



# Kentucky Olympic Development Program

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Email: [ODP@kysoccer.net](mailto:ODP@kysoccer.net)

Website: <http://www.kysoccer.net>

In an attempt to improve the communication, administration, direction, and consistency of the Kentucky Olympic Development Program, the following guidelines have been created and adopted to govern player participation in the Kentucky Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Kentucky Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program is to:

1. Identify the elite players in the state of Kentucky in the age groups that are recognized by US Youth Soccer and the Region II Olympic Development Program.
2. Prepare the elite players in the state for regional events by exposing them to professional environments that provide quality coaching and quality competition.
3. Support Kentucky players who participate at the regional and national levels.

## Player Selection and Identification Open Tryouts

1. Open tryouts will be held for all age groups recognized by US Youth Soccer and the Region II Olympic Development Program.
2. Any and all players interested in participating in the Kentucky ODP program can attend the open tryouts.
3. Player selection process at open tryouts will proceed as follows:
  - A. Each player who pre-registers for open tryouts will be pre-assigned a scrimmage vest coded by color and number.
  - B. Players who register on-site will be assigned a vest and number, and at that time will be deemed eligible for evaluation.
  - C. Coaches will not be aware of players' names, and will only identify players by vest color and number.
  - D. At the conclusion of the tryouts, coaches will submit the list of their initial player pools to the Director of Coach and Player Development
  - E. Any player who is unsuccessful in making the state pool may e-mail the Director of Coach & Player Development for a one time written evaluation. The e-mail must include the players name, age group and try-out vest number/color and come directly from the player and not the parent.
  - F. If a player is not selected for the Kentucky State Pool or final State Team in his/her respective age group, they may not try out in another state during the same ODP Seasonal Year, unless they no longer reside in the state of Kentucky.



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## Additional Selection Opportunities

A player, who did not attend open tryouts, can be scouted, or brought into Pool Training Session for a one-time evaluation.

In order for a player to be scouted, or granted an invitation for an alternative tryout, a letter of recommendation must be received by the Director of Coach and Player Development, no later than 14 days prior to the final scheduled try-out

- A.** The letter of recommendation can come from any soccer coach within the community: high school coach, club, coach, etc.
- B.** The letter must clearly state the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of both the player/s being recommended and the recommending coach.
- C.** This letter should also include the name of the player/s club team and the number that this player/s wear while playing with his/her club team.
- D.** This letter must be dated and signed by the coach, along with reasons as to why this particular coach feels this player would benefit from or be an asset to the Kentucky Olympic Development Program.
- E.** The player's winter/spring club schedule should also be attached to the letter.

Once the letter of recommendation has been received by the State Director of Coach and Player Development, the player will either be scouted while playing with his/her club team or the player will be contacted with an official invitation and instructions to register online.

- A.** If the scouted player is deemed material for the state pool, the player will receive a letter of invitation to join the state pool.
- B.** If the player is not deemed material for the state pool, the player will receive a letter indicating that this is the case.
- C.** If the player is unable to be scouted, he/she will receive a letter of invitation to try out during a regularly scheduled pool training sessions. No players will be invited into the final pool session of that season.
- D.** This player is entitled to a one-time evaluation, and should the age-group head coach choose to retain this player, this player's name will be added to the state pool on the state website within 7 days of the tryout.

3. Kentucky ODP is under no obligation whatsoever to retain a player in the program who has been recommended.

This policy only guarantees this particular player a one-time scouting look or tryout, providing that the requirements for recommendation have been met. The Director of Coach and Player Development reserves the right to invite a player to tryout without a letter of recommendation if he personally sees the player play, or is aware of special circumstances that have previously prevented a player from trying out.



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## Out of State Players

Any player who resides in Kentucky and plays club soccer in another state must receive written permission from the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association's Director of Coach and Player Development.

Any player who does not reside and/or play club soccer in Kentucky must receive written permission from the State Director of Coach & Player Development of the state that the currently reside or play in

## Injury or Illness

Any player who sustains an injury or illness that disables them from attending **BOTH** of the open tryouts, may be brought into a Pool Training Session, if, and only if, proper medical documentation has been provided to the Director of Coach and Player Development.

1. This documentation must be submitted prior to the open tryouts.
2. Any players, who sustain an injury or illness that prevents them from attending both of the open tryouts and fail to submit proper documentation PRIOR to the open tryouts, they must go through the proper procedures of obtaining a letter of recommendation as stated above.

No player will be invited in for evaluation after the final State Teams have been selected.

## Open Tryout Schedule

Open tryouts for all age groups and genders will take place on two separate weekends. Each tryout will run for two and half hours. Both age groups in each gender will tryout simultaneously, at the same predetermined site.

Bad weather dates will be scheduled for the day or weekend immediately after the originally scheduled tryout.

## Initial State Player Pools

For the three or four youngest age groups in each gender, an initial player pool of approximately 46-50 players will be selected.

For all other age groups in each gender, an initial player pool of approximately 28-32 players will be selected.

These numbers are subject to increase in the event that players are brought in after open tryouts.

## Final State Teams



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The three or four youngest age groups in each gender will name two final state teams of 18 players will be selected for each age group. These pools for the first three years will be split into six month birth years. The final year that the state sends two teams to Region II ODP events, they will be split into A and B teams

For two oldest groups in each gender, one final state team of 18 players will be chosen. A total of 5 alternates will be named for each age group in both genders. These totals are based on sufficient numbers and are subject to be reduced. The Director of Coach and Player Development may reduce the total number of players on each team for any reason. Final State teams will attend events organized by Kentucky Youth Soccer Association or announced by US Youth Soccer and the Region II ODP Program.

## Announcements of State Pools and State Teams

Initial Player Pools will be announced no later than 10 days following open tryouts. State Teams will be announced no later than 10 days following the final pool training session. Alternates will be included in the announcement of the Final State Teams.

## Events for Initial State Pools

- A. Pool Training Sessions will be held at different venues around the state of Kentucky on weekends during the fall and winter months
- B. Pool Training Sessions will consist of pool training and inter-pool competition.
- C. These events will be used to further evaluate talent in preparation for selecting the final state teams.
- D. Players from the pool who are not selected for the final state team, including alternates will receive a player evaluation from the State Age Group Coaches.

## Events for Final State Team

1 An Inter-State Play-day event in a late spring will be scheduled for the final 18 players and 5 alternate players to participate in. This event may be hosted by Kentucky, and will include other ODP teams from other states. If Kentucky Youth Soccer Association does not host the event the teams will attend an event that which our teams have been invited to attend.

All ODP state teams in each age group will participate in this event, except for the youngest age group in each gender. It will be the player's responsibility to organize travel and accommodation for any Inter-State Play Day events

2. A final team practice day will be scheduled for the final 18 players and 5 alternate players to participate in. This event will take place in June

3. Regional events, as announced by US Youth Soccer and the Region II ODP Program.



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All players should arrive at all ODP events at least 30-minutes prior to the scheduled start of each event to allow for a smooth registration process

## Financial Requirements

Fees for events are non-refundable unless the player is unable to compete due to an injury documented by appropriate medical professionals administering treatment to the player. Fees for Regional Camp are set by US Youth Soccer Region II, fees for the state program are set annually. Check the state website at <http://kysoccer.net> for current fees.

## Financial Aid

Players in need of financial support may apply for financial aid by completing the following required steps for application:

1. Submit a letter of request to the Director of Coach and Player Development State Coach, stating the circumstances that may render this player eligible to receive financial aid. This letter also must include the amount that the family in case can afford.
2. Submit a letter from the player's affiliated soccer club verifying that similar alternate arrangements have been made on this player's behalf at the club level due to family financial constraints.

\*Note – any and all players who are granted financial assistance must pay a minimum of \$50

## Communication

ODP players, and parents of players, should not write, call, fax, or email any ODP coaches to report an absence from any ODP activity. Any player that is selected for the state pool or team must communicate with the age group administrator if they are going to be absent from any ODP activity.

If you are at a scheduled tryout or training session, you are available to be seen by the coaches and be evaluated. If you are not at a scheduled tryout or training session, you are not available to be seen and evaluated. Absences from ODP practices may affect your ability to be selected for a Kentucky Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program team.

Players, and parents of players, can obtain information regarding by logging onto the state websites, [www.kysoccer.net](http://www.kysoccer.net)