



Timbers & Thorns Youth Soccer Leagues & Cups 2017-18

Strategic Plan and Blueprint for Success

revised 8/3/2017

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Welcome!

Hello Coaches, Managers, Parents and Players –

Welcome to another soccer season with the Portland Timbers and Thorns Leagues, run in partnership with Oregon Youth Soccer. On behalf of the Timbers and Thorns Leagues (TTL), I am very pleased and excited to welcome you to our fourth year of running competitive leagues and tournaments. Our goal remains to provide your players, team and club the best soccer experience, and make improvements when possible.

The Timbers & Thorns League is sanctioned by Oregon Youth Soccer Association (OYSA), a branch of US Youth Soccer. Oregon Youth Soccer provides our insurance, our player passes, coaching education, club services as well as an elite player pathway through a comprehensive partnership with the Timbers and Thorns.

Each year, we strive to improve our league offerings and we are definitely open to dialogue from club directors. We also want to help clubs strive to make their environment better too. We believe that clubs should have a strategic plan in place to develop players as well as coaches, educate parents and promote referees. Staff at OYSA are available to help clubs plan and achieve their goals.

Collectively the Portland Timbers/Thorns and OYSA will together continue to provide player development opportunities through RTC, ODP and US Soccer Training Centers. Together, we will be also implementing other plans we believe are appropriate for player development, to include education on goalkeepers playing out of the back, a higher practice to game ratio and not publishing scores for small-sided games. We continue to work with OYSA and the SRC toward educating and developing more young referees, and providing an environment where they can learn and grow in a positive manner. Parent education is also key and our two organizations will be looking to provide clubs with materials to help positively affect change in this direction.

Overall, we want to continue to build on the solid foundation we have achieved over the last several years, bringing the state back together. We appreciate your loyalty and participation in our programs. With all teams in the same league structure, we definitely have the best stratified competition possible. Beginning this year the clubs that place all their teams in our leagues will be able to have their Director of Coaching attend the league placement meeting and help specify in which division their teams are placed. In future years, if a team doesn't have any history in our league the previous year, then that team will begin in the bottom division to gain league statistics.

We wish you the very best of luck this season.

Sincerely,

Mike Smith

President TTL Council

Blueprint Objective

The goal of this plan is to further enhance the structure of Timbers and Thorns league and cup play (run in conjunction with OYSA), to ensure smooth operation and provide a positive experience for the five pillars involved in our game and community – players, coaches, managers, club officials, and parents.

Club Structure:

All participating clubs must be willing to follow TTL and OYSA Rules and Directives. All Clubs are expected to know, educate and ultimately accept responsibility for all coaches and managers whom they allow to coach or manage a team in their Club.

The Timbers and Thorns together with OYSA state that all clubs should comply with the following items. Any club that does not currently have these items, OYSA would like to help you achieve them:

1. **Director of Coaching** – All clubs must have a Director of Coaching registered with Oregon Youth Soccer with a working email address and profile on the US Soccer DCC.
2. **Administrator** – All clubs must have a named administrator and/or registrar registered with Oregon Youth Soccer with a working email address. An administrator/registrar is responsible for helping teams maintain their club and team information, including coach and manager contact information on the OYSA website.
3. **Good Standing** – Clubs must be in good standing with the TTL. This includes timely payment of all league and tournament fees, as clubs will not be permitted to enter future events if they have a balance owed to the TTL or Oregon Youth Soccer.
4. **Fields** – All clubs are required to provide adequate field space for their participating teams league games. To apply to play in the Timbers or Thorns League, a club must have access to a minimum number of quality fields that is adequate for the teams they have to field that season. All teams must abide by posted and verbal requests to adhere to game venue policies, whether playing home or away.
5. **Quality** – Clubs and their teams must be committed to striving for excellence as concerns play, sportsmanship, fields, referees and the total soccer experience. All clubs should have a documented plan as to how they plan to improve in the next 1-3 years. OYSA will have each club submit a plan for players, coaches and parents with their next club annual renewal?
6. **Zero tolerance** – The TTL Competitive Council will continue to uphold a “zero tolerance” policy toward individuals and clubs who behave in a manner that is disrespectful and offensive toward match officials or display poor conduct that causes problems for other clubs. Such offenses can and will be cause for individual and/or club probation, fines and/or other sanctions deemed necessary and suitable by the TTL Disciplinary Committee.
7. **Recruiting** – All Clubs and teams must consult the section of this handbook (also posted on the OYSA website) explaining the rules concerning the recruiting, loaning and borrowing of players. Each club will submit a signed code of conduct, accepting responsibility for the behavior of all their team coaches, managers and adult staff and board members.

As clubs strive to be progressive and formulate strategic goals and a 3-5 year plan, the Timbers and Thorns believe that quality clubs should endeavor to have:

- ✓ A Club Director of Coaching who holds a US Soccer A License, or the NSCAA or foreign equivalent coaching qualification
- ✓ A strategic plan for player development for all the ages that the club encompasses
- ✓ A scholarship program to help low income families play the game
- ✓ A strategic plan for collective and individual coach development within the club
- ✓ Every coach in the club having a coaching license and Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) certification
- ✓ The club must have a legal operating Board of Directors
- ✓ Appropriate financial regulations and oversight of club budget
- ✓ Every adult properly registered and gone through the OYSA Background Check
- ✓ Implementing ethical standards for members of the club
- ✓ A plan for field development in their community
- ✓ A plan to help educate parents on player development and club philosophy
- ✓ A plan to help educate parents on respect and their demeanor on the sidelines
- ✓ A signed parent code of conduct for each parent in the club
- ✓ A plan to aid referee development, from within their community
- ✓ Documentation of all these items, as part of a succession plan should a DOC or registrar move on
- ✓ 501 (c) 3 status

Staff at OYSA are available to help your club set achievable goals to improve your club and environment. After strategizing at the Club Board level, feel free to contact the OYSA office for help in formulating strategic goals and setting standards.

Code of Ethics and Conduct

Membership in TTL Leagues and Oregon Youth Soccer or other competition is considered to be an automatic acceptance of its rules, policies and procedures. The purpose of our league is to provide a rewarding environment with high standards, where players can enjoy the game, playing against teams of similar quality. We believe that this environment can help youth players develop to their fullest potential – physically, emotionally and ethically. As such, the Timbers, Thorns and OYSA believe that all participants (players, coaches, spectators, referees and administrators) must conduct themselves to the highest standard. At all times, adult participants are expected to be role models for the youth involved in our league - exhibiting good sporting behavior in both victory and defeat and showing respect for the sport and all involved in it.

All participants in Oregon Youth Soccer are members of US Youth Soccer and therefore should adhere faithfully to its stated bylaws, rules and policies as well as to their intent.

At the League level, the Timbers and Thorns would like all clubs to adhere to the ethical standards outlined below. It is our collective hope that each club adopts these standards. Beginning in fall 2017, the TTL Competitive Council will work together to discuss consequences for the non-adherence of these items and the implementation of such, for the betterment of soccer in our region. To attempt to improve behaviors, the TTL will collect a signed code of conduct from each Club DOC or Club President prior to the 2017 fall season stating that they will distribute to their club coaches and managers. Collectively, TTL and OYSA would like to have a club's adult members refrain from:

1. Recruiting Players – The definition of “recruit” for purposes of our league shall be: approaching a player who is already registered to, and actively playing for another team within an Oregon Youth Soccer or US Youth Soccer Club in a different state and asking them to try-out during the calendar of competition. Any instances of unethical behavior and/or recruiting is considered repugnant. For TTL purposes, our recruiting calendar should be considered as follows:

U11-15: Starting seven (14) days AFTER the first open date of tryouts (set by OYSA) THROUGH the date of the OYSA Timbers and Thorns State Cup Finals.

U16-20: Starting seven (14) days AFTER the first open date of tryouts (set by OYSA) THROUGH the conclusion of Oregon High School finals, then from December 1 THROUGH the date of the OYSA Timbers and Thorns State Cup Finals.

Additionally, “recruiting” should also be defined as asking players to play or guest play for any other team outside their club, without FIRST receiving prior written permission from the player's current club Director of Coaching or Coaching Coordinator – even for purposes of tournament guest play. Email would be considered acceptable “written permission”. Should a DOC give permission, the verification email can be sent on to the TTL League President from the loaning club.

2. Engaging in behavior so as to be suspended by any TTL or US Youth Soccer disciplinary body, and/or be required to stand before any US Youth Soccer or TTL disciplinary body.

3. Accepting players from another club who have outstanding fees to another member of the Oregon Youth Soccer or US Youth Soccer. (Clubs should have written player/parent agreements for each year).

4. **Hiring a coach from another club** without conversing with the DOC of the club they are being hired from.

5. **Unnecessarily hampering** the playing of any scheduled match at its originally scheduled time and place, or cause undue hardship should a re-schedule of a match become necessary.

6. **Allowing players to exhibit unsporting behavior** before, during, or after any sanctioned match or practice. This includes, but is not limited to taunting, verbal or physical abuse, bullying, hazing, or blaming others in the case of defeat.

The Timbers, Thorns and OYSA believe that all adult members should be aware of these ethical items and attempt to follow them at all times. The TTL Competitive Council will work together in the fall of 2017 to formulate consequences for the non-adherence of these items and the implementation of the timelines for such, to improve the climate of soccer and relationships in our region.

A Paradigm Shift

The world of youth soccer, especially in the United States is transitioning (albeit slowly) through a paradigm shift that relates to overuse and more prevalent incidences of repetitive injuries. Scientific evidence indicates that adequate recovery time for both adults and adolescents can be up to 72 hours. How many professional teams participate in games on consecutive days? None.

Based upon the evidence, the TTL believes that moving towards a league system that is predicated as much as possible on 1 game a weekend, is prudent for the health and safety of our players, our children.

However, in our region, with the geographical distances teams travel for games, this is not always possible. Youth soccer in the United States has become professionalized, roster sizes have grown and coaches often also coach multiple teams at one time. For optimal player development, the modern coach must be aware of the physiological development of the age group that they are coaching, and manage the minutes that they are participating in games over a 2 game weekend on the occasions that that occurs.

If your club's philosophy is to move towards a 1-game a weekend schedule, please indicate this on the TTL special requests form. If checked, please ensure that your club provides sufficient field inventory to our scheduling team. In the event of FWRL games or multiple games scheduled due to your opposition's inventory, please attempt to reschedule the games in the usual way, also understanding that games may be rescheduled midweek or on Friday's in order to allow more adequate recovery for your players.

Clubs also have the opportunity to begin to mentor younger coaches to the physiology of their players and this paradigm shift.

League Structure

The fall league will be the state cup qualifying league for U11-U14 teams/age groups. The winter league will be the state cup qualifying league for U15-U18 teams/age groups.

The league committee has had good discussion on the best developmental practices and moving towards 1 game a weekend whenever possible. There has, however, been additional conversation, regarding increased field availability in the fall, as well as how to get valuable playing time minutes for an 18 player roster with only 1 game on a weekend. Developmentally, we believe that clubs must move to smaller rosters and utilize club passes to allow appropriate game minutes and playing up opportunities to achieve maximal development.

US Soccer's educational document 'Player Development Initiatives' is linked here (in both English and Spanish). Please share it club wide with your coaches, players and parents:

<https://www.ussoccer.com/coaching-education/resources/us-soccer-player-development-initiatives> .

In addition, it has been deemed that our TTL seeding committee and placement meeting works well and that we do not need a seeding tournament or to implement promotion and relegation.

In the fall U11 league, teams will be stratified by division and play the 9v9 game. The League believes that no standings should be published on the OYSA website. We hope that this encourages free and open play in these age groups and lessens the focus on scores and subsequently the burden on the players and referees with reduced negativity from the sideline. We will continue with the development of referees at this age group and have 1 referee and 1 referee coach (mentor) at every game.

In the spring of 2018, we will not hold a traditional 'state cup' tournament for this age group. We will rebrand the tournament as a U11 Timbers Development Cup (boys) and U11 Thorns Development Cup (girls). More details to follow soon.

In addition, we hope that these moves will allow coaches to adopt a more holistic developmental playing style that encourages playing out of the back and diminishes punting from the U11 goalkeepers.

In the fall U12 league, teams will also be stratified by division and play the 9v9 game. In accordance with the wishes of the DOC's, we will publish results and standings on the OYSA website. We still hope there will be free and open play in these age groups and that coaches and parents will continue to lessen the focus on scores for the same reasons. We will continue to monitor coach, player and spectator behavior and will revisit the publishing of scores in the summer of 2018. We are still cognizant of development of referees at this age group and will retain the 1 referee and the referee coach (mentor) system. (We will again revisit this at a DOC meeting at the OYSA AGM and may return to the traditional referee crew of 1 referee and 2 assistant referees in the spring if warranted). We will also increase the number of games that we provide a referee assessor to at the U12 level, given availability, to provide good developmental feedback to our up and coming referees.

Number of games

U11: As the entry level division for competitive league play, the Portland Timbers/Thorns and OYSA believe that there should be 12 games in the fall for Premier teams. For Division 1 and Division 2 teams, there will be 10 games as these teams have the opportunity to enter the Presidents Cup or Founders Cup at the end of their fall season. Entry to the appropriate league division, will be self-assigned by the DOC of each club at registration, and verified at the league placement meeting. In this age group, the seeding committee will attempt to regionalize all divisions Division 1 and below as much as is possible.

Each team playing in the U11 League must provide verified documentation that they have access to an appropriate field that will be set up specifically for the 9v9 game with appropriately sized goals. For the TTL, we prefer goals that have a solid crossbar, but the correctly sized Bownet goals may be used for the 2017-18 season, but will not be allowed for the 2018-19 season. See OYSA website for details of field setup. If the correct setup is not utilized, then the TTL Committee may not allow the team to play in the spring league.

Premier teams will play 12 games, spread over 11 potential playing weekends. Non-Premier teams that are looking to play 1 game a weekend as much as possible, can make the decision when registering for the league that they will not enter a cup competition. This will allow our schedulers to spread their 10 games out over the 11 available weekends.

We will attempt to schedule 1 game a weekend as much as is possible, although this cannot be guaranteed and will depend on the decisions of other teams in their division, or geographical distances. For instance there may be 2 games on travel weekends, to reduce team expenses. Teams may apply in the traditional method for special requests but none are guaranteed. In the event of a conflict or unforeseen situation, the registered Club DOC (or boys or girls director) should also be registered on each team and therefore would be allowed to step in and coach a game if available. TTL encourages that a minimum of 2 registered/carded adults are in the technical area for every game (from coach, assistant, manager, DOC or age group co-ordinator).

Coaching Standard: *The TTL believe that coaches coaching at the U11 & U12 age levels should hold the minimum of a US Soccer 'E' License or NSCAA equivalent.*

At the U11 age group, teams who do not select to play the Premier schedule, may decide to enter into Presidents or Founders Cup, both played November. In this case, their 10 game schedules must be completed to leave open the last 3 weekends prior to Thanksgiving to allow a team to compete in this tournament. Teams may enter one of these two tournaments if they desire extra games and the registration deadline is typically the beginning of October. The Cup events at U11, will be done on a blind draw as there will be no seeding. Again, teams that decide not to participate may have league games scheduled into November, for those teams desiring to move towards 1 game a weekend. This will be left to each individual team and TTL-OYSA have reduced the cost of entering the tournaments for this age group (see costs below).

If, however, a team who has games scheduled into November, has a change of heart and wants to enter a cup competition, they will have to pay the game change fee and provide fields to change the date of the originally scheduled game or games.

U12: Following a year of playing history at 9v9, the Fall Premier League will have 8 teams in Premier Gold and 8 teams in Premier Silver to promote competitive stratification. As at U11, the TTL-OYSA will schedule 12 games in the fall for Premier teams and 10 games for the Division 1 and Division 2 teams. Entry to the appropriate league division, will be self-assigned by the DOC of each club at registration, and verified at the seeding meeting. In this age group, the seeding committee will attempt to regionalize all divisions below Premier as much as is possible. DOC's are encouraged to attend the seeding meeting to verify all groupings.

The scheduler will provide an equal number of home and away games, assuming adequate field inventory is provided by each club on both Saturday and Sunday. A Club must secure valid field permits. Scores and standings will be posted, but again this will be reviewed at a DOC meeting at the OYSA AGM in January 2018.

With around 8 teams in a division and each team having 10-12 games, it is not possible to play everyone twice. This will be determined by the scheduler, who will attempt to equalize the number of out of town travel days for each team. We will attempt to keep an even number of teams in a division so that we can limited the amount of teams that may have a bye week.

Each team playing in the U12 League must provide verified documentation that they have access to an appropriate field that will be set up specifically for the 9v9 game with appropriately sized goals. For the TTL, we prefer goals that have a solid crossbar, but the correctly sized Bownet goals may be used for the 2017-18 season, but will not be allowed for the 2018-19 season. See OYSA website for details of field setup. If the correct setup is not utilized, then the TTL Committee may not allow the team to play in the spring league.

League games will be scheduled as much as possible 1 game a weekend. Teams may apply in the traditional method for special requests but none are guaranteed. In the event of a conflict or unforeseen situation, a registered Club DOC would be allowed to step in and coach a game if available. TTL encourages that 2 registered/carded adults are in the technical area for every game (from coach, assistant, manager, DOC or age group co-ordinator).

Coaching Standard: *The TTL believe that coaches coaching at the U11 & U12 age levels should hold the minimum of a US Soccer 'E' License or NSCAA equivalent.*

At the U12 age group, non-Premier teams may decide to enter into Presidents or Founders Cup, both played November. In this case, their 10 game schedules must be completed to leave open the last 3 weekends prior to Thanksgiving to allow a team to compete in this tournament. Teams may enter one of these two tournaments if they desire extra games and the registration deadline is typically the beginning of October. The Cup events at U12, will be seeded based upon league standings. Again, teams that decide not to participate may have league games scheduled into November, for those teams desiring to move towards 1 game a weekend. This will be left to each individual team and TTL-OYSA have reduced the cost of entering the tournaments for this age group (see costs below).

If, however, a team who has games scheduled into November, has a change of heart and wants to enter a cup competition, they will have to pay the game change fee and provide fields to change the date of the originally scheduled game or games.

For those teams playing in the Premier League, they will only be allowed to register to play in the OYSA state cup in the spring. Entering a tournament will be left to each individual club and team. The TTL-OYSA league is the only state cup qualifying league.

At the U12 age group, a lot of development can come from playing in games against like competition, therefore, if teams would like additional games, we will encourage and help local clubs to schedule friendly games against one another.

U13: At tryouts, a number of teams are broken up due to the move from 9v9 to 11v11 and needing a larger roster. At U13 the seeding committee will look carefully at playing history and will work with the OYSA Registrar to determine roster continuity if necessary, to determine league placement.

The U13 Fall Premier League will have 8 teams in Premier Gold and 8 teams in Premier Silver. This age group will also have a 12 game season, with each team having 6 home games and 6 away games.

TTL-OYSA will schedule 12 games in the fall for Premier teams and 10 games for the Division 1 and Division 2 teams. Entry to the appropriate league division, will be self-assigned by the DOC of each club at registration, and verified at the seeding meeting. In this age group, the seeding committee will attempt to regionalize all divisions at Division 2 as much as is possible. DOC's are encouraged to attend the seeding meeting to verify all groupings.

With 8 teams in a division and each team having 10-12 games, it is not possible to play everyone twice. This will be determined by the scheduler. We will as much as is possible, keep an even number of teams in a division, so that we can limit the amount of teams that may have a bye week.

Each team playing in the U13 League must provide verified documentation that they have access to an appropriate field that is lined specifically for the 11v11 game and provide appropriately sized goals. See OYSA website for details.

Coaching Standard: *The TTL believe that coaches coaching at the U13 & U14 age levels should hold the minimum of a US Soccer 'D' License or NSCAA equivalent.*

At the U13 age group, non-Premier teams may decide to enter into Presidents or Founders Cup, both played November. In this case, their 10 game schedules must be completed to leave open the last 3 weekends prior to Thanksgiving to allow a team to compete in this tournament. Teams may enter one of these two tournaments if they desire extra games and the registration deadline is typically the beginning of October. The Cup events at U13, will be seeded based upon league standings. Again, teams that decide not to participate may have league games scheduled into November, for those teams desiring to move towards 1 game a weekend. This will be left to each individual team and TTL-OYSA has reduced the cost of entering the tournaments for this age group (see costs below).

If, however, a team who has games scheduled into November, has a change of heart and wants to enter a cup competition, they will have to pay the game change fee and provide fields to change the date of the originally scheduled game or games.

For those teams playing in the Premier League, they will only be allowed to register to play in the OYSA state cup in the spring. Entering a tournament will be left to each individual club and team. The TTL-OYSA league is the only state cup qualifying league.

At the U13 age group, a lot of development can come from playing in games against like competition, therefore, if teams would like additional games, we will encourage and help local clubs to schedule friendly games against one another.

U14: Following a year of playing history at 11v11, at U14 the format would mirror U13.

TTL-OYSA will schedule 12 games in the fall for Premier teams and 10 games for the Division 1 and Division 2 teams. Entry to the appropriate league division, will be self-assigned by the DOC of each club at registration, and verified at the seeding meeting. In this age group, the seeding committee will attempt to regionalize all divisions below at Division 2 as much as is possible. DOC's are encouraged to attend the seeding meeting to verify all groupings.

With 8 teams in a division and each team having 10-12 games, it is not possible to play everyone twice. This will be determined by the scheduler. We will as much as is possible, keep an even number of teams in a division, so that we can limit the amount of teams that may have a bye week.

Each team playing in the U14 League must provide verified documentation that they have access to an appropriate field that is lined specifically for the 11v11 game and provide appropriately sized goals. See OYSA website for details.

Coaching Standard: *The TTL believe that coaches coaching at the U13 & U14 age levels should hold the minimum of a US Soccer 'D' License or NSCAA equivalent.*

At the U14 age group, non-Premier teams may decide to enter into Presidents or Founders Cup, both played November. In this case, their 10 game schedules must be completed to leave open the last 3 weekends prior to Thanksgiving to allow a team to compete in this tournament. Teams may enter one of these two tournaments if they desire extra games and the registration deadline is typically the beginning of October. The Cup events at U14, will be seeded based upon league standings. Again, teams that decide not to participate may have league games scheduled into November, for those teams desiring to move towards 1 game a weekend. This will be left to each individual team and TTL-OYSA have reduced the cost of entering the tournaments for this age group (see costs below).

If, however, a team who has games scheduled into November, has a change of heart and wants to enter a cup competition, they will have to pay the game change fee and provide fields to change the date of the originally scheduled game or games.

For those teams playing in the Premier League, they will only be allowed to register to play in the OYSA state cup in the spring. Entering a tournament will be left to each individual club and team. The TTL-OYSA league is the only state cup qualifying league.

At the U14 age group, a lot of development can come from playing in games against like competition, therefore, if teams would like additional games, we will encourage and help local clubs to schedule friendly games against one another.

U15-U19: Entry to the Winter League at U15 through U19, will be self-assigned by the DOC of each club. Final placements will still be determined by the Competitive Committee and divisional ratification by the League Seeding committee.

The Winter League season will include 10 games for each division.

For ALL the teams competing in the TTL Winter League (U15-19) at time of registration may decide to enter into the State, Presidents or Founders Cup. This will allow the league operations committee to schedule the 10 games over the appropriate length of time. Any team considering entering a tournament must have their games be completed prior to the respective tournament start date. Please note that the TTL-OYSA league is the only state cup qualifying league.

With regards to the seasonal weather, each team playing in the winter Premier League must provide verified documentation that they have access to an appropriate TURF field that is lined specifically for the 11v11 game and provide appropriately sized goals. See OYSA website for details.

If a team cannot verify access to a turf field, they will be mandated to provide an additional \$500 field bond and TTL will attempt to accommodate an appropriate field to schedule your 'home' games, although the team must be advised that they may have to then travel for their 'home' games.

Coaching Standard: *The TTL believe that coaches coaching at the U15- U19 age levels should hold the minimum of a US Soccer 'C' License or NSCAA equivalent.*

TTL Competitive Council (formerly League Steering Committee)

The TTL Competitive Council will be formed from the DOC's of Clubs that are full-time and also hold a National C License or above or the NSCAA or foreign equivalent. Furthermore, the DOC's must be fully supporting the unified league structure and have all of the teams in their club playing in the Timbers and Thorns Leagues (excluding Development Academy or ECNL teams). The next meeting of the Committee will be held in August, following fall registration.

Futsal

The Timbers & Thorns will promote playing futsal in December and January to aid player development.

Improvement of Referees

The Timbers & Thorns currently host referee development programs at the stadium on a regular basis. In addition, OYSA are holding numerous training events at their offices in Beaverton. Please get in touch with our referee coordinators to ask about continuing education programs.

Coaching Education

We at the Timbers and Thorns are committed to coach development and encourage every coach to educate themselves. There are many ways to do this, from watching other coaches run sessions, studying live or televised games, having a more highly qualified mentor, and being regularly evaluated by your club Director of Coaching. We view a coaching license or certificate as a professional qualification in the game and an indication of a commitment to learning in our sport. Both US Soccer and NSCAA have recently overhauled and modernized their certification structures. They are actively encouraging states, leagues and clubs to recommend that their coaches hold the age appropriate qualifications.

Fall League Summary:

U11 premier fall season	12 games	cost \$850
U11 non-premier fall season	10 games	cost \$775
U12 fall season	12 games	cost \$850
U12 non-premier fall season	10 games	cost \$775
U13 fall season	12 games	cost \$850
U13 non-premier fall season	10 games	cost \$775
U14 fall season	12 games	cost \$850
U14 non-premier fall season	10 games	cost \$775
U15 fall season	10 games	cost \$800
U15-19 HS fall season	10 games	cost \$800
U11-14 Presidents Cup	November	cost \$650
U11-14 Founders Cup	November	cost \$650

Disciplinary Guidelines

All Rules documents for our various league and cup offerings can be found on the OYSA website. All adult members of OYSA must know and consistently adhere to the rules. **Registration to enter TTL-OYSA Leagues or other Oregon Youth Soccer competition is considered to be an automatic acceptance of their rules, policies and procedures.** Please note that their main purpose is to ensure that all participants respect the game and provide a good and safe environment for children to play the game.

The rules also outline the disciplinary guidelines and makes clear the repercussions for individuals who bring the game into disrepute. Please review and make sure that the parents are aware of both the rules as well as the code of conduct that each Club is signing this year.

Fair Play Award

This upcoming season we will be recognizing clubs who accumulate the fewest penalty points throughout the course of the year. As clubs have different numbers of teams we will take the number of points, divided by the number of competitive teams and make an average.

Tournaments

The Oregon Youth Soccer operates three league-wide tournaments throughout the competitive calendar year. All are Cup-type tournaments with bracketing based on order of placement within age group divisions. All our tournaments are US Youth Soccer-sanctioned events, and require that teams not only have US Youth Soccer player passes, but meet the Oregon Youth Soccer's eligibility guidelines for each tournament.

State Cup

The TTL State Cup is a competitive tournament taking place at the end of the competitive calendar for all age groups in the springtime. The tournament is primarily geared towards Premier level teams and takes place over several weekends in April and May, and is designed as a traditional Cup competition, with group play progressing to knockout rounds later in the tournament. The tournament is open to all U12-U19 boys and girls teams.

Eligibility Requirements:

- All teams must have participated in the appropriate TTL-OYSA fall or winter qualifying leagues, as bracketing is based upon league standings.
- All teams must have had their original team registration & player cards from Oregon Youth Soccer.

2018 Participation Fee: \$700 (U12-U18).

Presidents Cup

The TTL Presidents Cup is an end-of-season Open competitive tournament primarily geared towards teams in our First Division, but is also open to teams from the Second Division. Premier League teams are prohibited from participation in this tournament for the U11-U14 age groups. The U11-U14 Presidents Cup takes place over several weekends in November, splitting the round robin part of the tournament from the Finals stages. The U15-U19 Presidents Cup takes place over several weekends in April with a similar format as the Fall Presidents Cup.

Eligibility Requirements:

- U11 – U14 Presidents Cup teams must be an OYSA registered team.
- Teams currently in the Premier Division for their age group are prohibited from entering at the U11-U14 level.

2017-18 Participation Fee: \$650 (U11-U14).

2017-18 Participation Fee: \$650 (U15-U18).

Founders Cups

The TTL Founders Cup is an end-of-season competitive tournament primarily geared towards teams in our Second Divisions. It is also open to OYSA recreational teams. The U11-U14 Founders Cup takes place over several weekends in November, splitting the round robin part of the tournament from the Finals stages. The U15-U18 Founders Cup takes place over several weekends in April with a similar format as the Fall Founders Cup.

Eligibility Requirements:

- U11 – U14 Founders Cup teams must be a Division 2 level OYSA competitive team, or a recreational team registered through OYSA. Cup committee reserves the right of refusal to accept any team.
- Teams currently in the Premier and First Divisions for their age group are prohibited from entering.

2017-18 Participation Fee: \$650 (U11-U14).

2017-18 Participation Fee: \$650 (U15-U18).

Timbers & Thorns Development U11 Cup

The TT Developmental Cup is a competitive tournament taking place at the end of the competitive calendar for all U11 groups in the springtime. The tournament will take place over several weekends in April and May, and is designed as a non-traditional Cup competition. Coaches will self-designate their placement based upon the perceived ability of their team and be provided 3 competitive jamboree matches. *Teams will be guaranteed 3 games.*

Eligibility Requirements:

- All teams must have participated in the TTL-OYSA fall qualifying leagues.
- All teams must have had their original team registration & player cards from Oregon Youth Soccer.

2018 Participation Fee: \$400 (U11).

Player and Team Registration

Player Registration

The TTL-OYSA League requires each player to register through a governing body. In our case, it is US Youth Soccer. They will provide the player cards (passes) for your team, and is where you can control and manipulate your rosters. Each club registrar must register their club's teams with OYSA's State Registrar.

Illegal players:

Any player that does not appear on the team's OYSA roster shall be considered an illegal player. Any team using an illegal player shall forfeit three points for each game to the opposing team against whom the illegal player was used. In addition, the guilty team shall be subject to a further financial forfeit that can be seen in the full league or cup rules.

Please be aware that FIFA has specific rules for foreign players. Players moving to the US from any other country need to be released to play with an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) that is dealt with by US Soccer Federation. Details of how to obtain one of these for any new player to the club can be found here <https://www.ussoccer.com/about/federation-services/intl-clearance/itc-request> .

Team Registration

Registration for leagues and tournaments will open approximately 2 months prior to the starting date of the season or tournament. Please note the registration deadline and get all your team in on time. Registration is on our website and is done by, or at the direction of your club registrar or administrator. Please follow your own club guidelines for team registrations for TTL events. Please also note that each team coach should also submit the special request form (for each individual team they are coaching) at time of registration, as if games are scheduled and have to be moved after the fact, there is a scheduling game change fee assessed.

A club Registrar must let OYSA know at time of registration which teams are planning on entering the Far West Regional League, so that they can be designated as such and that the scheduler's know prior to scheduling.

Each Club registrar must upload a current photo for each player into Affinity. This will allow to print player cards, or preferably utilize the digital rostering feature through the software, for match days.

It is recommended coaches keep a yearly "team calendar" to track tournaments and other events in which your team might be participating. This will be helpful when registering for our leagues, where you will have the opportunity to request certain dates "off" from league play (to attend tournaments, etc.). Because our scheduling software can now track this information, we will not be lenient when we receive requests to reschedule games due to tournament play once the schedule has been produced and published on our website.

Scheduling Steps and Responsibilities

The TTL is handling all scheduling for all 2017-18 league and cup events. Once the teams have been placed into their divisions and each club's field coordinator submits their field inventories, we will generate the schedules. The schedules are edited and modified based on team availability, etc., and each club has an opportunity to review the schedules before they are published on our site.

Conflicts

As stated before, there is no guarantee that every special request can be granted. Therefore if a potential conflict arises, please contact the TTL scheduler as soon as possible. Some conflicts may be unavoidable. As stated previously, teams should roster a minimum of 2 registered adults for this reason, plus the DOC or boys/girls director as appropriate. Scheduling conflicts are typically handled in this order:

1. Teams participating in tournaments/leagues (ie: FWRL, out-of-state tournaments).
2. A coach who is the head coach of multiple teams.

Any other conflicts will be resolved on a case-by-case basis, but are not guaranteed to be accommodated. Teams can always request a game change, as appropriate, with the league scheduler.

Reschedules

If, during the course of the season, a conflict arises for your team, you must immediately notify YOUR CLUB'S Director of Coaching to review the situation and determine if the game can be played (with a coach "covering" in the absence of another coach, or using players from within your club to fill in for absent players). If it cannot be resolved, your DOC will contact the league office to request a game reschedule; please be aware, there must be extreme circumstances for a request to be approved. Should a game become necessary to reschedule, the league office must be notified AT LEAST fourteen days prior to the game's originally scheduled date, so that we can notify the appropriate parties and find a suitable alternative for both teams, so please be sure you are contacting your club DOC with plenty of time prior to the possible reschedule.

Communication

If there are any issues prior to, or throughout the season or tournament, please do not hesitate to contact the League Director and/or Referee Director:

League Director – brian@oregonyouthsoccer.org

Referee Director – david@oregonyouthsoccer.org

We will work together to find a satisfactory resolution for all parties involved.

TTL-OYSA Youth Soccer Game Day Procedures

At each game - team managers should have in their possession:

- TTL OYSA passes for its players (preferably digitally through Affinity)
- Game day roster printed from OYSA website.

Pre-game Procedures:

Teams need to consult the OYSA website to confirm the home team's jersey color; **it is the away team's responsibility to ensure their jerseys do not conflict with the home team's jerseys.**

Home team must provide 3 match balls, adhering to size and inflation standards for their age group. (See TTL 2017-2018 League Rules).

Any club pass player(s) from within your club need to be written in to the roster, or preferably added using the digital rosters tool from within the Affinity software. You will be limited to the use of 6 guest players, with no more than 18 players on the game day roster. Any players not playing should be clearly crossed out if using a paper roster.

Post-game Procedures:

Home team coach or manager (whoever was listed as the primary Team Contact when the team was registered) must verify the score on OYSA's affinity system within 24 hours of the game. Scores can be reported electronically.

Emergencies:

If there is a medical emergency, please dial 911.

If there is an emergency with a field situation or referee no-show, please contact the TTL Leagues and Cups emergency hotline at: [\(503\) 719-2985](tel:5037192985).

Referee complaints:

TTL and OYSA take all complaints seriously. We also have a referee evaluation link. All coaches are encouraged to provide feedback, regardless of whether positive or negative. If there are specific complaints, coaches need to email TTL Director of Referees Dave Grbavac (david@oregonyouthsoccer.org) and TTL Assignor Andy Deuker (ad.assigning@gmail.com). For urgent situations, please dial the league emergency number (listed above) so the situation can be handled accordingly.

Grievances, Protests and Appeals

The Protest and Appeal Committee shall enforce procedures for handling protests and appeals in accordance with the principles of due process. If the League/Cup President believes that it is warranted, hearings shall be duly called, publicized, and held; all parties shall have a chance to be heard; and all rules will be fairly and evenly applied.

Submission of a Grievance, Protest or Appeal shall be in writing and shall indicate the specific charges or alleged violation, and resolution desired. Only violations of the OYSA's Bylaws, including the right of individuals to participate and compete, misapplication of the "Laws of the Game," or violation of league rules and regulations shall be proper subjects to be considered for action. Referee decisions during the games are not grounds for protests or appeals.

Council will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. Those procedures shall include that all grievances involving the right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by the TTL, OYSA, US Youth Soccer and US Soccer Federation and their members may be appealed to the USSF Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision.

Hearing Procedures – Council will conduct all hearings, and all parties shall be afforded the procedures outlined in US Youth Soccer Policies governing said hearings.

Mediation – The Council recommends and will provide appropriate mediation for the resolving of conflicts and disputes as related to grievances, protests and appeals.

Exhaustion of Remedies – No Club, Officer, Director, Coordinator, team, player, coach, administrator, employee or referee may invoke the aid of the courts in the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the Club, OYSA, USYS, and USSF, including the right to appeal to the USSF's Appeals Committee. For violation of this policy, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines, and shall be liable to the Council for all expenses incurred by the Council and its officers and members of the Board of Directors in defending each court action, including the following: court costs; attorney's fees; reasonable compensation for time spent by Council officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances; travel expenses; and expenses for holding special Council meetings necessitated by court action.

For more details and access to a protest form, please see the OYSA website <http://www.oregonyouthsoccer.org/home.php?layout=817309> (current link at time of writing).