



## Frequently Asked Questions about the Olympic Development Program

### Can participants still tryout if they have a conflict with the ODP ID weekend (July 2024)

- Yes, your player can still participate in the ODP cycle 24/25. They must be registered before the July registration close date. MSYSA State Office holds approximately 10 spots per age group/gender for players who have a conflict and cannot attend ANY of their assigned tryout times. These spots are held on a first come first served basis. Players attending the “alternate tryout” will attend a one-off, 2-hour tryout indoors over in November. Date/time TBA.

### What are the benefits of participation in ODP?

- Players are exposed to high-level coaches from around the state (college coaches, high-level club coaches, high school coaches, Regional Staff Coaches, and US Soccer Scouts).
- ODP Players can play against some of the best players in their state, region, and country.
- ODP Can be a pathway to the Region Team, National Team, college recruitment, and even professional soccer.
- Participation in ODP will help players build their ‘soccer resume’.
- MSYSA State Office offers several college scholarship opportunities including one specific to ODP participants.

### Is it okay to participate in ODP as well as playing club soccer?

- Yes, it is permissible for a player to participate in ODP if they are playing in club soccer. MSYSA offers ODP to all its members to enhance the player’s soccer experience. The program was designed by US Youth Soccer to allow players to further their development and provide them with additional opportunities.
- We realize that players may on occasion have a conflict with an ODP event. We encourage players to communicate with both their club coaches and ODP coaches to work out any conflicts. We respect the need for players to attend club events and missing an ODP event for a scheduling conflict is not an issue. Players will NOT be

penalized for this. We do ask that you email [stateoffice@michiganyouthsoccer.org](mailto:stateoffice@michiganyouthsoccer.org) in advance to advise of any conflicts. Include the player's first/last name and birth year in the email.

#### **Is it okay to participate in MLS and ODP?**

- Yes, you can. Both programs are US Soccer-affiliated programs. US Soccer, MSYSA's national governing body, **encourages** interplay between its organizations, under Bylaw 603. In short, coaches/clubs should not be restricting a player's right to participate with other organizational members of US Soccer, if they so choose. Additionally, Policy 212-1, indicates that players may be registered/participate with other organizational members of US Soccer.

#### **Who is eligible for ODP?**

- Any player registered with MSYSA born in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014 is eligible to participate in ODP cycle 24/25.

#### **What if my player can't make all their assigned sessions?**

- Our preference is that players attend all assigned sessions, we understand that there will be scheduling conflicts with other activities/family trips, etc. and for this reason, players will not be penalized for missing a session. We do ask that they let MSYSA know in advance by emailing: [stateoffice@michiganyouthsoccer.org](mailto:stateoffice@michiganyouthsoccer.org) to advise of any conflicts. Include the player's first/last name and birth year in the email. Remember: The more sessions the player attends, the better their evaluation will be and their chances of progressing with the program.

#### **What does it mean to be part of the Winter Pool Training Squad?**

- Pool players are players selected after the ODP ID Weekend to move forward to the winter pool training squad. These players will attend 4-5, 2-hour indoor training sessions over winter. The cost for these sessions is \$275 (\$55.00 per session).
- While attending these 4 training sessions, players are being further evaluated for a selection to a Michigan ODP State Team.
- There is no set number of players that can move to the winter pool training squad. Typically, coaches select their top 30-35, plus any players they want to move forward from the alternate tryout.

#### **What does it mean to be a State Team player?**

- A State Team player is a player who has been selected to represent Michigan in state tournaments, sub-regional events, and friendlies. State Team players will be evaluated for the opportunity to attend the Midwest Region ID Camp.
- A State Team typically consists of 16 field players and 2 goalkeepers, plus any alternates named.

#### **What does it mean to be an Alternate?**

- At times, State Team players may be unable to attend events. In these instances, a player from the alternate list will have an opportunity to participate.
- Coaches may select up to 6 alternates per age/group gender for their State Team pool.

### **When will placements be announced?**

- At the end of the final session of the ODP ID Weekend, the jersey numbers of those players moving forward to the winter pool training squad will be announced on the field. An email in the days following will be sent from the MSYSA State Office (to the email address used for registration) listing the jerseys of those players moving forward to the winter pool training squad.
- For those who move forward to the winter pool training squad, State Team announcements are usually made on the field after the final winter pool training session. We do allow coaches a 7 day window after the final training to announce a team if extra time is needed. An email in the days following will be sent from the MSYSA State Office (to the email address used for registration) listing the jerseys of those players named to the State Team as a player or alternate.
- Recommendations for the Midwest Region ID Camp will be made by our State Coaches and sent to USYS approximately 1 month after tryouts. **This information is not shared with players/families until USYS reaches out with invitations.**

### **How does a player get selected for the Midwest Region ID Camp?**

- State Coaches and Region Staff observe and evaluate players throughout the ODP Cycle. Recommendations are made from these observations. It is important to note that the initial invitations will come from US Youth Soccer after April 1, 2025, however, players will be evaluated through the entire cycle. Players can be recommended for their performances at sub-regional events/friendlies etc.

### **There are two ways to receive an invitation for the MWRC:**

1. Be recommended in the top 10 field and top GK's for your age group at a state level by your ODP age group coaches.
2. Be "scouted" at an ODP event by regional coaching staff.

### **What is the cost of participating in ODP?**

- \$125.00 Registration March – April 30, 2024
- \$150.00 Registration May 1 – May 31, 2024
- \$175.00 Registration June 1 – Close
- Winter Pool Training: For those players selected to move forward to the winter pool training squad a fee of \$275 is due within 1 month. This fee is for five (5) training sessions. This equates to \$55.00 for each 2-hour training session. This fee covers insurance, coaching fees, onsite athletic trainers, facility rentals, etc.

### **Can I have a refund?**

MSYSA's refund policy is listed on the registration form completed for each player and can also be found on our [website](#). There are no refunds unless you can provide the MSYSA State Office with a documented injury report from a medical doctor (for your child), before the try-outs/training. If/when supplied, a refund, less \$50, is provided.

#### **Additional costs?**

- There will be additional costs for players attending sub-regional events and friendlies. Costs are dependent on the location of the event. Typically, costs are between \$50-250 depending on the location of the event.
- State Team uniforms. Players will order their uniforms online from Soccer Village. Price varies from year to year, typically a full kit is approximately \$95. Players will select their size and uniforms will be shipped to the players. All State Team players are required to have a uniform to wear to friendlies and subregional events.

#### **Where is the training held?**

- Winter training locations will be announced after the July tryouts. Depending on facility availability we may use facilities in Livonia, Canton, Wixom, and/or Washington Townships.

#### **When will training information be available?**

Training dates and times will not be made available immediately after teams have been announced. Please be patient. We have to work around many tournaments and schedules to schedule 110 hours of winter training for all our teams. As soon as it is available, email communications will be sent, and the dates and times will be posted on our website.

#### **Are parents allowed to watch tryouts and winter pool training sessions?**

- Parents are welcome to watch from a distance. Please be supportive and avoid yelling out or sideline coaching.

#### **Check-in**

- On your first day of tryouts, players are asked to arrive 30-45 minutes early.
- Players will check-in at the check-in tent with MSYSA State Office staff.
- At check-in, players will receive their ODP tryout shirt. This shirt must be worn to all ID Weekend sessions and winter pool training sessions (if the player progresses to the next round). Shirts may not be the size you wanted; however, we are not able to switch them out due to the individual number allocated to each participant before the tryout.

#### **Where can I find ODP updates?**

- If you don't already, please follow us on social media. MSYSA regularly posts updates for ODP on Facebook and Instagram as well as on our website. For Facebook: @msyasoccer. For Instagram: MSYSA. There is a dedicated ODP page on our website: [ODP24/25 website](#)

**Will Coaches provide feedback after tryouts/winter pool training?**

- This season MSYSA has engaged Team Genius to take care of our player feedback. All players will receive an individual link that will take them to their evaluation. This information will be available each season so players can track their progress. Players will not receive any other written or verbal feedback (other than in the normal coaching process).

**Can I contact my ODP Coach directly?**

- **No. All correspondence MUST go through the MSYSA State Office.** Please email any questions/concerns for your coach or to report and absence to: [stateoffice@michiganyouthsoccer.org](mailto:stateoffice@michiganyouthsoccer.org). Your email will be forwarded to the coach if necessary or answered by the MSYSA State Office.
- Julie Pearson is your State Office contact for ODP.