

# RULES & PROCEDURES

A. **AGE GROUPS** - The 2009 US Youth Soccer ODP Championships will consist of the following age groups:

1992's	Girls & Boys
1993's	Girls & Boys

## B. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

1. Each State Association will provide the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships Committee with their State ODP pool rosters 12 weeks prior to the beginning of the competition.
2. Players who are actively playing on a Club Team within their state of residence and who meet the age requirements for their team will be eligible to play.
3. Any team that is found guilty of fielding an ineligible player for whatever reason (non-compliance with the age limit, omission from the list of players as a potential participant in the match, etc.) shall forfeit the match. Rosters will be frozen when they are turned into the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships committee at check-in of the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships.

## C. **ROSTERS**

1. Each National State Association that qualifies for the final competition may enter 18 players. The roster of not more than 18 players shall be submitted to the US Youth Soccer National Office, using the official form. Only these 18 players (except in cases of serious injury as approved by the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships Committee) will be permitted to compete in the final competition. All State Associations participating in the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships must adhere to the following criteria:
  - A. Rosters **MUST** be typed.
  - B. Players **MUST** be listed in Alphabetical Order, last name first.
  - C. Jersey Numbers **MUST** be listed on the Roster.
  - D. No team shall be allowed more than eighteen (18) players on its roster.
2. Before the start of the final competition, the National State Association President or his/her delegate will approve all the players listed. Any player who fails to be named on the roster shall not be allowed to take part in the final competition.
3. Once a team has checked in and submitted its final roster, no changes or additions will be permitted under any circumstances.

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## D. SCHEDULE

1. The US Youth Soccer ODP Championships Committee will conduct a blind draw to determine the opponents for the semi-final games. A separate draw will be conducted for each playing group.
2. Semi-final games will be played on Friday with Final and Consolation games to be played on Sunday.

## E. FORMAT OF COMPETITION

1. **Advancement to Championship Games** - The winners of the semi-final games will advance to Sunday's Championship game. The losers of the Semi-finals will play a consolation game on Sunday.
2. **Game Balls** - All games will be played using a size #5 ball. US Youth Soccer will supply game balls for the Semi-finals and Finals.
3. **Grace Periods** - Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start time of any match shall be granted a ten (10) minute grace period. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team.
4. **Home/Visiting Team** - The team listed first in each pairing is the home team.
5. **Jersey Colors** - The visiting team will have the choice of jersey colors. If in the opinion of the referee there is a conflict, the home team shall change jerseys.
6. **Team Bench – Sidelines** - Teams and team personnel will be on the sideline. A maximum of four (4) people with the exception of the State Director of Coaching can represent the team personnel (i.e. coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer, DOC, etc.) Parents and spectators will be on the opposite sideline. Team personnel will have credentials provided by the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships Committee.
7. **Credentials** – Four bench passes will be issued to each team at the Thursday night Coaches meeting. Only those teams' officials who sign for the credentials will be allowed in the bench area and on the team side of the field. The State DOC credential will not count against the four (4) credentials.
8. **Uniforms** - Each player must wear an official uniform with a six-inch minimum size number on the back of the shirt (this includes goalies). Duplicate numbers are not permitted. Teams **MUST** bring an alternate jersey with a six-inch minimum size number on the back. **All players are required to have the US Youth Soccer Shield sewn on the right leg of all uniform shorts as outlined in the team information guide (page 13).**

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## 9. Length of Games

1992's	Two halves – 45 minutes each
1993's	Two halves – 40 minutes each

If the game is tied at the end of the second half of regulation time, the teams will play two extra time periods consisting of 15 minutes each. If the game is still tied at the end of the second extra time period, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" will be used to determine the winner.

For consolation games only - If a consolation game is tied at the end of regulation time, the game shall be declared a tie and the game is concluded at that point.

## F. RULES OF PLAY

1. **Rules** – Except as otherwise provided herein, the rules of US Youth Soccer and the FIFA "Laws of the Game" shall apply.
2. **Substitution** – The substitution rule of this competition shall conform to the FIFA "Laws of the Game" except as follows:

**Special Instructions:** At the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships competitions, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game. After leaving the game the substituted player shall not be allowed to re-enter the game.

3. **Discipline** – Players receiving a red card in the Semi-finals will be suspended and ineligible to play in the Final. Players receiving a red card in the Final will be referred back to their State Association for appropriate disciplinary action.
4. **Coaching from the Touchline** - Team officials are expected to be seated on the team bench. A team official may convey tactical instructions to players during the match and return to his position on the bench after giving these instructions. All officials must remain in the confines of the technical area, where such an area is provided, and behave in a responsible manner.

## G. INCLEMENT WEATHER

The goal of the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships Committee is to play every game to its full length and determine a winner on the field of play. In the event that inclement weather affects the competition the following rules regarding play and determination of a winner will apply in the following order for each game:

1. If play is suspended or start of play is delayed, the Committee may eliminate the use of overtime. In this circumstance, if the game is tied at the conclusion of regulation playing time, the game will go immediately to *Kicks From The Penalty Mark* to determine a winner. If it is not possible to take the Kicks, flipping of a coin will be used to determine the winner.

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2. The game length can be reduced to the sixty (60) minutes. If the game is terminated beyond this minimum time, the result of the match will stand. If the game is tied or does not reach the minimum time listed in G.2 then the advancement in the competition will be determined by the following in this order:

Kicks from the Penalty Mark

## H. DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The US Youth Soccer ODP Championships Committee reserves the right to make all decisions concerning this competition keeping in mind the best interests of US Youth Soccer, the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships and the safety and welfare of the players, coaches, administrators and spectators. The decisions of the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships committee are FINAL.

# TEAM ADMINISTRATORS

Each team must have an adult designated as the official "Team Administrator", which will be selected by the State Association being represented.

***Team Administrators shall not be the parent of a player on their team. Although more than one team represents some State Associations, each team MUST have its own Team Administrator.***

Following the selection, each State Association will send its Team Administrator information to:

Rob Martella – Director of Soccer Operations  
E-mail: [rmartella@usyouthsoccer.org](mailto:rmartella@usyouthsoccer.org)  
Fax: 972-334-9960

This form must be received by **Friday, December 14, 2008** for Regions I and II. For Regions III and IV, the deadline is **Thursday, January 22, 2009**.

The Team Administrator has many important responsibilities including:

- Make certain that travel arrangements have been scheduled with Anthony Travel, which will deliver the teams to Dallas by no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on Thursday, March 19, 2009.
- Coordinate four (4) responsible adult drivers for the team vans.
- Provide correct and on-time information to the team.
- Communicate with coach and team officials regarding US Youth Soccer ODP Championships requirements.
- Distribute and clarify tournament rules to coach and team officials.
- Monitor and control behavior of team, coach and team officials.

- Ensure that all eligibility rules have been met for teams, players and team officials.
- Coordinate check-in with team and manager on-site.
- Along with the team manager, register the team to confirm receipt of goody bags, apparel, etc.
- Along with the team manager and coach, attend the Coaches Meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.
- Coordinate parking lot gathering for departure and arrival between hotel, fields, restaurants, and other player event locations using the van transportation provided by US Youth Soccer.
- Provide the starting line-up one hour before each game. Game line-up sheets will be distributed at the Coaches Meeting on Thursday night.
- Escort the team from the bench area to the awards ceremony immediately after the team's final game. All teams are required to be available and to participate in the awards ceremonies for their playing group.
- Must be the holder of one of the four (4) bench passes.
- The Team Administrator should complete the on-line survey of the tournament by **Monday, March 23, 2009**. The survey will be emailed on **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**.

# TEAM ADMINISTRATORS

player that was sent off.

## CHECK-IN

Upon arrival, the Team Administrator should proceed to the hotel registration desk at the Embassy Suites to pick up the team's hotel room keys. ***Please remember hotel check-in is 3:00 p.m. CST. Rooms will most likely not be available before this time.***

In the event of questions or confusion, Team Administrators will assist with any coordination requested by staff or tournament committee.

## GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

In the event of a player being sent off, it is the duty of the Team Administrator to escort the player off the field to the holding area, and to remain with that player until the game has concluded. The Team Administrator is

## PARTICIPANT BEHAVIOR

The Team Administrator is charged with overseeing that his/her team exercises discipline and self-control throughout the entire event. This includes off-property excursions where the general public is likely to note the team's actions. **It is strongly recommended that Team Administrators check each room to make certain that move-in and move-out conditions are the same. If damage has occurred, it must be reported to Tim Turney or Rob Martella before checking out of the hotel.**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## [How do teams travel to the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships?](#)

The manager of each team or designated Team Administrator should contact Alan Roberts with Anthony Travel at 800-736-6377. Tell them you are going to the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships in Frisco, Texas. Teams will be assigned a central departure place and a designated flight so that all travel together. All team representatives must travel together.

## [Who pays for the team's travel to the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships?](#)

US Youth Soccer will pay ONLY for each individual's flight from the team's central departure place to the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, and from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area back to the teams central departure place at the completion of the event.

## [How will teams get to and from the soccer complex?](#)

Four (4) vans will be assigned to each team so that all team representatives and players may travel together. Four (4) adult representatives from each team must be designated as drivers as no players will be permitted to drive the vans at any time. Unless otherwise indicated, vans will be available from the airport area. Please consult with Alan Roberts of Anthony Travel for your van assignment. Anthony Travel will meet your flights in Dallas and provide further directions. Please note that there is a parking fee at the hotel. US Youth Soccer will only cover the parking fees for the four vans.

## [When should the team be in Dallas?](#)

All teams will be scheduled to arrive on Thursday, March 6 by 4:00 p.m. CST. All teams should plan to leave on Sunday, March 22. Teams **ARE NOT ALLOWED** to schedule return flights prior to three (3) hours following the conclusion of their age group's final games. Registration will begin at 6:00 p.m. A mandatory coaches meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19th. *Remember that hotel check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and checkout time is 12:00 p.m. (Noon).* To pick up room keys, please proceed to the front desk registration area.

## [How do I find a place for my team to stay?](#)

US Youth Soccer has already arranged housing. All accommodations for the players and team officials will be at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Room and tax charges will be paid directly by US Youth Soccer. **When registering your team at the hotel, please do not bring any luggage inside the hotel. Wait until your team has received your room assignments before bringing bags inside.**

## [What do we do about credentials/bench passes?](#)

Credentials will be given to the Team Administrator or team manager upon check-in prior to games.

## [What forms are required for participation in the Championships?](#)

Each team must have a signed Participant Code of Conduct Form and the Player Information and Medical Release Form. These items are required for participation. Please see the list of deadlines for these respective materials.

## [What about telephone calls and incidentals?](#)

Any players wanting to use his/her room telephone, purchase items in the gift shop, or utilize the hotel's room service must present a credit card at the front desk for these charges. US Youth Soccer will not be responsible for payment of these incidentals. A credit card is necessary for all incidental expenses.

## [Where can parents stay?](#)

Parents are free to stay wherever they would like. See hotel sheet listing included in this packet.

## [Does everyone get a roommate?](#)

Your team will be assigned 8 rooms at the hotel to use among your 22 representatives (six rooms for players and two rooms for team-personnel to be used at the team's discretion). The team manager must submit a rooming list to US Youth Soccer for approval and submission to the hotel. No reservations can be altered unless a roster or volunteer change is submitted and approved by US Youth Soccer. Keep in mind that gender of coaches, representatives, trainers, etc. could influence room assignments.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What about meals?

The Embassy Suites will provide a full breakfast each morning. Each team will be provided with a per diem upon receipt of required forms and prior to arrival, which may be used as determined by the team. Dinner will be provided on Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>. **The per diem will not be distributed until all forms are completed and returned to US Youth Soccer by the published deadlines.** Teams arriving prior to Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> will be responsible for their own meals.

## Will there be any free time?

Your obligation as part of the tournament is to be available on Friday, March 20 and Sunday, March 22 for your games. Coaches must be in attendance at the coaches meeting on Thursday evening, March 19. Players and coaches must attend the mandatory Saturday evening function from approximately 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Other than these times, you are free to enjoy the surrounding area.

## Will there be opportunities to practice?

Practice times will be optional and coach-organized. If you would like to reserve a practice field, please contact your US Youth Soccer ODP Championships Regional Cup Chair. All field requests are not guaranteed.

## What's the weather like?

March temperatures in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex normally range from the mid-40s to highs in the 60s. However, mornings and evenings can be very uncomfortable without a jacket. The record low for March is 1°F, while the record high is 115°F.

## Team Meeting Room

There will be two (2) meeting rooms reserved for team meetings during this event. A sign up sheet will be placed by the door of each room. Reservations are on a first come basis.

## Is there a particular manner of dress for the Player Event?

Players should be uniformly dressed, but do not need to wear their actual uniforms for the Player Event. Dress/khaki shorts or pants and polo-style shirts or similar attire for either boys or girls teams are acceptable. For games, players will wear their state-provided uniforms with the US Youth Soccer shield on the right leg of the shorts. Since the Saturday evening mandatory Player Event is indoors; players will want to wear comfortable clothes. Please remember you are representing your State Association, Region, and US Youth Soccer.

## Can parents and friends attend the Saturday night Player Event?

Sorry, no. The event is only for the players, coaches, managers and Team Administrators of a team's 22-member delegation. No additional tickets are available.

## What is Dave & Busters?

Dave & Busters is an all-in-one entertainment center located at Stonbrier Mall in Frisco, Texas. The facility contains the most entertaining and interactive games and attractions in the world. US Youth Soccer has paid for your admission to Dave & Busters. At coaches check-in you will be given twenty-two wristbands for admittance to the facility. No admittance will be allowed without the wristband, so please don't forget to bring it along.

## Is there an emergency number for family members back home?

Yes. In the event of emergency only, please call the Embassy Hotel and ask for Glenn McGinnis at 972-712-7200 or US Youth Soccer event staff Nathan Nottke at 614-406-0431. Details about the events prior to tournament travel can be directed to the US Youth Soccer office at 800-476-2237.

# STANDARDS OF TEAM CONDUCT

Teams competing in the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships are representatives of their State Association and of their US Youth Soccer Region. Each team must bring a signed copy of this agreement for all 22 participants, including coaches, chaperones and van drivers, to the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships. Following are standards of conduct of team players and team officials. Violation of these standards may jeopardize the team's participation in the Championships and may result in sanctions or suspensions by or through US Youth Soccer.

1. At all times, the Olympic Development Program "Team Code of Conduct" and the stipulations set forth in the document will be in force. Each team must bring a signed copy of this agreement to the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships.
2. Teams will be housed in the lodging provided or arranged for them. No substitutions will be allowed.
3. Teams shall attend all activities planned on their behalf including, but not limited to, media events, banquets, photo sessions, or parties. Such events have been planned with the welfare of the players in mind.
4. Players are expected to be present at the playing field at the designated time for all games and all pre-game ceremonies. Players shall be dressed appropriately and, when in team uniform, shall have clean jerseys tucked into shorts and socks pulled up to the knee.
5. Players shall conduct themselves in a mature manner when in hotels and public areas at and away from the playing fields. This shall mean that rowdy behavior and fraternizing in hotel rooms will not be tolerated. No tobacco products, alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants shall be in the possession of players.
6. Team officials are expected to provide chaperones for players at all times during the event. Team officials shall accompany players to all scheduled functions.
7. Team officials and team supporters are expected to cooperate with and be courteous to tournament personnel and dignitaries in all dealings.
8. Only four (4) team officials will be allowed on the team bench during games. These team officials will be required to sign the team roster prior to each game. Team officials are expected to cooperate with game officials and to follow procedures established. Degrading remarks directed toward players, opponents, or game officials may result in being sent off the game site.
9. Each team will receive a maximum number of 22 medals.

The above standards shall be in force during such time as the team is within the venue of the US Youth Soccer ODP Championships.