

Edmond Soccer Club Academy and North Oklahoma City Academy Unite to Form the Oklahoma Energy FC Academy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK & EDMOND, OK — 11/17/2025 — Two of central Oklahoma's most established youth soccer programs, **Edmond Soccer Club Academy (ESC)** and **North Oklahoma City Academy (NOKC)**, are proud to announce their Academy merger under the Oklahoma Energy FC umbrella. Beginning Fall 2026, both academies will officially unite as the **Oklahoma Energy FC Academy**, creating **ONE** cohesive player pathway for the greater OKC Metro area.

A Vision Years in the Making

This merger represents a long-standing shared vision to redefine early-stage youth soccer—focusing less on short-term game results and more on individual player growth, staff development, and parent education.

“This is about alignment and purpose,” said Michael Moritz (ESC Academy Director). “By combining our resources and uniting our philosophies, we can create an environment that prioritizes technical excellence, creativity, and a player centered & positive environment where our players can play freely without fear of failure.” “This is the first step in creating a true youth academy system in the OKC Metro Area. “This merger allows us to place a greater emphasis on the *entire academy program*—ensuring that **every player** receives the same level of attention, opportunity, and development focus.

What Stays the Same

Both clubs' Recreational Programs—ESC Recreational and NOKC Recreational—will continue to operate exactly as they do today. These programs will remain vital community partners and serve as direct pipelines into the new Oklahoma Energy FC Academy for players interested in academy soccer.

Both clubs' current academy programs will stay the same through the Spring 2026 season. Fall of 2026 will be the first merged academy age groups.

Implementation Timeline

Winter & Spring 2026: Pilot programs through shared camps and clinics to build player familiarity and ensure a smooth transition.

End of May 2026: OEFC Academy Formation Player Development Plan Event

Fall 2026: First official season of the Oklahoma Energy FC Academy, operating at both ESC and NOKC facilities, supported by shared leadership, coaching standards, and programming.

Unified Mission

To merge our youth academies in the OKC Metro with the goal of establishing a unified, structured, and development-focused environment for players ages U5 to U10. Through a shared philosophy, aligned coaching standards, and age-appropriate programming, we aim to foster foundational growth, technical excellence, and a love for the game—building confident, well-rounded players from the earliest stages.

The club's boards have come together with one vision in mind – putting the players first.

NOKC's President Gabi Noble said, "This merger is a tremendous opportunity for our players and families. By joining forces, we're able to provide a stronger development pathway, more competitive games for all levels of players and access to the best coaching and facilities. Most importantly, it unites our communities around a shared commitment to helping every young player reach their full potential, both on and off the field."

ESC's President Luke Richardson echoed, "This merger marks an exciting new chapter for both clubs. By combining our strengths, resources, and shared passion for the game, we're creating a stronger foundation for players and pathways for development."

A Timely Step Forward

With aligned & experienced leadership, modern facilities, and evolving youth soccer standards on the horizon, the timing for this merger could not be better. It represents a transformative moment for youth development in Oklahoma and a strong commitment to a more unified, player-focused future.

"This partnership sets the foundation for what youth soccer in our state should look like—collaborative, consistent, and development-driven," said Stephen Phillips (NOKC Academy Director). As OEFC Executive Advisor, OEFC has the leading history of elite & developmental youth soccer in the OKC area, holding the largest number of platforms for U13 to U19 players to get the best level of development and exposure to college and pro scouts – 3+ levels of elite platforms – ECNL, ECRL, ECRL2, National, Regional, & State Platforms. We are the only club in the state with this number of platforms to participate in. The merger supports continued growth for our players for years to come"

Upcoming Merger Communication – Save the Dates:

- **Winter Merger Camp** – December 29 and 30 – Details Coming November 13th.
- **Structure Announcement** – Leadership Announcement, Academy Structure Announcement – Coming Soon.
- **Town Hall Meetings** – Early Spring 2026
- **Communication Details** – All questions need to be directed to academy@okenergyfc.org