



# Maryland ODP



## **Purpose**

The Olympic Development Program identifies a pool of Maryland's best soccer players in age groups from under-13 to under-17. These players receive high-level, professional training and compete against other ODP teams from Region 1, a 13-state area including New England, the mid-Atlantic and the Virginias. The top players are selected to a regional pool and compete for positions in a national pool, from which national youth teams are selected for international competition. Maryland players are selected to play in the Region 1 player pool, the US Youth National soccer program, and the US National team residency program.

## **Benefits**

In addition to the opportunity to compete for a regional pool position and even a national pool or team position, Maryland players benefit from (1) additional instruction and training; (2) overseas travel to train and compete; (3) playing with and against a higher average level of player; and (4) additional visibility to college coaches as an older player. ODP players, regardless of age, are expected to undertake ODP not only as an opportunity to improve their on-field capabilities, but also as an opportunity to learn and adhere to a professional approach to soccer in terms of conduct, attitude and attention to detail. Team trips are business trips where the business is soccer.

## **Structure**

Maryland ODP operates statewide under the direction and policies of the MSYSA Board of Directors. Maryland ODP teams are selected primarily through a tryout process, trained by a professional coaching staff, and compete in at least two major regional tournaments. The group of players selected at each age level is called the state pool. In the three oldest ages, each pool is comprised of up to 30 players. In the two youngest ages, each pool is comprised of up to 48 players.

## **Costs**

The ODP program is self-sustaining and the costs can be significant. Some fees are set by MSYSA; others are set by Region 1 or other outside providers. Programs fees total more than \$1,500 a year for a player participating in all events, not including international travel.

MSYSA and Region 1 provide limited financial assistance for families that cannot meet these costs. Finding individual sponsors to assist families and players to cover the costs associated with ODP is, in many cases, the only way for some players to participate at this high level of soccer.

For further program information, contact the ODP Administrator at [programs@msysa.org](mailto:programs@msysa.org).