



PORTLAND THORNS FC

Portland Thorns Academy Tryouts and Information

Oregon and Southwest Washington female soccer players, on behalf of the Portland Thorns, we would like to invite all interested players, 1999-2002 to tryout for the Portland Thorns academy teams, May 9th, 10th and 11th at Providence Park. Players interested in the academy program are required to attend tryouts and register at www.timbers.com or registration.timbers.com.

Thorns Academy Tryout Schedule

Dates: May 9, 10 and 11

2001/2002 Team: 5-7 pm (Players born in 2001 and 2002)

1999/2000 Team: 7-9 pm (Players born in 1999 and 2000)

Locations: May 9 - Providence Park

May 10 – TBA

May 11 - TBA

*Players should attend at least one tryout date and will be given information on their status during the tryout.



What is the mission of the Thorns Academy?

- To continue to be a pioneer in girls soccer and provide a female academy program, while giving players a professional structure to work in daily.
- To create a more competitive environment for the elite female players with year-round training for the top players, showcase opportunities and elite competition.
- To bridge the gap between ODP, Academy, college and the Thorns first-team and allow players access to the Thorns coaching staff and first-team training sessions.
- To create professional and collegiate soccer opportunities; to enjoy these rare opportunities at a very affordable price.

When and where do Thorns Academy Tryouts take place?

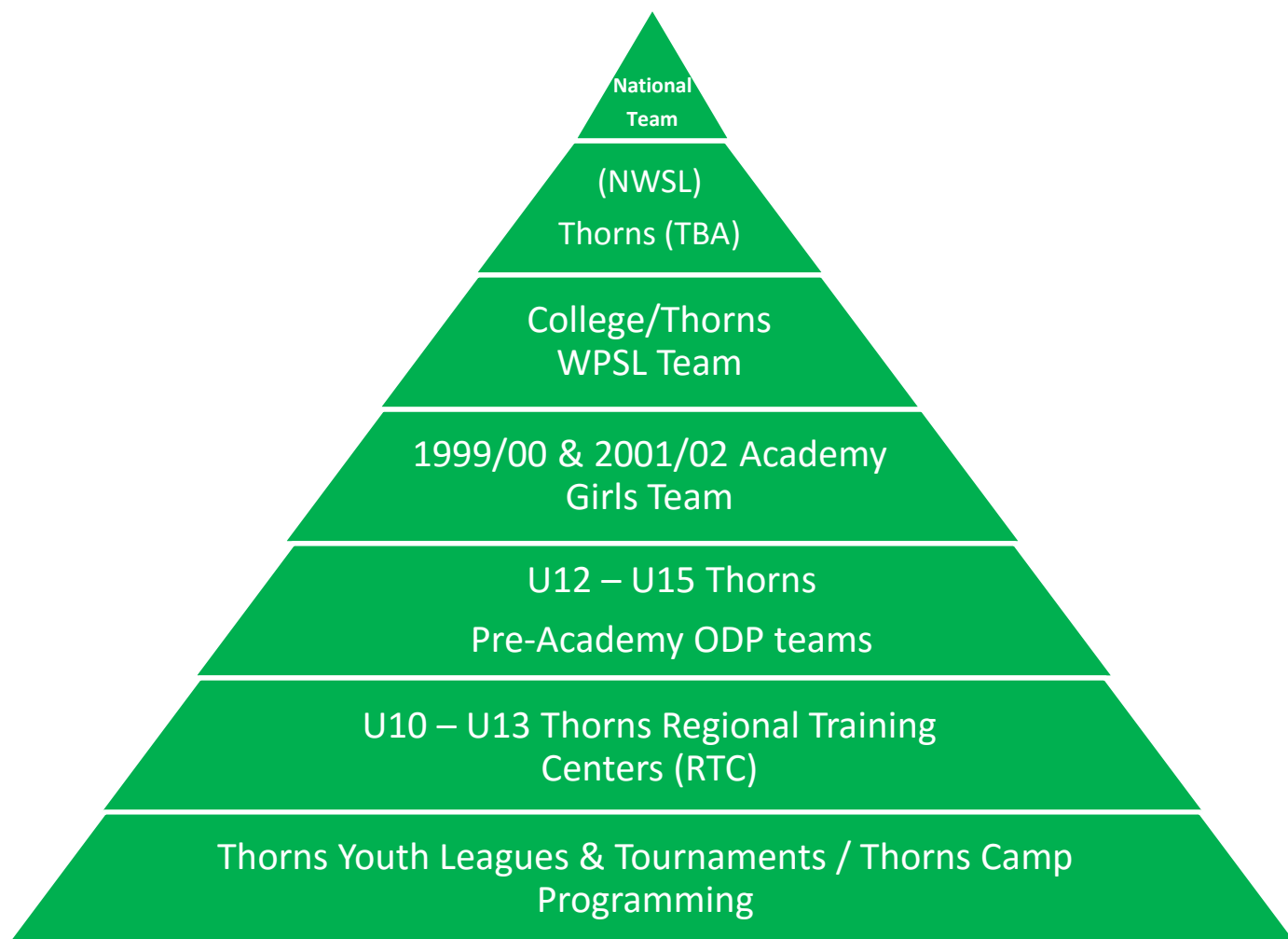
Tryouts take place May 9, 10 and 11. Players can register for tryouts at registration.timbers.com or www.timbers.com under the Youth/ODP section. Registration will stay open until May 11. Tryout details will be emailed to all players who register online.



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Thorns Youth Development Structure

Much like the Timbers Youth Development model, the goal for all Thorns youth players is to reach the top of the pyramid (included below). The program starts with a very successful Regional Training Center program (RTC). RTC players go through an aggressive training program, provided by the youth development staff and eventually earn their way to the Thorns Olympic Development Program (ODP). From there, players are challenged with and against the top players with the opportunity to advance to the ODP regional or national pool. The gap we are now filling is with the two academy age groups where we can now affect these players almost year-round, by training and playing with and against the top players while having access to the Thorns first-team resources. From the academy, players will have the opportunity to advance to college or to the Thorns WPSL team (coming soon), a team made up of Thorns first-team reserve players and college players. And from there, players will have the opportunity to earn collegiate scholarship offers, national team invites and have the chance to be drafted into the NWSL.





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Thorns Academy Game Schedule for 2016/17

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
June	Summer Training (1-2 times a week)	Portland, OR
July	Summer Training (1-2 times a week)	Portland, OR
July	Tournament (TBA)	Oregon
July	Residential Camp	Oregon
December	University of Oregon Day	Eugene, OR
December	Oregon State University Day	Corvallis, OR
January	ODP Regional Championships (00, 01, 02 only)	Phoenix, AZ
January	Far West Regional League Begins (5-8 games)	Seattle, WA
January	PAC Northwest College Showcase	Seattle, WA
January-March	Thorns Winter League (10-game season)	Portland, OR
March	Las Vegas Showcase	Las Vegas, NV
April	Vancouver Whitecaps Showcase Tournament	Vancouver, BC
May	Showcase of Champions Tournament	Redmond, WA
May	Timbers Friendship Cup	Portland, OR
May	OYSA State Cup Qualifier	Portland, OR
June	Far West Regionals (If we qualify)	TBA

***The Schedule is always subject to change as different opportunities come up.**

***The Thorns Academy teams train three times a week, usually Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**

***Training typically takes place at Providence Park or THPRD.**

***The Thorns Academy will also look to make visits to a host of colleges for college showcase training weekends.**

Can I still play with my high school team?

The answer to this is yes! After tryouts in June and July, we will allow players to go play with their high school teams during the fall season. Once the high school season is completed, players will come back to the Thorns Academy and begin training. The Thorns Academy season will run late November to late-July.

Can I still play with my club team if I am playing in the Thorns Academy?

While we value the club experience for all players, the answer to this is no. All OYSA member-clubs have been contacted about the Thorns Academy and all have unanimously agreed to support this program and send their top players to the Thorns. Clubs realize the opportunity in front of players at this age and having the chance to pool the top players together and train almost year-round in a professional team environment is one they could not deny players. While the club experience should be valued and is recommended for all younger players, the Thorns Academy program is in place is for the elite player who can train with and against the best, consistently in a professional environment. There are some special situations with players who live out of town to train with a local club team but this would need to be approved by the Thorns Academy staff first.



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Who is the Thorns Academy Staff?

1999/2000 Head Coach:	Adam 'Gaff' Leyland	USSF A License
2001/2002 Head Coach:	Chris Thurley	USSF A License
Asst. Coaching Position:	TBA	
Asst. Coaching Position:	TBA	
Asst. Coaching Position:	TBA	
GK Coach:	Sorin Popovici	
Sports Psychologist:	Brian Baxter	

How will the Thorns Academy prepare me for College?

- Professional Training Environment and access to professional team
- Competition
- Coaching
- Training
- Sports Psychology
- Showcase Tournaments
- College Advising
- Working opportunities with Timbers and Thorns Camp program
- Providing opportunities to view Thorns training and games...seeing as much professional soccer as possible. (Players receive free season tickets to the Thorns season for being in the Academy.)

What do we offer players who play with the Thorns Academy

- Training at Providence Park
- Opportunities to view first-team training
- Free season tickets to all Thorns games for Academy Players
- Thorns Academy Appreciation Day: We recognize our academy players during a Thorns game during the season on the field.
- Working opportunities during the summer: For players looking to make extra money, we allow them to work our Thorns and Timbers camps during the summer months.





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What is the cost of the Thorns Academy season?

For the nine-month program which includes training, leagues, tournaments, gear, etc., players will have a \$1,600 state fee that will cover a list of items included below. Travel costs will be on a per-event basis and there is no question the value of this program will be greater than any girls program we have ever seen in Oregon, and the affordability was always priority number one for our players. Payment plans, camp working opportunities (16 and older) and scholarships will also be available for all players.

Fee Structure

Academy State Fee: \$1,600

(Covers coaching fees, fields, league entry, uniform, Thorns FC Sport Science, Sports Psychology, access to Thorns first-team staff, 3 training sessions per week, athletic trainer, access to first-team players, college advising, video.)

Travel Costs: \$2,545 for U15's, \$1,795 for U17's

(Cost is based on per-event basis; With the U15's likely having one more event than the U17's, the price would be a bit different as shown below. Travel Costs always include flights, hotel, transportation, etc.)

2016/17 Estimated Travel Event Pricing

State Fee	\$1,600 a player
Summer Tournament	No Cost
FWRL (Seattle)	\$150 a player
PAC Showcase (Seattle)	\$220 a player
ODP Championships	\$750 a player (00, 01, 02 only)
Las Vegas Showcase (Nevada)	\$795 a player
Thorns Winter League	No Cost
Vancouver Showcase	\$300 a player
Showcase of Champions	\$300 a player
Timbers Friendship Cup	\$30 a player
OYSA State Cup	No Cost
Regionals	TBA
2016/17 Estimated Total Costs	(\$4,145 for 2001/2002's) (\$3,395 for 1999/2000's)

Scholarships

Families will have the opportunity to apply for scholarships for travel events on a per-event basis. Players will also have opportunities to work in the Thorns Summer Camp Program (16 and older) to help with expenses during the season. Payment plans will also be offered for all fees in the Thorns Academy Program.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What separates the Thorns Academy from other programs?

A. You can't duplicate a professional team environment and experience if you are not around one daily. Having the resources and the accessibility to what the top players and coaches in the world are provided is incredibly important for young players to see. The Thorns Academy is in place for the serious, elite player who has aspirations to play collegiately or professionally. While the chances of playing professionally are slim for most players, this program is in place to help players follow the path that allows them to go after professional opportunities. Elite players now have the opportunity to train with and against the best, nearly year-round, while still having the opportunity to play with their friends in high school and also to qualify for Far West Regionals by participating in the Far West regional league. Thorns Academy players will all have season-tickets to the Thorns games as well.

Q. Why did the Thorns not create an ECNL team?

A. We get this question asked of us a lot and we've been in discussions with ECNL in the past to explore forming a team. The simple answer is cost. The ECNL program is incredibly expensive. We did our research and asked parents and staff from different ECNL teams and clubs what the cost was for their kids to play in ECNL. The range was in the \$7,000-\$10,000 range a year. We imagine some families would pay that, but we imagine most cannot. Limiting the cost is what we have strived to do while still creating the showcase opportunities and the professional environment in the Thorns Academy.

Q. How many players will you keep in the Thorns Academy Pool?

A. We will have somewhere in the 23-25 player range for each pool. We will look to bring some younger players in to the program for training opportunities so we are giving our younger, talented ODP players the opportunity for some fantastic training. At the same time, the top Thorns Academy players will have the opportunity to train with the Thorns and WPSL first-team.

Q. Are all players guaranteed to travel and play in tournaments?

A. Every player who wanted to travel last year got the chance to do so. This year, it will be up to the coaching staff as to who they will bring to tournaments. Since we will be playing in U16 and U17 brackets at tournaments, we will limit the number of 99s that travel.





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Q. How will Thorns Academy gear be provided?

A. All Thorns Academy players will receive Thorns Nike kits for being part of the academy program. Nike has put their support behind the Thorns Academy program and players will be taken care of with full kits.

Q. Will ODP still exist for 2000, 2001 and 2002 players?

A. Yes! Our 2000/01 pool will serve as our U17 Thorns Academy reserve pool where we train a group of players for potential call-up to the Thorns Academy while playing an ODP type schedule. Our 2002 pool will serve as our Thorns Academy reserve pool for the U15 team with the same rules as the U17 pool. Players who participate in the 2000/01 and 2002 ODP reserve pools will still have the option of playing both with their high school teams and their club teams while participating in ODP events. Tryouts for the 2000/01 and 2002 ODP pool will take place August 13th and 14th in Salem, Oregon, long after academy tryouts are complete.

The ODP state pools at the 2003, 2004 and 2005 players will be stronger than ever through the Thorns RTC program and will serve as the pre-academy age groups for the Thorns Academy.

Q. Can I still compete at ODP Regional Camp?

A. Yes! This is the win-win of the entire restructure. Players who play in the Thorns Academy will still have the chance to participate at ODP regional camp if they choose. We will recommend players who want to attend and camp takes place in Oregon for the girls.

Q. Will the Thorns Academy apply for the US Developmental Academy for 2017?

A. Yes! We will apply for this tremendous opportunity and will announce more details on this program as they come in. We would like to see more details before committing, but we are intrigued and interested if it makes sense for our players.

If you have any questions about any of the above information, don't hesitate to ask. Contact information for the Thorns Academy is below. Thanks and hope to see you at tryouts.

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