



**Michigan State Youth Soccer Association
Olympic Development Program
2023/2024 Parent Guide**

Thank you for registering for season 23/24 of the Michigan Olympic Development Program.

ODP allows players to develop and be identified at a State, Regional, and National level.

The purpose of ODP is to identify and provide opportunities for high potential players, facilitate their development, expose them to the next level of their chosen pathway and motivate their pursuit of excellence.

What is ODP?

The US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program was formed in 1977 to identify a pool of players in each age group from which a National Team will be selected.

ODP Mission:

The mission of the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program is to identify the top players registered within the State of Michigan to develop these players through quality coaching, and to help these players gain recognition at the State, Regional and National levels.

The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) mission is to identify the top players in registered within the State of Michigan for development.

ODP Goals

- To identify a pool of players in each age group and gender to be named to the State Team as well as the identification of individual players to attend the Midwest Regional ID Camp.
- To provide an opportunity for players to play in front of college coaches, US Regional Staff and United States Soccer Federation Scouts.

Age Group

The age groups for ODP are determined by the year of the birth player. That is, players are put together if they were born between January 1 and December 31 of the same birth year.

ODP 23/24 is open to players born in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2012. Players are split by age group and gender.

Process

ODP opens for registration in March each year. The ODP ID weekend for ODP cycle 23/24 will be held 7/28/23, 7/29/23 and, 7/30/23 at Independence Park (Canton, MI). We do offer an alternate tryout which is held indoors over winter (date/time TBA). Numbers for the winter tryout are capped at 10 players per age group/gender (on a first come first served basis). The alternate tryout is a one off, 2-hour tryout for those players who are unable to attend ANY of their assigned sessions over the July tryout weekend. The alternate tryout MUST be requested in advance as space is limited.

There are three tiers of registration for ODP.

- \$125.00 (players registered between March – April 30, 2023)
- \$150.00 (players registered between May 1 – May 31, 2023)
- \$175 (players registered between June 1 – registration close date)

This registration includes an ODP tryout shirt. This shirt must be worn to all sessions and to the training sessions if you are selected to progress to the winter pool training squad (WPTS). It is important that this shirt is worn to all sessions as it has a number on the back specifically allocated to each player. This number is how coaches identify and evaluate players. This shirt cannot be replaced. If you are named to a Michigan ODP State Team a State Team uniform will be provided to you. Michigan ODP does not charge players for this uniform, and it is yours to keep. The uniform will consist of 2 Under Armor jerseys and socks. This uniform should be worn to any Michigan ODP events/games. The uniform will be provided free of charge to all named State Team players and to any alternate team members named at a later date.

Written feedback is not typically given after tryouts, players are encouraged to speak to their coach one on one after sessions for feedback. Feedback is also given during the sessions to players.

At the end final session of each age group/gender winter pool training squads (WPTS) will be announced on the field, a follow-up email will be sent from MSYSA State Office in the days following confirming the jersey numbers of those players moving forward to the WPTS. All decisions are final. Coaches typically name 30-35 players to move forward to the WPTS (plus any from the alternate tryout).

Players who move to the next stage after the ID weekend (to WPTS) will be invited to attend 4, 2-hour training sessions over winter (dates/times TBA). These sessions will be held indoors at the Lincoln Athletic Building in Ypsilanti. The cost of these sessions is \$250 (\$62.50 per session) which is due within 1 month of selection to the winter pool training squad. It is recommended that players attend all sessions. The more sessions you attend, the better your evaluation and chances of being named to Michigan ODP State Team.

Players attending the alternate tryout will be evaluated during the first training session of their age group/gender (date/time TBA). Players will be evaluated during this session and will be told at the end if they are progressing to the WPTS. Coaches are not limited in the number of players they can add to the WPTS at the alternate tryout.

At the end of the final session of each age/group and gender Michigan ODP State Teams will be announced on the field. A follow-up email will be sent from MSYSA State Office in the days following listing the jersey numbers of players named as State Team players and alternates.

A Michigan ODP State Team typically consists of 16 field players and 2 goalkeepers (plus up to 6 alternates). Named team members will receive their uniform prior to the first ODP event. Any

alternates named to the team will also receive their uniform prior to any ODP events they are participating in.

Written feedback is not typically given after tryouts, players are encouraged to speak to their coach one on one after sessions for feedback. Feedback is also given during training sessions to players.

Player Commitment

Players are evaluated during “open tryouts” over the July tryout weekend. Players should attend all assigned tryout times, if possible, the more time they spend with coaching staff/evaluators the better their evaluation will be and chances of progressing to the next stage. We ask that players make a commitment to ODP, that they give their best on and off the field as they are representing not only their club, but the state of Michigan as a member of the Olympic Development Program. We ask that you be respectful of your club coach and your ODP coaches while you manage your playing calendar.

Supplemental Events

State Team members may be offered opportunities to attend tournaments/showcases as they become available with their respective ODP teams throughout the year. Additional costs will apply for these events. Details TBA.

Midwest Regional Camp (MWRC): The top 12 state team players from each age group/gender will be recommended by Michigan ODP Coaches to receive an invitation to attend the Midwest Regional Camp (July 2024). Players who attend any supplemental events attended by Michigan ODP State Teams who do not receive a recommendation to the MWRC, have an opportunity to be ‘scouted’ to receive an invitation to the Midwest Regional Camp.

Players named to the Midwest Regional Team will be invited to attend Inter-Regionals in Florida (November 2024).

After Michigan ODP State Teams have been announced Michigan ODP Coaches will submit a list of up to 12 names per age group/gender to recommend to US Youth Soccer (USYS) to attend the Midwest Regional ID Camp (July 2024). While at this event players will train with the TOP players from the Midwest Region. Players are being evaluated for a potential selection to the Midwest Regional Pool and a Midwest Regional Team. Players named to the Midwest Regional Team will be invited to attend the Inter-Regionals (November 2024) where they will represent the Midwest Region against the TOP youth players in the country. Additional costs will apply to these events. These are USYS events, pricing has not been made available to State Associations.

What to Bring

- An inflated ball (we do not have ball pumps on site).
- Players should wear the tryout shirt they receive on Day 1 of ODP to all training sessions. The number on the back is specifically allocated to each individual player and is what coaches use to identify players when completing evaluations.

- Players should not wear any gear that identifies to a particular club. – ODP is a neutral environment.
- Shin guards
- Water

Please make sure all items are clearly marked with the players first and last name.

Weather Policy

In the case of inclement weather, if cancellation or postponement of any sessions is necessary MSYSA State Office will communicate via email to the address used for registration and on our social media (Facebook/Instagram).

If we are impacted by inclement weather and are not afforded enough time to properly evaluate players, we will hold any make-up sessions needed the following weekend at Independence Park. (Details will be communicated if/when needed)

ODP Clothing & Spirit Wear

All players attending tryouts will be given a tryout shirt that will be worn during all trying sessions. The numbered shirt should also be worn during winter pool training sessions. This shirt cannot be replaced or switched once allocated. In addition, MSYSA will make available spirit wear apparel to ODP participants for optional purchase.