



## ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Illinois Olympic Development Program To Hold Trainings/Tryouts In Southern Illinois at McKendree University**

For the first time in over 15 years, Illinois Youth Soccer will hold Olympic Development Program (ODP) trainings/tryouts in southern Illinois. The first of five training sessions for players born in 1995-2001 will be held on December 3, 2011 at McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois. The complete schedule of training sessions can be found below.

At the completion of the five sessions some players will be selected to attend the State Combine held in Rockford in June. At the State Combine, the Illinois ODP State Team is selected.

The Illinois Olympic Development Program is the start of the identification process for the National and Olympic Teams. The Illinois Youth Soccer Association conducts the program for US Soccer under the jurisdiction of the US Olympic Committee. The purpose of this prestigious program is to identify players on the basis of open tryouts and develop them to represent their state, region, and the United States in soccer competition.

ODP trainings are also being held in the Chicagoland area (Schaumburg) and central Illinois (Bloomington) and nearly 700 top Illinois players are currently registered in the program.

ODP teams are formed in each of the 55 US Youth Soccer State Associations and four regions and are made up of the best players in the various age groups. At the state level, players are selected to participate in pool trainings and competitions against other state teams throughout the winter and based on their performance at those trainings, players are then invited to attend the one-day Illinois ODP State Combine.

The State Combine is the final selection process for the Illinois ODP Teams. The Illinois ODP Teams will participate in the Region II ODP Camp to train and compete against the ODP teams from the 14 State Associations in the Midwest. At this camp, players will be identified to the Regional Pool from which they can be invited to represent the Region at national and international competitions. At the national events, players are seen by national staff coaches.

Any soccer player is eligible to participate in the ODP process provided he or she is age eligible for the specific calendar year age group. Age groups are determined by birth year not u-age based on the international Olympic Program designations.

Registration for the trainings at McKendree University is now available at [www.illinoisodp.org](http://www.illinoisodp.org). Players must register by noon on Friday, December 2, 2011.

Tryouts and training sessions are conducted by Illinois ODP staff coaches who are recognized for their ability to identify and train players with superior skills. They include club, high school, college and international coaches who have at least a National 'D' license although the majority have the top level A' license. The coaching staff and selection process is overseen by the Illinois Youth Soccer Director of Coaching.

Players are evaluated by four major components:

- Technique
- Tactics
- Fitness and Athletic Ability
- Attitude

Illinois ODP is for serious soccer players who love the game and have hopes of playing in college, professionally and for the US National team. EVERY YEAR THE PROGRAM STARTS FROM THE BEGINNING – NO ONE IS GIVEN A SPOT. Players change each year physically and emotionally. Players who may be physically mature at an early age may be surpassed as others mature. Any player can be released and replaced during the process. We DO NOT select players based on their club affiliation or their club team's record. The focus of the ODP is a player's overall development, not tournament wins.

Players are expected to participate in as many ODP events that they can make, behave responsibly, conduct themselves in a professional matter and always challenge themselves to get better.

Not only do players get training from some of the top coaches in Illinois, all players are also given access to the Tosh Farrell Soccer Development Center online training videos.

Tosh Farrell has partnered with Illinois Youth Soccer to provide an internationally renowned online curriculum with 24/7 access. Hands on coaching sessions will be delivered by Tosh Farrell at pre-arranged ODP events throughout the ODP calendar and players will be given practice sessions that will be monitored by Tosh Farrell Soccer Development Center. Not only will the players be seen by college coaches, they will have access to international scouting network.

Tony 'Tosh' Farrell is the former Head of International Football Development and Technical Coordinator at the English Premier Club Everton FC. Tosh spent 13 years at one of the leading youth academies in the world helping develop numerous players who have gone on to represent the Everton FC 1st team. These players include Wayne Rooney (now of Manchester United), the EPL's youngest ever goal scorer James Vaughan (age16), and the youngest ever player to represent Everton FC Jose Baxter.

**For more details about the Illinois Olympic Development Program visit [www.illinoisodp.org](http://www.illinoisodp.org), call 847-290-1577 or email [odp@illinoisyouthsoccer.org](mailto:odp@illinoisyouthsoccer.org)**

### **2011/12 Illinois ODP Trainings at McKendree University in Lebanon, IL**

#### **BOYS 2000/2001 Birth Year:**

Saturday 12/3/2011	9:00-10:30 AM
Saturday 1/14/2012	9:00-10:30 AM
Saturday 1/21/2012	9:00-10:30 AM
Saturday 2/4/2012	9:00-10:30 AM
Saturday 2/18/2012	9:00-10:30 AM

#### **BOYS 1999 Birth Year:**

Saturday 12/3/2011	9:00-10:30 AM
Saturday 1/14/2012	9:00-10:30 AM
Saturday 1/21/2012	9:00-10:30 AM
Saturday 2/4/2012	9:00-10:30 AM
Saturday 2/18/2012	9:00-10:30 AM

**BOYS 1998 Birth Year:**

Saturday 12/3/2011 12:00-1:30 PM  
Saturday 1/14/2012 12:00-1:30 PM  
Saturday 1/21/2012 12:00-1:30 PM  
Saturday 2/4/2012 12:00-1:30 PM  
Saturday 2/18/2012 12:00-1:30 PM

**BOYS 1997 Birth Year:**

Saturday 12/3/2011 12:00-1:30 PM  
Saturday 1/14/2012 12:00-1:30 PM  
Saturday 1/21/2012 12:00-1:30 PM  
Saturday 2/4/2012 12:00-1:30 PM  
Saturday 2/18/2012 12:00-1:30 PM

**BOYS 1996 Birth Year:**

Saturday 12/3/2011 3:00-4:30 PM  
Saturday 1/14/2012 3:00-4:30 PM  
Saturday 1/21/2012 3:00-4:30 PM  
Saturday 2/4/2012 3:00-4:30 PM  
Saturday 2/18/2012 3:00-4:30 PM

**BOYS 1995 Birth Year:**

Saturday 12/3/2011 3:00-4:30 PM  
Saturday 1/14/2012 3:00-4:30 PM  
Saturday 1/21/2012 3:00-4:30 PM  
Saturday 2/4/2012 3:00-4:30 PM  
Saturday 2/18/2012 3:00-4:30 PM

**GIRLS 2000/2001 BIRTH YEAR:**

Saturday 12/3/2011 10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Saturday 1/14/2012 10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Saturday 1/21/2012 10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Saturday 2/4/2012 10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Saturday 2/18/2012 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

**GIRLS 1999 BIRTH YEAR:**

Saturday 12/3/2011 10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Saturday 1/14/2012 10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Saturday 1/21/2012 10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Saturday 2/4/2012 10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Saturday 2/18/2012 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

**GIRLS 1998 BIRTH YEAR:**

Saturday 12/3/2011 1:30-3:00 PM  
Saturday 1/14/2012 1:30-3:00 PM  
Saturday 1/21/2012 1:30-3:00 PM  
Saturday 2/4/2012 1:30-3:00 PM  
Saturday 2/18/2012 1:30-3:00 PM

**GIRLS 1997 BIRTH YEAR:**

Saturday 12/3/2011 1:30-3:00 PM  
Saturday 1/14/2012 1:30-3:00 PM  
Saturday 1/21/2012 1:30-3:00 PM  
Saturday 2/4/2012 1:30-3:00 PM  
Saturday 2/18/2012 1:30-3:00 PM

**GIRLS 1996 BIRTH YEAR:**

Saturday 12/3/2011 4:30-6:00 PM  
Saturday 1/14/2012 4:30-6:00 PM  
Saturday 1/21/2012 4:30-6:00 PM  
Saturday 2/4/2012 4:30-6:00 PM  
Saturday 2/18/2012 4:30-6:00 PM

**GIRLS 1995 BIRTH YEAR:**

Saturday 12/3/2011	4:30-6:00 PM
Saturday 1/14/2012	4:30-6:00 PM
Saturday 1/21/2012	4:30-6:00 PM
Saturday 2/4/2012	4:30-6:00 PM
Saturday 2/18/2012	4:30-6:00 PM

**—IYSA—**

**About Illinois Youth Soccer** – Illinois Youth Soccer is the official representative of US Youth Soccer and the United States Soccer Federation in Illinois. Affiliates of Illinois Youth Soccer provide more than 82,000 youngsters in Illinois with the opportunity to play soccer, making Illinois Youth Soccer, Illinois' LARGEST youth soccer organization. For more information on Illinois Youth Soccer, go to [www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org](http://www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org).

**About US Youth Soccer** - US Youth Soccer-The Game for ALL Kids!® is the largest member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body of soccer in the United States. US Youth Soccer registers more than 3.2 million players annually, ages 5 to 19, in 55 member state associations. US Youth Soccer programs provide a fun, safe and healthy environment for players at every level of the game.