

Ecusta Football Club

2024-2025 Academy & Classic Handbook



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Ecusta Football Club Academy & Classic Programs

Ecusta Football Club (“Ecusta FC” or “EFC”) is the Academy and Classic program for TYSA. EFC was created in 2023 as the club continues to evolve and grow our programs. EFC represents the more advanced soccer programs for TYSA.

Competitive Spirit

Rather than merely participate in club soccer, our club plans to develop individual players and teams at the Academy and Classic levels to compete at the highest level of competitive soccer in North Carolina.

EFC Academy

The Academy program is a level of training and play beyond recreational soccer designed to help players improve their technical soccer skills which they will need to play at a higher level, as well as their love for the game. Our Academy teams practice locally, but play most games in nearby regional destinations including Asheville, NC, Greenville, SC and similar locations.

EFC develops Academy teams at the U10 and U12 age groups for both boys and girls. Our Academy program represents an intermediate step between "recreational" soccer and "classic" (travel) soccer. In order to join an Academy team, each player must attend an evaluation session hosted by our Academy coaching staff. Our core evaluation is most often held in May, while other evaluations may be held throughout the year depending on program need and interest.

EFC Classic

Our Classic teams compete within the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association (NCYSA). Coached by US Soccer licensed coaching staff, Classic teams train 2- 3 times a week, compete in 8-12 League games and will attend tournaments throughout each season based on level of play, age groups, and if the team is full or half-season (Fall/Spring). Our Classic program features teams for both Boys and Girls and Classic teams form at ages between U13 and U19.

The Classic program is reserved for players who aspire to achieve excellence and will build on the technical skills that a player has developed in Academy and the tactical side of the game.

All Classic teams will require a player evaluation. Our core evaluation is most often held in May, while other evaluations may be held throughout the year depending on program need and interest.

Ecusta FC: Mission, Values and Core Strategy

Mission:

Our club exists to equip our players to develop personal *character*, to live *joy* filled experiences and to achieve high level soccer *skill*.

We believe these core values: *Character*, *Joy* and *Skill*, provide our youth with a valuable path to achieve success in their personal lives, their community and their sport.

Our club also intends to compete at the highest level of competitive soccer in North Carolina, looking to earn important seasonal, tournament and cup victories along the way. Our club includes coaching staff and players who have experienced such success historically and we believe it is just the beginning.

Values:

Within our mission of "*Character, Joy and Skill*", we prioritize these values as core to our club:

- **Character:**
 - Resilience is essential to success in life and soccer is an ideal way to learn.
 - Perseverance is critical on the field and off.
 - Teamwork is invaluable on any team in life.
 - Individual responsibility is the path towards personal and team success.
 - Grace in the way we carry ourselves shows that we value people above results.
- **Joy:**
 - Football is one of the most joyful activities on the face of the Earth.
 - Enjoyment, fun and laughter are core parts of our approach to training and games.
 - Joy helps retain players for many years, providing character growth alongside.
- **Skill:**
 - Developing soccer skill and technical ability requires personal responsibility and commitment, as well as dynamic coaching.
 - Encouraging technical ability at early ages is critical to success.
 - Players develop at different ages, so player retention is critical.
 - Attracting and retaining experienced coaches with shared values is essential.
 - Building strong character helps promote skill development in the long term.

Core Strategy:

TYSA Recreation and Pre-Academy – Ages 5-8

At the recreational and pre-academy age group, our focus is for each player to develop the core foundation for technical soccer ability by focusing on quality touches on the ball with high levels of repetition in fun, game-like environments. Developing quality soccer “touch” requires these young athletes to focus on the use of the sole of the foot, laces, outside of the foot and other parts of the body required for the core sporting activities in football (e.g., dribbling, shooting and passing). Aside from developing quality touch, these “touch based” activities help encourage proper mind-body-feet coordination required for the game. Finally, this age is the ideal time to teach knowledge of the “rules of the game” which are incorporated in our instruction. The focus at the recreation and pre-academy age group is largely on individual skill development, coordination, and knowledge, rather than team strategy.

EFC Academy - Ages 9-12

Within our Academy program, our focus is to enhance each player’s existing technical ability, while emphasizing the importance of character in soccer (personal responsibility, leadership, teamwork, etc.) In addition, this is the ideal age to develop the foundation for soccer strategy on both the individual and team levels. Finally, our Academy players engage in exercises designed to promote personal and team problem-solving, in order to promote fluid, dynamic and creative soccer players and teams. Our Academy players therefore remain focused on technical development, while they also begin to learn and implement the core traits of character, strategy, and creativity.

EFC Classic - Ages 13-19

Within our Classic program, our focus transitions to developing advanced levels of individual skill and team strategy, while introducing the importance of personal fitness and strength training. These athletes are also challenged to respond to soccer challenges with a greater level of creative problem solving. Education at this age is further designed to encourage greater personal and team character which is appropriate for the more adult-like phases of life each player is approaching. In the end, the interactions with coaches and staff at this age are designed to promote individual and team-based soccer at the highest level, while ensuring that each player is also equipped to achieve success in their relationships, education, and career.

What’s *not* here?

Winning at all costs is not the core of who we are. While we aspire to achieve the highest levels of success in competitive soccer, we believe our focus on *character*, *joy* and *skill* is the long term path to achieve such success.

Soccer development alone is not our focus. We believe in developing the “whole person” in our players (personal character, teamwork, etc.) and that this approach yields results that go well beyond the soccer field, while also leading to competitive success in the sport.

Talent alone is not enough for success within our club or life. Each player must demonstrate personal responsibility in training and on game day which show their commitment to their club, coach and teammates.

Ecusta FC Academy & Classic: Program Structure Calendar

Academy (U10 and U12)

<i>Summer:</i>	No formal summer training. Pickup soccer and personal training encouraged.
<i>Fall Season:</i>	August 19 – November 17
<i>Spring Season:</i>	February 10 - May 11
<i>Practices:</i>	2 per week, optional 3rd practice for skill development
<i>League Play:</i>	“League” games are scheduled with regional clubs. Games mostly on Saturday and a few Sunday in locations including Asheville, NC, Greenville, SC and similar
<i>Team Camp:</i>	Brevard College
<i>Tournaments:</i>	One tournament per team played at the end of each season (Spring & Fall).
<i>Training Location:</i>	Brevard
<i>Game Structure:</i>	U10 - 7 v 7 / U12 - 9 v 9

Girls Classic (U13 and Older)

<i>Summer:</i>	August 1 – August 15 Preseason training
<i>Fall Season:</i>	August 15 – December 15
<i>Spring Season:</i>	High School Seasons, College IDs
<i>Practices:</i>	2-3, 90-120 min. team sessions per week
<i>League Play:</i>	NCYSA State Leagues – Games mostly on Sat and some Sun.
<i>Team Camp:</i>	Brevard College
<i>Tournaments:</i>	2-3 per season, 2 tournaments are included in player dues *College Showcases, State & Regional Cup events may incur additional fee
<i>Training Location:</i>	Brevard & Mills River
<i>Game Structure:</i>	11 v 11

Boys Classic (U13 and Older)

<i>Spring:</i>	Preseason Tournaments, College player led training sessions
<i>Spring Season:</i>	November 1 – May 15
<i>Fall Season:</i>	College IDs, personal training encouraged
<i>Practices:</i>	2-3, 90-120 min. team sessions per week
<i>League Play:</i>	NCYSA State Leagues – Games mostly on Sat and some Sun.
<i>Team Camp:</i>	Brevard College
<i>Tournaments:</i>	2-3 per season, 2 tournaments are included in player dues *College Showcase, State & Regional Cup events may incur additional fee
<i>Training Location:</i>	Brevard
<i>Game Structure:</i>	11 v 11

Ecusta FC Academy and Classic Program: Uniform

Ecusta FC is a Nike club. Lloyd's Soccer facilitates player uniform buying experience. Families can order directly from Lloyds using their website and choose sizes and can also order optional apparel (club hoodies, hats, etc.) for their child. Classic uniforms and Academy uniforms are shown below for the current season.

Academy Uniforms: Full Academy kits will cost approximately \$65 including tax & shipping. Instructions on ordering your player's uniform will be sent after you accept your position on a team. Academy uniforms are used for 2 season cycles, meaning that a new uniform is not required each season in many cases:



Classic Uniforms: Full kits for Classic cost approximately \$190 plus tax & shipping. Instructions on ordering your player's uniform will be sent after you accept your position on a team.



Ecusta FC Academy & Classic Player Dues and Payment Policies 2024/2025

Ecusta FC has an inclusive price structure. There will be no “team fees” for tournaments, coaches travel, referees, etc. Many clubs list one price and then charge another \$50 to \$150 per month, making your fees much higher than their advertised player dues. Ecusta FC strives to include all costs in one registration fee.

Our Financial Commitment and Value

Many comparable clubs in our region charge between 50% and 300% more for similar programs. Our goal is to keep costs as low as possible to cover the overhead of operating the club, while managing finances wisely to ensure the long term sustainability of the programs. All of our volunteer board members serve for free (e.g., are unpaid) under the TYSA non-profit (which operates Ecusta FC). Likewise, the majority of our coaches generously donate their time and expertise for free. Without the selfless service of many in our community, it would be impossible to operate the club at the rates shown below. Having said as much, the rates below are firm and exceptions are made only for families using the financial aid process where necessary. Our financial aid process is in place to ensure that no child with the ability and passion to play for Ecusta FC is left out due to financial circumstances.

Academy Program (Fall Only) - U10 and U12

Payment	Cost	Payment Dates
Acceptance Deposit	\$125	48 hours after roster spot offered
Monthly Payment	\$100	1 st of month, July through August
Total	\$325	

Fees Include

- Coaching Fees
- Referee and League Fees
- Player Insurance Through USYS
- 2 Team Practices per week
- Goalkeeper Sessions
- Team training equipment
- Skills Nights (Optional Technical Training)
- 1 Tournament Included
- Player Registration with NCYSA
- Administrative costs
- Field and Facility fees including grounds maintenance

Tournament Fees and Procedures

The team will compete in one tournament which is paid for in player dues. Please note that any additional tournament, if pursued by your team’s coaching staff, will incur an additional fee. These tournament fees vary depending on the amount of additional events your team participates in, the cost of those events and the amount of travel.

Most Academy teams simply play 1 tournament per year, the cost of which is included in the player registration fee. Players electing to not participate in a tournament will not receive a refund.

Travel to tournaments and tournament lodging is not included in registration fees. Coaches and families regularly help organize safe carpooling and other assistance where needed to allow the greatest tournament attendance possible. Coaches at their discretion may require that teams stay at a specific hotel or lodging during a tournament to help drive team unity and a positive experience.

Girls Classic Program (Fall only) - U13 and Older

Payment	Cost	Payment Dates
Acceptance Deposit	\$150.00	48 hours after roster spot offered
Monthly Payment	\$100.00	1 st of month, July through October
Total	\$550.00	

Boys Classic Program (Spring only) - U13 and Older

Payment	Cost	Payment Dates
Acceptance Deposit	\$150.00	48 hours after roster spot offered
Monthly Payment	\$100.00	1 st of month, November through February
Total	\$550.00	

Fees Include

- Coaching Fees
- Referee and League Fees
- Player Insurance Through USYS
- Team League registration
- 2-3 Team Practices per week
- Technical Sessions
- Goalkeeper Sessions
- Summer preseason
- School preseason
- 2 Tournaments
- Field and Facility fees
- Administrative costs
- Speed and Agility Sessions
- Player Registration
- Preseason Friendlies

***Spring Fees**

Girls Junior Classic teams registering for Spring league play will pay an additional \$300.00 for registration.

Tournament Fees and Procedures

Classic teams will compete in two tournaments which are paid for in player dues. Please note that any additional tournament, college showcase events, State Cup events, USYS Regional and USYS Nationals will incur an additional fee if pursued at the coach's discretion.. These tournament fees vary depending on the amount of additional events your team participates in, the cost of those events and the amount of travel.

The only time EFC will adjust a tournament fee is when the coach decides to leave a player out of a tournament squad. Players electing to not participate in a tournament will not receive a refund.

Travel to tournaments and tournament lodging is not included in registration fees. Coaches and families regularly help organize safe carpooling and other assistance where needed to allow the greatest tournament attendance possible. Coaches at their discretion may require that teams stay at a specific hotel or lodging during a tournament to help drive team unity and a positive experience.

Payment Policies (Classic and Academy)

- The acceptance deposit must be paid within 48 hours of being offered a roster spot. The remaining balance is due on July 1st and in monthly installments thereafter as described above.
- Fees are collected in advance due to many of our expenses being payable in advance.
- Ecusta FC operates on a no refund policy, except in the case of a season-ending injury.
- Payment Plans and Financial Aid are provided on a demonstrated-need basis. We are committed to providing all players a pathway to play soccer regardless of financial circumstances.

Ecusta FC Academy and Classic: Registration Procedures

This page will guide you through the registration process, which **MUST** be completed to confirm your roster spot.

Step 1: Please click on the registration link provided in your acceptance email. This will take you through to Demosphere registration system. If you have a current account, please enter your username and password. If you do not have an account with, please create one that can be used moving forward. This is a mandatory phase of registration.

Step 2: Please complete the questions regarding player and family contact information, any additional questions and forms.

Step 3: Please choose your payment option which will be one of the following:

1. Pay Tuition in Full
2. Automatic Payment Plan: Your credit card will automatically be charged at the pre-determined payment dates.

At this stage of the registration process, you will be required to complete your first payment. If you require a different payment method or need to apply for financial aid on acceptance click the financial aid button.

Step 4: You will be asked to electronically acknowledge/sign off on the following agreements:

- TYSA/EFC Waiver
- NCYSA Waivers
- Medical Release
- Media Release
- Code of Conduct
- No Refund Policy
- Upload copy of Birth Certificate
- Current Headshot – This must be a clear photo from shoulders up, no hats, sunglasses, etc. Think “official photo” this is for the player’s official player card allowing them to play and be checked in by the referee.

Step 5: Electronically sign and your registration is complete!

Ecusta FC Academy and Classic Program: Directory and Communication Protocol

Each EFC team will have the following organizational structure:

Head Coach: Responsible for all soccer specifics, the team calendar, training and communicating effectively with each and every family.

Assistant Coach: When utilized by a Head Coach, an Assistant Coach may assist in soccer training, warm ups, gameday coaching and similar activities. The Assistant Coach will also fill in for a Head Coach during the Head Coach's absence if and when necessary. The Assistant Coach serves at the direction of the Head Coach.

Team Manager: When utilized by a Head Coach, a Team Manager is responsible for communication of all team logistics and provides administrative support to the Head Coach. The Team Manager has no input on any soccer-related matters.

Directors: Responsible for overseeing all team matters within their specific division.

Ecusta FC – Classic Director: Adam Payne classic@tysa.us

Ecusta FC – Academy Director: Shea Airey academy@tysa.us

Team Communication

Head coaches are expected to communicate effectively with each and every player and family throughout the season to ensure there is always clarity in the decision-making process and organization if any last minute changes should arise.

Head coaches will be communicating regularly with parents and players on the team. The protocol will be:

- Pre-Season Meeting: Needs to be attended by players and at least 1 parent.
- Periodic Email Updates: Weekly or bi-weekly updates on team goals and direction.
- Game Reports: Follow-up report on weekend games and tournaments.
- Player Evaluations: End of season individual player evaluations. Players should be clear on the areas that they do well in and on areas where improvement is needed and our coaches strive to provide this feedback.

If a parent wishes to discuss a soccer related question with the Head Coach, they should arrange a specific time to speak on the phone or meet with the Head Coach in person. It is against club policy for a parent to approach a Head Coach directly after a game. Generally, a 24 hour grace period should be observed. Our coaches welcome communication with parents and encourage parents with questions or concerns to reach out.

Ecusta FC Academy & Classic: Coach and Team Directory

COMING SOON!

Academy:

U10 Academy Boys

U12 Academy Boys

U10 Academy Girls

U12 Academy Girls

Classic:

U14 Classic Boys

U16 Classic Boys

U18 Classic Boys

U13 Classic Girls

U14 Classic Girls

U15 Classic Girls

U16 Classic Girls

U17 Classic Girls

U18/19 Classic Girls

Ecusta FC Academy & Classic: Code of Conduct

Our parent and player code of conduct is critical to promote the three pillars of *character, joy and skill* that drive our club and help develop resilient young men and women on and off the field.

Violation of one of these rules can lead to discipline, missed playing time or games and even removal from the team. Please understand that this includes parent behavior as well.

Please know that in our pursuit of developing young men and women of character, a level of personal responsibility and discipline is required from all players and families. This translates to respecting the coaches, fellow teammates and others involved in the game atmosphere (referees, other team's families, etc.) with kindness, respect and integrity *above and beyond what may be expected from other teams and organizations*. Thus, the standards described below should be considered *minimum guidelines* and we expect our families and players to act *above and beyond* the standard.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1) Parents must allow the coach to coach, the referee to officiate and most importantly allow your child to play the game, all while fostering a positive environment.
- 2) Parents should never coach from the sideline during games or training. "Pass it to Jack!", "Dribble around her!" or "Shoot!" (among others) can seem helpful, but are often distracting or confusing to players. In addition, these instructions may actually contradict what the Coach has been teaching. Please do not coach from the sideline.
- 3) When you hand over your child to the coach for training or games, the coach is in charge. Whether you agree or disagree, the coach is the decision maker.
- 4) Parents should never criticize players on the team.
- 5) Do not criticize the coach to your child or any other parents. If you are not happy with the coach, you should raise the issue directly with the coach.
- 6) Make participation for your child and others a positive experience. Use words of encouragement and unity, rather than criticism or division.
- 7) Be supportive and applaud good plays by your team. Cheering on your child and his or her teammates emphatically is encouraged.
- 8) Accept the results of each game and encourage your child to be gracious in victory. Likewise, use defeat as an opportunity to learn and grow.
- 9) Be your child's biggest fan and support them unconditionally. Don't treat them differently when they perform below a standard but also keep a level head when they have an outstanding game.
- 10) On the car ride home, only speak words of encouragement. "I loved watching you play" is a great place to start. Allow your child to lead any conversation about their play and stay positive. Keep in mind that your child is likely already self-critical and a parents' words of critique are often cited by competitive athletes as their *least favorite* part of the sport and, in some cases, why they stop playing entirely. Be your child's biggest fan.
- 11) Encourage your child to speak with the coach. Let them claim ownership and responsibility of all aspects of the game.
- 12) Help your child focus on performance and improvement rather than game results.

13) Never criticize the opponents, their parents, coaches or the referee. Do not question the referee's judgment, as the referee is a symbol of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship.

14) Parents should never enter the field of play, even if your child is injured or a similar event has occurred. Give space for the coaches and medical personnel to act.

15) Wherever we travel, treat the other families, coaches and players with such respect and kindness that we are known as a club and community of the highest character.

16) Parents must be aware that referees are currently in short supply primarily because of poor behavior and criticism from parents and spectators. Referees are critical to the sport and serve an important (and difficult!) role. We ask our parents to respect the referees decision and, when appropriate, thank the referees for their efforts regardless of how we feel about their decisions. Any communication from parent or spectator to the referee should only express respect and gratitude.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

1) Demonstrate fair play and good sportsmanship at every practice, game and tournament. Encourage fair play and good sportsmanship from other players, coaches, officials, and parents.

2) Attendance at every practice and game is required except when health related issues arise or for matters previously cleared with the coach. If a player cannot attend a practice, game or tournament due to health or other scheduling issues, this should be addressed with the coach as soon as you become aware of the conflict.

3) Come to practices and games on time and ready to learn completely prepared (e.g., shoes well tied, ready to practice and focus.) Accept responsibility for bringing any equipment necessary for practice (ball, cleats, shin guards, water,) and games (cleats, shin guards, water and team uniform).

4) Follow coaching direction with promptness, respect and kindness. Do not be disruptive during practice or games.

5) Treat other players, coaches, officials, and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, or ability, and expect to be treated accordingly. Conduct yourself with honor, dignity and treat other players as you would like to be treated. Remember at all times that we are representing our team and our community.

6) Respect the authority of the referee, even though you may sometimes disagree with the call.

7) Understand that poor behavior during practices, games, or tournaments may result in lost playing time or expulsion from the team.

8) Respect for your coach and team means taking personal responsibility for your actions. As such, our players commit to respecting the coach's decisions and showing best effort at all games and training sessions. Our players are expected to avoid making excuses for repeated poor behavior and take ownership of mistakes, which we all make from time to time.

9) Our goal is to help all players maximize their ability but we do not guarantee equal playing time in games. Our goal is to provide quality playing time for all of our players, with playing time of 50% or greater expected for each player at the Academy Level and playing time at the Classic Level determined at the coach's discretion. If players are ever concerned about playing time or desire to play particular positions we encourage them to speak with their coaches during practices so that a plan might be put into place to help them achieve those goals if possible.

10) Within the framework of best effort, respect and personal accountability outlined above, we expect our kids to *have fun* and help create an atmosphere that is positive, working to include every person on each team as a welcome and contributing member, so that joy filled moments and experiences are created across many games, training sessions and seasons, leading to success on and off the field.