

Facility Maintenance & Improvement Fee

In the early 2000's, ESC had the nicest fields in the OKC area. At that time, no teams were allowed to practice at the facility. Scrimmages were allowed for \$25 per team.

With the start of the 2001/2002 Competitive Soccer Year, ESC began allowing competitive teams to routinely practice at the facility. The older recreational teams were allowed to practice at the facility to ensure all members, U11 and up, were being treated equally.

Allowing the competitive teams to practice, encouraged more consistent training and oversight. The competitive and older recreational teams also utilize more field space, which has become more difficult to find in Edmond. Allowing practices at the facilities has made participation easier for members in the Center of Excellence, Academy, coaching clinics, and other programs for members U10 and under. Therefore, the ESC Board believed it was a good policy to utilize the fields in a training capacity.

The fields showed noticeable deterioration due to the additional field usage. A Field Maintenance Fee of \$1,000 per year per competitive team and \$250 per recreational team per season was initiated for the 2005/2006 Soccer Year. This 'flat fee' was designated as an amount set to allow permission to use "space" on the soccer fields for the purpose of training. Its primary goal was to deter teams from using the fields and encourage them to find alternate practice locations. Most competitive team coaches required practice at the facility to accommodate working with multiple teams. Programs like the Center of Excellence and the ESC Academy needed to be conducted in the evenings and consequently, needed to have lights after day-light savings time ended. The previous intention of fostering of 'less field usage' by attaching a Field Maintenance Fee was not achieved. The fields received even more use and field damage continued.

The Board reached a point where ESC had to either eliminate all practices at the field or substantially fund some additional field expenses just to maintain the current field conditions. In addition, certain field usage policies had to be implemented. The costs and policies include the following:

1. \$22,000 - \$30,000 per year to add sand & top soil.
2. \$5,000 - \$10,000 per year for practice goals and nets so teams can utilize a third of a field, while training across the pitch in order to stay out of goal mouths.
3. Follow field rotation patterns of using half the fields for practice each season and resting the other half except for games.
4. Allowing only limited use in the summer.
5. Declining requests by various leagues, and other local groups to use the facility.
6. Allowing only teams with numerous players and space requirements access to the fields (i.e. U11 and above).
7. Prohibit practice in the goal-mouth.
8. Limit speed work to be held between the fields and not directly on the fields themselves.
9. Closing the complex when the fields are subject to excessive damage due to weather impact.
10. Implementing a policy of certain fields "Open" and some "Closed".
11. Implementing a policy of "Open" to games "Closed" to practice.

The progression of the Field Maintenance Program will continue as the club continues to grow. Management of the ESC fields, and the rules for field usage are incorporated in the Current Field Maintenance Improvement Fee program.

The current program entails the following:

The cost of the above program will be charged to any group wanting access to the fields at anytime during the year. If there is no access to the fields, the Board feels that these costs would not be incurred. The costs are due to the additional field access and bring the fields back to a regular game condition that would occur if no field access was allowed.

The Facility Maintenance & Improvement Fee for 2007/2008 is assessed to any team wanting field access other than for games as follows:

1. \$1,000 for any Competitive team wanting to use the fields in any capacity except games (i.e. practices, scrimmages, etc.). Payable in 2 checks of \$500 each dated Oct. 1st and Feb. 1st. Checks are due prior to any use of the fields in any capacity except games. Access to the fields will be permitted from Aug 1st through the last seasonal or tournament games in the fall and spring. Post season training is available for teams training for post season tournaments.
2. \$250 for any Academy team or Recreational team that wishes to use the fields in any capacity except games. Payment is due prior to any use of the fields. Access to the fields will be permitted from Aug 21st through the last seasonal or tournament game in the fall, and from Feb. 21st through the last seasonal or tournament game in the spring.
3. There are no partial fees for partial use, scrimmages, daily use, winter use, non-daylight savings use, private lessons, etc., except as permitted under service contracts.
4. ESC cannot guarantee the fields will be "Open" every day due to weather related circumstances. Our first priority is to ensure the safety of each of the players. We also need to protect the long-term condition of the fields. If the fields are "Open", games are not scheduled, or other activities are not scheduled on the fields, use of the fields will be permitted.
5. Facility Maintenance & Improvement Fees are charged at the beginning of the soccer year and are nonrefundable since a majority of the funds have already been incurred in the summer months to make the condition of fields able to withstand both practices and games.
5. U19 teams and above that are formed exclusively for state tournament purposes may utilize the fields from May 15 until their last State, Regional or National game. Field usage fees will be funded from registration costs. (i.e. ESC incurs no league fees, ref fees, etc. for this age group so funds will be attributed to Facility Maintenance & Improvement)
6. Each team paying the Facility Maintenance & Improvement Fee must fully understand the access they are allowed and the field protection policies discussed above and the policies provided when the Facility Maintenance & Improvement Fee is collected.
7. Any team utilizing the fields without paying Facility Maintenance & Improvement Fees or receiving ESC Board approval will be subject to disciplinary procedures, including possible dissolution.
8. Scrimmages must be requested and scheduled at least 5 days prior to the game date. To prevent field overuse and turf damage, scrimmages should be limited in frequency.