



PORTLAND TIMBERS

PORTLAND TIMBERS ACADEMY FAQ

What is the mission of the Portland Timbers Academy?

As an organization, the Portland Timbers are committed to youth development. Our Academy program provides a professional environment pushing players to learn and elevate their game on a daily basis. Our goal as an MLS Academy is to develop professional players. Along the way, players will be provided the rarest of opportunities and be exposed to the highest levels of competition. The many who don't make the professional ranks are often awarded scholarships to top universities. In addition to these opportunities, our program is focused on developing character traits that will help guide players toward a successful career in whatever they may pursue.

What is the cost of the Academy?

The Timbers Academy spend in the range of \$10,000-\$15,000 per player per year. These costs include training gear, field usage, coaching, and all costs of travel. The program is considered fully funded with the exception of a \$500 club membership. This membership provides access to Timbers home games, select first team training sessions and additional benefits for the player.

*There may be additional costs for unforeseen circumstances, but will be optional.

How many teams are in the Portland Timbers Academy in 2018-2019?

For the 2018-2019 season the Portland Timbers Academy will be comprised of the following five teams:

U19 Academy: Players born during the years of 2000 and 2001.

U17 Academy: Players born during the years of 2002 and 2003.

U15 Academy: Players born in 2004.

U14 Academy: Players born in 2005.

U13 Academy: Players born in 2006 or younger.

What is the overall commitment expected?

The Portland Timbers Academy season runs for approximately 10 months of the year. Typically, the players get the month of July and the majority of December off. Over the other 10 months, Timbers Academy players are expected to take advantage of an elite player development environment in order to excel not just as an individual, but as a team. Every day must be looked at as a day to improve or the opportunity being presented is wasted.

What is the weekly commitment?

The Academy typically train 4 times a week with games on the weekend. There are lifting sessions, training sessions, individualized training and video at different times throughout the week. Each player will undergo physical development tests in order to minimize overtraining and injury. These physical results are built into our annual periodization model. Most games are over the weekends with several weekends having double fixtures. There are also several weekends that players have free.

What if my son misses training for one reason or another?

There are several reasons players could potentially miss training. We are fully aware of life outside soccer. However, if missing training becomes consistent and we feel that the expected commitment level is not there, discussions will be had amongst staff and player regarding continued participation.

Do players ever have to miss school? Are grades checked?

There are several situations where players will have to miss school. We consistently stress the importance of school and mandate study sessions during trips to ensure players don't fall behind. A letter to the school is also provided to help excuse the absence.

Grades are checked throughout the year. If a player does not meet Academy standard, they will not participate. This is extremely important to our staff as we are aware the majority of players will be professionals in something other than soccer.

What are the responsibilities of parents?

The role of the parent is minimal in the Academy setting, but critical in the overall soccer development of your child. Being supportive of the Academy, staff and club are utmost as undoubtedly your child will be pushed outside his comfort zone. Support and encourage healthy discussion as a family with the purpose of embracing difficult times as part of the development process. In the end, this can either make or break the process.

What are the responsibilities of the players?

Players are responsible for 100% of their communication with the coaches. All emails, phone calls, text messages will go directly to the players. Taking ownership of their soccer development is a vital part of our philosophy. They are expected to act like young professionals in all aspects of their lives.

Do you have to play with an Alliance club or be part of the ODP/RTC to be considered for the Academy?

Although several of our players come through Alliance clubs and or ODP/RTC, No. Anyone can tryout or be brought in on trial. The Timbers Academy is interested in finding the most talented and dedicated players, committed to playing at the most competitive level in the US with the goal of becoming a pro. Talented players can come from anywhere and our goal is to provide the best environment for them to grow.