



**North Carolina Youth Soccer Association  
Olympic Development Program  
Information  
2011-12  
Updated 10-20-11**

# North Carolina Youth Soccer Association

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Players and Parents:

Welcome to the NC Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program tryouts! We thank you for the time and commitment you have made to attempt to be a part of the elite selected for the Olympic Development Program. This information packet describes the purposes of the Olympic Development Program and its focus upon the growth and development of soccer players within North Carolina. Also included are a listing of Olympic Development Program Events and a fee schedule. The event and fee information is preliminary and subject to change.

The ODP program is designed to compliment a player's club commitment and all ODP events are scheduled around NCYSA play dates and major College Showcase Tournaments. US Youth Soccer ODP is not only the first and original ODP program, but also the only elite player development program that can claim members of Major League Soccer and Women's Professional Soccer, as well as a majority of current and past national and youth team members, as alumni.

The North Carolina Olympic Development Program demands a commitment to excellence as the program offers the experience of being developed, exposed and identified by some of the State and Region's top Collegiate, Club and National team coaches! Those participants who are selected will be representing our state at the highest level of youth soccer.

If you have any questions about the tryouts or the Olympic Development Program, please email or call. Again we thank you for your time and commitment. Good luck with tryouts!

Sincerely,

Bill Furjanic  
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VP of State Select/ODP



## What are the Parents Expectations?

NC Youth Soccer Association appreciates the time and commitment parents make on the behalf of their sons and daughters. This information pack was developed in an effort to educate both parents and players of the ODP process. Please utilize this information pack as a tool to answer most of your questions as well as giving you an insight into our ODP program.

***IT IS THE PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK E-MAILS AND OUR WEBSITE PRIOR TO ALL TRAINING DATES. FIELDS CAN BE CLOSED UNEXPECTEDLY FOR REASONS OTHER THAN WEATHER.*** Please pay particular attention to ***ALL*** deadlines and instructions for various activities. Adherence to these dates is the key to reducing hassles and costs. ***IT IS THE FAMILIES' RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPOND TO CORESPONDENCE FROM THE STATE OFFICE.*** Not doing so in a timely fashion will jeopardize the players' opportunity to participate in an event.

## The US Youth Soccer/NC Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program Philosophy

Our Olympic Development Program is designed to identify players of the highest caliber on a continuing and consistent basis for the purposes of developing their skills and abilities; and creating sustained success for the U.S. National Teams in the International arena.

### The Olympic Development Program Provides Superior Benefits

The Olympic Development Program is an integrated and comprehensive approach that provides benefits superior to other elite player concepts:

- Focus upon the individual player
- Development of the individual player is enhanced as he or she trains and plays against the best players in his or her age group
- Development of the individual player is enhanced because he or she must learn to adjust to varying groups of teammates. This requires the player to respond to the varying styles, strengths, weaknesses and abilities of the other elite players, rather than becoming dependent on habits of a fixed group
- The highest quality of competition against the best of the best drawn from the entire state rather than one or two associations
- Exposure to regional and national team coaches
- Exposure to college coaches within the environment of the highest quality competition
- The opportunity to represent our state, our region and our nation in domestic and international competitions
- Non-profit sponsorship and administration. Our Olympic Development Program does not carry the burden of a profit orientation. As a result, we will continue to drive down participants' costs. Our goal is to be significantly less expensive than other elite soccer concepts

### How Are Players Selected?

Players are selected in North Carolina on the basis of open tryouts conducted by the NC Youth Soccer Association State Coaches and experienced college and club coaches, selected by the State Select Standing Committee, who are recognized for their abilities to identify and train

players with superior talents. Players can also be invited into the ODP program if they are scouted and identified by our extensive ODP staff and scouts.

Selection of Olympic Development Program players is not an easy task. Players are evaluated on the four components that make up a soccer player:

1. Technique
2. Tactics
3. Fitness and Athletic Ability
4. Psychological Component (attitude/desire for excellence)

### **What Will Happen at Tryouts - Policies and Procedures**

- ODP goes by birth year, so for example a player born in the year 1998, they are a 98 ODP player
- Dates and locations of ODP try-outs/ training sessions can be found on the ODP calendar <http://www.ncsoccer.org/Files/odp/currentodpcalendar.pdf>
- Players must participate at tryouts on Sat and Sun. **Players must attend both days!**
- In the youngest two age groups (the East and West locations) players will attend try-outs on November 20, 2011. **They do not train on Saturdays.**
- Players will receive two numbered T-shirts
- Coaches will receive a list with players designated numbers (no names)
- Players will be placed in small groups, rotate, play games, etc.
- Players will be assessed and identified by the ODP staff. The staff will determine those players selected to the initial State Pool.

### **Communication with Identification and Selection**

- All Players must currently be registered with NCYSA
- Player status after tryouts/training sessions will be posted on the NCYSA website, by the following Tuesday afternoon at 5 PM.
- Players can be released from the State pool after any session.
- Players must pay for all training sessions in which they are invited, whether in attendance or not; to stay in the ODP Program.
- Payment is required prior to the training session. Payment can be made online. **PLEASE DO NOT PAY AT THE FIELD.**
- If withdrawing from the ODP program please notify Val O'Keeffe, ODP Administrator, via email of your intentions at [stateselect@ncsoccer.org](mailto:stateselect@ncsoccer.org) Players need to notify the NC ODP Administrator to formally withdraw from the program or they will be responsible for all training fees.

### **What are Regional Camps? (NC is in Region III)**

US Youth Soccer is divided into four Regions. Each offers a Regional Camp for ODP participants in each eligible age group. The camps are designed to develop these elite players through high-level competition and training. During this training and competition, players who are capable of performing at the highest level of play are identified for possible National team camp, Region pool, or Region team participation. The specifics, as well as the cost, of these Regional camps will be provided by NC Youth Soccer Association to all invited players.

## What is a National Camp?

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

## How Can I Learn More?

NC Youth Soccer Association is committed to providing the highest quality Olympic Development Program at the lowest possible cost and with fully informed parents and players. Additional information can be found at [www.ncsoccer.org](http://www.ncsoccer.org) or contact Bill Furjanic, Technical Director of Coaching Education & Player Development and/or Val O’Keeffe, ODP Administrator, as well as members of the NCYSA staff at 336-856-7529 or [coach@ncsoccer.org](mailto:coach@ncsoccer.org) or [stateselect@ncsoccer.org](mailto:stateselect@ncsoccer.org).

## What are the Players Expectations?

NC Youth Soccer Association has rapidly become a leader within our Region largely due to the strong clubs/associations in North Carolina. NC Youth Soccer Association provides several avenues for the players to improve, but it is their own enthusiasm, and commitment to excellence, as well as the support from their club coaches, that promotes them to the State, Regional and National Teams.

The Olympic Development Program expects a lot from its players:

- 1) Commitment to Excellence
- 2) Work Hard – Play Smart!
- 3) Personal responsibility – each player must sign the Code of Conduct. Violation of this contract will be dealt with fairly and firmly.
- 4) Attendance – players are expected to attend all training/competitive events, and any absences must be documented as well as approved by the NC Youth Soccer Association State Select Standing Committee Representative.
- 5) All ODP events are scheduled around club commitments (NCYSA play dates and College Showcases) therefore players are not expected to miss events.

## What happens if I miss a Training Session?

Be aware that players are always being evaluated at every training session and players can be released from the program at anytime. If you are going to miss a training session please email us at either [coach@ncsoccer.org](mailto:coach@ncsoccer.org) or [stateselect@ncsoccer.org](mailto:stateselect@ncsoccer.org) so that we can pass that information onto the coaches that will be affected. Coaches plan their sessions early in the week based on the number of players attending and we make arrangements for coaches based on expected numbers. The sooner we know the number of players missing the better we can plan. **Please contact [stateselect@ncsoccer.org](mailto:stateselect@ncsoccer.org) NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY AT 9 AM prior to a training session. Remember that you are responsible for the training session fee regardless whether you attend or not.**

## When are the final Pools Selected?

Coaches are always evaluating the players so that they can select the best players to represent NC ODP. The final pool selection for the Region Camps in June/July will be selected after your respective training sessions in April.

### Tentative Budget 2011/12

Tryout Fee	\$75.00 \$90.00 \$115.00	Register before October 31 <sup>st</sup> Register between October 31 <sup>st</sup> and November 19 <sup>th</sup> Walk-up fee if not pre-registered for try-outs
Training Sessions	\$180.00	\$30.00 per session x 6 sessions (The number of sessions is tentative and subject to change.)
*Sub-Regional Event (NC) #Sub-Regional Event (GA)	\$140.00	Includes fees, coaches fees (does not include hotel, meals or transportation)
Sub-Regional Event (VA) Boys & Girls	\$140.00	Includes fees, coaches fees (does not include hotel, meals or transportation)
Region III Camp	\$875.00 (\$250.00)	Includes room, meals & transportation <b><i>(Non-refundable Deposit is required for Region III Camp by May 1<sup>st</sup> if selected to tentative State Pool for camp)</i></b>
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Total Estimated Cost	\$1,410.00	(tentative and subject to change)

\* Boys Only Event  
# Girls Only Event

### Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available for those in need. All players must pay the registration/tryout fee. After this, families may apply for scholarship assistance. Scholarship applications will be emailed upon request by contacting Val O'Keeffe, ODP Administrator, at [stateselect@ncsoccer.org](mailto:stateselect@ncsoccer.org). **All financial assistance information needs to be in the office by March 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.**

NC Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program is financially self-supporting. It will be the policy of this administration to keep the total cost of this program as efficient as possible. Costs are determined by facilities, hotels, coaches, transportation, entry fees and other projected miscellaneous expenses.