

VT ODP Overview 2009/2010

Take a look at any professional, Olympic or college player and they will most certainly have on their resume “ODP”. Why? – Because it is one of the more important routes to a high level of soccer. Imagine training with the best players in Vermont, by the best coaches in the northeast, and then coming together with the best players in the surrounding 13 states at the ODP Camp at the end of the season. College coaches look at ODP experience as an important factor in recruiting prospective athletes. There is no other opportunity like this. Elevate your game. Join us.

WHAT IS ODP? VT/US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program or ODP as it is commonly called is a national identification and development program designed to identify youth soccer players throughout the country, to represent their state (VT) association, Region, and the United States in soccer competition.

ODP teams are formed at the state and regional levels, made up of the best players in various age groups. At the state association level, pools of players are identified in each eligible age group, brought together as a team to develop their skills through training and competition. From the state pools, players are identified for regional and national pools and teams. Vermont ODP is one of 13 states within US Youth Soccer Region I.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF ODP?

- To identify a pool of players in each age group from which a United States National Team will be selected for international competition.
- To provide high-level training to benefit and enhance the development of players at all levels.
- Through the use of carefully selected and licensed coaches, develop mechanism for the enhancement of ideas and curriculum to improve all levels of coaching.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Any soccer player who is a Vermont resident and is in good standing with the VSA is eligible for consideration to participate in ODP provided that he/she meets the age requirements for the established age groups. A player may try not tryout for ODP in more than one state association.

HOW ARE PLAYERS SELECTED? Vermont ODP selects players on the basis of open tryouts, as well as evaluations of play during school and club competitions. These tryouts/evaluations are conducted by licensed state association coaches who are recognized for their ability to identify and train players. Players can also try out at the invitation of the state team coaches. Players can be referred to a state team head coach or can be identified through scouting.

Selection of these players is not an easy task. The state association head coach or state coach has the sole responsibility for final selections, but will, in most cases, be assisted in the selection process by several other qualified coaches from the club or league level.

Players are evaluated on the following components: Technique, tactics, fitness and athletic ability, and attitude.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR TRYOUTS? Online registration is strongly encouraged. All players wishing to try out must complete a VT ODP online registration form and pay a **registration fee of \$25**. The online registration will be available from October 1st through Thursday, November 5th. All players after that date will need to register on site at the fields with a **\$35 registration fee** payable by cash or check to VSA. . Link to online registration can be found on the VSA website at www.vermontsoccer.org.

WHEN ARE TRYOUTS? State Pool Team try out sessions for the 2009/2010 season:

Sunday, November 8, 2009 – Tree Farm Recreational Facility*

10:00 am to 11:30 am: U13 girls and U13 boys

11:30 am to 1:00 pm: U15 girls and U15 boys

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm: U17 girls and U17 boys

*** There will be a parent meeting at the start of each session**

Sunday, November 15, 2009 – Tree Farm Recreational Facility

10:00 am to 11:30 am: U13 girls and U13 boys

11:30 am to 1:00 pm: U15 girls and U15 boys

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm: U17 girls and U17 boys

Sunday, November 8, 2009 – Weston Island Fields

10:00 am to 11:30 am: U13 girls and U13 boys

11:30 am to 1:00 pm: U15 girls and U15 boys

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm: U17 girls and U17 boys

Sunday, November 15, 2009 – Weston Island Fields*

10:00 am to 11:30 am: U13 girls and U13 boys

11:30 am to 1:00 pm: U15 girls and U15 boys

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm: U17 girls and U17 boys

***There will be a parent meeting at the start of each session**

***All players should arrive to fields early to check in and warm up. Players will need to bring a size #5 soccer ball and water bottle.

ODP Age Groups are based on calendar year and birth year (January 1st-December 31st)

- U13 age groups Players born in 1997 and 1998
- U15 age groups Players born in 1995 and 1996
- U17 age groups Players born in 1993 and 1994

PLAYERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND 2 TRY OUT SESSIONS AT THE SAME LOCATION.

WHEN DO I FIND OUT IF I MADE A POOL/TOURNAMENT TEAM? All players will be notified of the results by email or mail within 2 weeks following the final tryout session. Selections for the ODP Tournament Team will be made mid to late April 2010.

HOW MANY PLAYERS WILL BE SELECTED FOR THE TEAMS? Pool teams will consist of 20-40 players in each age group pool. Only a maximum of 18 players will be selected from each age group pool for participation in the ODP Tournament, June 11th-13th 2010 at the Rider University/Princeton, NJ area.

WILL THERE BE A NORTH AND SOUTH POOL TEAM? No, there is one state pool of players in each age group with indoor trainings offered in two locations. There are no specific numbers of players from either the northern or southern parts of the state that will make up each age group pool. We are looking for the best players in the state based on the components of technique, tactics, fitness and athletic ability, and attitude.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE TRAININGS HELD? Winter indoor trainings of age group pools will be held 1-2 times each month. Indoor training sessions will be held at various locations in both northern and southern Vermont. Information on training times and locations will be posted on the VSA website at www.vermontsoccer.org. Mini-Camp will be held in one location on a Sunday in March for all players in each pool team. Outdoor trainings will begin as weather permits in late April. There will be 2 or more outdoor trainings in May and 1-2 outdoor trainings in June. All players in each pool team will train together for the outdoor sessions at locations to be determined.

WHAT IS MINI-CAMP? Mini-camp trainings are directed by coaches from Region I. It is part of the identification process to select players for further Region I and National Team activities and events. Generally Mini-camp is held over 1 full day. Each pool team will have two 1 ½ hour sessions with the Region I coaches. There is one session in the morning for training and one afternoon/evening scrimmage session. All pool team players will participate in Mini-camp and it will be held in one indoor location.

WHAT IS THE ODP TOURNAMENT? This tournament is held only for United States ODP Region I State Teams at Rider University, NJ and other locations in the Princeton, NJ area. It will be held June 11th-13th 2010. The tournament is a scrambled format on Sat and Sun for the U13 age group. It is a three day (Fri, Sat and Sun), three game tournament for the U15 and U17 age groups with those teams able to advance to a semi-final and finals later in June. This tournament is attended by much of the Region I Staff who spend their time watching and evaluating players on every field. From these evaluations the identification process continues for the opportunity to play on the Region I Team. This tournament is also highly attended by college coaches from all over the country. The coaches are provided with team rosters and spend the entire weekend watching the U15 and all the U17 games identifying potential players for their schools. There is a separate fee for this event which covers the cost of the tournament fee, coach's room/board and expenses. The Vermont teams will stay together at one hotel, but the hotel costs and related travel and meal expense will be the player's responsibility.

HOW ARE PLAYER SELECTIONS MADE FOR THE ODP TOURNAMENT?

Selections to the Vermont ODP Tournament team are made by the state team coaches based on the player's performance during training sessions and mini-camp. The tournament team will be chosen mid to late April 2010. ODP players may damage their chances of selection to the tournament team through poor attendance, poor punctuality or an inappropriate attitude.

WHAT IS THE ODP CAMP? Every Vermont pool team player is eligible to participate in the ODP Camp. The dates and locations of these camps are posted both on the VSA website and on the Region I website www.region1.org. The camp is geared around providing all the players with intensive high level training. The camp is the final process in identifying players to be selected to the Region I ODP team. The camp provides several hours of training as well as games each day. Each player has the opportunity to work with other State ODP coaches (who are most often college coaches), Regional ODP coaches and National ODP coaches. Often members of the National Team Staff are at the camp evaluating as well. The cost of this camp is included in the Vermont ODP fee.

HOW ARE PLAYER SELECTIONS MADE FOR THE ODP CAMP? All pool team players will participate in the ODP camps in July in their age appropriate group.

DOES ODP REQUIRE CHAPERONES? Yes, chaperones are required for our players to participate in the ODP Camp. If not enough parents, from an age group, volunteer to chaperone at camp, we cannot send our players.

WHAT IS THE COST OF THE PROGRAM? VT ODP is a 100% self-funded non-profit program.

Pool Player fee - \$900* includes all indoor/outdoor trainings, mini-camp, coaches' fees, facility fees, and ODP Camp. Fees can be made in three installments: \$400* is due upon acceptance into program or by Dec 6, 2009; \$250* is due on or by Jan 10, 2010; \$250* is due on or by Feb 7, 2010.

ODP Tournament fee - \$250* includes uniform kit, tournament fees, coach's room/board, and travel expenses. Due by May 7, 2010.

*These numbers may vary depending on what facilities charge us to rent indoor and outdoor space, and what Region I charge us to send players to the tournament and camp.

ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE? There are limited partial scholarships available based on financial needs. Contact the VSA office. All scholarship requests are confidential and applications need to be submitted by December 18, 2009. Monies will be awarded by January 1, 2010.

IS THERE OPPORTUNITY FOR FUNDRAISING? We are looking for individuals interested in forming a committee to pursue fundraising activities. Contact the VSA office.

REFUNDS? If a player is selected to this program and participates in even one training session and then decides it is not for him/her, the fee is not refundable. Any unpaid fees at the point the player leaves the program, are still the responsibility of the player's family.

If a player is selected to the ODP Tournament and declines to participate, the player is responsible for the entire fee.

All pool players are expected to participate in the ODP Camp so no refunds are possible for this event.

If a player is selected to an ODP event, but is unable to attend that event because of injury, the player will be refunded their cost for that event, if a doctor's note is provided.

This document is meant to give an overview of the Vermont ODP program and some of the policies. Information regarding the calendar, policies, news and updates can be found on the VSA website and should be used as your primary source of information.

Karen Harlow, Vice President
USYS Olympic Development Program
Vermont Soccer Association
www.vermontsoccer.org

Chris Castano, Administrator
USYS Olympic Development Program
Vermont Soccer Association

Updated 9/21/09