

# U.S. Soccer Landscape

- U.S. Soccer Federation is the national governing body for the sport. U.S. Soccer has a [Membership structure](#): US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer are both National Association Members. Major League Soccer and USL are Professional League members. USSSA is an Associate Member.
- **ECNL (run by US Club Soccer), MLS Next (run by MLS), USL Academy (run by USL) Girls Academy (sanctioned by USSSA), and USYS National League (US Youth Soccer)** are all CLUB soccer competitions. Players in these leagues are training and competing with their club teams throughout the season.
- **ODP (run by US Youth Soccer), id2 (run by US Club Soccer),** are not club soccer participation. They are both identification / scouting programs. Players from various clubs and leagues come together for training sessions, and scrimmage games, in order to receive supplemental training; separate from, and in addition to, what their club team provides. And to showcase in front of college scouts.

## List of some of U.S. Soccer's [Members](#) and the programming they offer:

1. **US Youth Soccer** <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/>
  - a. Olympic Development Program (ODP) – run by US Youth Soccer <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/olympic-development-program/>
    - i. Supplemental training for kids (College Scholarships)
    - ii. The first stage is to tryout for your state's ODP team. From there, players can be selected to one of 4 ODP regional teams. And after that, ODP National Teams are selected from the regional teams.
    - iii. ODP Regional and National Camp events are scouted by college coaches and potentially U.S. Soccer National Team Scouts.
2. **US Club Soccer (ECNL)**
  - a. Sanction and operate ECNL League - <https://usclubsoccer.org/ecnl/>
    - i. ECNL operates for both boys and girls
    - ii. For the girls, it is considered one of the top two club competitions in the country.
    - iii. 4-5 national events per year
    - iv. *Top ECNL events are scouted by the U.S. Soccer Women's Youth National Team*
  - b. ID2 – run by US Club Soccer - <https://usclubsoccer.org/id2/>
    - i. Similar structure and concept as ODP
    - ii. Players tryout at a state/local level, and progress to regional teams and then an id2 national team camp
    - iii. Id2 Regional and National Camp events are scouted by college coaches and potentially U.S. Soccer National Team Scouts
3. **USSSA** <https://www.ussa.com/home/>
  - a. Sanctions Girls Academy <https://girlsacademyleague.com/>
    - i. One of the top two club competitions for girls players in the country
    - ii. 4-5 national events per year
    - iii. *Top Girls Academy (GA) events are scouted by the U.S. Soccer Women's Youth National Team*
  - b. Girls Academy also runs a Talent ID Program <https://girlsacademyleague.com/talent-id-overview/>
    - i. Somewhat similar to ODP and id2, it is open to Girls Academy league players. Top players are selected to come together for training camps and scrimmage games
    - ii. These events are scouted by college coaches and potentially U.S. Soccer National Team Scouts

4. **Major League Soccer** <https://www.mlssoccer.com/mlsnext/>
  - a. Sanctions and runs MLS Next
    - i. MLS Next is the top club program for boys players in the USA
    - ii. Connected to professional MLS teams; provides pathway to pro soccer
    - iii. Typically, MLS Next players do not participate in HS soccer
    - iv. *MLS Next is scouted by U.S. Soccer Men's Youth National Team*
  
5. **USL Academy** <https://www.usl-academy.com/>
  - a. Sanctions and runs USL Academy league and USL Academy Cup tournament
    - i. Connected to professional USL teams; provides pathway to pro soccer
    - ii. Run USL Academy league finals in Nov; and USL Academy Cup tournament in March/April
    - iii. *USL Academy Cup is scouted by U.S. Soccer Men's Youth National Team*

***Below is a list of the only programming that U.S. Soccer Federation offers directly, which are all for its Youth National Teams:***

6. **U.S. Soccer Federation**
  - a. Youth National Team Identification Centers (YNT)  
<https://www.ussoccer.com/talent-identification/ynt-identification-centers>
    - i. 1-day events, operated and scouted by U.S. Soccer Youth National Team coaches and scouts
    - ii. US Soccer conducts about 50 YNT ID Centers annually, per gender, to identify players for Youth National Team player pools
    - iii. Timeframe:
      1. Sept – November
      2. February – May
  - b. Regional Mini camps
    - i. Events that bring together players in the Youth National Team pool for training
    - ii. U14/U15 – 240 kids
    - iii. U16/U17 – 80-100 kids
    - iv. U20 – 60-80 kids
  - c. U.S. Soccer Youth National Team camps and events
    - i. U.S. Soccer organizes 3-6 training camps annually for each of its Youth National Teams
    - ii. Youth National Teams also participate in official international competitions