

**IDAHO YOUTH SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

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**IDAHO OLYMPIC
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM**



GETTING STARTED



OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE

The US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program has been in existence since 1977. The program was introduced to help identify potential national team youth players through an organized series of trials which begins at the district level, progresses through the state, region and finally the national level. The program also serves as a means of development as the players identified are brought together for training and prepared for interstate, interregional and international competitions. The development of the players is taking place rapidly as talented players are brought together for training and competition at all levels. Training and playing with those of equal or greater ability is a tremendous teaching tool. The program is open to any youth player.

As the player progresses from one level to the next, training and play increase in intensity. The regional teams experience both interregional and international competitions on an annual basis. A pool of players is selected for each age group with the rosters changing each year as players develop at different rates. Regional players have traveled to Florida, Las Vegas, San Diego, France, England, Costa Rica, Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands.

While the US Youth Soccer ODP is one vehicle for development and identification, it is not the only method. All programs work together to help the players attain their ultimate potential. The US Youth Soccer ODP does provide a systematic method that allows players to advance as far as their abilities allow. It serves as a form of self-evaluation in a system that is recognized by coaches at all levels.

Many of the top coaches in this country are involved with the program beginning at the state level. The US Youth Soccer ODP provides young players with a high level of competition and outstanding coaching as well as exposing them to regional coaches, national coaches and the leading college coaches across the country. The development of players in Idaho is primarily the responsibility of our affiliate clubs, and Idaho ODP should not interfere with that development. It is the responsibility of IYSA to supplement that development by identifying and allowing the best players in the state to play alongside each other and against other select teams domestically and internationally. The success of Idaho ODP is a direct result of the quality of players, coaches and level of competition within Idaho.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION?

- Development as a player
- The opportunity to train and play with the best players in one's age group
- Quality instruction from nationally licensed coaches
- Quality competition
- Games against other state association teams
- Exposure to regional and national team coaches
- The opportunity to represent one's state, region, or country in competition
- Exposure to college coaches

HOW ARE PLAYERS SELECTED?

The Idaho ODP selection process is open to all interested players. Beginning in September, the younger age groups are selected (98, 99, 00 birthdates) . The older age groups (95, 96, 97 birthdates) are identified through open tryouts held following the high school season. Following evaluation, a pool will be identified for further training and potential selection to Regional Camp in July 2012.

A player may also be identified and asked to join at anytime during the year. It is the responsibility of State Coaches to provide the best 18 players in their respective age groups. They will scout games throughout the year looking for player talent, as well as using input from other qualified coaches.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, PLEASE SEE THE IYSA WEBSITE FOR DETAILS