

North Carolina Olympic Development Program Monthly Newsletter

Each month this newsletter aims to inform our members through valuable content about the Olympic Development Program (ODP), soccer in the state, and soccer around the country!

Upcoming ODP Training / Events

The 2017-18 Olympic Development Program season is in full swing with upcoming ODP Training and Events listed below:

BOYS

Training - June 9th & 10th - 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, & 2005
(Only Players Selected for Region Camp are invited to June Training)

GIRLS

Training - June 9th & 10th - 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, & 2005
(Only Players Selected for Region Camp are invited to June Training)

Please check the ODP Calendars at www.ncsoccer.org/boysodp & www.ncsoccer.org/girlsodp as dates & times are subject to change.

Region III ODP Camp Approaching in July

Each July North Carolina ODP sends teams to the Region III ODP Camp in Alabama where they compete against other ODP state teams from around the region and potentially international & MLS youth teams. More information is available at the Region Camp tabs at www.ncsoccer.org/boysodp and www.ncsoccer.org/girlsodp



2001 / 2002 Girls Selected for South Region Trips to England & Germany

Our staff is proud to announce that four players from our 2001 & 2002 Girls Age Groups were selected to the South Region Regional Team



on their trips to England and Germany!

Kristy Campbell (2001), Silken Carlton (2000), Libby Moore (2001), had the opportunity to travel to England while Faith Adams (2001) traveled to Germany earlier this month to train and play matches against top youth teams.

At the end of each Age Groups South Region Camp in July, a 40 player Regional Pool is selected. From this pool, the top players are selected to the Regional Team to compete in both domestic & international trips!

Congratulations Kristy, Silken, Libby, and Faith!

International Champions Cup Returns to Charlotte!



The International Champions Cup returns to Charlotte this summer as Liverpool FC takes on Borussia Dortmund at Bank of America Stadium on July 22nd at 4pm.

Use the Code ICCVIP to buy tickets!


[Liverpool FC vs Borussia Dortmund Ticket Link](#)

ODP Health Tip Corner

All Abilities Welcome!

April is not only National Volunteer Month, but also National Autism Awareness month! Wondering what the connection is to ODP? Learn more in this month's ODP Health Tip Corner!

All Abilities Welcome!
By: Keri Jones, MS, LAT, ATC
NCDP Administrator/Sports Medicine Services Coordinator



Did you know that April is not only National Volunteer Month but it is also National Autism Awareness Month? Are you wondering what the connection is to ODP? Well as you all know, the Olympic Development Program is one arena in which high-caliber soccer players have benefited from high-level coaching, training and experiences within the soccer world that have helped them excel both on and off the field. We are very proud of all the success our ODP players have continued to have through the years so we'd like to pose a challenge before them.

Here at NCSA, we strive to help our member associations create the ideal environment for all our youth, no matter their ability, to grow and excel through soccer to be successful in life. One of the programs that helps us do this is NCSA's TOPSoccer Program. The NCSA staff assists local associations with administering this valuable program in their area of the state. TOPSoccer is a community-based training and team placement program for athletes of all ages with mental and/or physical disabilities (such as autism, Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy) who want to play soccer that is orchestrated and run strictly by volunteers. Athletes who can benefit from the TOPSoccer program are all around us! A lot of them make up our biggest fan base cheering their siblings on from the sidelines instead of participating themselves. We would like to challenge our ODP players to get involved with their local TOPSoccer program and help give back to their community so that all our youth can learn skills through soccer to help them excel in life.

To give us a clearer picture into how you could use your soccer skills to give back, I interviewed Kevin Flynn, who has had the privilege to be a part of both worlds as a player, coach and educator. Coach Flynn, who completed his USOPF II course here in North Carolina, coaches in the NCV area and has worked in special education for the past 5 years, specifically with individuals with autism. He currently holds a BA in Adolescent Education from SUNY Cortland and will graduate next month with a MEd in Special Education from Queens College. Upon graduation, he will finish the process of becoming a Behavior Analyst eager to tie both worlds together by working directly with players, families and coaches to use behavioral principles and applied behavior analysis teaching tactics to increase player performance and motivation at every level of the game. Coach Flynn had this to say:

Individuals with autism and other disabilities often have limited social relationships due to issues with communication, initiating social interaction and maintaining engagement in non-preferred activities. Programs like TOPSoccer are designed to give these individuals the chance to participate in sports in a fun, development-oriented environment, while also increasing self-esteem, social skills and other important life skills. These programs also help highlight each individual's abilities and helps them feel part of a team. Working with individuals with disabilities is an extremely rewarding experience. It allows you to form unique bonds with people and help them achieve things that they never thought they could do.

I have had the honor of volunteering as a member of the medical staff team at the Special Olympics for many years and I can't put into words the joy and heart-warming feeling you receive in return. To become involved in TOPSoccer, you do not have to have any previous experience working with people with disabilities; just that desire to want to give back, have fun and meet some awesome new friends! The local associations in NC who offer TOPSoccer programs can be found on the TOPSoccer page of the NCSA Recreation website or please contact me at kjones@ncsoccer.org and I'd be happy to connect you.

Resources:

- USOPF TOPSoccer - <https://www.usopsoccer.org/programs/topsoccer/>
- NCSA TOPSoccer - <https://www.ncsoccer.org/topsoccer>

STAY CONNECTED

