



New Hampshire Soccer Association Olympic Development Program



TO : NH Players and Families
FROM : Jeffrey Cousineau
DATE : August 1, 2012
RE : Changes in the ODP Tryout and Winter Training Program

Starting with the 2013 ODP season, there will be a number of significant changes to the NH Olympic Development Program selection and winter training schedule. Listed below is an outline of those changes.

- **CHANGES TO 2013 NH ODP TRYOUT PROCESS**

NH ODP will be instituting two (2) significant changes to the tryout process for the 2013 season. These changes are designed to create a better tryout process and more dynamic training environment for top NH soccer players.

The two main changes to the tryout process are as follows:

- Discontinuing March Invitational Tryouts
Over the past several years, the “Invitational Tryouts” in March have failed to meet the needs of NH ODP. The original goal of the invitational tryout was to find a select number of “exceptional” players who did not participate in the winter training program. However, the number of “invited” players has swelled and has created an unreasonable selection process that is unfair to all the players involved. Therefore, NH ODP will no longer conduct “invitational tryouts”. Now, all players who are interested in participating in the program must attend the open tryouts. If a player is unable to attend the open tryouts in August and September, they may set up a tryout during the winter training sessions by contacting Carla Nastri, Administrative Director.
- Creation of the NH Futures and State Winter Pool
Following the open tryouts in August and September, players will be assigned to one three groups: Released Players, NH Futures and State Winter Pool (SWP). During the winter months, NH ODP will be running two distinct training groups: the NH Futures and the State Winter Pool. Definitions of the two groups is as follows:
 - NH Futures: NH Futures will consist of 20 – 30 players who displayed soccer talent and the potential of meeting the standards of a state ODP player. Players who are part of the Futures will be trained and evaluated for selection to the NH ODP State Team. Final selections for the ODP State Team will be made at the end of the winter training program in March. The NH Futures will train twice a month during the winter (December to early March).
 - State Winter Pool: The SWP is a select group of players, between 6 – 8 players, who have demonstrated higher level soccer talent at the open tryouts. These players will also have earned a position on the NH ODP State Team. The SWP will train once a month during the winter.

NOTE: *The boy's and girl's U12 and 17 teams will not have a SWP. All players selected to continue participation in the program following the tryouts will be assigned to the NH Futures. At this time, it is felt that the number of players and the time commitment will not provide a quality training environment for these two age groups.*



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• WINTER TRAINING

NH ODP will hold winter training during the winter months of December to early March. The purpose of the winter training program is twofold. The first goal is to give NH players additional training technical and tactical training during the offseason. The second goal of the winter training program is to evaluate and select players to be part of the ODP State Team. During the winter months, the NH Futures and SWP will have individual training schedules. The NH Futures will train twice a month through the winter, while the SWP will train once a month.

One of the significant changes to the 2013 ODP winter schedule is the addition of the SWP. With only 6-8 players being assigned to the SWP, the head coach of the age group will invite a select number of top players from the NH Futures program to train with the SWP to create a training group between 12 – 20 players per session. It is the goal of the SWP to be small in numbers so that individual attention and coaching can be given to the elite players. The SWP training sessions will also be unique in that each session will end with a 20-30 minute full field scrimmage versus another NH ODP age group. This will give players the opportunity to display their soccer talents in a full field environment.

Special Notes

- A player's status (NH Futures or SWP) will not change during the winter. A NH Futures player who is invited to participate with the SWP will still be a NH Futures player. Once a player is assigned a grouping after the open tryouts, that player will remain in that group for the entire winter training program.
- NH Futures players who are invited to participate with the SWP are not charged extra for the additional training sessions.
- It is not necessary for a NH Futures player to be invited to a SWP training session to earn a roster spot on the ODP State Team. The final ODP State Team roster will consist of the top 20-24 players regardless of how often a player was invited to participate in the SWP.
- A player who is invited to attend a SWP session is NOT being offered or promised a place on the ODP State Team. It is a privilege to participate with the SWP but it is not a guarantee of selection to the ODP State Team. The final ODP State Team roster will consist of the top 20-24 players from the NH Futures and SWP groups.
- A SWP player can elect to train with the NH Futures in addition to the SWP training.

• NH ODP STATE TEAM SELECTIONS

Using the NH Futures and the SWP training sessions for evaluation, the NH ODP Coaching Staff will identify the top 20-24 players to be the 2013 NH ODP State Team. The final ODP State Team selections will be announced by the middle of March 2013. Furthermore, the NH ODP Coaching Staff will identify the top 16-18 players on the ODP State Team who will earn a roster spot on the NH ODP Tournament Team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Cousineau".

Jeffrey S. Cousineau
Director of Coaching NHSA Olympic Development Program

jcousineau@comcast.net

603 232-2314