



PORTLAND TIMBERS

Portland Timbers Youth Academy Tryouts

July 10-11, 2013

Tualatin Hills Recreation Center
15707 SW Walker Rd. Beaverton, OR 97006

Portland Timbers Academy Program

The Portland Timbers are thrilled to announce the Timbers Youth Academy Tryout dates for the 2013/14 season. Tryouts for the U16 and U18 teams will take place July 10-11 and August 1-2, from 9am-5pm at the Tualatin Hills Recreation Center. Check-in will take place under the blue tents in front of field four.

The Timbers Youth Academy program will be made up of the top U16 players (1997, 1998 and 1999 birthdates) and the top U18 players (1995 and 1996 birthdates). Major League Soccer mandates all clubs have U16 and U18 academy teams who will compete in the United States Developmental Academy program. The USDA season is a 10-month season, starting in September and ending in June.

Following the Open Tryout, select players will be invited to attend an Invitation-Only Combine for the Academy Teams which will be held August 1-2. The Coaching Staff will make final selections by Monday, August 5. It is recommended that players that make the first cut attend the Timbers Residential Camp at Pacific University (July 14-18), as Academy Staff Coaches will be in attendance to evaluate players. Space is limited so it is recommended that players interested in the Residential Camp sign up soon. Players can register online at registration.portlandtimbers.com.

Academy Players who make the final cut will report for pre-season beginning August 12 at JELD-WEN Field, for orientation, equipment pickup, medicals and fitness testing. Players selected to the 2013-14 Academy Teams will be presented on the field at a Timbers home game in September TBD.



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The Portland Timbers Academy program will adopt a holistic approach and develop the players with thorough information on nutrition, sports psychology, strength conditioning, speed and agility. The Portland Timbers expect that all Academy players continue to excel on and off the field.

Starting in August 2013, Academy players will strictly play for the Portland Timbers. Therefore, players are not eligible to compete with any other youth club or high school team, other than with the Timbers. Scouting will continue along with scouting nights for Alliance and OPL Clubs.

Players who are in the 1998 birth year who tryout but do not make the Academy roster will be invited to tryout for the 1998 Timbers Academy Reserve ODP Pool, August 10-11 in Salem, Oregon. These players will participate in an ODP type schedule and play against other state teams. These players may be invited to train with the Academy team on occasion or in the case of an injury. For players, this is the best opportunity to stay connected with the Timbers Academy Process because we know that players develop at different times. These players will be allowed to participate with club and high school teams.

Players from beyond Portland Metro Area

Players from all across the Timbers territory will be eligible to tryout. No preference will be awarded to players who live close to the stadium. We will select the best players for our Academy teams no matter where they reside. Players DO NOT have to play for a Timbers Alliance Youth Club to be selected for the Academy.

Once selected and the Academy Teams begin training, there will be at least four sessions a week in August pre-season. Sessions will be scheduled on consecutive days when possible to minimize travel for players from out of town. The Academy office is awaiting field confirmation, but tentatively the teams will train Tuesday and Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday in August on grass.



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Players from outside the area will be provided a short grace period with a handful of excused absences for traveling. Throughout the summer months players from outside the area will be expected to attend the majority of practices. The Academy Staff will help players arrange home stays when necessary, primarily with other Academy players.

Once High School begins, Academy practice times will be adjusted to allow for travel time from schools outside of the Portland metropolitan area. Practice will be tentatively scheduled Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the new Timbers Training Facility in Beaverton with additional practice times on weekends where there are no games scheduled.

Each player will be provided with their own personalized speed, strength, and conditioning plan to work on off days of training. Nutritional information will be provided and all Academy players will be expected to maintain discipline on their pathway to the pros.

The Portland Timbers will take all precautions to ensure that the Youth Academy players remain amateur status. Players will not be provided extra benefits that may interfere with their NCAA college eligibility.

For more details on the Academy program please see the Portland Timbers website <http://www.portlandtimbers.com/youth/portland-timbers-youth-academy> and also the US Soccer website <http://www.ussoccer.com/Teams/Development-Academy/Academy.aspx>.

Portland Timbers in the US Soccer Development Academy League

In the US Soccer Development Academy League, the Portland Timbers will play in the West Conference. They are placed in the Northwest Division.



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The other teams that make up the Northwest Division are:

- Cal Odyssey (Cal-N)
- California Development Academy (Cal-N)
- Crossfire Premier (WA)
- De Anza Force (Cal-N)
- San Jose Earthquakes MLS (Cal-N)
- Santa Cruz Breakers Academy (Cal-N)
- Seattle Sounders FC MLS (WA)
- Vancouver Whitecaps MLS (Canada – BC)

The Portland Timbers will play both home and away in their League. They will play each of the teams in the Western Conference (SoCal Division) once (half home and half away) a season.

SoCal Division teams:

- Arsenal FC
- Chivas USA MLS
- Irvine Strikers
- LA Galaxy MLS
- Nomads SC
- Pateadores
- Real Salt Lake AZ MLS
- Real So Cal
- San Diego Surf

With a total of 26 games, teams will also play in invitation only Academy Showcase Tournaments, Playoffs and the MLS Generation adidas Cup. Games will be played over a 10-month period with the ratio of games to practices regulated by US Soccer Federation's Best Practices for Player Development.



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Cost of Academy Program

The MLS Portland Timbers are making a massive investment in their youth system. In order to best serve and develop the best players in their territory, the cost of the program will be minimal. For the 10-month season and all the air travel and practice the Academy year will entail, players and their families will only be asked to provide a minimal \$500 equipment and performance bond annually. There will be limited scholarships available as no player will be left out for financial reasons.

The Portland Timbers will pay for all Academy air travel and accommodation throughout the year but care has been taken to ensure that all players do not get any other special treatment that would endanger their NCAA eligibility.

High School Soccer

In order to develop players of the highest quality, the top players must be training and playing with each other. High School soccer is a proven ground to help players develop and encourage community spirit. Often times the best players are not challenged sufficiently in training or in games because they excel above their teammates.

In the Western Conference of the US Developmental Academy, the High School soccer calendar has proven problematic. Oregon teams play in the Fall, California in the Winter, and Washington in the Spring, causing no mutually exclusive window to stop league play. Teams in the Northwest Division unsuccessfully tried to schedule around High School soccer in 2010-2011. In April of 2011, it was voted on to forgo High School seasons and schedule games over a 10-month league period, prior to the Portland Timbers involvement. This was done mainly to help prevent injuries, spread games out, increase training opportunities and improve the overall holistic development of young players.



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US Soccer announced in February 2012 that all Academy Clubs from across the US, will go to a 10 month season in the 2012-13 season, again prior to the Portland Timbers entering the Academy. The Portland Timbers are now, therefore, mandated by US Soccer to develop their Academy players throughout the year. Undoubtedly, the benefits of High School soccer are many and provide a great sense of community, but in trying to develop young aspiring professionals the Portland Timbers now have to take responsibility for this and also vow that education of the student athlete will always remain the highest priority.

The best path for the high level player who aspires to play professionally or in college is to join the academy. This is where college, pro and national scouts go to see players first. The 2012-13 US Development Academy season schedule can be seen on the US Soccer webpage. The 2013-14 season schedule will not be released until June 2013. Games will begin in early September.

Education

The Portland Timbers Staff place a high value on each youth player receiving a quality education. As the Portland Timbers set up their Youth Academy structure, the Academy Directors will endeavor to ensure that players will not miss school. The Portland Timbers will utilize a holistic approach with their young players and nurture them with regards to all aspects of development; academic, social, psychological and physiological. They will be considered as being on a pathway to professional soccer and will be encouraged and mentored in this way. The Academy training schedule will be laid out so as to minimize conflicts with school. All field training will be done after school hours. Strength and conditioning, nutrition and sports psychology sessions will all be held at appropriate times also.



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US Soccer dictates our game schedule within the Developmental Academy League. All games will be held on weekends, which mean that players will not miss class at High School. Every effort will be made to ensure that teams fly on Friday evening when necessary to alleviate the issue of having to miss important schoolwork. In addition, the Academy Staff will look to set mandatory study time for all players when traveling on the road.

The Portland Timbers Academy Staff aim to form a working relationship with the Principal and/or Academic counselor at each High School that our players are enrolled at. We will monitor academic performance and work with the counselors to advise players on their track and college pathway. The Youth Academy Directors, Mike Smith and Adam Smith, have also previously both worked in college soccer programs, and will work with each family to assist their son in any way possible and ensure that he remains NCAA eligible. As a safeguard, The Portland Timbers will also work with Compliance Directors within Oregon's University system to ensure that any student-athlete is looked after in a fully appropriate and professional manner.

The Portland Timbers will also take all precautions to ensure that the Youth Academy players retain amateur status. Players will not be provided extra benefits that may interfere with their NCAA college eligibility.

Tryout Registration Information

For players who are interested in trying out, the process is very simple. Players can register online at registration.portlandtimbers.com or you can go to the Portland Timbers website at www.portlandtimbers.com and find the tryout information under the Youth/Academy tab. The tryout fee is \$100 for all players and this fee must be taken care of before players step on the field. Players will also need to fill out a waiver form and bring a copy with them to tryouts in order to step on the field. Deadline for registration is July 3rd at 5 pm.



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Elite Residential Camp (13-18) BOYS

The Timbers Elite Residential Camp Program provides great training in a professional environment. This camp offers an avenue for players to be discovered for the Portland Timbers Academy teams and is recommended by the Timbers Academy Staff for players who make it through the first cut in the Academy Tryout process. The Timbers Academy staff coaches, members of the Timbers first team coaching staff and college coaches will be in attendance during the camp. The program is for Elite players who must submit their personal resumes, with their application, to be considered.

The Portland Timbers Residential Camp is specifically designed for players aspiring to become collegiate and/or pro athletes. It also can serve as excellent preparation for high school or college seasons. Players will be trained and evaluated by the Portland Timbers coaching staff that will run the Academy teams this season. Players will experience living accommodations at the beautiful new dorms at Pacific University. The curriculum will include technical and tactical field sessions, as well as speed/agility training and testing. There will be sports psychology presentations on mental toughness and preparation, as well as a college recruiting presentation covering the process and timelines. For more information on this camp, players can see our camp brochure at www.portlandtimbers.com under the Youth/Camp section.

2013-14 Timbers Academy Coaching Staff

Timbers Academy Directors: Mike Smith and Adam Smith

If you have any questions about the Timbers Academy Tryouts, please feel free to contact Erik Lyslo at elyslo@portlandtimbers.com.

The next page includes the Academy Tryout schedule. Thanks!



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Timbers Academy Tryout Schedule

All Academy tryout sessions will take place on fields 4 and 5 at the Tualatin Hills Rec. Center.

U16 Boys Schedule (1997, 1998, 1999s)

<u>Day</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Wednesday, July 10	U16 Boys	8-9 am	Check-In
Wednesday, July 10	U16 Boys	9-11 am	Tryouts
Wednesday, July 10	U16 Boys	1-3 pm	Tryouts
Thursday, July 11	U16 Boys	10:30 am	Check-In
Thursday, July 11	U16 Boys	11-1 pm	Tryouts
Thursday, July 11	U16 Boys	3-5 pm	Tryouts

U18 Boys Schedule (1995 and 1996s)

<u>Day</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Wednesday July 10	U18 Boys	10-11 am	Check-In
Wednesday July 10	U18 Boys	11-1 pm	Tryouts
Wednesday July 10	U18 Boys	3-5 pm	Tryouts
Thursday, July 11	U18 Boys	8:30 am	Check-In
Thursday, July 11	U18 Boys	9-11 am	Tryouts
Thursday, July 11	U18 Boys	1-3 pm	Tryouts

- Players need to be at all four sessions for evaluation purposes**
- Goalkeepers will be evaluated on field number three during tryouts**
- First Cut player pools will be announced on the Timbers website at www.portlandtimbers.com by July 12th at 5 pm.**
- Players who make the first cut will be invited back to the second combine August 1-2 from 9-5 pm each day.**
- The final Academy Pools will be announced by August 5th.**