



1999 Portland Timbers Boys ODP Regional Training Centers

First off, what is ODP?

Initially created in 1977 as the US Youth Soccer Select Team Program, the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (ODP) was formed to identify a pool of players in each age group from which a national team could be selected for international competition; to provide high-level training to benefit and enhance the development of players at all levels; and, through the use of carefully selected and licensed coaches, to develop a mechanism for the exchange of ideas and curriculums to improve all levels of coaching.

US Youth Soccer ODP is the only elite player development program that can claim members of Major League Soccer and the former Women's United Soccer Association, as well as a majority of current and past national and youth team members, as alumni. It's viewed as the premier identification and development program for any American youth seeking the opportunity to compete at the national and collegiate levels of play.

US Youth Soccer ODP exists in every state association, and offers collegiate and national team staff coaches the opportunity to see the nation's elite players in the most competitive of environments. In addition to training and tactics, US Youth Soccer ODP offers competition such as the Regional and National ODP championships, as well as further participation in major international tournaments. US Youth Soccer ODP continues to lead the way for elite player development in the United States.

Two Youngest Oregon ODP Groups Regionalized

Two years ago, Oregon ODP regionalized the ODP program in four parts of the state for the youngest age group. With the Portland Timbers now taking over the ODP process, the regional training center program will remain in place with six RTC centers. These centers will take place in Vancouver, WA, Portland West, Portland East, Bend, Eugene and Medford. The goal of the RTC structure is to increase participation in each part of the state for ODP by limiting travel and expense while also creating good competition in each part of the state for players to improve.

Why Regionalize ODP?

Creating six different pools in five parts of the state creates a better environment for players. It creates excitement to play for a select team in your area of the state. It limits traveling for parents and players, and it gives players the opportunity to play for the Timbers state select team and improve as soccer players. It also creates a competitive environment by playing with the best and then playing against the best in the RTC tournament which brings all six pools together for a two-day tournament. This tournament gives all four regions the opportunity for bragging rights in the state and the opportunity to keep the "Jimmy Conway Tournament Cup" for a year.

How does the process work?

Each region will hold tryouts in late August. Players born anytime in the year of 1999 and 2000 are eligible for the 99' ODP age group. The only event the 2000's can't compete in will be ODP Regional Camp at the end of the season. The Portland Timbers will assign RTC Directors in each region to run the pools and name their own coaching staff. Each region will keep 20-30 players in their pool. Each region will then be given three months to train their groups at least 6-8 times which include injury prevention classes, fitness plans and sports psychology classes. We will not conflict with Club events during our training season. After our 6-8 sessions are complete in the Fall, we will give players the month of December off, then return to training in January, 6-8 times between

January and March. The goal is to find the top 18 players in each region to compete in the RTC Tournament in March. At this tournament, all six pools will compete against each other in a tournament format. Players will be evaluated at the RTC event for selection to the state pool. After the tournament is complete, we will name a pool of 36-40 players or so who will now represent Oregon at the State ODP level. The entire 99 schedule is listed below.

Date	Event	Location	Time
Late August	ODP Tryouts	Your Regional area	TBA
Sept-Nov.	6-8 Training Sessions	Your Regional area	TBA
Jan-March	6-8 Training Sessions	Your Regional area	TBA
March 17-18	RTC Tournament	TBA	TBA
March 19	99 State Pool announced	Timbers Website	TBA
March 24-25	99 State Pool training	TBA	TBA
May 12-13	ODP Training (State Pool)	Salem, OR	TBA
May 19-20	ODP Training (State Pool)	Salem, OR	TBA
May 25-28	Timbers ODP Friendship Cup	Beaverton, OR	TBA
June 2-3	Tournament or Training	TBA	TBA
June 4	Regional Camp Rosters Named	Timbers Website	TBA
July (TBA)	ODP Regional Camp	TBA	TBA

Coaching Breakdown

The coaching staff will be named for the 99' age group shortly and will be listed on the OYSA website and the Portland Timbers website. The 99' staff will again be composed of coaches in each region who will coach the regionalized teams, and then a state staff who will evaluate the players and eventually coach the state pool. Our coaches have been hand-picked for this program and your age group and they all offer something unique to players.

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

One question I receive a lot is 'where does my player tryout?' Below are the listed boundaries for players and regions. Again, players are more than welcome to tryout in multiple regions if they choose too. There really isn't a requirement on where player's tryout, but again, the point of the regionalized process is to cut down on travel for families.

-Portland West-Portland Metro Area, Astoria, Vancouver, Hood River, Forest Grove, Wilsonville, Woodburn,

-Portland East-Gresham, Troutdale, Clackamas, Oregon City, Lake Oswego, Tigard

-Eugene Pool-Keizer, Salem, Albany, Corvallis, Central Coast, Eugene area

-Bend Pool-Bend area, Redmond, Sisters, Madras, Pendleton, La Grande, Hermiston

-Southern Oregon Pool-Roseburg, Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland, Klamath Falls, Southern Coast

-Vancouver-Vancouver, Camas, Washougal

Training Schedule during Sept-Nov and Jan.-March

The RTC Directors will have final say on their training schedules. We will shoot for weekend training, but with most players playing fall league and spring league these times of year we very well could be training during the week. But the benefit of having a Regionalized Program is that 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. For example: Salem has 2 sessions, Corvallis has 2 sessions and Eugene has 2 sessions.

OPL and League Conflicts

It's no secret to most players in the state there has been a divide amongst some of the bigger clubs in the state and the Oregon Youth Soccer Association. The split between the two has nothing to do with Timbers ODP though. Club coaches continue to support ODP, they continue to coach in ODP

and we continue set record numbers every year in tryouts. That doesn't mean there won't be some conflicts this year though. I want to warn families now there could be times when conflicts come up. We will always do what's best for the player and we will encourage them to attend all league games with their club teams. Our schedule is made to work around club events and we always want the players to feel comfortable if they have to miss for some reason.

Uniforms, fees, paperwork and financial aid

Each player will receive two training t-shirts that include a number on the back if you make your RTC regional pool. The shirts will be yours to keep. It will also be necessary to wear when training and competing in the RTC Tournament. We will use the number on back to evaluate players at all times during the season. This number will be assigned by the Oregon ODP staff. Fee structure is listed below and these are estimated fees.

ODP Fee Outline

\$65	Tryout Fee
TBA	Regionalized Pool Player Fee (includes shirts)
TBA	Cost of RTC Tournament
TBA	Uniform Fee if selected to ODP State Pool
TBA	Cost of State Fee if selected to ODP State Pool
\$700	ODP Regional Championships (Phoenix, AZ)
\$0	Oregon ODP Friendship Cup if selected to ODP State Pool
\$180	Tournament Fee
<u>\$650</u>	<u>ODP Regional Camp Fee for the top 18 players in the State Pool</u>

For all players, we offer payment plans, some scholarship aid and fundraising opportunities. We have created a raffle for ODP players to sell tickets for and this helped a great deal with players who participated last year. We never want finances to prevent players from playing and we will do everything in our power to help a player get through.

Your tryout information will be used as your paperwork until the Final Pool of 40 is named in March. The players who make the pool of 40 will then be given a set of paperwork they need to fill out and send back to the Timbers office. Directions and information on this will be given out at a later date.

Excited!

With the Major League Soccer Portland Timbers now running the Boys ODP program, the excitement for youth soccer and ODP in Oregon is at an all-time high. Cost will be lower for families and the product will be even better. The bottom line is your player will walk away from this program in the end, a much better soccer player with a great soccer experience.

Thanks again for your time and please let me know if you have any questions.

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