

# PORTLAND TIMBERS

YOUTH DEPARTMENT  
**RTC PROGRAM**



ACADEMY  
**DISCOVERY PROGRAM**

**REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER (RTC)  
PROGRAM INFORMATION 2023-24**

# 2023-24 PROGRAM INFORMATION



## TIMBERS APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

The Portland Timbers Youth Programs and Academy operate a holistic talent promotion and identification approach to youth player development in the region. Timber development philosophy, the Building Blocks of Timber Development guides our approach to development: Independent, Expertise, and Experience.

**INDEPENDENT:** Players who are exposed to the Building Blocks of Timber Development are taught to think for themselves.

**EXPERTISE:** For players to improve, they need accurate and concise information, combined with specific and immediate feedback that highlights their individual superpower.

**EXPERIENCE:** Training situations are created for players to arrive at the solutions of problems, rather than being told what to do. This is done through a variation of small to big exercises.

The Portland Timbers intend to lead the way with MLS Next soccer training in the region, providing an MLS youth training environment for local players. The initial environment for players aged 8-12, is heavily focused on promoting the development of technique in the Timbers Regional Training Centers (RTC). As player capabilities increases, tactical elements are introduced.

Intended for promising prospects, players aged 12-13 are selected for our Discovery Program (DP), with the primary goal of identifying and developing players for the MLS Timbers Academy teams. The DP has been the single most successful route into the Academy teams during the past three years, providing over 95% of Academy players since its implementation. Information for both DP and RTC is included in this document.

# 2023-24 PROGRAM INFORMATION



## BUILDING BLOCKS OF TIMBER DEVELOPMENT

U13 +

### TEAM INTENTIONS

INTERDEPENDENCY WITH TEAMMATE

U10 +

### INDIVIDUAL INTENTIONS

INTERACTION WITH OPPONENT

U7 +

### TECHNICAL EFFECIENCY

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BODY & BALL



INDEPENDENT

EXPERTISE

EXPERIENCE

## TIMBERS REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS (RTC)

The Portland Timbers Regional Training Centers (RTC), will serve as a player's first opportunity to work in the Timbers youth development program, with additional training and identification events in the fall and winter seasons. RTC will focus on one additional training session on Sunday nights, with and against the top players in the RTC centers in Portland and Salem. Players aged (8-12) can train in specific regional locations in the Portland area with curriculum and staff selected by the Timbers Academy.

As players progress through the RTC program, ID events in the fall and winter seasons will involve Timbers Academy staff to evaluate and work with players to identify players for the Timbers Regional Development Program (RDP). At the conclusion of the RTC training cycle, players will participate in the second RTC ID event where the Timbers Academy staff will evaluate and ID players once again. Older players will have the opportunity to transition to the Timbers Discovery Program where they will work with the Timbers Academy staff at 11, 12 and 13-years old.

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## TIMBERS REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER SCHEDULE (RTC)

**RTC Tryouts:** Late August / Early September

**RTC Centers:** Portland North (Vancouver), Portland East (Gresham), Portland South (Tigard / West Linn / Lake Oswego), and Portland West (Beaverton / Hillsboro)

**RTC Age Groups:** Players Born: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 (U9-U12)

**RTC Training Months:** Fall: September-November (Sunday nights), Winter: January-March (Sunday nights)

**RTC Training Sessions:** Fall: 6 training sessions, 1 ID event; Winter: 6 training sessions, 1 ID event

## TIMBERS REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER COST (RTC)

**RTC Tryouts:** \$30 per player for 3 tryout sessions

**RTC Training Fee:** \$275 per player for 12 training sessions, and 2 ID Events (not including uniform)

**Scholarships:** Financial aid, and payment plan are available for all RTC fees

# 2023-24 PROGRAM INFORMATION



## TIMBERS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TEAMS (RDP)

In order to provide competitive game environments for the elite players during the RTC training process, the Timbers RTC program will select a group of players (from the RTC locations) in the 2012 and 2013 age groups who will compete in two events during the RTC training cycle on the Regional Development Program (RDP) team. Teams will compete in the Cal-North/Colorado Friendly in early February and the OYSA Friendship Cup, Memorial Day weekend in May.

A pool of 20-25 players will be identified in both the RTC training and the fall ID event to compete and then to participate in these two events for each age group and a selected coaching staff will be put in place by the Timbers Academy. Both events will be scouted by the Timbers Academy and both RDP teams will have specific training sessions prior to the two events based out of the Timbers Training Facility.

2012 & 2013 POOL	EVENT
October - February 2023/24	RDP Trainings & ID Event (Portland, OR)
February 2024	Cal-North/Colorado Friendlies (Morgan Hill, CA)
March - May 2024	RDP Trainings & ID Event (Portland, OR)
May 24-27, 2024	Friendship Cup

## TIMBERS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COST (RDP)

- RDP Training Fee:** Free (RTC training kits serve as training gear, Timbers provide uniforms)
- RDP Cal-North Fee:** Cal-North event is typically around \$450 per player (estimate)
- RDP Friendship Cup Fee:** TBD
- Scholarships:** Financial aid, and payment plans will be made available for Cal-North event

# 2023-24 PROGRAM INFORMATION



## TIMBERS ACADEMY DISCOVERY PROGRAM (DP) YEARLY CALENDAR

- Invited players train once a week for a period of 10 weeks
- Players are continuously (de) selected for each block
- DP is for players aged 11 to 13
- Identification using our Building Blocks of Timbers Development
- Academy run program is free to invited players
- Academy coaches lead training sessions

## TIMBERS ACADEMY DISCOVERY PROGRAM COST (DP)

**Discovery Player Program Fee:** Free to invited players

## TIMBERS ACADEMY DISCOVERY PROGRAM (DP)

Intended for promising prospects, players aged 12-13 can be selected to the Timbers Academy Discovery Program (DP), with the primary goal of identifying players for the MLS Timbers Academy teams. As stated on the front page, the DP has been the single most successful route into the Academy teams during the past three years, providing over 95% of Academy players since its implementation.

The PTFC Discovery Program offers MLS Academy level training across four age groups. The program is for boys U13–U14. Portland Timbers Discovery Program Manager will scout youth events held within the state such as RTC, ODP, as well as attend local club games and collaborate with local club Directors and coaches to invite players into the program. Once a player is scouted or recommended, the local club will receive a letter of invitation for the player. The local club will then send the invitation to the player and his family to participate in the program. All invitations are sent out, at least, 2 weeks prior to the first training session of the program.

# 2023-24 PROGRAM INFORMATION



## TIMBERS RTC, RDP AND DP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Does RTC, RDP or DP replace a players club team?**

No! All three programs are in place to provide identification and competitive training opportunities, different from the club team structure, for players who would like to compete in the Timbers Academy someday. Players are encouraged to make club a priority.

### **What are the benefits of participating in the PTFC RTC Program?**

The RTC program is used as an early player identification tool for future Timbers Discovery Players. The training curriculum is designed by the Timbers Academy staff and players are evaluated and identified by the Timbers Academy staff for future Discovery Program opportunities. The RTC program also allows the top players to compete for a spot in the RDP program where players will have the opportunity to train and play with and against the top players in their age groups.

### **What are the benefits of participating in the PTFC Discovery Program?**

The Discovery Program is used as an early player identification tool for future Academy Teams. The training curriculum is designed to create situations guided by our Academy principles. Throughout each training block, players are observed in relation to how they interact to these situations and how they interact in relation to their individual capabilities. Each training session provides the opportunity for Academy staff to further understand each player and evaluate for future Academy Teams.

### **Will the Timbers provide any summer training programs, leading into RTC or DP?**

Yes! The Timbers will offer a Pre-RTC training program over seven weeks in the summer. Training will take place at Providence Park and training days are typically Monday or Tuesday evenings. The Pre-RTC training program leads right into RTC Tryouts in mid to late August. Age groups will include players born in 2012 and 2013.

# 2023-24 PROGRAM INFORMATION



## TIMBERS RTC, RDP AND DP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Can players outside of Portland tryout for the RTC program?**

Yes! Our centers will reside in Portland, but players from anywhere around the state can compete in these programs. While we will no longer have regional training centers in Bend, Eugene or Southern Oregon, we still encourage players from these areas to attend RTC tryouts or trainings in these two locations.

### **If a player eventually is invited to a Discovery Program training block, where are training sessions held?**

All training sessions are held at the Timbers Training Facility in Beaverton.

### **If players are in the Discovery Program, are players required to attend all training sessions?**

It is preferred that players attend all training sessions. This helps the Academy coaching staff to best evaluate a player. If a player has a conflict with a club game or personal situations, we expect the player and his family to complete the Discovery program absent form in advance.

### **Can players be released from the Discovery Program?**

Players may not be invited back to participate in the future Training Blocks if they do not meet the expectations of the Discovery curriculum. However, Academy staff may invite a player back into the program at any time. Local club Technical Directors will be first communicated if a player from their club is being released.

### **Where can I find more information on the RTC and DP program?**

All information can be found at [www.timbers.com](http://www.timbers.com) under the RTC section or the Timbers Academy section. Contacts for both program are included below:

RTC and RDP Program: Michael Jamieson [mjamieson@timbers.com](mailto:mjamieson@timbers.com)

Discovery Program: Jodel Wright [jwright@timbers.com](mailto:jwright@timbers.com)