



Seattle's Premier Soccer Club
Since 1979

Updated 2/24/2020

Emerald City Football Club

Orientation Handbook 2020-2021



WWW.EMERALDCITYFC.ORG



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Mission Statement

Emerald City FC exists to develop each of our players to his or her fullest potential, competing at the highest possible level while demonstrating exemplary teamwork, sportsmanship, and a passion for the game. We are dedicated to creating a positive and dynamic learning environment where players not only desire to succeed, but also become enthused by the experience to contribute to the success of others. We are more than a soccer club, we are more than a life experience, we are **Soccer for Life!**

Team Contact Information

Primary Team Coach: _____

Assistant Coach(es): _____

Team Manager: _____

Team Parent Rep: _____

Team Volunteer Coordinator: _____

Team Treasurer: _____

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

UserName: _____

Password: _____

2019-2020 Board of Directors

President	Ryan Sawyer
Executive Vice President	Burke Fewel
Treasurer	David DiGiuseppe
Secretary	Craig Sexton
Member-At-Large	Alyson Scadron Branner
Member-At-Large	Roger Krosevic
VP of Membership	Chad Lepper

Coaches' Reps:

U11-U14	CJ Hamel
U15-U18	Alex Jessup

Contact info for Board Members is available on our club website, www.emeraldcityfc.org.



Dear ECFC Families,

Welcome new and returning players and families to Emerald City F.C. We look forward to working with you this coming year.

Emerald City is committed to providing a quality soccer experience for our players where they grow and improve as soccer players, learn to understand and appreciate the game, learn life lessons along the way, and enjoy their time doing it.

Development occurs when players are regularly challenged in a realistic training or game environment with players of similar competitive instincts and abilities. Over the course of time players should be exposed to different mentors and coaches, learning from consistent philosophical teachings but while being exposed to innovative ideas and methodologies. It is our aim to create a competitive environment for all our players in training and games and to challenge them at their specific levels of ability and development. It is our hope that the outcome will provide great enjoyment, a long-lasting love for the game, and growth as players and as people.

There are a lot of positive things happening with the club, from marketing campaigns, to more opportunities for our players, to revamping programs and expectations. We are excited to help the club grow and to provide a premier soccer experience for the city that truly values developing players in soccer and as people. We want to develop all players, not just some. We do not have a "win at all cost" philosophy among younger players that is becoming more prevalent in today's soccer landscape, for that is short-sighted and not truly developmental. However, make no mistake, we are driven to win every game we play! We just choose to do it with the proper developmental philosophy - that at younger ages all players play and contribute, that players learn the game by playing more than one position, and that we teach them to play the game correctly, not just how to win a specific game. There is a developmental continuum for this that

increases the emphasis on winning as players age. All too often, however, we are seeing true development of all a team's players compromised by the pursuit to "win at all cost." We plan to be true to authentic player development, while looking to teach life lessons that arise while playing a competitive team sport. Winning will be a byproduct of developing.

Soccer is a beautiful game that requires skill, imagination, creativity, and decision-making. All of us share the responsibility to enhance those elements in our players through support and positive encouragement.

Soccer is a players' game where players must be considered first when all political, administrative, and coaching decisions are made. This is the theme that should be understood by all our members and that is vital to the success of our club.

We look forward to working with you and your children and helping them to become better soccer players, as well as quality young men and women with integrity and positive life skills.

Sincerely,

John Hamel

Director of
Coaching

David Smith

Technical Director

Bobby Howe

Director of
Coaching Emeritus

TO-DO Checklist

- **Online Club registration**
www.emeraldcityfc.org ("Registration" tab)
- **Club Payment** – see page 9
- **Financial Aid Form**
Inquire at accounts@emeraldcityfc.org
- **Medical Release Concussion Form**
This will be available at the team formation meeting or from your team manager.
- **US Club Registration form**
This will be available at the team formation meeting or from your team manager.
- **New players - Copy of Birth Certificate to manager** – or copy of passport (will be returned)
- **Uniform fitting**

League Structure

Puget Sound Premier League (PSPL), Development League (PSPL), Northwest Champions League:

*U10 through U18/19 teams will be participating in the PSPL. Eligible teams may also play in other leagues and competitions.

**Age groups are determined by birth year (not by academic/school year), per US Soccer Federation mandate since 2016. For example, for the 2019/20 season, players born in 2009 will be U11, players born in 2008 will be U12, etc.*

***Refund Policy:** fees are determined at the beginning of the season and are based on many factors that require a commitment of resources by ECFC. Accordingly, ECFC has a No Refund Policy for fees. If a Player is suspended from further participation, if a Player leaves a Team, if an injury occurs, or if some other situation arises that prevents further participation in ECFC or on a Team, there will be no refunds of fees paid or release from the obligation to pay all fees due under this Agreement. Any request for exception to this rule must be submitted in writing to the ECFC Board of Directors, which has sole and complete discretion to accept, reject or otherwise resolve such a request.

Message from the Board of Directors

Congratulations to all our new and returning players!

We, the Board, strive to create and implement a vision for our Club's future, based on what you, the membership, have told us in our personal interactions, team meetings, and annual parent survey. Our core mission is to provide an organized soccer program that enables our coaches to develop our players to their highest possible levels.

To meet or exceed this core mission, we feel we must

- Help to raise the level of play in Seattle's youth programs.
- Recruit and retain from among the best coaches in the Northwest.
- Promote knowledge of the game through support of coach licensing advancement, and through support of referee and entry level coaching licensing for our players.
- Provide leadership in the local soccer community.

You, the membership, can help us achieve these goals by:

- Providing encouragement and support to players, and coaches alike.
- Be on time when dropping off or picking up players.
- Set a good sideline example on game day; refrain from coaching and/or critiquing your child's play as well as that of his/her teammates.
- Follow the process for feedback and resolutions of concerns that we have in place.

These simple guidelines help us keep the playing environment positive for our players, coaches, referees, and other spectators.

About Our Club

ECFC has served as the Premier Soccer Club within Seattle since 1979 and this year we will continue that role with our affiliation with US Club Soccer.

ECFC was formed in 1979 to bring select soccer to the youth of Seattle. Our mission was simple - to teach skills and develop players. What started out as a small venture has grown into a strong and vibrant club with many state championships under its belt. Our players are recognized for their success at the high school, state (ODP), national, collegiate, and professional level.

ECFC seeks to develop competitive players to compete at their highest possible level of play. Our players have a passion for the sport and willingness to work at improving their skills. Players will gain friendships with others with a similar love for the game, develop a strong work ethic, and learn the values of team sport and club membership.

ECFC is a non-profit, "501(c)3" organization with a board of directors elected by the membership (parents of players). Our coaches are paid, licensed professionals, supervised by John Hamel, our coaching director. We have several "A" licensed coaches (highest level) and actively support and encourage our other coaches to improve their licensing credentials to the highest level.

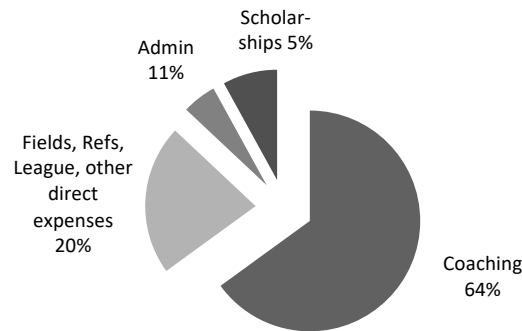
ECFC programs run from 8-11 months of the year, depending on age. The year includes some "soccer-free" time built in (typically one month in the summer and the December school holidays) for all age groups. Coaches understand family and other priorities, and if your player needs to miss a week or two that can usually be accommodated. In short, our schedule allows our kids some breaks from structured play as well as time for other interests.

How We Fit Into Youth Soccer in the US

ECFC has served as the Premier Soccer Club within Seattle since 1979 and this year we will continue that role through our affiliation with US Club Soccer.

US Club Soccer is a non-profit organization committed to the support and development of competitive soccer clubs. It is founded on the belief that soccer clubs, which are in the business of elite player development, need an organization of their own to foster growth, address concerns, and sanction and provide programs with a minimum of rules and restrictions.

Annual Budget Summary



Practice locations will vary, but nearly all families are able to set up regular car pools. Teams usually practice either Mon/Wed or Tue/Thu, and some teams supplement with a Friday or weekend practice. For ages U13 and older, ECFC offers soccer specific agility and conditioning training once a week as well that does not conflict with usual practice times. We believe that being a part of ECFC is a valuable life experience. Participation does require a COMMITMENT from both the player and family members whose volunteer contributions make this club work. But the REWARDS can be considerable. Your player will develop great skills, develop a strong work ethic, form lasting friendships (for both the players AND parents alike), and hopefully gain a lifelong passion for the game.

Coaching expenses include compensation for team coaches, our coaching directors, assistant coaching directors, and team assistant coaches. Our coaches' compensation is competitive among other clubs in the area.

Fields, Refs, League, and other direct expenses cover the basic expenses for enabling the players to play.

Financial Aid

ECFC makes accessibility a priority. See pg. 10.

Admin costs include meeting room cost and accounting services. We are a very lean organization. Our fee structure compares very favorably to that of our primary competitors. ECFC is a volunteer run organization. None of this would be possible without our dedicated parent volunteers! Thank you!

Club Level Leadership Positions

Board of Directors:

The Board's role is to facilitate and govern club programs and to hire and supervise the Coaching Director, who in turn is responsible for hiring and supervising the coaching staff. Board members are volunteers. They typically serve a two-year term and are elected by the club membership, while board positions are assigned among the elected members (see details below). Elections are typically held in June each year per club bylaws.

Regular Voting Board Positions: (all 2-year terms)

President: Runs the meetings, liaison with other clubs & associations.

Executive VP: Acts as President when he/she is unavailable

Annual Club Fundraiser

Treasurer: Handles all club payments and finances, creates club budget.

Secretary: Records and posts meeting minutes.

At Large/VC: Assists as needed.

At Large: Assists as needed.

Other Voting Board Positions: (1-year terms):

VP of Membership: Liaison between parent reps and the Board, i.e., the "Voice" of the parents.

U11-U14 Coaches rep: Elected by the U11-U14 coaches.

U15-U18 Coaches rep: Elected by the U15-U18 coaches.

Non-Voting Advisory Board Positions: (1-year terms):

"F" Players rep: Elected by the female players.

"M" Players rep: Elected by the male players.

Coaching Director: Required to attend Board meetings.

Year at-a-Glance

Spring 2020	Spring League for girls and boys for Devs & U11-U14, League play for girls U15 – U18, HS season for boys - rising U16's through U19's
April 2020	Tryouts for all ages (except boys U16 – U18) for following year
JUNE 2020	ECFC Board of Directors Elections ECFC Annual General Meeting Tournament season begins
JULY 2020	Tournament season and/or time off
AUG 2020	End of tournament play/Start of HS Seasons U15 – U19 boys, HS season for girls U15 – U19
SEPT 2020	Fall leagues begin for Devs & U11 – U14 girls and boys
OCT 2020	Fall league continues 3rd Annual Kick-off Event – social event and fundraiser for Bobby Howe Scholarship Fund
NOV 2020	End of fall league
DEC 2020	ECFC holiday indoor jamboree for club players Optional Training
JAN 2021	Optional Training
FEB 2021	Girls U15 – U18 league, Boys U16 – U18 Tryouts

Club Events

ECFC teams are responsible for designated tasks that help build a sense of community within our club. Each of these events has developed, over time, into an ECFC tradition. Throughout the year, you will be asked to volunteer your time to assist with one or more of these events. The following is a brief description of each event assigned to each age group.

Age	Task(s)
U12	Assist U13's with Holiday Jamboree.
U13	Host the annual Holiday Jamboree, assist U14's by "learning the ropes" with Tryouts. Holiday Jamboree date - late December. Participants- ECFC players
The Holiday Jamboree is an indoor event and is an opportunity to play over the annual winter break.	
U14	Teams run ECFC Annual Tryouts, assist U15's with the Awards Ceremony. Tryout dates- Feb, April, and May Participants- all interested soccer players
Tryouts for ECFC teams happen in Feb, April, and May. Volunteers are needed to organize equipment, player photos and paperwork, and register participants.	
U15	Organize and host annual end of season Awards Ceremony & assist U16's with Club Fundraising. Participants- All ECFC players and families. Date- typically in early March. The Awards Ceremony gives the Club an opportunity to get together and celebrate as another year winds down. Teams, players, coaches, and managers are all recognized at this event.
U16	Organize and support ECFC Club Fundraising, assist U17's with August Club Social. Dates- to be determined with Board of Directors Primary function: fundraising for the Bobby Howe Scholarship Fund
U17	Organize and support the ECFC August Club Social event. Dates- TBD in August A season 'kick-off' gathering for the whole club prior to Fall season.
U18/19	No specific responsibility or date.

Team Level Leadership Positions

TAMS [Team Administrative Manager(s)]:

Appointed by and reports to the team coach. Responsibilities include securing paperwork for players; registering teams for tournaments; keeping and maintaining player cards, communication between coach and families about practices, games, etc. Teams are encouraged to have 2 TAMS, not just one, and to divide the workload in a way that best fits the individual team needs and team manager skills and interests.

Parent Rep:

Elected by the parent group, the Parent Rep helps to resolve any parent/player/coach issues on their team. The parent reps may be asked to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board. All parent reps collectively constitute the ECFC Parent Committee.

Treasurer:

Works with coach and manager to create team budget, collects, and manages team fees.

Volunteer Coordinator:

Responsible for ensuring that all player families fulfill their volunteer obligations, by staffing club and team events.

Other team level volunteer opportunities:

The following list of team level tasks help the team run smoothly, and allow the coach to concentrate on coaching! Though individual team tasks may vary, these are typically:

Fundraising Coordinator

Photographer
Tent/canopy parent
Travel coordinator
Sideline coat parent

Social Coordinator

Webmaster
Medical kit parent
Game day ice parent
Team bench parent

Financial Review and Obligations

Select soccer provides tremendous opportunities for our kids, but they do come at a cost. The bulk of ECFC's funding goes directly to coaching and related direct expenses (see chart on page 12). The allocation of funds is in response to parent surveys which indicate a desire to "get and keep the best coaches we can afford."

CLUB FEES:

REGISTRATION FEES: For the 2020/2021 season:

- Birth Year 2008 – 2002 - \$2,300
- Birth Year 2010 - 2009 - \$2,050

Option 1: Payment in full by check, money order, or credit card is due within (20) days following your team formation meeting.

Discounts apply: \$150 discount for check, credit card, or money order. If paying by credit card, 3% processing fee will apply.

Option 2: Payment Plan Agreement: An initial payment of \$350 is due at the time of online registration. Online registration must be completed within 20 days following your team formation meeting. Thereafter 6 equal payments by credit card will commence on the 15th of the month following your team formation meeting. Credit card payments are subject to a 3% processing fee.

All players must register online within (20) days following your team formation meeting. Go to www.emeraldcityfc.org (Register tab, New ECFC Players). If these options are a significant hardship, please contact the club treasurer at treasurer@emeraldcityfc.org regarding financial aid. ****ECFC has a no refund policy, please see page 15 for details.***

The club relies on prompt payments from members to meet its obligations to coaches, referees, etc. Delayed payments jeopardize our mission and increase costs for the entire membership. Player cards will not be issued until payment has been received in full or a payment plan agreement is on file with Emerald City FC.

FINANCIAL AID:

ECFC has made accessibility a priority and fundraises for the benefit of our Bobby Howe Scholarship fund. We are proud of the fact that every year we disburse this aid to allow players who would otherwise be unable to participate in our program to play for our club. ECFC awards aid on a need basis using the Seattle School District's free and reduced lunch program guidelines. Demand exceeds funding every year, so timely submittal of financial aid applications is extremely important. An application form is available on our website or from your team manager.

TEAM FEES:

Team fees, for U11-U18/19 teams, can range anywhere from \$125 to \$500 or more. Team fees are used for team related expenses such as equipment, coach travel expenses, tournament entry fees, supplemental field rental fees, team events, etc. The fees will be outlined in a team budget created by the coach, manager, and treasurer. Team fees are collected and handled by the team treasurer and may only be spent for Club authorized team related expenses.

UNIFORMS:

All players are required to wear Club approved uniforms. This usually entails (2) full uniform sets (home and away), warm ups, gear bag, and practice shirts. (Development team uniform requirements may differ). Additional items are available at Soccer.com, our official vendor for ECFC soccer gear. They provide a discount for all purchases made by ECFC members.