

# **United States Youth Soccer of Nevada OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM Guidelines and Information For PARENTS**

## **PHILOSOPHY**

It is the mission of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of America's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition. Each National State Association has the responsibility to provide opportunities for every player in every part of its assigned territory to play affiliated soccer at the developmental, intermediate and advanced levels. The Olympic Development Program (ODP) represents the advanced level of this mission.

## **PURPOSE**

The USYSA ODP is a national identification and development program. The program identifies and develops youth players throughout the country. It was formed to select a pool of players in each eligible age group from which a National Team will be selected for International competition. Through the use of carefully selected licensed coaches, players are chosen to represent their state, region and the United States in soccer competition. Each National State Association can hold open trials to select a group of players who will represent that state at the regional level in each respective age group.

## **GOALS OF USYSA ODP**

The goals of the program are:

1. To provide high level training to benefit and enhance the development of players.
2. To develop a mechanism for the enhancement of ideas and curriculum to improve all levels of coaching.
3. To identify a pool of players in each program age group from which a United States National Team will be selected for International competition.

## **BENEFITS**

The benefits of participating in the ODP Program are:

1. Development as a player through the opportunity to train and play with the best players in one's age group.
2. Quality instruction from nationally licensed coaches.
3. Quality competition.
4. Exposure to college, regional and national team coaches.
5. The opportunity to represent one's state, region or country in competition.

## **AGE GROUPS**

The program age groups have a January 1 cutoff date instead of the August 1 cutoff date used for club/league teams. Teams are referred to by birth year; e.g. a player born May 29, 1990 is referred to as a '90 player, rather than Under 18.

The ODP program age groups will be determined by the state's ODP committee based on the national and regional program age groups for that year. For the year 2007-2008 the following age groups in Nevada are eligible to participate:

1. Players born in 1990 will participate in ODP Region IV (RIV) Championship Tournament only.
2. Players born in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 will participate in ODP RIV Championship Tournament and attend RIV camp in summer of 2008.
3. Players born in 1995 will attend the ODP Mountain States Friendly RIV summer camp only.
4. Players born in 1996 will attend the ODP Mountain States Friendly and one other tournament during the summer.

5. Players may not play one year up at RIV camp. Camp participants are AGE PURE ONLY. (e.g., a player born in 1995 may not attend camp with the 1994 team UNLESS that player is selected and requested by RIV staff to do so.)

### **ELIGIBILITY**

All Nevada residents, regardless of state organization affiliation, are eligible to participate in the program as long as they are within the age limits and adhere to the rules, regulations, code of conduct and guidelines of the ODP program.

### **VERIFICATION OF BIRTH DATE AND/OR CITIZENSHIP**

USYSA birth date documents will be the documents accepted for verification of birth date/citizenship. Players not registered or affiliated with a sanctioned USYSA league or club team, must be able to provide verification of birth date and/or citizenship when requested by the NV ODP Committee. Players not registered with a sanctioned USYSA League will be subject to USYSA registration/insurance fee.

### **CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT**

1. State Team: Not required
2. Regional Camp/Team: Citizenship rules as required by the U.S. Olympic Committee are to be followed, i.e. if citizenship residency eligibility requirements can be met by the date of the next international event that a player can participate in, that player may be placed on a Regional Team or participate in Regional Camp. Each case would have to be reviewed individually by the State or Regional Administrator.
3. National Team: Citizenship required.

### **GOALS FOR UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER of NEVADA-ODP (USYSNV-ODP) 2007-2008**

1. Attract and recruit the best youth soccer players in the state of Nevada.
2. Increase participation in the program by 10%.
3. Place more players on the Regional and National Team pools than the previous year.
4. Improve the State's placement at RIV Championship Tournament.
5. Have all coaches with a C license or lower to pursue an upgrade on their current license.
6. Provide fundraising opportunities to make the program affordable for every player.
7. Build a stronger relationship between the club coaches, leagues, University of Nevada (UNLV and UNR), the Strikers Soccer Team and its affiliates, and the USYSNV-ODP Program.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The proper lines of communication will ALWAYS be as follows:

1. Players and parents must always first consult their age level administrator with any questions, concerns or comments they may have. There should be no communication initiated by players/parents with ODP Coaches, including the State DOC, without going through the age level administrator.
2. The age level administrator will then consult the age level coach or State DOC if necessary.
3. The State Director of Coaching will then consult with the NV ODP Committee and they will make an executive decision, if necessary.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** that our age level administrators are volunteers. They will do their best to respond to your concern within 48 hours. If you do not receive a response from your age level administrator after 48 hours from the time you make a request, you may then proceed to contact the State Administrator. Please DO NOT contact your age group coach, the State DOC or USYSNV office manager.

## 2007-2008 PROJECTED FEES

**\$75** – Registration fee. **(96+, 95, and 94 age groups)** This is a one time charge and will cover all tryout/training dates throughout the year and will be used to pay for field usage, coach evaluators, athletic trainers, and tryout/practice t-shirts. (Players may keep their t-shirts.) This initial registration fee applies to all players in these age groups. Players and their families are responsible for this fee. USYSNV – ODP will not provide sponsorship for this fee. However, we will provide you with a letter to assist you with finding prospective sponsors to cover the registration fee for your child. Please contact your age group administrator if you need financial assistance. **THIS FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE** and is due by **November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007**.

**\$30** – Registration fee **(93, 92 and 91 age groups)**. This is a one time charge and will cover the December Combined Tryout/Training and trainings throughout the year, field usage, coach evaluators, athletic trainers and tryout/practice t-shirts. (Players may keep their t-shirts). Please note, 1993 players who are not attending High School yet are encouraged to attend tryouts and training sessions in September, October and November, as well as the combine tryout/training in December. This initial registration fee applies to all players in these age groups. Players and their families are responsible for this fee. USYSNV-ODP will not provide sponsorship for this fee. However, we will provide you with a letter to assist you with finding prospective sponsors to cover the registration fee for your child. Please contact your age group administrator if you need financial assistance. **THIS FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE** and is due by **Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007**.

**No Registration Fee will be charged for the 1990 age groups.**

**\$250–300** RIV Championship Tournament fee. This fee is to cover expenses incurred for tournament including, travel, hotel for 3 nights and coach(s) fee, uniforms, warm up suits, NV ODP soccer bags, office supplies, etc. Please note that this fee is higher than in previous years due to fact the Las Vegas was the host of this tournament and their were not travel or hotel cost associated when it was held here. However, this year the tournament is being held in Phoenix, AZ, so the new fee is associated with the cost of traveling and hotel accommodations. **THIS FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE** if your child is selected to represent the State of Nevada on his/her age level Team, and decides at the last minute not to participate. ODP will refund this fee due to an unexpected injury or emergency, provided that the requested documentation is submitted to NV ODP Committee. Request for refund **MUST BE** submitted in writing to NV ODP Committee and decisions concerning any refund will be reviewed individually by NV ODP Committee. Alternates selected for tournament team must attend and participate in all trainings, but will not be responsible to pay the fee unless they are selected to replace a player originally selected for a position on the final 18 player roster.

**\$200** - Pool fee. Only players selected to the Final 18-player State Team Roster will pay the fee. There will be no fee charged for players selected to the pool as an alternate. Alternates will only pay this fee if they are selected to go to camp to replace another player or as a player on the camp team. This \$200 fee will be due February 8, 2008 after final selection of pool players is announced. Selected pool players **ONLY** will be responsible to pay this fee. **THIS FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE** since ODP will be paying coach evaluators for their time and expenses incurred in selection and training of pool players, ordering necessary uniforms, gear, equipment and practice t-shirts. (Players may keep these t-shirts) Therefore, we will be unable to refund any part of and all amounts of this fee, except for in the event of an unfortunate injury or emergency situations.

## FUNDRAISING

USYSNV-ODP will provide fundraising opportunities throughout the year for players to earn credit for their personal accounts. Please contact your age group administrator for assistance with fundraising. Credits earned can be used to pay for any and all ODP fees that occur. **PLEASE NOTE**: Credits earned by ODP players and/or their families cannot be removed from player ODP account to pay club or league fees. These credits will remain in USYSNV-ODP account and

will be used **ONLY** to pay ODP fees. Any fees not used during the year will remain in players account and can be used the following year for that player or any sibling he/she may have participating in ODP. Upon written request, a player's credit can be transferred into another ODP player's account but again, may only be used for fees relating to the ODP program. After 2 years, any player account that is not active will have any and all credits deposited into the general ODP account unless ODP receives written request to keep player family account open for sibling(s) entering the program after the 2 year period has passed. **There will be no money refunded for credits earned if player leaves the program.**

### **SPONSORSHIP**

USYSNV-ODP and RIV will provide sponsorship for player fees for those players and their families that need assistance. Player's eligibility for receiving this assistance will be reviewed on an individual basis by the NV ODP committee; and this committee will make the executive decision concerning sponsorship. Players and their families **MUST** submit this request in writing to the NV ODP committee and **will be required** to make an effort to help obtain these fees by sending out prospective sponsor letters, participating in fundraising opportunities offered by the program and volunteering their time to the ODP program for duties that will be determined by the NV ODP committee. Parents will need to sign a financial/sponsorship agreement form and will be required to perform the duties as outlined by NV ODP committee or they will lose sponsorship funding. Please contact your age group administrator for more information concerning eligibility and detailed requirements.

**NSF** In the event your payment to NV ODP fails to be honored by your financial institution, player's account will be assessed an additional \$25 and player will be unable to participate until all fees are paid in full. Any and all future payments will need to be in the form of money order or cashier's check.

### **ENTRY DEADLINES**

Registration deadline for participation in 2007-2008 ODP season are as follows:

1. Registration form must be submitted NO LATER than **November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007** for age groups **96+, 95 and 94** and **December 17, 2007** for **93, 92, 91 and 90** Players.
2. Entry and participation into the program after December 31, 2008 will be reviewed on an individual basis by the State DOC and **ONLY** for reason(s) of injury or illness that prevented player's participation during scheduled tryout dates, or the discovery clause, for players who may have recently moved into Nevada within the last 6 months. Players returning from injury or illness must submit the above form, including the registration fee and must be medically cleared by their physician to participate.

### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE GAME**

In compliance with RIV guidelines, USYSNV-ODP will honor the following:

1. Parents **will not** be allowed to view any training or tryouts from the field sidelines. A designated area will be set up by NV ODP committee for parents to view scrimmages and training. The only parents allowed on the sidelines will be parents who are administrators or those who volunteer to assist at tryouts. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS AND THIS RULE WILL BE FULLY ENFORCED.** Parents/spectators who refuse to follow this RIV guideline will jeopardize their child's eligibility to participate in the ODP program.
2. There will be no contact allowed between the parents and ODP coaching staff. Please consult your age group administrator with any concerns, comments, questions or suggestions you may have. (See communication)
3. There will be no coaching your child or any player from the designated spectator area. Our ODP Coaches are nationally licensed State, Region and National Coaches and do not need your opinions or ideas on how to train or evaluate the players.

**THE USYSNV-ODP COMMITTEE, COACHES, ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!! Please sit back, be quiet and enjoy this experience. We know your child will.**