

## ESC Fields & Training Changes

Edmond Soccer Club is making some changes at our complex. These changes are needed based on the addition of the three new fields, our ongoing efforts to provide the best possible playing surfaces for games and to continue to support training privileges at the club. All of these changes come after significant thought, discussion and consideration to what will help us achieve our goal of the best facility in the state.

First, the fields are being re-numbered. You will find attached to this letter (as well as available on the ESC and OFC websites) the newly aligned and numbered field map. We know this may cause some confusion initially, but will best allow us to have a number sequence that displays contiguous field alignment. New signage will be going up at each of the parking lot entrances and each of the gate entrances to the complex to facilitate the transition and inform our parents and the club's visitors.

Second, in efforts to have the best playing surfaces for our games, we are moving all regular training to the south end of the complex, so the north part will be "game only". This will be done on a test basis for at least one season to evaluate the effect at Edmond Soccer Club. We have allowed training throughout the complex in times past and requested that teams not use the goal mouths and not do ladder and agility training in certain areas, but we had too much traffic in sensitive areas and it compromised the quality and durability of the turf in certain areas and resulted in playing conditions that were lower than we desire. We feel confident that limiting use to weekend traffic on our "game only" fields (resulting in longer periods of time for the turf on these fields to recuperate and the ability for our field maintenance staff to conduct work that will not be compromised during the week by training) will help the quality of our fields and improve the satisfaction of our players, coaches and visitors. We will have some rescheduled games and a limited number of scheduled scrimmages on our "game" fields during the week, but it will be significantly less regular traffic than previous years. It will also allow ESC to maximize the benefit of the new parking facilities on the east side of the complex to ease traffic flow on game days.

Third, ESC wants to continue to support training at the complex. While we have all seen the impact that training has had on the fields since it was first allowed eight years ago, we want to make every effort to provide the best training facility possible to allow and encourage the development of our members and teams. We know that the availability of lighted fields provides greater training hours to utilize. We also know our parking, fencing and the constant presence of coaches and staff enhances security and safety. Having restroom facilities close by for our members and their families is another benefit for those training at the complex. We will be moving the bleachers from the south part of the complex to increase available training area. We will also be moving the game goals to open up the area. All of the practice/temporary goals will be located in the south part of the complex to better facilitate ease of use. Any goal used for training should be appropriately set up and anchored to ensure safety (this is the responsibility of the coach or trainer). You may have less "assigned" space (you will not have an entire or even half a field), but you should have plenty of area to have your progression-based training sessions. Full field scrimmages on any of the "game" fields are allowed twice per month and are to be scheduled through the club administrator. Any team or coach found practicing or scrimmaging (without prior schedule approval) on "game" fields will be suspended from training at the club for at least one month. Other issues/problems will be addressed as they present themselves.

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Remember, all of these changes are being done to ensure that ESC has the best possible playing fields, has defined game and training areas and continues to support and provide training at our complex. Supporting our club administrator as he works through the scheduling process as a result to these changes will be helpful. Using common sense and working with adjoining teams/coaches will help ease this transition. Willingness and positive attitude to embrace change will also facilitate a better outcome. ESC welcomes your input and feedback as we effort to improve conditions and continue progress at the club. Please direct your feedback to the ESC President, Complex Coordinator, Director of the appropriate program (Recreational or Competitive) or Club Administrator. We are making every effort to accommodate the growth and improvement of our recreational (Youth, Academy and Traveling Recreational ages) and competitive (Oklahoma Football Club) programs and safeguard one of our greatest assets . . . our fields. The end goal is the enjoyment and improvement of truly our greatest asset . . . our children. We appreciate your support.

Edmond Soccer Club Board