



Position Statement - PA West Soccer ODP and USSF Development Academy

Misinformation about the Olympic Development Program (ODP) and the US Soccer Development Academy Program has been circulating recently. This statement is meant to offer clarity so players and parents can make an informed decision.

First, PA West Soccer ODP is alive and well; the program has provided many players an enhanced training environment, opened doors to the Regional and National team program and will in the future. Region I's ODP program will take teams to international competitions in Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, and Russia in the upcoming year (2011) and plans are already being made for 2012 and 2013 trips. ODP is the only identification program that offers international competition for its players.

PA West Soccer supports the Development Academy Program because it provides expanded elite player identification. ODP players selected to participate in the USSF DAP opens spaces for additional players in ODP.

Second, the US Soccer Development Academy Program has rigorous requirements for clubs seeking to participate in the program. These requirements include specific numbers and quality of fields, specific numbers of USSF A Licensed coaches, and agreement to meet the programs rigid training-to-games ratio.

Currently, none of the clubs in PA West Soccer are able to meet the requirements. We have clubs that have had their application to the program denied. PA West Soccer supports the efforts of our clubs to bring the DAP to western PA; it is the next logical step in the growth of the game for the players in our area. However, until a club is able to meet the requirements, PA West Soccer ODP continues to be the only identification training program available to our soccer players.

Also, the Development Academy Program is for boys only. There is no girls program being offered by the Federation nor is one in discussion at the present time.

Lastly, Roberto Lopez, a USSF staff coach, visited PA West Soccer as part of the Federation's Training Center program. This program is separate from the Development Academy Program and PA West Soccer's Director of Coaching Paul Halford was involved in helping Mr. Lopez set up his initial visit.

This Federation program is scheduled around the country including areas with multiple Development Academy Program clubs; in those areas, Academy and ODP players are invited to the training sessions designed to replicate a US National Team training session. Future US Soccer Training Center sessions held in PA West Soccer will be held for ODP and select club players.