



## **Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program State Pool Tryouts and Additions to Player Pools**

### **Exemptions from Tryouts**

The following Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association ODP players are exempt from participation in State Pool tryouts/trainings if their selections occurred at the camp immediately preceding tryouts/trainings:

- National Team (or residency) players can, if they wish, enter the ODP process directly at the Region II ODP camp.
- Region II Pool players are exempted from state tryouts.

### **Attendance at Tryouts & Player Add Policy**

#### **Additions to State Pool Teams:**

Beginning with tryouts for the 2010 – 2011 State Pool, the following procedure will be in operation for adding players to State Pools:

1. All players requesting to try out after the scheduled tryouts have been completed must submit their registration for the tryouts, the required fee and a letter of explanation for their absence from the tryout to the ODP Program by August 31 of the ODP calendar year.
2. **All** players that meet the above requirements will be considered for a tryout at a future date to be determined by the ODP Director of Coaching.
3. Players who are injured and unable to participate on the day(s) of tryouts will be invited to tryout at a later date. Injured players must pre-register or register the day of tryouts and must provide a written medical excuse in order to obtain this exemption. They are expected to attend tryouts/trainings and watch but not participate until released to play by their physician.
4. Requests to tryout will be reviewed by the Wisconsin ODP Administrative Director for validation of these guidelines. Players and State Coaches will be notified of the Program's decision no later than November of the ODP calendar year.
5. Exceptions:
  - Players who move into the State during the playing year after the August 31 deadline may be given the opportunity to register and try out upon the recommendation of the Administrative Director.
  - Players who missed tryouts, but who were registered prior to the deadline may request permission to try out by writing to the Wisconsin ODP Administrative Director who will consider all requests and make a ruling in conjunction with the ODP Director of Coaching. Players and the respective State Coaches will be notified of the decision.
  - Players identified by State Coaching staff during the course of the Program Year and will be recommended for consideration for state pool inclusion after consultation with the ODP Director of Coaching. The player must respond to the invitation by the Program within the designated time period and submit the required application and fee for tryouts to the office prior to attending a state pool training session.
  - Other exceptions not specifically covered will be given due consideration by the Wisconsin ODP Administrative Director in conjunction with the ODP Director of Coaching.
6. Following the conclusion of a late tryout, the age group coach should provide the ODP Director of Coaching with written notification of the results of the tryout. The ODP Program Administrator will then provide the player with the appropriate communications based on the outcome of their tryout.

Please note that incomplete applications may not be considered. Players will no longer be able to appear at a training session and be granted the privilege of a late tryout on site. Also, State Team Coaches will not have the discretion to add players unless the above criteria have been met or unless there is specific approval by the ODP Director of Coaching.

#### ODP Age Groups – Guidelines for Participation

The structure of the game is changing. New rules are being implemented that restrict the U12 game to less than the traditional 11 vs.11.

In the recent past we have had an increasing number of players who are trying out for the development camp, who are under the year birth for that camp. Now the issue is that some of these players are ineligible to play in the 11 vs. 11 format, which is ultimately what we play. Players who are playing up one year in club will still meet the requirements of the restriction, but those two years young would not. (U13 development camp notwithstanding)

To reinforce this, listed below are reasons to support the policy:

1. ODP is the elite arm of US Youth Soccer and as such involves the best players in each of its age groups. Physical and mental development virtually eliminates players two years young from making the roster of club teams.
2. Because of the age range when the oldest players in the age group reach their growth spurt the younger players are still two years away in general. Even though some may have remained competitive in the initial year this may not be the case in years two and three.
3. The issue of socialization emerges as the players mature. Sophomores in high school may be asked to play with players who are still in middle school.
4. It is hard for players and parents to accept that their child who makes teams up in age gradually reverts or is downgraded to their own age as growth and maturity issues occur. It is our experience that only a small group of exceptional players manage to stay up. These usually are national and regional team players.

After speaking with various states in our region it seems that there is a consensus that it is fine to try out in the developmental camp one year up, but that two years up is unacceptable. Also, it is expected that the young player will move down to their own age as the process develops unless they are exceptional. (One in fourteen players makes a regional team). Players will be asked to attend the Developmental Camp two years in a row unless they will be able to contribute significantly to the U14 "A" team, since the U13 Camp is currently being used for USSF national team identification.

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