



[THE IMPORTANCE OF US YOUTH SOCCER'S OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM!](#)

US Youth Soccer ODP is not only the first and original ODP program but also the only elite player development program that can claim members of Major League Soccer as well as a majority of current and past national and youth team members, as alumni. And, with programs in all 55 State Associations as well as regional and national championships and participation in international tournaments, US Youth Soccer ODP continues to lead the way.

The players must try out to qualify for the program's high-level training from carefully selected and licensed coaches through a series of trials at their local, State Association and then Regional levels. Those selected are exposed to the nation's best coaches, trainers and facilities.

How important is the US Youth Soccer ODP? Just ask the current and former U.S. Under-17 Men's National Team Head Coaches.

"We use the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program because it produces excellent players and it does a great deal of our work for us. Players develop through the US Youth Soccer ODP process by continually being placed in a more competitive environment. The Under-17 Men's National Team has always and will continue to evaluate players through US Youth Soccer ODP."

- John Hackworth, Under-17 Men's National Team Head Coach

"I can assure you that my staff and I utilized US Youth Soccer ODP to the best of our ability, Players develop through the US Youth Soccer ODP process by continually being placed in a more competitive environment. The experience of testing their individual skills and abilities at higher levels is paramount in their developmental process. For coaches, evaluating and selecting players for the National Team programs, the chance to see them in these types of competitive environments is a key factor."

- John Ellinger, former Head Coach, Under-17 U.S. Soccer Men's National Team

"It's the single best player identification system in the world. If you look at the success of our youth national teams you can credit US Youth Soccer ODP for helping find and develop those players."

- April Heinrichs, former head coach of the U.S. Women's National Team

"It's a great program that feeds into the U.S. National Program and as the Under-17 coach I have the opportunity to watch these four regional teams and I can rely on the coaching staff to bring in the top players from their states and regions and put them into one place for the National Staff to see the best players and talent in the country."

- Erica Walsh, U.S. Under-17 Head Coach