

# Oklahoma Energy FC New Player Packet

### **OVERVIEW**

Oklahoma Energy FC is a community-oriented Non-Profit 501(c)(3) providing competitive soccer, as well as a variety of in-season and off-season player training programs focused on team and individual player development. Oklahoma Energy FC originated from the merging of the Competitive Programs for Edmond Soccer Club and North Oklahoma Energy Football Club with the goal of providing an elevated level of soccer within the State and Nation. Oklahoma Energy FC is actively engaged in providing services designed and implemented by licensed and certified professionals to ensure the highest level of development for players of all ages and abilities. More information about the organization may be found at www.okenergyfc.org.

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

Oklahoma Energy FC is a club created to be a community asset. We are committed to being pillars in our community and to support the growth of soccer and the culture that comes with it. We are dedicated to creating an opportunity for all to have access to the game and to use it specifically as a tool for developing character, integrity, opportunities, and personal growth for youth players, student athletes, and future leaders inside the game and out. We serve our community by giving back, constantly elevating a standard of excellence and operating under the premise that soccer is a game for everyone.

# **VISION STATEMENT**

Oklahoma Energy FC is committed to providing the community with a model of quality programs, facilities, staff, education, leadership, and management, which creates aspiration, inspiration, and opportunities through the sport of soccer.



# CORE VALUES

#### Aspiration

To create an environment where player, coach, and club recognize that regardless of their current accomplishments, the bar can always be raised and to continually strive to reach for that higher bar

# Community

To be a champion for our community through active participation in community partnerships and activities

# Integrity

To be a community of soccer leaders who take responsibility for our actions. We demonstrate our integrity when we work through disagreements with honesty and respect for others, when we honor our commitments and when we accept responsibility for our actions

# Servant Leadership

To utilize a model of leadership which empowers and enables players, coaches, and staff

# **Embrace the Process**

To facilitate a development process that focuses on character development and emphasizes sportsmanship, teamwork, work ethic, responsibility, and resilience

# Unity

To strive to bring people together from diverse backgrounds, communities, and cultures for the good of the game for together all things are possible

# Opportunity

To create access to the sport for all young soccer players who wish to participate, allowing them to reach their maximum potential by an emphasis on identification, education, and competition

# Tryouts

Oklahoma Energy FC hosts open tryouts annually where players of any level of experience in the sport are invited to participate. Our licensed Energy Staff will evaluate players based on their skills and abilities as well as their on-field leadership and sportsmanship. Existing members of the Club are evaluated throughout the year as well as during the formal tryout sessions.

### **Player Placement**

Oklahoma Energy players are constantly evaluated by our coaches throughout the time they are with OEFC, not just during the formal Tryout days. It is important that players new to OEFC attend all dates of their age group Tryouts if possible, providing our staff the best opportunity to properly evaluate and place players. Additional opportunities for evaluation and movement between teams will be available throughout the seasonal year.

Selected Players will be placed on an Oklahoma Energy team where they will play in a formal league and a series of tournaments/league events throughout the year. During the season, players may be asked to "guest play" or "Club Pass Play" with other teams to help benefit player development.

#### **Player Expectations**

Throughout the season, there are expectations of each team and player that help the experience of both go smoothly. While not comprehensive, some of the more important expectations to understand are below:

Practices – Practicing both individually and as a team is essential to the development and improvement of each player and the team as a whole. Regular attendance to team practices is expected of each player.

Games – Attendance and participation in all games, both League and Tournament Events, is expected of each player and critical to the success of the team.

Travel – Throughout the season, some games and events will require travel and will be properly communicated to the team so that its members can plan accordingly. Travel may be only metro-based or may extend to out-of-state competitions as well, depending on the level of team and competition, and all players on a team are expected to attend.

Fees – Full understanding of Club Fees, both Club-wide fees and individual Team Fees, is important for each family. It is expected that every player stay current on their Club and Team financial obligations throughout the year. The OEFC Fee Structure is available for review on our website (<u>www.okenergyfc.org</u>) under Resources – Player Resources.

Fundraising – Throughout the year, teams are afforded opportunities to host approved "fundraisers" to help players and teams minimize the financial burdens of competitive soccer. It is expected that all members of the team participate in team fundraising events.



# What to Expect

Club Registration (Signing) – All players will be required to register to play with OEFC through GotSport. A specific link to GotSport will be provided at tryouts to every player and will be specific to the program your player/team will play in. No player may play in an OEFC competition without registering first. Registering with OEFC is a 12 month commitment following the traditional soccer season (Aug 1 to July 31).

First Team Meeting – Shortly after Tryouts and Player Selection, your team will have a team meeting where the Coach will outline expectations of the team, identified Tournaments/Events that the team will likely attend, and a practice schedule. Additionally, Team Officials (Manager, Treasurer, etc) will be introduced or selected if needed.

Uniforms – All players are required to purchase the OEFC Uniform Bundles (Home, Away, Practice, Backpack, Warmup) from our vendor. These can only be purchased from OEFC's Approved Retailer and will be thru an online process. Sizing opportunities will be available at tryouts and throughout the season at Soccer USA OKC (www.soccerusaokc.com).

Financial Aid – OEFC does its best to provide support for any player in our organization that may need it. Each year, OEFC offers out a limited number of "Fee Waiver" financial aid packages. These are awarded based on need and on an application first come/first service. basis The Application is available on our website and must be properly filled out to be considered.

Soccer Season – The OEFC participates in different leagues throughout the 12 month season depending on team. For the most part, these leagues operate in a Fall and Spring Session. Older teams may play one extended Fall Session and our Elite teams may play in a Year Long Session. Teams will continue activities over the Winter Session, often taking a break for the holiday weeks. Most Winter Session activities will be indoors (Indoor Soccer, Futsal, indoor training) to account for seasonal weather. Summer Sessions are often minimal activity and considered "Off Season" for teams unless they have progressed to scheduled Post-Season Championships or are attending a pre-planned Special Event.

# **Volunteer Opportunities**

As a Non-profit organization, Volunteers are critical to the success of our programs and team experiences. Throughout the year, we will call upon our members to assist us with Team Roles, Club Functions and Events, and Club Committees. As an example, here are our most critical Volunteer Opportunities:

- Team Managers act as the primary administrator and communicator for the team. Typically, the Team Manager shall act as a necessary point of contact between coaches and parents, and between parents and the Club. The Team Manager may have multiple responsibilities, which may include communicating training sessions and game schedules, confirming registration, assembling Player ID Cards and official team rosters, reporting game results, planning team activities, league and tournament registration, organizing and overseeing fundraising activities, coordinating efforts of Team Officials, and assisting coaches in any way needed to support the team.
- Team Treasurers are responsible for managing the budget and finances of the team. The Team Treasurer shall work directly with the Team Manager and Coach to establish an annual budget, determine team-specific expenses incurred throughout the course of the season, collect any fees or other monies due from players, maintain and reconcile the team bank account, make deposits and withdrawals from the bank account as needed, provide financial reports as requested and make payments on behalf of the team or players as required.
- Event Volunteers are requested for OEFC Special Events like Tournaments, Tryouts, and Camps. The success of these events is highly dependent on having volunteers to help with tasks across a multitude of roles to make sure the events go smoothly. We depend on the support and generosity of our members to fulfill these roles.



# **OEFC** Programs

Oklahoma Energy offers three levels of programs for our members.

- Development (State)
- Premier (Regional, State)
- Elite (Regional, National)

Development – OEFC's Development Program is designed for players who are either new to the sport or are early on in their journey through the game. Player Development is the primary focus at this level rather than wins and losses. We want to create opportunities for players to learn and improve without the pressure of game outcomes while still experiencing the thrill of competition. Teams will compete in the Statewide Leagues with other teams from OEFC as well as teams from other clubs across Oklahoma.

Premier – OEFC's Premier Program builds on player development and organizes around a greater level of competition, participating in the top levels of Statewide Leagues and other Regional Competitions. Teams will look forward to competing in Post Season Championship tournaments and earning the chance to compete in the Regional Championships. Players who are hoping to prepare for High School Soccer benefit greatly from this competition level.

Elite – OEFC's Elite Programs are centered around producing Elite Players who can compete at the highest levels in Youth Soccer. Our teams will compete in the Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) and Elite Clubs Regional League (ECRL) against the best teams in the Nation, hoping to qualify and compete in the National Championship at the end of the Season. Players work on enhancing their development towards competing at the top level in youth sports, and often hope to go on to continue their soccer careers in college or even the Professional level.



#### **Calendar of Main Events**

May/June – OEFC Training Camp May/June – OEFC Tryouts & Club Registration August – Opening Night Celebration August – OEFC Practices Begins August – ESC Beat the Heat Tournament August/September – Fall Leagues Begin December – Fall Leagues End (Younger Teams) December – OEFC Winter Showcase Tournament December/January – Fields Closed for Winter Maintenance February – Spring Leagues Begin February – Fall Extended Seasons End (Older Teams) March – Building Energy Month & OEFC Champions Gala May – Spring Leagues End May – Post Season Tournaments Begin May – NOKC Spring Finale

#### **Important Links**

OEFC Website – <u>https://okenergyfc.org/</u> OEFC Player Resources - <u>https://okenergyfc.org/resources/players-forms/</u> OEFC Policies and Procedures – <u>https://okenergyfc.org/about/</u> OEFC Codes of Conduct – See Policies and Procedures Gotsport – <u>https://system.gotsport.com/</u>

Edmond Soccer Club Website - <u>https://www.edmondsoccer.com/</u> North Oklahoma City Soccer Club Website - <u>https://nokcsoccer.com/</u>

Oklahoma Soccer Association Website - https://www.oksoccer.com/

- Review for OPL Schedules and Rules

Elite Clubs National League Website - https://www.theecnl.com/

- Review for Boys and Girls ECNL & ECRL Schedules and Rules

**OEFC Social Media** Facebook - @okenergyfc Twitter – @Oklahoma\_FC Instagram – @okenergyfc



# **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### - How many teams will there be in the age group?

OEFC will do our best to provide a place to play for every child that wants to play. To this point, the number of teams will depend on how many players from that age group attend Tryouts. If there is enough talent to form multiple teams per age group to meet roster sizes that ensure stability in the team, we will do so.

# - Where/Where will games and practices be held?

OEFC teams practice and play out of Edmond Soccer Club and North Oklahoma City Soccer Club complexes. Coaches and teams will have a choice of complex depending on availability. It is important to discuss with your coach which complex they intend the team to use.

Practices will be held at least twice a week based on the schedule outlined by your coach. Games will typically be held on the weekend (Saturday and/or Sunday) based on the schedule outlined by the league or event you play in.

#### - How much traveling will teams do?

Team travel is dependent on the league and events that a team signs up to compete in and is considered on a team by team basis.

Traditionally, Development Teams will compete in local and statewide leagues and tournaments, usually with travel to Tulsa or similar distances. Some may choose a regional tournament now and then to reach new competition.

Premier teams may compete in statewide or regional (OK and North TX) leagues, often choosing more regional tournaments to participate in.

Elite teams will compete in Regional Leagues (OK, N Texas, S Texas) and National Events throughout the year. A good amount of travel should be expected.

# - Are there resources available for College Recruiting?

OEFC has a strong track record of helping players realize their goals of playing at the next level. The OEFC Coaching Leadership work together to host College Educations Events throughout the year as well as player preparation and process execution guidance through their program directors.

# How much are uniforms?

Uniform costs vary between each two year uniform cycle. In general, we try to minimize uniform costs while keeping our unique, identifiable looks. Currently, the uniform packages are targeted to under \$300 with additional optional items available.

# - How do we know what coaches are coaching which team?

Our Coaching Assignments ("Coaching Slate") are announced yearly prior to the beginning of Tryouts and the Soccer Year. You can find current and/or new assignments on our website throughout the year.

# - How are player injuries handled?

If a player is injured mid-season, then we expect the player to abstain from participating in OEFC Events until they are healthy and cleared to play by their doctor. Should an injury be severe enough that a player will be unable to participate for a lengthy period of time, we encourage the player to request a release from the Club as to stop any further dues payments. The player may rejoin the Club once they are healed and resume their dues payments at that time.

# - Can we use the logo and/or Club name for fundraising purposes?

We encourage every team to do their own fundraising to help with program costs. In doing so, we ask each team/individual to request permission for the fundraiser as an OEFC representative and for use of the OEFC Names or Logos as applicable. Requests can be made through our website: <a href="https://okenergyfc.org/resources/oefc-fundraising/">https://okenergyfc.org/resources/oefc-fundraising/</a>

### **Oklahoma Energy Key Contacts**

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# **BUILDING CHAMPIONS**