



Wyoming Youth Soccer US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program Mission • Objectives • Process

What is the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program?

It is a national program designed to identify and develop talented, committed youth soccer players to represent their state, region, and country in soccer competitions. It also aids in the preparation and showcasing of players as student athletes for exposure to college soccer coaches.

The US Youth Soccer ODP is broken into four regions, Wyoming is part of Region IV along with Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Participation is a progression that starts at the state level with the ultimate goal of playing at the national level.

Wyoming players begin with an evaluation for selection to the Wyoming Youth Soccer ODP (WYS ODP) teams, which are broken into birth year age groups. WYS ODP teams/players represent Wyoming at high level tournaments and showcases and, if recommended, at the US Youth Soccer Region IV camp.

From there, players have the opportunity to be selected for the region pool of 60 from the over 250 players that attend. Those final players make up the team that represents the region at inter-regional and international events.

Mission Statement – Wyoming Youth Soccer US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program

Identify, evaluate, and train Wyoming's highly talented male and female youth soccer players. The WYS ODP is dedicated to developing the highest level of youth soccer within the state.

This mission must be achieved in an atmosphere of integrity, fairness, and impartiality. The player's physical and cognitive skills and attitude must be the only criteria for the program.

The Program Objectives

- Evaluate and select players to a pool of players from which state teams can be formed.
- Through focused training, advance the soccer skills and knowledge of players in each age group.
- Provide competitive events that all players can attend.

Participation in WYS ODP does not mean players can no longer participate with their club team. WYS ODP participation, whether at the state, regional, or national level, is concurrent with club team participation and provides additional training and playing opportunities. Club players should be allowed, by their club coaches, to attend all WYS ODP functions.

Benefits of Participation:

- Development of a player through the opportunity to train and play with the best players in one's age group.
- Quality instruction from top-level coaches.
- Quality competition from games against other state ODP teams and participation in regional tournaments and showcases.
- Exposure to college coaches.
- Exposure to regional and national team coaches while at Region IV ODP camp.
- The opportunity to represent one's state, region, or nation in competition.

The Selection Process:

Players can tryout every year beginning when they are 12 until their last eligible tryout year. WYS ODP begin open evaluations in August followed by state wide training sessions in fall. Players can attend one or more of the three open evaluations, which are held across the state. *On-line registration to attend is required.* See how to register, pg 3.

These sessions consist of technical training and small-sided games where technique, decision making, speed, agility, attitude, and work ethic are evaluated. Evaluations are followed by two *mandatory* state-wide training sessions, one in Casper and one in Laramie. Following the state wide training sessions a final player pool for each age group is chosen. Pool players are expected to attend all of the scheduled training sessions, tournaments, and college showcases.

Players are evaluated on the four components that make up a soccer player:

1. Technique
2. Tactics
3. Fitness and Athletic Ability
4. Psychological Component/Attitude

To be considered for team/pool selection, players MUST attend ONE open evaluation and BOTH state-wide training sessions.

Eligible Age-Groups for the 2009/2010 ODP SEASON:

- 1997 Age-Group: Players born on January 1 through December 31, 1997
- 1996 Age-Group: Players born on January 1 through December 31, 1996
- 1995 Age-Group: Players born on January 1 through December 31, 1995
- 1994 Age-Group: Players born on January 1 through December 31, 1994
- 1993 Age-Group: Players born on January 1 through December 31, 1993

NOTE: In addition, players born on *Aug. 1, 1992 through Dec. 31, 1992 may participate* in the program for the training and tournament opportunities. The 1992 age group is *not* eligible to attend Region IV ODP camp.

In early March, a letter will be sent to each pool player recommending whether or not the player should attend Region IV ODP camp. A recommendation to attend is based on performance during the winter training sessions and overall participation. Many of the players at the regional level compete year round and have experience playing against top players on a regular basis. Wyoming players do not have that benefit; WYS ODP wants to help our players bridge that gap so they can have success at the regional level. Though Region IV ODP camp is a goal for our players, it is not the primary focus of the WYS ODP program.

The recommendation process is difficult for the program's coaches. The head coach for each age group considers input from the initial evaluators and program coaches to make their recommendations. Final decisions are made by each age group head coach and WYS's technical director.

Region IV ODP Camp:

Week-long evaluation camps, beginning in late June, are held for each ODP age group. Region IV state ODP teams/players compete against each other and, it is during these competitions, players are evaluated by regional and national coaches and evaluators.

During the week of competition and training, players are housed in dormitories and eat together in a dining hall or cafeteria. State teams normally train in the morning and are provided with educational opportunities and play against other state's ODP teams in the afternoon. Each day, regional and national coaches and evaluators select players to participate in the evening's showcase game.

At the end of each camp week, the regional coaches select players to be held-over for a second week of training and games. These held-over players train with the regional staff coaches as members of the Region IV player pool. The regional team head coach then selects his/her regional team from players in that pool.

Region IV Team:

The Region IV team is formed in July and competition may be scheduled for anytime during the year. Typically there is a sports festival with the other three regional teams over Thanksgiving. Although US Youth Soccer ODP sanctions this competition, players obtain permission to compete during the school year. Players can lose their high school eligibility if they do not. Permission is obtained by filing a letter of intent 30 days prior to any ODP event. If your principal refuses, please contact the WYS ODP administrator for assistance.

2009/2010 WYS ODP Program Fees:

- **\$75 Evaluation Fee:** includes initial evaluations (may attend all three) and the two state-wide evaluations. Attendance at one evaluation and both state-wide evaluations is mandatory. Players will receive a WYS ODP training t-shirt at the first state-wide evaluation.
- **\$350 Program Fee:** all training sessions, friendly games, and tournament fees for one tournament for each WYS ODP team/age group. In addition, players will receive an additional training t-shirt and a long-sleeved t-shirt. Uniforms are provided (but must be returned) for tournaments and sanctioned events.
- **\$525 Region IV Camp Fee:** \$475 covers housing, meals, and training during Region IV camp plus \$50 for required region camp training gear. Transportation is not included.

How to Register - Online Registration is Required:

- Go to www.wyomingsoccer.com and click on "Register HERE for August Evaluations".
- Log in (or create an account), chose your age group, and pay the \$75 evaluation fee (by credit card or check). Players must be registered for the 2009/2010 soccer year to participate.
 - Players may attend August evaluations if they have a valid 08/09-season player card.
- A \$20 late fee must be paid by anyone who registers on site, the day of an evaluation.
 - To register on site a player must provide proof of Wyoming Youth Soccer membership, either with a player card or a registration receipt for the 2009/2010 soccer year.
- Email and the WYS ODP communications website are the primary way we communicate with players and parents. Please keep your email address(s) current.
 - Contact the state office (888-742-2306) for website training and help.

Financial Assistance:

Wyoming Youth Soccer makes every effort to make participation in WYS ODP achievable, regardless of ability to pay. Many players have been very successful raising money through the WYS ODP Player sponsorship program. Details are available at the website. Financial assistance may also be obtained by contacting your home soccer club. Limited financial assistance may sometimes be available through WYS ODP scholarships and, in some cases, a payment plan can be arranged. If you anticipate financial difficulty, please contact the state office. To ensure confidentiality, make all requests to Sandy Jenkin, state office manager.

Conclusion:

WYS ODP plays an important role in the development of soccer throughout Wyoming by providing players with the opportunity to train and compete at a high level. Participation in out-of-state tournaments and showcases allows players to gain valuable playing experience against quality opponents. We hope that all players with the potential to play at this level will participate in WYS ODP during the 2009-2010 season.

Program Contact Information:

Anne Moore, WYS ODP Technical Director (307) 760-7455 abmoore@bresnan.net
Sandy Jenkin, WYS ODP Coordinator (307) 742-2306 wssa@wyomingsoccer.com
WYS ODP Information/Updates www.wyomingsoccer.com/Programs/odp_state_select_home.htm
Age Group/Other Administrators

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2009 – 2010 WYS ODP Schedule – Subject to change

August 8 Initial Evaluations/Parents meeting – Riverton
August 9 initial Evaluations/Parents meeting – Casper
August 15 Initial Evaluations/Parents meeting – Laramie
October 10 - 11 Mandatory Statewide Evaluations – Laramie
October 24 - 25 Mandatory Statewide Evaluations – Casper
October 27 Final Selections and Notifications Made
November 5 Deadline - Selection Acceptance and \$200 Deposit Due
November 14 - 15 Winter Training – Riverton
December 5 - 6..... Winter Training – Casper
January 2 - 3..... Winter Training – Laramie
January 4..... Program Balance Due
January 16 - 18..... ODP Championships – Las Vegas or Phoenix
February 6 - 7..... ODP Friendlies with Fort Collins Arsenal Club – UW Indoor Facility
February 13 - 15..... Winter Tournament – Phoenix/New Mexico
March 6 - 7..... Wyoming Youth Soccer Coaching Symposium - Casper
March 12..... Region IV Camp Recommendations Sent
March 29..... Deadline to Commit to Attend Region IV Camp
April 26..... Deadline to Pay Region IV Camp Fees
May 22 Spring Training – Cheyenne
June 5 - 6..... Spring Tournament – Colorado/Utah
June 13 - 14..... Spring Tournament – Colorado
June 23..... First Week - Region IV ODP Camps