

The Importance of ODP Soccer

USYSA ODP remains one of the best ways to continue to develop your level of play through the different events that are held throughout the year. Anytime you get together the best players in a large area, and as often as possible, it will only help players get better.

The higher up the ODP level you achieve the better the environment. Watching the Region camp pool games each evening at this past year's region camp, it was evident that these players are the best in Region-III (Southeastern USA) and that they are getting to play with and against the other best players throughout the Southeastern USA in their own age group. You learn to challenge yourself and get a measure as to where your stage of soccer development is at that particular time.

It is such a great way for each player, coach, parent and administrator to gauge each player on the field. This environment needs to be duplicated as many times as possible, so as each of these players will continue to get better!

The beginning of this process is the district and state tryouts, and at this stage, players will hopefully learn more about themselves and their abilities as they strive to improve their game. Through USYSA ODP, each player has the advantage of being scouted by many college and university coaches throughout the country. Also, the US National team scouts are often in attendance at these regional ODP functions, and this added exposure is another benefit of the USYSA Olympic Development Program.

My hope is that many of you will continue to tryout and go through the process and earnestly and honestly evaluate yourself as you strive to improve as a soccer player and an individual. Best Wishes to all of you in pursuit of this goal!

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