



Maryland ODP Information

The Olympic Development Program identifies a pool of Maryland's best soccer players in age groups from ages 12U – 17U. These players receive high-level, professional training and compete against other ODP teams from the East Region, a 13-state area including New England, the mid-Atlantic, and the Virginias. The top players are selected to a regional pool and compete for positions in a national pool, from which national youth teams are selected for international competition. Maryland players are selected to play in the East Region player pool, the US Youth National soccer program, and the US National team residency program.

In addition to the opportunity to compete for a regional pool position and even a national pool or team position, Maryland players benefit from (1) additional instruction and training; (2) overseas travel to train and compete; (3) playing with and against a higher average level of player; and (4) additional visibility to college coaches as an older player. ODP players, regardless of age, are expected to undertake ODP not only as an opportunity to improve their on-field capabilities, but also as an opportunity to learn and adhere to a professional approach to soccer in terms of conduct, attitude, and attention to detail. Team trips are business trips where the business is soccer.

Structure

Maryland ODP operates statewide under the direction and policies of the MSYSA Board of Directors. Maryland ODP teams are selected primarily through a tryout process, trained by a professional coaching staff, and compete in several major regional tournaments. The group of players selected at each age level is called the state pool. In the three oldest ages, each pool is comprised of up to 30 players. In the youngest ages, each pool is comprised of up to 48 - 65 players.

Costs

The ODP program is self-sustaining and the costs can be significant. Some fees are set by MSYSA; others are set by the East Region or other outside providers. Programs fees for most age groups total up to \$1,250 a year for a player participating in all events, not including international travel. MSYSA and the East Region provide limited financial assistance for families that cannot meet these costs. Finding individual sponsors to assist families and players to cover the costs associated with ODP is, in many cases, the only way for some players to participate at this high level of soccer.

Want to know more?

Visit us at msysa.org or contact the ODP Programs Director at programs@msysa.org.