



PORTLAND TIMBERS

Portland Timbers/Thorns Idaho District Training Center Information

What is the Timbers/Thorns Idaho District Training Center (DTC) Program?

The Idaho District Training Center program, run by Idaho Youth Soccer Association in conjunction with the Portland Timbers and Portland Thorns youth department, and commonly referred to as the DTC program, is a developmental program created to identify and develop future Idaho Timbers/Thorns Olympic Development Program players throughout the state of Idaho.

The DTC program is structured with three District Training Centers around the state. These three centers are located in Boise, Coeur d'lane and Pocatello. The goal of the DTC program is to increase participation and identification in these populated parts of the state for Idaho ODP players.

By having a regionalized program, travel and expense are limited for families while also creating good competition with top-level coaching in each part of the state for players to improve and develop. This process allows the Idaho Timbers/Thorns to then identify the top talent in all parts of the state of Idaho for future play in the Timbers/Thorns Olympic Development Program as well as the Portland Timbers and Portland Thorns Academy programs.



How does the Portland Timbers and Portland Thorns factor in to Idaho DTC and ODP?

When Major League Soccer granted the Portland Timbers the state of Idaho as a home-grown territory, it opened up the door for the Timbers and Thorns to create an identification program for the Timbers and Thorns Academy programs in Idaho. With the success of the Oregon ODP program already in place, the Portland Timbers and Thorns now use the Olympic Development Program 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 Timbers and Thorns academy teams and regional and national pools.

Through a collaborative effort between the Portland Timbers and the Idaho Youth Soccer Association ODP Program, the Idaho ODP program will mirror the Timbers nationally recognized ODP program with a cutting-edge youth development and Academy system run by the Portland Timbers and Thorns. Through ODP and Academy, these programs will provide 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 IYSA ODP mission is to identify, evaluate, and provide more consistent training opportunities for the elite youth soccer players in Idaho. As part of the national effort, the Portland Timbers OYSA ODP program is dedicated to developing 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 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.

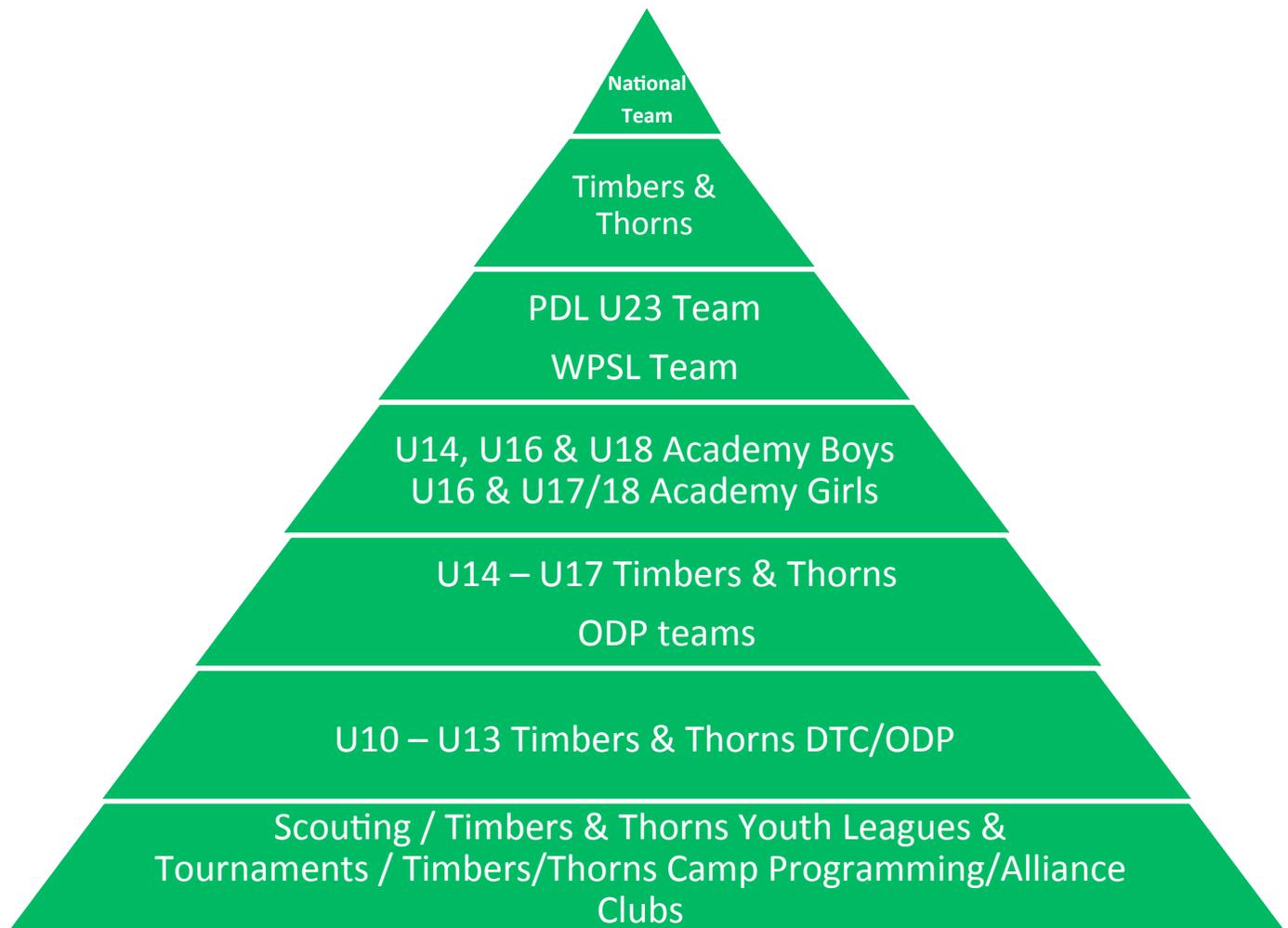


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Why should I play in Timbers/Thorns Idaho DTC/ODP?

Idaho Timbers/Thorns DTC/ODP gives players the chance at a young age to participate in a major league development program. Around the world, player development starts as young as 5-years old in the top clubs. The Timbers/Thorns goal is to develop players in Idaho with the idea of identifying homegrown talent for the first-team on both the Timbers and Thorns someday. Oregon ODP has produced many players who are playing professional soccer now and the structure in place will produce many more.

As shown below in our development pyramid, you will see the pathway for players in the Timbers/Thorns program. By challenging your 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. When players become 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 years old, the Timbers and Thorns Academy Team options are there for players, which puts players in a long season in the US Development Academy, matching our teams up against the best academy teams in the country on the boys side. Within the Timbers Academy process, players pay virtually nothing to compete in this environment while improving daily.





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On the girls side, as shown on the pyramid, we have created the very first Thorns Girls Academy teams in the country consisting of U16 and U18 teams who will compete in a very competitive schedule in some of the most competitive events in the country. **More than 90 percent of Timbers and Thorns Academy players have come through the DTC and ODP program.**

Timbers/Thorns ODP also gives players the chance to compete for Regional and National team opportunities. Other than Cal-South, no Western State has produced more ODP Regional Pool players over the last five years than Oregon. With Oregon's soccer numbers being small in comparison to other states, that's an amazing statistic and one we hope to pass on to Idaho ODP. The ODP structure also gives players the chance to work with the top coaches in the state while also giving players access to sports psychology, nutrition and training habits.

How does the DTC/ODP process work?

Keep in mind the DTC and ODP program is a calendar year program which is different than the club structure where clubs run off the school year calendar when it comes to age breakdown. In DTC and ODP, if a player is born in 2002 at any point, they will tryout for the 2002 DTC pool in your area. If a player is born in 2003 at any time, you will tryout for the 2003 DTC pool in your area. If you are born in 2004, you will tryout for the 2004 pool. For the first time this year, we will allow younger players (2005 born) to tryout for the 2004 pool.

DTC/ODP Structure

If you were born in the year 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 or 2003, this is the pool you will tryout for in your area (Boise, Couer d'lane or Pocatello). The DTC groups will tryout after Labor Day in the three designated DTC locations. A pool of 25-30 players will be kept after tryouts in each area.

The DTC pools will then train 8-10 sessions in the Fall which also includes a classroom session from our sports psychologist. Training will always take place on Friday or Sunday night. Once DTC training is completed, a State ODP Combine will be held in early November. At the State ODP Combine players will compete for a spot on the ODP Regional Championship team who will compete in Phoenix, January 7-10. The evaluation weekend will be held in Boise over two days to accommodate travel and holiday schedules. After this event is complete in January, all players will go back to their DTC training centers and will train another 5-7 times in the Winter/Spring.

At the end of February players will then compete in the very first DTC Tournament in Boise. At this event, players will be scrambled into teams, will go through functional training and full-sided games, and will be evaluated by the ODP state staff. The Portland Timbers/Thorns Youth Staff will be present and will evaluate players.

Once our Timbers/Thorns ODP DTC trainings are completed in April, we give players May off from ODP because of State Cup and other tournament play. After state cup is completed in May, players will be selected for some tournament play in early June. The top ODP players from the pool will then have the opportunity to be selected to ODP Regional Camp in early July, made up of the top players in the 14 Western States. From there, players can be selected to the ODP Regional or US National team.



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2004/05 Born Players DTC Structure

If you were born in 2004 or 2005, the Idaho Timbers and Thorns Junior Olympic DTC program is where you want to be. The Junior Olympic program is a developmental age group for the Timbers and the great part about this age group is we will form an ODP pool this year. This program will focus on our 10 and 11 year-old players where the emphasis will be on technical skills and speed of play.

We will hold tryouts for this age group with designated tryout times in our three DTC locations; Boise, Couer d'lane and Pocatello after Labor Day.

The age group is actually the 2004's, but 2005 are allowed to tryout to see if they can make the 2004 pool.

The 2004 DTC Pools will train 8-10 times in the Fall and will also attend the State ODP Combine in early November.

Once the Fall season is complete, the 2004 groups will take the rest of November, December and January off before coming back to their DTC's for the Winter/Spring season in February.

In the Winter/Spring DTC season (February-April), the 2004 DTC pools will look to train 5-7 with the focus remaining on technical skills and speed of play.

All 2004 players will be invited compete in the very first DTC Tournament in Boise at the end of February. Players will be scrambled into teams, will go through functional training and 9 v 9 games, and will be evaluated by the ODP state staff and Portland Timbers/Thorns Youth Staff.

Then over the first three-days of Idaho spring break players can attend the ODP Sub-Regional Camp in Boise. This event is not an Idaho ODP event, but is ran by Region IV and the Regional Staff. This is your chance to be seen by Regional Staff coaches and be invited to Regional Camp during the summer.



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What is the DTC Tournament?

As we have discussed above for each age group, the DTC Tournament is the end-of-the-season tournament we hold at the end of February in Boise. The DTC Tournament weekend always starts with a Friday night Parent/Player/Staff meeting at a Hotel in Boise. The night starts with a great video presentation where parents and players have the chance to see what the Timbers and Thorns youth programs are all about, while allowing the Timbers and ODP state staff the opportunity to chat with players and parents about what they are looking for from players during the weekend and beyond. We also bring in some guest speakers and our sports psychologist to chat with the players and parents as well. The feedback from parents and players after this event is always extremely positive.

As for the tournament structure, we start all age groups with some functional training Saturday morning. Functional training allows our staff the opportunity to break-up players by position and train players in the position they are most comfortable with. Groups are typically broken up by Goalkeepers, Forwards, Wings and Backs.

After we complete the functional training part of the weekend, we get in to our scramble or round-robin tournament where DTC groups either compete against each other in a team format or are scrambled into teams. The winning DTC team is always recognized on the Timbers website and this event always provides a positive experience for players. All groups are evaluated by our ODP state staff.

There is no expense for players to participate in this event other than a hotel for Friday and Saturday night, if needed. The Timbers will set aside a list of hotels for each DTC to use during the weekend at discounted prices to simplify the process for parents who will be responsible for booking a hotel and transportation.

Club Conflicts with DTC Training and ODP Training

As we said above, we will always do what's best for the player and our DTC staff will encourage the player to attend all league games with their club teams during the DTC training season. Our schedule is made to work around club events, but there may be conflicts at times and we always want the players to feel comfortable if they have to miss an DTC session. **The only event in DTC we require, other than at least one tryout, is the DTC Tournament, along with the State ODP Combine in early November.** Once players get to the ODP state team, training is mandatory and we expect players to be at each event. There are very few ODP events that conflict with club events though.



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Uniforms

Part of the Idaho Timbers/Thorns DTC process is the player kit players will receive if they make the DTC Pool. DTC players will receive the uniform they will wear if they make the State Team that will travel and compete in events (socks, shorts and two jerseys). Boys will wear Timbers gear and girls will wear Thorns gear. There is also Spirit Wear that is available to purchase (training t-shirts, hoodies, bags, etc). For those players who make the State Team, an additional warm-up jacket will be given. Keep in mind we have to order gear about a year in advance for all of our programs. It's not ideal for us as we have to guess on sizing. We've also run in to the issue that some gear runs bigger or smaller in past years. Do know we will do our best to make sure sizing will work for everybody if this issue comes up. All DTC gear will be housed at Soccer Etc in Boise. Once state fees are paid, we will release gear for pick-up or shipment.

Fees, financial aid, paperwork

Shown below is a fee outline of what to expect from the DTC and ODP process this next season. Please know we offer financial aid to players. We never want cost to be an issue for a player to participate and we gave out more than \$20,000 in scholarships last year for ODP. We also offer payment plans to families in case a fee can't be paid in full up front. Scholarship applications will be accepted once DTC pools are formed.

DTC Fee Outline for Players who make the DTC Pool

\$40	Tryout Fee
\$375	ODP Pool Fee

ODP Fee Outline for Players who make ODP Pool from DTC Program

\$950	Estimated January Tournament Fee for ODP players (If selected)
\$85	Sub-Regional Camp
\$250	June Tournament
\$550	ODP Regional Camp Fee (Invited players only by Region IV)

Fee Description

- The \$40 tryout fee is required for all players who tryout for the DTC program in September
- The \$375 covers the DTC program expenses for the 7-month season including Uniform, State ODP Combine and DTC Tournament.
- The \$950 is an estimated tournament cost for the January ODP Regional Championships in Phoenix, AZ. A maximum of 18 players will be selected to this event per age group.
- The \$85 is for an optional Sub-Regional Camp for players wanting to earn an invite to Regional Camp. This is not an Idaho ODP event, it is a Region IV ODP event held in Idaho.
- The \$250 tournament Fee is an estimate due from ODP players selected to participate in a tournament in early June.
- The \$550 Regional Camp fee is due to Region IV from players who are identified and selected to participate in ODP Regional Camp in early July. You are not required to attend this event.



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Timbers Scholarship/Financial Aid Program

As noted on the last page, we have a scholarship program in place to help those who may need assistance with some of our fees. It's very rare we give out the full amount to anybody for any of our fees above. Requirements for scholarships are the scholarship application available once pools are named along with Income Tax Return statements. Without these documents, we can't help the player out.

We also provide promissory notes or payment plans for all of our fees. We understand some of these fees can't be paid for all at once. We also know most families are paying for club fees as well. Our payment plan options will be released this summer, but they typically allow 3-4 payment options for our fees in the Fall and then 2-3 payment options for ODP fees in the spring. Credit cards are required for all payment plans.

Who and how are Coaches Selected for the DTC and ODP Program?

The State ODP coaching staff will be named before tryouts and will be listed on the IYSA and Portland Timbers website under the Youth/ODP section. The DTC staff will be named and composed of coaches in each region who will coach the DTC Pools and will be selected by the IYSA and Timbers Youth Technical Staff with help from the DTC Directors in each region. Each District Training Center is composed of the following staff: DTC Director, DTC Assistant Director, Staff Coaches and a Goalkeeping Coach. There are special situations where we may drop a coach if numbers are too small. All coaches must have the proper licensing or experience to be a part of the Timbers and Thorns programs and are hand-picked by the IYSA Director of Coaching and Timbers and Thorns youth department.

All ODP staff is composed of the top coaches in the state of Idaho. These coaches have the top licenses, have played at the highest levels or coach in collegiate programs. We do our best to make sure we have college coaches on each staff. All DTC and ODP groups will have a designated goalkeeping staff as well. Goalkeeping is a giant part of DTC and ODP and is often the one piece neglected with clubs and teams. We will provide tremendous training for our goalkeepers.

How does the DTC Tryout Process Work?

Each District Training Center will hold tryouts the week after Labor Day. Some regions have held tryouts in late August before. We typically designate 2-3 tryout dates for each District Training Center. These tryout dates typically take place on a weeknight and a Sunday evening as we know the summer months/weekends are very busy. Some regions will choose to do these all on the weekends. Players are encouraged to attend all tryout dates in their District, but we offer multiple opportunities knowing not everybody will be able to attend every session. Even if you attend one tryout, you will be evaluated enough to have a shot at making the DTC Pool so don't be discouraged if you see a lot of conflicts when the schedule comes out. Players who attend all sessions obviously have more face-time with the staff which is always beneficial. Tryout dates are typically announced in July/August. Tryout registration will all take place through GotSoccer with a link you can click on from the ODP page of the Idaho Youth Soccer website (www.idahoyouthsoccer.org) or at www.timbers.com under the Youth/DTC section.



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In the past, we have allowed players to attend multiple tryouts. **This was done for various reasons but we will not allow this moving forward.** With the geography in Idaho, we don't see this being a problem like it has been in the past in Portland. To help with this, we have included a boundary section for all parts of the state on the next page that explains which DTC location you should tryout with. It's not required you tryout in your designated location, players can tryout anywhere they choose, but again, the program is in place to eliminate unnecessary travel. The tryout fee is \$40 for all players, regardless if you attend one tryout day or three.

As a reminder, nobody plays "up" in DTC or ODP unless approved by the Timbers staff. You always tryout for the year you were born in. ODP is always a calendar year program so you are always trying out for your birth year group. The 2004/05 group is the only place we allow younger players to play up this year with the 2005 players having the opportunity to tryout.

Regional Boundaries for Tryouts (If you live in this area, this is where we recommend you tryout)

Below are the listed boundaries for players and regions. Again, players are more than welcome to tryout in a different region if they choose too, but again, the point of the regionalized process is to cut down on travel for families.

-Boise-Southwest cities of Idaho

-Coeur d'Alene-Northern cities of Idaho

-Pocatello-Eastern cities of Idaho

*If you are unsure on where to tryout, please contact us and we can assist you with this.

Training Schedule For DTC and ODP

The DTC Directors will have final say on their training schedules. We will recommend Friday or Sunday night training with all groups. Some weekday training may occur if we run in to field issues or soccer schedules, but we will shoot to train on Friday or Sunday evening. The benefit of having a Regionalized Program is travel is cut down considerably to the point where weekday sessions, at times, may be necessary. We will also recommend that coaches' train in multiple locations within your region if necessary. Meaning, we won't necessarily be in one spot each time. We will look to accommodate all if possible. Included on the next page is what the DTC and ODP schedule will look like for 2015/16. The schedule is always subject to minor changes as we are given new opportunities during the season to attend different events.



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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Early Sept	DTC Tryouts	Your Regional area
Sept-November	8-10 DTC Training Sessions	Your Regional area
November 7-8	ODP Combone/Tournament Tryouts	Boise
January 7-10, 2016	ODP Regional Championships	Phoenix, AZ
February-April	5-7 DTC Training Sessions	Your Regional area
February 26-28	DTC Tournament	Boise
June 3-5	Tournament Event TBA	TBA
June 7	Regional Camp Invites Announced	TBA
June/July (TBA)	ODP Regional Camp	McMinnville, OR

Exciting Times in Idaho Soccer

With the Timbers and Thorns now having territorial rights in the state of Idaho, we see this partnership has nothing but a positive for soccer players in the state of Idaho. IYSA and the Timbers and Thorns are motivated to make this partnership a fantastic opportunity for soccer players who want to reach the professional ranks. The product will be better and the goal is to continue to decrease cost to families each year. Bottom line, your player will walk away from this program a much better soccer player with a great soccer experience. Thanks again for your time and please let us know if you have any questions.

Skyler Bell Idaho Director of Coaching

sbell@idahoyouthsoccer.org

Steve Adlard Idaho Technical Director

sadlard@idahoyouthsoccer.org

Erik Lyslo Timbers Youth Operations Manager

elyslo@timbers.com

Mike Smith Youth Sporting Director

msmith@timbers.com