

LSA POLICY MANUAL

POLICY 312 State Olympic Development Program

LSA will have an Olympic Development Program in accordance with guidelines established by US Youth Soccer and the USSF. LSA's ODP is to provide high-level training to benefit and enhance the development of players at all levels; and, through the use of carefully selected and licensed coaches, develop a mechanism for the exchange of ideas and curriculum to improve all levels of coaching.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The program must conform to national and regional policy and is implemented through the State Director of Coaching. All games or tournaments involving ODP teams must be approved by the ODPC.
2. The ODP Year follows the requirements by regional or national policy. Tryouts, training and other activities for the following year may be conducted in advance.
3. All affiliated members of LSA (to include coaches, DOC's, referees, and club officials) are asked to work with this program and encourage their talented players to participate. Club support is needed to allow time during the year to schedule tryouts, games, tournaments, etc.
4. The ODPC shall publish a schedule of events in advance. Tryouts/training for the following year shall be scheduled and available at the summer LSA AGM. The schedule may be changed to accommodate weather, tournaments, regional requirements, etc.
5. Regional/sub-regional and state camps are held each year, as needed based on national/international events, for certain age groups to identify players for possible selection to a national team. Sub-regional events may also be scheduled within the year.
6. In order to further the development of Louisiana youth soccer, the ODP Program has elected to emphasize the training aspects of the program. Therefore, at least 50% of each session will be devoted to training

B. PLAYER INFORMATION

1. All LSA players will be notified by LSA either by email or postings to LSA's web site of the schedule of tryouts and training for ODP. LSA will attempt to notify all coaches and club officials to assist in notifying their players of ODP. All official correspondence will come from the LSA Office. The official spokesperson for ODP will be the State Director of Coaching.
2. Players must reside within Louisiana but need not be an LSA member. However, players must be registered with an affiliate of USSF in a capacity whereby they are fully insured for all soccer related activities. Proof of affiliated registration and insurance will be required.
3. Players will respond by application form (may be web-based process) and necessary tryout fees paid prior to participating.
 - a. The ODP fees are set annually and are included in *Policy 206-1 – Youth Fees*. (Fees are subject to change)
 - b. The players named to a pool or team may be assessed additional fees to cover all expenses incurred such as team entry fees to tournaments or games and to cover administrative costs of mail, telephone calls, field expenses, practice uniforms, etc.
 - c. The players selected to attend Sub-Regional games or the Region III Camps will be assessed a final fee to cover all related expenses of camp fees, administrator and coach fees, uniforms, etc.

4. No player will be permitted to participate in ODP without having submitted all required, properly completed forms and fees.
5. ODP is self-funded by the participants. LSA does provide a minimal amount of funds to cover some of the administrative operating expenses. Players shall assume all expenses for travel, lodging and food, unless specifically provided for by LSA. Fees collected will cover such expenses as coaches/administrator/coordinator expenses, Gatorade, field charges, etc.
6. If funds are available, a limited partial scholarship program may be awarded to ODP participants based on need as demonstrated by submitting documentation to include IRS forms. The LSA President and Vice President Youth shall determine eligibility and amount of award.
7. Any player cut for any reason shall not be considered for selection beyond that point in the current year. Exceptions to this can only be approved by the ODPC upon the recommendation of the State Director of Coaching.
8. LSA firmly expects that all persons involved in any part of the ODP to adhere to the principles of good Fair Play and to commit no acts of misconduct.
9. Unless recommended differently by the LSA DOC upon the recommendation of state staff coaches and approved by the ODPC, all players participating in ODP will play in their corresponding age groups.
10. Unless recommended differently by the LSA DOC, ODP teams will rotate coaches so that teams do not have the same coach more than 2 years in a row.

C. STATE ODP COACHING STAFF

1. The State Director of Coaching will nominate coaches to be on the State ODP coaching staff. These staff ODP coaches will complete applications which will be submitted to the ODP Committee for approval and their recommendation to the LSA Vice President Youth who will submit a final list of State Staff Coaches to the LSA Board for final approval. All state staff coaches must pass the LSA Risk Management program and will not participate in the training/identification sessions until both risk management and LSA Board approval is secured. At least two State Staff coaches must be in attendance at each session. A female coordinator must be present at all female events. The State Director of Coaching shall insure the attendance of an adequate number of Select Team Staff Coaches to properly conduct each session, with a minimum of two. The State Director of Coaching shall provide the ODP Staff coaches with a syllabus tailored to the appropriate age group and skill level.
2. Compensation for State Staff Coaches will be set annually. All payments will be made by LSA after submission of a completed LSA Expense Reimbursement form that has been reviewed and approved by the State Director of Coaching.
3. If a Head Coach misses more than one try-out or training, he is subject to review by the ODPC and may be replaced.

D. SELECTION FORMAT

1. The LSA Olympic Development Program has endorsed the emphasis of the development and training goals of the national and regional programs as the most important aspects for the Louisiana player. Therefore, the final selection will be postponed until necessary to meet regional and national deadlines.
2. Registration shall be open to all players. Training/identification sessions will be scheduled by age group to be selected. Prior to the deadline for naming of the ODP teams, the State ODP Coaching Staff shall meet and choose up to 18 players and 6 alternates for each age group team. After the selection of the team and alternates, the State Director of Coaching

- shall appoint, with the concurrence of the State ODP Committee, State Staff Coaches to specific teams for further training and attendance at Sub-Regional and Regional events. In the event a player is unable to attend, alternate players will be invited to participate based on their ranking by the State Staff Coaches.
3. Training/identification sessions may be conducted on an area level with the areas established by the State ODP Committee on the basis of geographic location and registration. At least half of the training/identification sessions will be conducted on a statewide basis.
 4. All players are expected to participate in the training/identification sessions each year. This requirement and the registration fee will be waived for any player who has been selected as a regional pool player or to a higher level. The State ODP Committee may carry over a team if regional or national requirements demand it.
 5. Attendance at all ODP sessions relative to the selection process is mandatory. Failure to attend will be grounds for dropping a player from the program. The State ODP Committee will serve as the final appeals board to review extenuating circumstances relative to attendance and or waiver or refund of fees.

E. DEADLINES

1. Deadline dates for paperwork and/or on-line registration and fees are set by LSA after consultation with the ODPC.
2. Failure to submit applications and payments timely will be grounds for not allowing participation in ODP.
3. Walk-up registration and payment of fees is not allowed.

F. CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship shall not be a factor for selection in ODP. Determination of need for citizenship will be made by the Region III/ USYSA level. As of July 1990, if selected to a Regional/National team, citizenship is required prior to the player's participation in a National event.