

Odyssey Sport Soccer Club & NY Soccer Central Collaboration FAQs:

- 1. Is this a merger between Odyssey & Soccer Central?** A key point we want to emphasize is that this not a merger between the two organizations. The plan is for Soccer Central and Odyssey to share training models and then collaborate to offer more developmental opportunities. Both organizations will remain separate entities.
- 2. Why is Odyssey collaborating with Soccer Central?** Odyssey & Soccer Central are grounded in the same philosophy, focused on individual player development. Foundations and fundamentals are key to the training structure developed by Paul Mairs, and both Odyssey and Soccer Central follow that model. Both organizations are training academies first, that focus on developing skilled players who are independent and creative thinkers that can make informed decisions on the field. As most of you know, our philosophy and training curriculum are based on the book 'Coaching Outside the Box: Changing the Mindset of Youth Soccer,' which was co-written by Paul Mairs and Richard Shaw, NY Soccer Central's Director of Coaching.
- 3. What can this collaboration with Soccer Central offer my child?** We're acutely aware that there are Odyssey players who are hungry for additional practice or game opportunities. This is where Soccer Central can potentially facilitate this desire for extra opportunities. Soccer Central should merely be viewed as an extension to what already takes place at Odyssey. For instance, if we have some players at Odyssey who are currently not getting the opportunity to play in games on the weekend (due to lack of numbers, because they are developmentally more 'advanced' or because of logistical issues), then we can review the situation and potentially offer game opportunities at Soccer Central on the weekends, or when we go outdoors in the spring. The same rule applies with training - if some players want extra touches or additional training, then they can simply attend a Soccer Central training session for additional work. The same goes for Soccer Central players that may want additional training at Odyssey, or who may live closer to the Accelerate facility – they are welcome to join our training sessions.
- 4. Who is Soccer Central?** Soccer Central is not a club. It is a referral-based training development program. Soccer Central does not operate like a "traditional soccer club" with team managers, and teams (at every age level) practicing separately. This is not the model they adhere to, and it's also one of the main reasons they have been so successful in what they do over the years. Soccer Central is inviting players from Odyssey to participate in their training as a supplement to the continued Odyssey training – so no tryout is required. Their training programs are "a la carte" so players can "pay-as-you-play" alleviating some of the associated costs of additional training and game opportunities.
- 5. How does Soccer Central construct teams if they are focused on being a training club?** Soccer Central constructs teams based on the ability and readiness of each player, but players do not train year-round with the same team. Prior to when they go outdoors in the spring, teams (at almost each age category) will be entered into the CNYJSA League, the State Cup, and other competitive situations. The rosters are carefully devised based on the needs, ability, and commitment level of each player. The State Cup teams will then practice together for a few weeks in preparation for this event; this is the only time such practice takes place throughout the year. ***To be considered for any game opportunities, Odyssey players must attend at least one Soccer Central session each week.****
- 6. If I took my child to Soccer Central for extra training, why shouldn't I just remove them from Odyssey altogether and solely focus on Soccer Central?** The reality is that this shouldn't be an issue because Odyssey will continue to offer the same training at Accelerate on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The training model (fundamental and functional sessions) we have

implemented mirror the training model adhered to at Soccer Central - there is no discernible difference. Therefore, it doesn't make sense to travel to Syracuse on Tuesday or Thursday nights when Odyssey is replicating the same training. We are currently practicing at a conveniently located and exceptionally equipped venue, Accelerate, so there is no need to permanently remove your child from such a positive environment.

7. **What will Odyssey offer in the Spring season?** Odyssey will continue to offer the same training focused on fundamentals and skill-based rotations – that will be outdoors at various locations.
8. **Will my child have an Odyssey team to play on this spring?** Odyssey is in the process of rebuilding and evolving, and new members are joining even now. At this point, based on current numbers we may not be able to field teams at each age level this spring. This is why we are “teaming up” with NY Soccer Central in order to provide opportunities for your child to play on a competitive team within their age group this spring. **We absolutely intend to field teams where numbers allow.** Once the registrations are complete, we will have a better idea which age groups can field teams. We will continue to monitor this and keep you up to date. We strongly encourage you to register for the Spring Season so we can make these determinations.
9. **What training does Soccer Central offer, what are the schedules and how much does it cost?** For detailed information on NY Soccer Central, please visit their website at <http://nysoccercentral.com/wp/> and be sure to check out their FAQs at <http://nysoccercentral.com/wp/frequently-asked-questions/>.

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You may also reach out to a board member or coach with questions. Board members will be available at each practice to discuss this new opportunity or to answer your questions.

*** It is important to note that Soccer Central's next round of training programs begin January 27.**