

# **DIRECTOR OF COACHING ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014**

## **COACHING AND PARENT EDUCATION**

We conducted a total of 105 courses last year with a total enrollment of 1,342 candidates. This compares to 102 courses and 1406 enrollment in 2013. The bulk of the enrollment is still with the recreational based courses, the 'G', 'F' and 'REC E'.

In addition, we conducted 28 Rec coach's clinics as well as 6 parent excellence presentations and 30 pre-ODP clinics in 2014.

We have added another educational service for our members, the Club Academy/Select Coaches Symposium. These symposiums are delivered in a half-day or full-day format and are geared towards our clubs' Academy and/or Select coaching staff. We have conducted 4 such symposiums in 2014: at Savannah United, UFA, Golden Isles, and another one in conjunction with our Pre-ODP camp.

Another vehicle for coaching education is our series of Staff Development Workshops and Club DOC Workshops. As in every year, we conducted one each season and these workshops serve to keep our professional coaches up to date on the latest coaching information and especially information brought from abroad on best practices of the top youth academies world-wide. The focus of the workshops this year was on implementing a club wide curriculum and a possession playing style.

## **ODP and DTC**

First, the number crunching: In 2014, we set some new records in these programs. ODP Tryout numbers have increased by around 200 from 1450 to 1650. We placed a record 121 players in the various regional pools. And the DTC tryouts were well attended and we selected 140, which is also a record number.

Our State ODP and District Training Center (DTC) programs are flourishing and connecting the whole state into one single integrated pyramid of elite development. The DTC programs serve as feeder systems into the State ODP and provide access to quality training at a level above club to more players outside metro Atlanta.

We have added a DTC All-Star program last year and are continuing with this concept this year. We have selected a DTC All-Star team in each gender in the middle age groups (2002/2003 in 2015) and will train these teams in the spring/summer and take them to Region Tryout Camp in July 2015. This will provide a unique opportunity for the best DTC players to experience a high level environment and a chance to try out for the Region III ODP Pool.

Our State ODP continues to be a leader in our region. Seven years ago, Georgia Soccer has adopted a possession playing style and a curriculum in line with the top international academies and the US Soccer curriculum. All our ODP teams are now playing a similar style of possession soccer. This consistency of standards has contributed to a significant elevation of our team performances vs other states. Our ODP staff is held accountable not for game results but for adherence to the curriculum and playing style. The results are bearing fruits as demonstrated by the record number of our players getting into regional and national teams. Our ODP Coaching Manual is now the official US Youth Soccer ODP Coaching Manual.