the regional, national, and international levels.

ODP Objective/Goals

In 1977, the Olympic Developmental Program was introduced to identify a pool of players, from which a National Team would be selected. This would begin at the state level, advancing regionally and finally to the national level.

Tennessee Soccer seeks a process to identify and train the best players, so they may qualify for Tennessee Soccer, US Youth Soccer Region III and US National Team programs. Tennessee Soccer seeks to enhance the development of each player, guided by high-level, licensed coaches. It is our goal to give exposure to each player, and to assist him or her in obtaining college scholarship opportunities.

'The Program'

1992-1995 Age Groups

Scouting

- Tennessee Soccer has a Scouting System for players born in 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995. We believe a player competing in their own environment, gives a more accurate assessment of his or her strengths or weaknesses.
- The scouting staff consists of the State Director of Coaching, ODP Staff, and college coaches. Scouts will be given a schedule of games/tournaments to attend and will submit a player report on players they have seen and believe to be ODP caliber. These players will be invited to the training pool, via a letter from the state office. Club coaches can also recommend in writing players to be evaluated by a scout. This enhances the relationship between club and ODP, allowing clubs to participate in the process and make the program more meaningful.

Identification

- State team (and alternates) from the year before are automatically invited back to participate.
- The 'scouted' players that have been invited will participate as well.
- The above groups will comprise a squad of players called the '**Training Pool.**'
- The Training Pools will consist of a number of players, in each age group. The 'Training Pool' phase will be from November-January. Included in this phase will be 3-4 training opportunities. *We strongly encourage each player to attend all training opportunities for maximum exposure.*

Selection

- After the 3-4 training sessions/events, 22 players (18 players and 4 alternates) will be selected at the end of the 'Training Pool' phase.
- The player's chosen will represent the '**State Team**' for each age group and is normally announced the end of January.

The State Team will continue to train/compete (alternates may continue to train and compete in events if needed). The State Teams will represent the State of Tennessee at Region III Camp in July.

1996 Age Group

Introduction and Selection

- Tennessee Soccer offers an introductory program to our youngest age group, which will be our 1996's. The program will expose the players to State, and Regional staff.
- Unlike the older age groups, we hold a District Tournament, open to any 1996s and recommended 1997s in December.
- The District Tournament is a weekend event where players will be split into teams based on the district they live in. The weekend will consist of 3 matches and 2 two sessions. It is at the District Tournament where we select the top 36-38 players in each gender to represent Tennessee.

***The state reserves the right to add or release players at any time.

***See 2008-09 Calendars for the specificity of events held and registration deadlines

Evaluation

Any player that is released and not selected to the 'State Team' may receive an evaluation by request.

Selection of Players

Players are evaluated on the four components that make up a soccer player:

1. Technique
2. Tactical Insight
3. Physical Ability
4. Psychological Component (attitude/desire for excellence)

What is Regional Camp?

US Youth Soccer is divided into four regions; each one offers a Region Camp for state association ODP teams in each eligible age group.

The camps are designed to provide a high level of competition and training for participating players. During Region Camp, players who are capable of performing at a higher level of play are identified and selected for Regional and National Pool participation.

Tennessee is a member of US Youth Soccer Region III, which includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Texas, Oklahoma, South Texas, and South Carolina.

The Region III camps are held in July at Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS (Boys) and University of Montevallo, AL (Girls).

What is National Camp?

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

Benefits of Participation

1. Development as a player. The opportunity to train and play with the best players in one's age group.
2. Quality instruction from elite-level/nationally licensed coaches.
3. High-Level competition from not only within the United States, but abroad.
4. Exposure to Collegiate, Professional, Regional, and National Team Coaches.
5. Lasting achievement to represent one's State, Region and Country.

Estimated Costs (Tentative)

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Registration Fee | \$45.00 |
| Training Fees | \$25.00 |
| Sub-Regional Events | \$85.00 |
| Sub-Regional Camp | \$300.00 |
| Mini-Camp | \$85.00 |
| Region III Camp | \$575.00 |

Financial Assistance

Financial Assistance is available for those in need. Aid is limited, and applications can be requested via email. Please contact Tom Condone at coach@tnsoccer.org. ALL PLAYERS must pay the registration fee.

Need More Information?

Information may be found at www.tnsoccer.org, under Olympic Development or contact Tom Condone, Director of Coaching & Player Development at 615-590-2200 x130 or coach@tnsoccer.org