



## MINNESOTA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION INC.

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[www.mnyouthsoccer.org](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org)



### District Select Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Why District Select?**

The opportunity to train and play with and against other players from around the state. To work with different coaches. To gain additional training. To be identified for invitation into the Minnesota US Youth Soccer State Select Olympic Development Program (ODP).
- 2. What is District Select?**

District Select consists of four (4) trainings and two one-day festivals. The festivals will occur on the first Saturday in October and the first Saturday in May. The program offers training, evaluation and an opportunity to learn, improve and meet new people. It is also the avenue to invitation into Minnesota US Youth Soccer ODP.
- 3. Who are the coaches and evaluators?**

The State Director of Coaching, age group coaches, USSF licensed MYSA club coaches, GK specialist coaches and local college players.
- 4. What happens at the festival in October?**

ALL registered players are invited to attend a "festival" which will consist of small-sided games. Players from the eight districts will be mixed together. During the day Minnesota US Youth Soccer ODP staff coaches will begin to evaluate the players.
- 5. What happens after the October festival?**

The District Select Program takes a long break before reconvening in May. At this time there will be no District Select/ODP winter training. In the interim players are encouraged to participate in their club programming.
- 6. What happens at the festival in May?**

ALL registered players from the fall District Select Program are invited back for one more "festival" opportunity. Players will again be evaluated and those evaluations will be added to those made at the October festival. Players are able to sign up for the May festival without having participated in the fall.
- 7. What happens after the May festival?**

Based on current Region II programming the Minnesota US Youth Soccer ODP will identify a select pool of District Select eligible birth years for further training and potential selection to a regional camp in July. Each pool will be between approximately 30 – 60 players depending on the age group.
- 8. Who makes the selections?**

The age group coaches and the State Director of Coaching will select the pools.
- 9. How are notifications and invitations made?**

We will post the names of the boys and girls who have been identified for selection to the pool by the Friday following the Spring Festival on the MYSA website at [www.mnyouthsoccer.org](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org). Please note that post identification communication will only be sent to those identified on the MYSA website.

Players whose names do not appear on the list are encouraged to attend future Minnesota US Youth Soccer ODP programming next season.
- 10. Can I get specific feedback on my child?**

No. Unfortunately with the volume of players, specific detail on each player is not possible.
- 11. If a player is not identified via the website, what can they do for next year?**

A player aged 12-13 is still early in player development. Players should find a club environment that is both challenging and enjoyable. Club coaches or club directors of coaching are the best resource for a player desiring to improve.
- 12. What if we miss a session?**

Do not worry. Players are encouraged to attend as many training sessions as possible. Contact us if you cannot make a session. Missing a session does not count against them.

If your child has a potential conflict on the festival weekends, he/she should inform their club coach as soon as possible and ask their permission to attend the relevant three hour festivals. It is extremely helpful in selecting state training pools to see the players as scheduled. Please understand the constraints the program is under in terms of evaluation and identification. If your child cannot attend the festival weekends or has decided to no longer participate in the program, please contact us prior to the festival weekends so that we can update our records accordingly.

**13. Do we have to accept an invitation?**

No. Declining is not considered a black mark for future involvement. Declining simply gives another player a chance to participate in the program.

**14. Do goalkeepers get special attention?**

Yes, we provide goalkeeper training whenever possible.

**15. When do the pools train?**

Pools will train on Sunday evenings until their age group attends region camp. There will also be an ODP Weekend held the first weekend in June. The first training session typically starts the end of May.

Players will be assessed a training fee for these sessions. Training fees averaged \$125/player.

**16. When, where and how much is region camp?**

Region camp is held each year in July. The boys' camp is located in Overland Park, KS and the girls' camp is located in DeKalb, IL. Camp dates are set by Region II (visit the MYSA website for camp dates). Camp fees ranged from \$450-\$685 per boys' and girls' camps in July. Camp costs include transportation to and from camp, full room and board including meals, as well as coaches' fees, etc.

**17. Is there financial assistance?**

The purpose of the Olympic Development Program is to filter talented players to the regional and national teams' programs. Where necessary, MYSA will provide financial assistance to players capable of advancing beyond the state level.

Application for financial assistance will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Families must demonstrate financial need and players must be deemed capable of competing on the regional or national level. Financial assistance is not available for the fall District Select program or to the state ODP 1999 developmental players.

**18. Is a payment plan available?**

Where requested, families may arrange for regional camp fees to be paid over an extended period. There is no formal application process – no additional charges required to utilize this service.

**Mark Your Calendars for The Following:**

- **September** - Four (4) training dates for your District
- **First Saturday in October** – Fall DS Festival (ALL boys & girls)
- **First Saturday in May** – Spring DS Festival (ALL boys & girls)
- **End of May through July** - Sunday evening State Select/ODP pool training
- **First weekend in June** – ODP Weekend
- **July** – Region Camp <http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org/programs/odp.cfm#calendar>

Questions may be directed to Chato at (952) 252-1688 or John Curtis at 952-252-1686 (800-366-6972).