



ILLINOIS ODP STATE SELECT Common Concerns



COST

The ODP is not a profit generating program. Just some of the costs associated with ODP are field rental and maintenance; medical trainers and supplies; coaches stipends and associated travel expenses; hotel/university accommodations, meals, ice; administrative costs; vehicle rental; university administrative costs; regional camp fees. Please budget approximately \$1000-\$1500 for the entire annual Illinois ODP process. The cost varies with the number of events. The major cost is associated with the state and regional tournament/camps but remains below other camps, none of which have the distinction associated with the Olympic Development Program. There are scholarships available for those participants whose application and federal tax return meet the Illinois public school's food program gross income eligibility guidelines. Payment plans are available for those individuals who do not meet the criteria for scholarship.

REFUNDS

No refunds will be granted. Events are tightly budgeted based on the number of participants.

SCHEDULES

The ODP calendar will be listed on the web site at www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org and distributed to the participants. Although ODP takes precedence by law, the program tries not to conflict with regularly scheduled outdoor league play; high school soccer season, State Cup games, Snickers U.S. Youth Soccer regional and national games, Dallas Cup and Wags, US Youth Soccer and US Soccer regional and national ODP events. **No exceptions will be made for practices, indoor soccer, tournaments or other non ODP events.**

CLUB CONFLICTS

Special Thanks are extended to the club coaches who encourage their players to participate in the ODP process. Through their efforts these coaches are participants in the ODP process and the development of their players. These coaches have the best interest of their players in mind and have enough confidence in their own ability to allow their players to be trained by other coaches to reach their potential. In turn the ODP players bring honor to their coaches and clubs.

Club coaches who discourage, threaten, punish or deny their players the opportunity to participate in the ODP process are not only denying their players an opportunity to reach their potential but are violating the Amateur Sports Act. By the Amateur Sports Act, a federal law enacted by Congress in 1978, no athlete can be denied the right to participate in the Olympic Development Program. Olympic program competition or event organized by the an Olympic member in its selection procedure is protected by the federal law. No one may deny or threaten to deny any amateur athlete the opportunity to compete in the protected competition, censure, or otherwise penalize (1) any such athlete who participates in such competition, or (2) any organization which the athlete represents. The US Olympic Committee (USOC) shall, by all lawful means at its disposal, protect the right of an amateur athlete to participate if selected (or to attempt to qualify for selection to participate) as an athlete representing the United States in protected competitions.

SCHOOL CONFLICTS

The 3-day overnight Illinois Player Development Camp and State Camp take place immediately after State Cup and before the regional ODP tournament and may conflict with some school districts. However, the schools are very familiar with the Olympic program and have always accommodated the Olympic athletes for ODP events. The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) comply with the congressional edict.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL ODP ATHLETES

The top regional and national ODP athletes will miss club and school activities in order to participate in state, regional, national and international ODP events. Any team that takes a regional or national ODP player must accept the fact that this player may not be available for some games and tournaments because by law their primary obligation is to the Olympic program. Since these premier athletes are frequently honor students, they are heavily recruited by the top universities. Since a college scholarship is a given, their primary concern is making the U.S. Olympic or National team

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Throughout the United States ODP is the one most recognized program for identifying top quality players. Today when almost every tournament claims to be a college showcase, participation in the ODP remains the primary soccer credential used by college coaches for player identification and recruitment. Several college coaches are ODP staff coaches.

USE ODP AS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE!

Each player who participates in the ODP process contributes to the success of the U.S. National Team Program by playing at the highest level.