

Bryan Coluccio

General Board Member Candidate, ECFC Board of Directors

I am a lawyer in private practice in downtown Seattle. My wife Teresa and I have three daughters. Our youngest, Sarah, currently plays for the ECFC U-15 Girls Green Team. This is Sarah's second year with Emerald City. Before joining the club, she played for three years on the Badger FC '93 team.

Soccer has been a big part of my life since childhood, first as a player, and later as a coach and as a parent who could share a passion for the sport with my kids. As a player, I played in youth programs and for my high school varsity team, followed by four years on the Seattle University men's soccer team. Since college (which was a few years ago), I have played for open, over-30, and over-40 teams, and a lot of indoor soccer. As a coach, I have had the chance to work with youth at a variety of levels, including CYO girls' teams at Assumption/St. Bridget School for the past 16 years, and U-14/U-15 Girls Select teams. As a parent, I have seen the value and importance of sports, particularly soccer, in my daughters' lives, and the lives of other youth. To me, the well worn phrase, "Soccer is life" has always rung true. In playing the game of soccer, our kids also learn much about the game of life.

I have also been actively involved in other communities, including service on the Parish Council for St. Bridget's Church, and the School Commission for Assumption/St. Bridget School, which I have chaired the past two years. The success of any non-profit organization hinges entirely upon the involvement, commitment, and contributions of its membership. Having spent the past year becoming acquainted with ECFC and learning what our club offers and can offer, I look to becoming more involved and serving our membership as a Board Member.

If elected, these are a few of my goals and plans for our club (not in any order of priority):

1. Assure that all players at all age levels, regardless of the "color" of their team, are provided quality training and the opportunity to increase and improve their skills. This requires ECFC to maintain an excellent coaching staff for all ages, and to equitably distribute resources across every skill level.
2. The primary services any premier club offers players are coaching, training, and development. We need to retain, hire, and develop the best coaches in the Puget Sound area. Retention issues include examining compensation and other benefits, such as opportunities for continuing professional development. We should look to develop new head coaches from "within," through assistant coach positions that also provide mentoring and training with our experienced staff.
3. Developing and maintaining strong ties with the collegiate programs in our area. The men's and women's teams at Seattle University, SPU, and UW, are consistently ranked nationally, and provide us a ready source of future coaches and trainers for our programs. And it goes without saying that we need to establish and maintain strong ties with a certain Seattle MLS team that begins play in 2009.
4. Recognizing that ECFC is growing dramatically, reevaluate our organizational structure, and if appropriate, make changes to best meet the needs of a much larger club. Assure transparency in the management of Emerald City at all levels. Assure new players and parents are made welcome and an integral part of our club. Better tap into the skills and talents of our membership, and encourage greater involvement by parents in committee or other work. Consider whether day-to-day or purely administrative tasks are more efficiently and effectively performed by paid (rather than volunteer) positions.

Thank you for your consideration.