



# PORTLAND TIMBERS

## Portland Timbers ODP Invite and Information 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 Age Groups Tryouts: August 10-11/Salem, Oregon

### **What is the Portland Timbers Olympic Development Program (ODP)?**

The Portland Timbers Olympic Development Program, in conjunction with Oregon Youth Soccer Association, is a program designed to identify the top youth players in the state of Oregon and Southwest Washington. The mission of the ODP program is to provide players with an opportunity to climb the elite soccer ladder by competing for ODP regional and national pool status along with college identification and academy opportunities. In ODP programs throughout the country, youth players 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 a number 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.



Through a collaborative effort between the Portland Timbers and Oregon Youth Soccer Association, Oregon is a nationally recognized ODP program with a cutting-edge youth development and Academy system. Through ODP, players are given the opportunity to climb an integrated pathway to a higher-level of soccer by being identified by Regional, National, Collegiate or Academy coaches.

The principal Portland Timbers/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 effort, the Portland Timbers ODP program is dedicated to helping develop the highest level of youth soccer in the state and Portland Timbers 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 the procedures will not conflict with any current United States Youth Soccer (USYS), United States Soccer Federation policies or any NCAA eligibility rules for college entry.

### **There are inherent secondary objectives too:**

- To continue to identify players in the ODP/Pre Academy age groups 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 ODP teams are formed.
- To advance the soccer skills and knowledge of players and coaches in each Timbers ODP age group, to send back to their club teams to share and develop.
- To provide appropriate competition for state Timbers ODP teams in each age group and to prepare players for the next level of soccer: Academy, Regional Pool, National Pool and collegiate soccer.



# PORTLAND TIMBERS

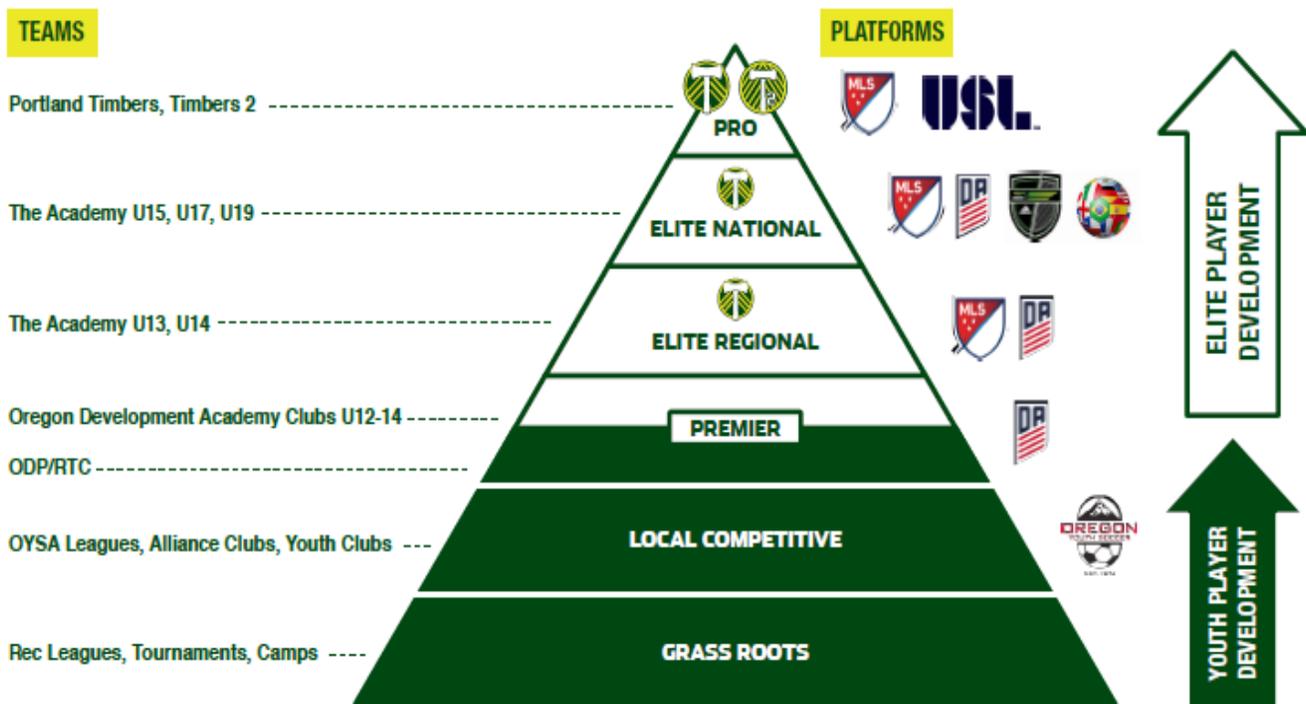
## Why should I participate in Timbers ODP?

As talked about on the first page, there is a vertically integrated system in place for players to get to the level they want as a player. As shown below, the pyramid gives players the model for what they need to do and how they get there. The Timbers ODP program gives players the chance to continue to be identified by our academy staff while also creating a more competitive environment for players to compete and showcase their talent both here in Oregon and against states from all over the Western United States. Timbers ODP has produced more than 90 percent of the current Timbers Academy players along with many players who are playing professional soccer now in the MLS and overseas including Timbers Players, Marco Farfan and Foster Langsdorf.

Again, as shown below in our development pyramid below, you will see the suggested pathway for players in the Timbers program to get to the level they achieve. By challenging players in a competitive setting, we are giving players the chance to develop and improve, while creating an environment that challenges them to become better players and move up the pyramid. The ultimate goal as a youth player should be to play with the national team. But being realistic, there are many goals a player can achieve with ODP, Academy (DA), Regional Pool and collegiate soccer. Within the ODP program, we will give as many players as possible, the opportunity to achieve their goal in the pyramid below.

And as a reminder to all Club DA players, with US Soccer eliminating the DA at U12-U14, any DA players (not in the Timbers DA program) can now try out for ODP again. I know a number of families have asked about this and we are excited to have you back at tryouts this season.

## WHAT IS THE TIMBERS ACADEMY?





## **How each ODP Age Group is structured in 2019/20**

Contrary to the last two years where each group was combined, each ODP age group will be stand-alone age groups now. So we will keep pools of players in the 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 age groups. Each age group will have their own coaching staff and schedule. Each pool will have roughly 25-30 players.

## **ODP Events We Participate In**

**ODP Regional Championships:** One of the premier tournaments in the country, we send all of our ODP teams to Phoenix in January where they compete against the best ODP players from the other 14 Western States in a championship format. The event is full of regional and national team scouts along with college coaches.

**Timbers Friendship Cup:** For 36 years now, the Friendship Cup is and remains one of the top ODP tournaments in the country. More than 100 teams participate each year and we host the event in our own backyard here in Portland. Regional staff is brought in to evaluate players and last year more than 50 college coaches were in attendance to scout players in our program.

**ODP Regional Camp:** If you are lucky enough to be invited, ODP regional camp is the ultimate goal for a player. Players selected will have the opportunity to be selected to the ODP Regional Pool, made up of the top players in Region IV. Players in this program can travel with the Regional Pool on international trips and the experience is incredible.

## **Timbers ODP Coaching**

Any coach who becomes part of the Timbers 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 ODP players. Head coaches are required to have a USSF A or B license or professional experience and assistant coaches need to have at least a USSF C license or professional experience. To ensure exposure to the collegiate level, we look to bring in at least one collegiate coach per team when possible and one former professional player.

## **Will there be a conflict with my Club Team or High School Team?**

There are times when Club and ODP have events on the same dates, but it should be known that State ODP trumps Club activities unless noted differently by the ODP staff. With all this said, at the ODP age groups, the Timbers 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 ODP and Clubs work hand in hand to eliminate most conflicts in the soccer schedule as well. The Timbers also allow players to be excused from ODP training if they are participating in a showcase tournaments. As mentioned before, any DA player who participated in the Club DA is now eligible to tryout for the ODP program again.





## **What does each ODP age group focus on during the season?**

Each age group will have a focus as shown below. Our staff coaches will focus on the below as much as they can to prepare players for what to expect at regional camp and beyond.

### **2003 and 2004 Age Group: Focus on functional play and team tactics.**

**High priority:** Team possession; Roles of players within the team, offense v. defense (match-related), crossing and finishing (quality and timing), heading/attacking air balls, team defending and transition.

**Lower priority:** Individual skills should be addressed in warm-up.

**Goalkeepers:** Ball handling, breakaways, crosses, distribution, playing with feet, role as last defender.

### **2005 and 2006 Age Group: Focus on small group tactics and skills.**

**High priority:** Team possession; quality of first touch, 2 and 3 person combination play; individual and small group defending (depth, balance, compactness, communication), transition.

**Lower priority:** Functional play, team play.

**Goalkeepers:** Handling, diving technique, decision-making with regard to diving, recovery, distribution. Field skills.

## **Cost of the Program**

Below is a rough cost breakdown of what ODP will cost in 2019/20 season if players make a pool. 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: \$65 (All)

ODP State Fee/Uniform Fee (If you make the Pool): \$400

ODP Regional Championships: \$750-\$800 (18 players selected for each age group)

ODP Timbers Friendship Cup: \$30 (All)

ODP Regional Camp: \$500 (Invite only for 03-06 Boys)

## **ODP Tryouts/Bend Tournament/Salmon Creek Tournament**

ODP Tryouts will take place **August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Salem, Oregon**. We realize the Bend Timbers Tournament has moved their tournament to our tryout dates again this weekend. Most ODP players will not play in these tournaments, but for those that do, you will be required to be available for at least one of the tryout sessions in Salem. Our dates have been set for the last 20 years when it comes to ODP tryouts as we have to hold tryouts before the high school season begins in August.



# PORTLAND TIMBERS

## 2019/20 RTC and ODP Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
August 10-11	ODP Tryouts	Salem, Oregon
Sept-November	Fall Training (1-2 times a month)	TBA
November/December	2007 ODP Tryout/2008 Tournament Tryouts	Portland/Salem
November 30-31	ODP Training (Non Mandatory)	Portland/Salem
December 7-8	ODP Training	Portland/Salem
December 14-15	ODP Training	Portland/Salem
December 21-22	ODP Training	Portland/Salem
December 27-29	ODP Training	Portland/Salem
January TBA, 2018	ODP Regional Championships (07, 08)	Phoenix, AZ
March 28-29	ODP Training	Portland, Oregon
May 9-10	ODP State Pool Training (All)	TBA
May 16-17	ODP State Pool Training (All)	Salem, Oregon
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Timbers/Thorns Friendship Cup Rosters Announced	
May 22-25	Timbers Friendship Cup	Beaverton, OR
July (TBA)	ODP Regional Camp	McMinnville, Oregon

**\*Schedule is always subject to change**

**Erik Lyslo** Timbers Director Youth Programs

[elvslo@timbers.com](mailto:elvslo@timbers.com)

**Mike Smith** Youth Sporting Director

[msmith@timbers.com](mailto:msmith@timbers.com)

## Tryout Registration

The registration process for tryouts is simple – go to [registration.timbers.com](http://registration.timbers.com) and find the ODP Tryout section. All tryout registration can be done online. We hope to see you in August and don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.