



PORTLAND TIMBERS

Portland Timbers/Thorns ODP Tryouts 1998/1999 Boys, 1997/1998/1999 Girls

Oregon Soccer Players,

On behalf of the Portland Timbers and Portland Thorns Olympic Development Program, you have been invited to tryout for the Timbers and Thorns State Select soccer team August 17th and 18th, 2013 at the CFC Fields in Salem. The Timbers and Thorns Olympic Development Program has become the pathway for all youth players to play professionally and tryouts is where everything begins. With the addition of the women's professional team, the Thorns, female players now have the same opportunity as the boys with a large goal in front of them now.

What is Portland Timbers and Portland Thorns ODP?

The Portland Timbers/Thorns Olympic Development Program is a program designed to identify the top youth players in the state of Oregon and southwest Washington. In ODP, elite youth players throughout the country are chosen to represent their state association, region and ultimately, the United States in soccer competition. ODP teams are formed at the state association and regional levels, made up of the best players in various age groups. At the state level, pools of players are identified in each eligible age group and then brought together as a team to develop their skill through training and competition. From the state pools and subsequent teams, players are chosen for regional and national pools and teams.

Through a collaborative effort between the Portland Timbers, Portland Thorns and OYSA ODP Program, Oregon has a nationally recognized ODP program with a cutting-edge youth development and Academy system. In addition, this provides an integrated pathway to developing necessary home-grown talent to support MLS objectives and lessens the future cost of the organization, identifying and paying for players from outside the market and even the country.

The principal Portland Timbers/Thorns/OYSA ODP mission is to identify, evaluate, and provide more consistent training opportunities for the elite youth soccer players in Oregon. As part of the national effort, the Portland Timbers/Thorns/OYSA ODP program is dedicated to developing the highest level of youth soccer in the state and Portland Timbers/Thorns FC home-grown territory. This objective will be achieved in an atmosphere of integrity, fairness, and impartiality. The player's talent with a ball, their physical and cognitive skills, together with their attitude will be the criteria for entry into the program. In developing this collaborative program, both entities will ensure that the procedures will not conflict with any current United States Youth Soccer (USYS), United States Soccer Federation (USSF) policies or any NCAA eligibility rules for college entry.

There are inherent secondary objectives too:

- To evaluate and select players regionally in each ODP/Pre Academy age group that will train and then be evaluated to select a state pool of players from which state team players are then identified and state Timbers/Thorns ODP teams are formed.
- To advance the soccer skills and knowledge of players and coaches in each Timbers/Thorns/ODP age group, to send back to their club teams to share and develop.
- To provide appropriate competition for state Timbers/Thorns/ODP teams in each age group.



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Can anybody tryout and how am I evaluated at Tryouts?

Any soccer player may be considered for Timbers/Thorns ODP. When player's tryout, they are evaluated on four attributes of a soccer player:

1. technique
2. tactics
3. fitness and athletic ability
4. psychological component (attitude and mental toughness)

Timbers/Thorns ODP Coaching

Any coach who becomes part of the Timbers/Thorns ODP program has been hand-picked by the Timbers Youth Program. Our goal is to hire the most qualified coaches around the state to work with Timbers/Thorns ODP players. Head coaches are required to have a USSF A or B license and assistant coaches need to have at least a USSF C license. To ensure exposure to the collegiate level, we look to bring in at least one collegiate coach per team when possible.

Will there be a conflict with my Club Team, High School Team or the OPL?

Absolutely not! At the ODP pre-academy age groups, the Timbers/Thorns encourage players to play with their club teams or high school team if you are old enough. Club development is key for players when they are not exposed to ODP training. Through a collaborative effort, Timbers/Thorns ODP and Clubs work hand in hand to eliminate most conflicts in the soccer schedule as well. The Timbers/Thorns also allow players to be excused from ODP training if they are participating in a showcase tournament with their club team. All OPL players, or non-OYSA players, are absolutely encouraged to participate as well.

What benefit does Timbers/Thorns ODP give me?

As most of you will find out or already know, the Timbers are required by Major League Soccer to create U16 and U18 boys Academy teams. Our U16 and U18 teams are made up of the top players from Oregon and southwest Washington and compete against the top players in the country over a 10-month season. The Timbers organization is looking to create home-grown talent here in the state for potential first-team signings in the future. The Timbers ODP program is where this pathway to the pros begins and players who go through the Timbers ODP system will be evaluated for future Timbers Academy teams and without a doubt have a leg up on players who don't participate in Timbers ODP.

On the girls side, with the Thorns now a part of the Portland Community, the plan is now in place to create a nationally known women's program with the ultimate goal of creating home-grown talent on our pro team here in Portland. With the Thorns now directing the girls ODP program, the structure is now in place to develop home-grown talent on the girls side, creating a pathway to the women's professional team.

Timbers/Thorns ODP will provide you with competition and top-level coaching! Timbers/Thorns ODP is here to provide you with top-level competition against the best players in the state while working with the best coaches the state has to offer. Any time you can train and play against the best, you are challenging yourself to be a better player. All ODP teams are then given the opportunity to compete against the best players from the west coast at ODP Regional Camp where players have the opportunity to compete for the Regional and National teams.



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What does the Timbers ODP Schedule look like?

Below is a rough schedule for the season for all ODP groups. The schedule is always subject to change as new opportunities come up during the season and we are looking to add the girls to our MLS Tournament weekends.

ODP Tryouts:	August 17-18	Salem, Oregon	Boys and Girls
Sounders MLS Weekend:	Aug 31-Sep 2	Seattle, Washington	Boys
ODP Training:	Dec. 7-8	Portland or Salem	Boys and Girls
ODP Training:	Dec. 14-15	Portland or Salem	Boys and Girls
ODP Training:	Dec. 21-22	Portland or Salem	Boys and Girls
ODP Training:	January (TBA)	Portland or Salem	Boys and Girls
ODP Regional Championships	TBA	TBA	Boys and Girls
San Jose MLS Weekend:	TBA	San Jose, California	Boys
ODP Training:	May	Portland or Salem	Boys and Girls
Friendship Cup Tournament	May	Beaverton, Oregon	Boys and Girls
Utah Mountain Friendlies	June	Beaverton, Oregon	Boys and Girls
Cal-North Sub-Regional	June	Sacramento, Calif.	Girls
ODP Regional Camp	July	McMinnville, Oregon	Boys
ODP Regional Camp	July	TBA	Girls

Cost!

Below is a rough cost breakdown of what ODP will cost in 2013/12. Please know that players will not travel to every event below. Please also know we do everything in our power to help players get through the season. We offer scholarship money, we offer payment plans, working opportunities at Timber camps and we do what we can to help players with financial difficulty get through and not be left behind.

- ODP Tryouts: \$60 (All)
- ODP State Fee/Uniform Fee (If you make the Pool): \$425
- ODP Sounders MLS Weekend: \$225 (98 and 99 Boys)
- ODP Regional Championships: \$700 (97, 98, 99 Girls)
- ODP San Jose MLS Weekend: \$685 (98 and 99 Boys)
- ODP Timbers Friendship Cup: \$25 (All)
- Cal-North Sub-Regional: \$400 (97, 98, 99 Girls)
- Utah Mountain Friendlies: \$500 (2000, 2001 Boys and Girls)
- ODP Regional Camp: \$525 (optional for 97 and 98 Boys)

How do I register for tryouts?

The process for tryout registration is very easy. Either cut and paste the link (registration.portlandtimbers.com) or go to www.portlandtimbers.com under the Youth/ODP section and click on the ODP Tryout registration button. All registration must be done online and payment can be done here as well.